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NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Selawik School  
Selawik, Alaska  
October 6, 2015  
9:00 a.m

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Raymond Stoney, Chairman
- Vern Cleveland
- Michael Kramer
- Hannah Loon
- Enoch Mitchell
- Calvin Moto
- Enoch Shiedt
  
- Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Selawik, Alaska - 10/6/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good morning. First of all I certainly want to thank the school here, the school district that gives us an opportunity to stay at the school in the last two or three days and I -- it's a very great honor, you know, just to be at the school and the hospitality at the school is very excellent. A few things I'll say in the Native language. All of us, we're here and I know we've got some Native people that wants to speak, but they're not here, but I'll say a few words in Native language and also in English.

(In Native) What I'm saying now in language that the people here in Selawik, you know, they really gave us a big honor, a good thank you, to protect the caribou in our area, in Northwest Alaska. And then they are very honored to all of us to speak at one -- under one umbrella. So we'll continue on today, tomorrow and forever. So I want to thank the people of Selawik that give us the opportunity to say a word to all of us. And if you got anything to say before we get going.

Attamuk.

MR. SHIEDT: I'll wait until closing remarks. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hannah.

MS. LOON: I'll wait until closing remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Calvin, anything to say?

MR. MOTO: I'll wait.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: A few words before we get going, Enoch?

MR. MITCHELL: No.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mike.

MR. KRAMER: Yeah, it's a blessing being

1 in different villages and I really push for our Federal  
2 subsistence meetings or our Rural Advisory Council  
3 meetings to be in villages and being able to share it  
4 with our youth in all the communities. So far we've had  
5 it in Kiana, Buckland and now Selawik and hopefully we'll  
6 be looking at either Noatak or Noorvik as our next one.  
7 It's always a blessing to see these youngsters here,  
8 learning, helping and participating in our meetings.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Until we  
13 get going since, you know, we're still waiting for  
14 teleconference, but I could say that it's taking a lot of  
15 our time, we should be, you know, get started in time to  
16 complete, make sure the teleconference has been telecast  
17 to us so we'll understand what they're saying.

18

19 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

22

23 MR. STEVENSON: The teleconference is  
24 live, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay. We're --  
27 they going to start now or wait?

28

29 MR. STEVENSON: It's live now.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

32

33 MR. STEVENSON: So thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 If I may I just wanted to briefly thank Selawik and the  
35 students in particular who spoke yesterday. We really  
36 appreciated your participation.

37

38 We're now on page 2 of the agenda in your  
39 meeting books. We're on -- we covered the Tongass  
40 submerged lands proposed rule yesterday so we're going to  
41 skip back just one item and that was item D, identifying  
42 issues for the annual report. And just to refresh on  
43 that topic from yesterday last year the Northwest Arctic  
44 RAC did not submit an annual report and that's allowed.  
45 At the same time this is an opportunity now for the RAC  
46 to identify or make note of any issues that you would  
47 like to have included in an annual report for this year.  
48 And again the purpose of the annual report is for the RAC  
49 to have an opportunity to share with the Federal  
50 Subsistence Board any issues that are important to your

1 RAC. Those could be issues that have not been covered in  
2 other meetings or they could be issues that you've  
3 already addressed that you would like to emphasize. But  
4 again if there are issues that the RAC would like to  
5 communicate to the Board for this year this is the  
6 opportunity to make note of that so that we can include  
7 those issues in your annual report.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

12

13 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, for the record I'd  
14 like to make sure that you bring up the closure, results  
15 of the closure. And I'd like to say that this closure,  
16 that we did help reduce conflicts to almost zero on the  
17 Noatak River. Also I'd like to state that the people  
18 getting caribou, their quota, not one or two, but they're  
19 getting enough. Also they hope to get bulls this year,  
20 a bull we can have (in Native) Thanksgiving time. With  
21 this closure pretty much even out the hunters, the non-  
22 rural and the local hunters, on the Noatak River. With  
23 these caribou and the bulls we're going to be going back  
24 to our (indiscernible) which is the caribou. And maybe  
25 the migration will go back to normal as it was -- as it  
26 used to run before.

27

28 And with that, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Identify people on the  
31 line.

32

33 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. If  
34 there's anyone on the teleconference line right now would  
35 you please identify yourselves, one at a time, slowly.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp, Bureau of Land  
40 Management.

41

42 MR. FOX: Trevor Fox.

43

44 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, Office of  
45 Subsistence Management.

46

47 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, Office of  
48 Subsistence Management.

49

50 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson, Western

1 Arctic National Parklands.  
2  
3 MS. SWEENEY: Brittany Sweeney, Selawik  
4 National Wildlife Refuge.  
5  
6 MR. REAM: Joshua Ream, anthropologist  
7 with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.  
8  
9 MS. DAGGETT: Carmen Dagget, Alaska  
10 Department of Fish and Game, Kotzebue.  
11  
12 MS. O'CONNOR: Marcy O'Connor, National  
13 Park Service in Fairbanks.  
14  
15 MR. ATKINSON: Ken Atkinson, Park  
16 Service, Nome.  
17  
18 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, everyone. Mr.  
19 Chair.....  
20  
21 If there are those on the phone could you  
22 please.....  
23  
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)  
25 calls on mute.  
26  
27 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, thank you very  
28 much. Just put star 6 for mute.  
29  
30 Thank you.  
31  
32 Mr. Chair, back to identifying agenda --  
33 items for the annual report. Were there any other items  
34 that the RAC would like to include in its annual report  
35 this year?  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: (Indiscernible - away  
38 from microphone).....  
39  
40 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, if you could please  
41 use your microphone. This is the opportunity now on the  
42 agenda on page 2, item D, identifying issues for the  
43 annual report.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: (Indiscernible - away  
46 from microphone).....  
47  
48 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, we can continue. We  
49 may continue now. The question before the RAC is are  
50 there other items that the RAC would like to include in

1 its annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

6

7 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, on that issue there,  
8 I think what the Federal need to do is look into not only  
9 the land animals, but our fish problems we're having.  
10 And it's not only our fishery problem, it's our beavers  
11 affecting us when they're all the way to Point Hope where  
12 there's hardly any willows, I mean, the beavers are all  
13 over. And if they keep damming the creeks like what  
14 happened at -- near Fairbanks, we obviously going to run  
15 into that problem, we won't have no fish. And it's going  
16 to hurt us if -- because if the caribou keep declining we  
17 all going to turn to other resources we have here in  
18 Northwest Alaska and the other one is fish. And we know  
19 the moose is declining drastically. What mother nature  
20 is trying to tell us and you landowners and I will say  
21 biologists are not listening, the land is trying to tell  
22 us and the resources are coming down and we are not  
23 listening. We need to hear what the resource is trying  
24 to tell us because some of our fish are so big and  
25 healthy they're starting to get worms, it's something we  
26 never seen there before on the side, it's natural, worm  
27 growing on the side. Some of them are wide as quarter  
28 inch now and they're getting bigger. And if the beavers  
29 keep doing it we won't have nothing left and what we  
30 going to turn to. We all if we get limits on caribou we  
31 all going to turn to crooks trying to put food on the  
32 table.

33

34 We all know where you -- land, where you  
35 come from in the lower 48, if you get other resource and  
36 you love to eat your resource, you crave for it because  
37 you don't -- we don't have it here. We're in the same  
38 boat here. We start declining, our body will be hungry.  
39 I'll tell you right now if the ducks start coming, two  
40 weeks before they -- before they come my body will start  
41 craving for geese and ducks to come. That's natural  
42 recycle for the Natives. We Natives are on one year  
43 cycle, year after year, hardly ever changes. Different  
44 areas have a lot, sheefish and whitefish in Selawik,  
45 Noatak is trout and caribou. Sure we get sheep, but they  
46 crash so we have nothing. Reason why I say the sheep, we  
47 tried to the agencies in places before that they were  
48 going to crash, we never hear nothing done about it  
49 because we really can't do nothing, it's mother nature  
50 doing its thing on the sheep, the weather.

1                   I'll tell you right now we're trying to  
2 point it to us and other people. We have to -- look, the  
3 times are changing, the global warming is here, we --  
4 even you guys have to learn how to live with the global  
5 warming. And not only that I think what we need to do  
6 now because all villages are low, the rivers are low in  
7 water. If you have any influence I would like to see EPA  
8 start giving permits for people when they building  
9 anything to get gravel off the rivers because that will  
10 -- to help deepen the rivers at some -- not all places,  
11 just some places that need it. I'll give you an example,  
12 at Shungnak when I used to be maintenance. I had the  
13 authority to just charter the plane. So when the ice was  
14 going out just to see it at Shungnak, a little above  
15 Shungnak and the river goes this way and the other main  
16 river on the other side. I watched ice push the gravel  
17 and block it. Within that year that river got real  
18 shallow that they could wade across. These are mother  
19 nature, things we can do, but we have to start doing  
20 something about it. I know it's hard, but you guys know  
21 people that could help mother nature. We have to help  
22 mother nature because I -- I'll tell you one thing right  
23 now, Ambler Road is one of the issues that we hear.  
24 Yeah, thank you, I'll shut up in a minute. Ambler Road  
25 is going to be built whether we want it or not, I'll tell  
26 you right now. You Federal are doing your thing to  
27 comply, but you know they override you guys, they going  
28 to build a road no matter what you say. We -- you're --  
29 the Federal is just going through the process of going  
30 through the meetings and doing their thing. Oh, we go  
31 meeting here, we go in Ambler and stuff like that, I know  
32 about that, I hear it and I talk to them and that's what  
33 I'm hearing. They say, no, we'll try to stop it. No.  
34 No matter what happen to the resources that are in our  
35 land they going to go out and make roads to extract them  
36 and one day they going to build the roads.

37                   I know what I'm saying is hard, but it's  
38 the truth and it's going to happen. No matter what the  
39 Federal say or who say in Anchorage, it's going to be  
40 built. Because once we get people from outside they'll  
41 have squatters, railroad or road, they'll build road and  
42 there goes our resource, our subsistence starting above  
43 Ambler. And if there's a disaster above Ambler, Kobuk,  
44 Shungnak, Ambler, Kiana, Selawik and Kotzebue is going to  
45 be affected just by the drainage whatever happens. I'm  
46 scared of Red Dog, I know how bad it is, I did a lot of  
47 research and how bad it could happen at Red Dog, if  
48 anything happens everybody going to cry. I'm -- we might  
49 not be here, but these are things that to be written down  
50 and say before, we need to do a lot of research before

1 and we need to after if there's any change in our  
2 resource, in our lands here. Because Northwest Alaska is  
3 gifted, that's why I'm here. I guarantee right now I do  
4 it because I want to subsist. I always use the excuse I  
5 do it for my people, really I do it for me. If I save it  
6 for me I save it for the people. I'm doing it for number  
7 1, that's me. And it's the truth and I'm going to school  
8 you all. Please do your best to preserve because  
9 Northwest Alaska is a gifted area. I've been to Barrow,  
10 I've been to Nome, I've been to Bethel area, I've been to  
11 Dillingham. I'm one of the guys, I just say I'm going to  
12 -- no, I do it, I lived it, I've been there, I know and  
13 I talk to a lot of people. I'm known all over for doing  
14 what I'm doing. And I would say please the agents, do  
15 your best to preserve our resources and do what we have  
16 to because what animals are trying to tell us, we need to  
17 listen. And please listen to the Natives when they say  
18 they see the decline, listen to them because there's a  
19 different herd of caribou for Shungnak, there's different  
20 for Buckland, Noatak. Sure in some years they don't have  
21 it and they hurt in Noorvik and they're hurt in Kiana  
22 because there's no caribou and we hear about it. Why,  
23 because that's our body and it's our land and that's our  
24 culture and we need to do it and we need to preserve it.  
25 We need to -- our best caribou is the hardest one because  
26 it migrate from Barrow to Unalakleet. Birds is not so  
27 much issue because they are different flocks for  
28 different area. Fish is the same thing. Caribou's  
29 different.

30  
31                   That's why I'm saying we -- Nome is can't  
32 -- not understanding us and they're not supporting us.  
33 I would like to have our meeting at Nome to -- that way  
34 other places could hear what we're saying with the  
35 problems we having with transporters and outfitters.  
36 They will hear it firsthand if we have our meeting in  
37 Nome and maybe that's when we will get the support. I'm  
38 going to try to tell the Board, that's why I want to have  
39 a meeting in Nome. I would love to have it at Noatak or  
40 other place because it's our village, yet Nome is part of  
41 the caribou. You guys and the Board got to understand  
42 that because once we make Nome to understand and they  
43 support us we'll be so much -- I think they will hear us  
44 better because we get support from Barrow, we got no  
45 problem with it, but Nome is not supporting us. They  
46 need to hear our issues and problems we have at Northwest  
47 Alaska. They don't have issues like we do because  
48 they're -- by the time they get there it's wintertime,  
49 there's no transporters and outfitters in wintertime.  
50 But they got a lot of enforcement that they take care and

1 then they watch the Natives because they get a lot of  
2 citations. And so we need to do that because our land is  
3 not going to -- it's changing. Even our lagoons, this  
4 year some -- a lot of them they were closed due to  
5 getting low water. Low water they usually close for a  
6 storm, this year a lot of them never. (In Native) the  
7 one across Kotzebue, it's -- we got lucky because rough  
8 water (indiscernible) is clear and that's still open.  
9 The ones over at Kotzebue, they're still open, even the  
10 smaller drainages off the Sound of Kotzebue. At  
11 Jefferson Landing same thing, you could wade across with  
12 small boots and yet it never block, it's still open. And  
13 the -- there fish will be different next year, they're  
14 going to be somewhere else. Because when at Noatak -- I  
15 mean, at Sisualik when we were there, Noatak last two  
16 years I get calls from -- I mean, I never get calls from  
17 elder, they went to my camp, I got a camp across at  
18 Sisualik too, they go see me and say, Attamuk, why is our  
19 whitefish fat this year and next year, I said I don't  
20 know, maybe they're coming from Selawik or Noorvik.  
21 Because our whitefish usually come from Kivalina, they  
22 call them (in Native), that mean they come from over  
23 there, that's in our language and they come from Noatak  
24 too. They're different, they're skinnier. Everybody  
25 know it that's Native, they're skinnier than -- compared  
26 to Noorvik and Selawik maybe. And if Selawik is low on  
27 whitefish we'll hear it and complain about it. Maybe --  
28 don't know, maybe they're changing in migration, I don't  
29 know.

30  
31 So I would say and I would encourage  
32 everybody to watch it. We not only have to watch -- I  
33 feel strongly that we the landowners should state how the  
34 regulation on our resources should be because we're  
35 covered by Federal lands mostly. And we need because the  
36 State hardly put -- they do put some money into the  
37 caribou, but they don't put enough because they got --  
38 their goals are different than we are. They're worried  
39 about the outside world and where the money's coming from  
40 because I'm involved with commercial fishing, I'm part of  
41 the Board that -- and I deal with a lot of State with the  
42 big fisherman, it's hard to beat, they got money. And  
43 that's what's happening with the State on the caribou and  
44 our bear and our moose and stuff like that because they  
45 are controlled by the western world income and what they  
46 charge and that's how they get the money. Over 22  
47 million and I was told it's over 60 million today. Last  
48 time I went to Juneau, I spent my own money doing that  
49 because when I say and I just don't talk, I do it and I  
50 live it and I go places to find out. If I've got a

1 problem, if I hear something, I'm glad my wife let me do  
2 -- let me do what I want to do and I just go out and I  
3 just -- I go spend my -- I go here, if I hear something  
4 about Juneau I go down there, I know how to push the  
5 representatives from Kotzebue, they'll pay my fare. But  
6 I do it and they know I do it for us Natives to preserve  
7 for the future, for our grandkids. And your grandkids to  
8 see how important Northwest Alaska is. And I say I will  
9 fight for it until the day I die. And I told my son I'm  
10 going to live until I'm 99 and he always tell me, knowing  
11 you, dad, being an ass, you probably will. And I  
12 believe, I'm going to try my best to live that long to  
13 preserve what I have here in Northwest Alaska.

14  
15 Thank you. Sorry to bore you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk.  
18 That's a good -- you know, good report.

19  
20 Yesterday we heard the agencies from the  
21 fish which is very interesting, the conditions of the  
22 fish here in Selawik area. One thing that they are very  
23 concerned about and we are all concerned is the fish is  
24 getting a lot more different compared to other years.  
25 The land is like for those beavers at hundreds and  
26 hundreds of sloughs and lakes and stuff around Selawik  
27 has a lot of fish in them, all the fish in those lakes  
28 has been blocked by beaver. What could we do, what could  
29 you do because the (indiscernible) unit that you guys  
30 might be very powerful, but those beavers are a lot more  
31 power than you got because they blocking all those lakes  
32 with fish. So it's something the agencies should look at  
33 that stronger to say well, let's just open the season and  
34 maybe they'll -- maybe they'll harvest all the beavers.  
35 They cannot.

36  
37 Number 2, the situation that we seen is  
38 (indiscernible). I'll give you an example that I know a  
39 lot of people wanted to build a log cabin in their areas  
40 up around Kobuk area. The National Park said, no, you  
41 can't do that, you cannot cut a tree. Even though they  
42 wanted those trees for fish racks and stuff the Park  
43 Service says, no, you can't do that, you can't cut  
44 anything more than three inches. And that's a situation  
45 where the National Park should look in -- look into and  
46 say well, we'll give you the authority to cut that tree  
47 to build yourself a cabin. That's something that  
48 National Park Service look at too strongly.

49  
50 Just like Attamuk said on our situation

1 is the caribou. Eight years ago we had 490,000, now  
2 we're down to a little over 100,000. So that step that  
3 I think the agency do all get together and try to figure  
4 out how to continuously feed our people in the Northwest  
5 Alaska because this herd is going down fast. If the  
6 conditions of this herd is going down just like way back  
7 in '60s and '70s, of course the secondly is the fishing,  
8 what can we do. Our people -- that most of us that will  
9 be gone and our generation will have to continue on to  
10 feed a family with fish and caribou. If the situation  
11 come down to almost zero caribou where we going to do.  
12 We have no place to go, no place to feed our people. But  
13 however these agencies get together and try to figure out  
14 on caribou what's happening, I asked that question many  
15 times. We started out with the numbers of 490,000  
16 caribou and now we're down to a little over -- a little  
17 over 200,000. What happened to the herd. The report I  
18 get from the question I brought to the agencies, well,  
19 they just die off. Well, if you see this herd that die  
20 off what the count -- that was gone with 270,000  
21 disappeared, did you see the carcasses, they said no.  
22 How did you figure out that 270,000 caribou had died,  
23 where did they die. They don't know. So one thing that  
24 the agency do is get together and put a lot of money and  
25 make a complete survey why is Northwest Arctic caribou  
26 herd is disappearing, is it moving to other parts of the  
27 world. And the answer I got from all of those is that I  
28 want the information about the declining herd is that  
29 well, let's say you go to 10, 15 years ago, the weather  
30 conditions was warm, they was 55 below. At the time they  
31 said that at that year the fawn didn't survive. You mean  
32 up to 270,000, they said we don't know. That's the  
33 question, you know, that I -- everybody asks me and asks  
34 everybody, let us know why this herd is declining, what's  
35 happening. Of course they say number 1 -- number 2 was  
36 sport hunters and local harvest people where they get  
37 about 16,000 annually both of these agencies on the  
38 caribou, I don't know if -- I don't know if they get that  
39 many or not. So the situation that we see now that the  
40 agencies put a lot of money and just make a complete  
41 survey and come back and report this, why they are  
42 declining. Like the parts of the world up in Canada and  
43 Russia, they're not -- they're not reporting loss of the  
44 herds, just up in Northwest Alaska.

45  
46                   The situation now, the thing that all of  
47 us are very concern, is heating system, of course is on  
48 the Park land you're not allowed to cut a tree for wood,  
49 of a heating system. So but when we see the regulations  
50 of the National Park Service the law was made like 50

1 years ago not to cut a tree in Park land. What we relied  
2 on, depended on to heat our homes, firewood, and we are  
3 not allowed to cut anything bigger than three inches. So  
4 the National Park should gain the situation and tell us  
5 why you're not cutting that big tree. The thing about it  
6 today is erosion. All in the Park log, Noatak River and  
7 Kobuk River, all the rivers are changing, all those big  
8 timbers are just disappearing and National Park won't let  
9 us cut it. That's the thing that National Park should  
10 look into, give us an opportunity to and then get our own  
11 firewood. And then so we'll know what to do. The  
12 regulations that came before us on the Park land is real  
13 strict, but otherwise we get to know the people from Park  
14 land, at least they would a chance, you know, us to talk  
15 to them and they answer some of our questions. So like  
16 in people wanted to built cabins in their -- in the Park  
17 land, but they weren't allowed, of course, you know, some  
18 of the -- some of the area on the Park land is owned by  
19 Native people, Native corporations as allotments. I --  
20 I'm not too sure how you would work that, work with Park  
21 Service and see if you can get some luck to build your  
22 own cabin on your allotment that's on the Park land. So  
23 but the thing that, you know, you have to be answered.

24

25 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

28

29 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
30 your last point about the concerns regarding the cost for  
31 heating and the need for obtaining timber potentially  
32 from Federal Park Service lands, are you aware, Mr.  
33 Chair, of any communities in particular that would benefit  
34 most directly from being able to obtain wood from public  
35 lands or was that -- was that applicable to all  
36 communities in the borough?

37

38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

39

40 MR. STEVENSON: All of them. Okay.

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Okay. That's

44 all I got now.

45

46 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

49

50 MR. MOTO: Yes. I was thinking about,

1 you know, all the problems we're having on caribou. What  
2 I was wondering is what impact of you guys bringing  
3 muskox to the same range that the caribou go. How much  
4 of the feeding ground that the caribou have is, you know,  
5 where the muskox has taken over. Does that have any  
6 bearing on why we're have so much problem with caribou  
7 or, you know, because when you fight over it like --  
8 fight over food, we -- one -- the weak will go, you know.  
9 When we had that over 400,000 caribou they brought in  
10 some muskox, now the population is over 3,000 or  
11 something like that. And they're feeding on the same  
12 area where our caribou are on the Northern Seward  
13 Peninsula area, mainly Bering Land Bridge, you know.  
14 Every summer we have hundred -- about 50 or 60 of those  
15 muskox come down and they're feeding on the same that the  
16 caribou are. I was wondering if the biologists and  
17 people who work for the Federal or State ever taken into  
18 consideration something like that, what impact does the  
19 bringing in of muskox have on our caribou feeding ground.  
20 I hate to the -- because our people, especially around  
21 Deering and Northwest Alaska, Northern Alaska, we rely on  
22 these caribou quite a bit. People they try the muskox,  
23 but they don't -- they're not really liking it as much as  
24 caribou. They always say they're a nuisance. And we  
25 like to see -- I'd like to see my next generation down  
26 the line be able to have caribou yet.

27  
28                   So maybe we -- we've had people,  
29 biologists and State people, Federal, State, we have to  
30 cut back, we have to take less or take -- and then all of  
31 a sudden the herd got up, they say oh, you can get more  
32 now again, you know. But this is something I've always  
33 wondered about, you know. So I think maybe something  
34 that the -- we pass along information to people and they  
35 usually send a piece of paper for us to fill out, survey,  
36 but they never come back and tell us what they think of  
37 the survey a lot of time. And this is where we fall  
38 short on the people that are keeping track of our  
39 caribou. I know I've got quite a few letters for survey  
40 and how many caribou we get there or how many caribou you  
41 think there are. But they never feedback on the -- I  
42 just kind of say if we're going to work together let's  
43 work together, not again each other. It's kind of  
44 disturbing because we have commercial hunters who hunt  
45 and just take the head and then they say they --  
46 sometimes they blame us for the waste of the -- what the  
47 commercial hunters, you know. I know a couple of cases  
48 where people were blamed for waste and wanton when it  
49 wasn't them that did it. So this is something that it's  
50 kind of hard for us, basically they go we're just

1 Natives, you know, and they don't know what they're  
2 talking about. This is the stigma we have for years I  
3 guess. But I just -- I know I'm not afraid to speak out,  
4 but if I think I see something wrong I -- this is  
5 something that we have to -- we have to really work  
6 together, people, we have to know our numbers, true  
7 numbers of our caribou.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Vern.

14

15 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you. What the --  
16 this claim was alarming, I mean, to me, I mean, from  
17 235,000 to 201. We have to cut down from five per day to  
18 three per day because of the decline. We got to do  
19 something, something's got to be done otherwise our  
20 caribou is going to be gone if we don't do something now.  
21 Like the reindeer herders said, who was their worst enemy  
22 as a reindeer herder. You guys heard in the past about  
23 reindeer herders and what their worst enemy was, the  
24 raven, calving grounds. And I bet that's what's  
25 happening here with (in Native). The ravens are getting  
26 into the calves. That's what's happening. They keep  
27 telling us over and over, they told us three times, I  
28 think Johnson Stocker in this meeting, ravens are your  
29 worst enemy when on the calving grounds. If nobody's  
30 watching the calves somebody up there is flying around,  
31 black birds, poke a hole and they're done. So the  
32 studies, we never hear anything on that, on studies of  
33 ravens or anything. But what is alarming, I mean, this  
34 201,000, that's hard to swallow. We got to do -- and  
35 keep the Federal lands closed for one more year on -- put  
36 down on the annual report that we need to at least keep  
37 it closed for one more year to have our people get what  
38 they want and what they need.

39

40 And our fish resources are -- where's the  
41 trout -- where's that trout lady. I mean, man, I've been  
42 looking for trout and not getting any. But the fish is  
43 abundant, I know that, I know there's a lot of fish  
44 because I do a lot of fishing, net anyway.

45

46 But something's got to be done because --  
47 right away, I mean, State agencies, the Federal, got to  
48 start looking at, you know, just the caribou keep going  
49 down, something's got to be done. Drastically, got to be  
50 done right away. We just can't -- we live on caribou and

1 we can't go without caribou. We can't afford to go to  
2 the stores. I went to the store over there and oh, man,  
3 talk about expensive. And prices are very, very high.  
4 And the only resource you can get is either get moose or  
5 bear, caribou, to put food on your table.

6  
7 Other than that, thank you.

8  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Vern. Now  
12 another thing that I'm always asked by local people for  
13 subsistence bag limits. Of course the Federal government  
14 previously they had 15 caribou a day if you wanted it,  
15 now they change that to five per day. What bothers the  
16 people in my area of my home is the bag limits. The  
17 regulations said on State that you are authorized five  
18 caribou per day for subsistence. Now the situation about  
19 the bag limits for subsistence, it's sort of a odd thing  
20 of all the regulations that if I happen to go hunt  
21 caribou and I can get five a day per person in your boat.  
22 Let's say we go with a boat, So five people followed me  
23 and we are under the regulations said that each one of  
24 you can get five caribou each a day, otherwise there's 25  
25 caribou a day in one boat because there's five persons  
26 onboard on that hunting trip. What bothers me is it's  
27 just too many for, you know, five persons onboard to haul  
28 25 caribou. The regulation should be looked at closer,  
29 maybe let's say let's put in -- take five people onboard  
30 and go hunt and just -- tell them just get five caribou,  
31 the owner of that boat can get five, not his clients on  
32 the other boat. It should be looked at. Otherwise you  
33 get hundred in a week because it says five per day  
34 regulations. It should be change for if you wanted to go  
35 hunt just get -- the owner of that boat is responsible  
36 for the people that is onboard, it just -- doesn't get  
37 caribou except the owner. This should be looked at by  
38 Federal Subsistence Board.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 Zach -- wait. Calvin.

43  
44 MR. MOTO: Vern brought up a subject that  
45 I know quite a bit about. Are we going to get back to  
46 like -- when the caribou was scarce in the '30s they  
47 brought reindeer up. Is that what's going to happen  
48 again because at that time the people weren't getting any  
49 -- hardly any caribou meat at that time so they brought  
50 some herds from Finland, some herd from Tongass which is

1 their Russia. And they brought the herders there to  
2 supplement in place of caribou. And at one time the  
3 reindeer herd on the Seward Peninsula, Nome, Shishma,  
4 Deering, were over 100,000 reindeer at one time. And  
5 after a period of time people didn't hunt caribou in our  
6 area for a long time, then the herd got back up again.  
7 This is something that a lot of people forget about the  
8 history of the reindeer. It's documented in Fairbanks  
9 archives of why we had reindeer brought to Alaska. I  
10 know my family had a herd of reindeer. There were seven  
11 different herds of reindeer at one time in Deering area.  
12 Roaming was trying to take over, they had over 100,000,  
13 they were trying to do it like beef. But this is  
14 something I just thought I'd bring up about the history  
15 of reindeer.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach, you had your hand  
20 up.

21

22 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 Vern, you had mentioned trout I believe in your comments  
24 and I'm not sure I fully understood the point there.  
25 Could you elaborate briefly on trout and what the point  
26 you wanted to have mentioned to the Board on trout was.

27

28 MR. CLEVELAND: I was using the wrong  
29 lure.

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.

32

33 MR. CLEVELAND: No, I'm just kidding.  
34 Well, they said the trout was abundant at Salmon River  
35 and that's where I went to see if I could at least get  
36 30, 40. They were talking about it, you could get within  
37 an hour. But I didn't get anything, I mean, not a  
38 nibble, not nothing. I sat there for an hour, but the  
39 fish -- right above your camp, right there, and nothing.  
40 And I was going geez, am I using the wrong lure or is the  
41 wrong time of day. But I didn't get a nibble, didn't get  
42 a bite, didn't see anything. And that -- and you know  
43 that's trout company, right, that Salmon River, it's  
44 trout. I mean, they have nothing else but trout. And,  
45 you know, it didn't dawn to me until I got back down to  
46 it and I didn't get anything, nothing at all. Zip.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

1                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.  
2  
3                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Vern, how long ago was that that you were previously  
5 catching more trout?  
6  
7                   MR. CLEVELAND: That's about two weeks  
8 ago, week and a half ago. Yeah, it was nine days ago.  
9  
10                  MR. STEVENSON: (In Native)  
11  
12                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: One thing about this  
13 Northwest herd, you know, it tends to migrate and they're  
14 curiously going south. And we see that up more probably  
15 to Nome more than I do about what happened last fall in  
16 November, right, you see all that caribou, some -- like  
17 you said 50,000 went right through Kotzebue. So there  
18 should be some survey what the conditions and what's  
19 happening with this herd, they're moving further south on  
20 the migration.  
21  
22                  Attamuk, you got an idea?  
23  
24                  MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, last year when they  
25 (indiscernible - away from microphone) sorry about that.  
26 When -- last fall at Kotzebue when they were migrating  
27 right through town and this is one of the years we are  
28 lucky, you can see meat, duck soup and seal oil all in  
29 one time walking right through your town, there was ducks  
30 there, there was seals there and there was caribou there.  
31 Yet the elders were worried about it and I did get a lot  
32 of call and I go out there to see how they're catches  
33 were. The females were a lot healthy. Don't get it  
34 wrong, just and due to global warming, but they were  
35 healthy yet the fawns at that late fall to me and another  
36 elder said they look a lot smaller when they see them  
37 from town. We notice that they were differ in size than  
38 before. We know what fawns look like when we hunt  
39 caribou with boats and yet they -- this is at freeze-up  
40 they were still small when we -- they weren't -- they  
41 didn't look that healthy. And it -- and they migrated  
42 and they went right through -- I'm the lucky few, they  
43 went right through my camp at Sisualik, but I never hunt  
44 them because I get my catch out of there yet and they  
45 went through town. And the villages -- I mean, the  
46 people from Kotzebue that never get caribou they went out  
47 there, they went practically crazy trying to get them.  
48 And I got worried because a lot of young ones were  
49 shooting at caribou just with .22, they didn't know any  
50 different. And when I go see their parent their parent

1 did not even know they grabbed the rifle, try to get  
2 caribou because they hear us talking about hunting  
3 caribou with .22 from boats. There's a difference  
4 between land and with boats. With boat you go right up  
5 to them and we shoot them that way. And that's what  
6 these three boys said. I talked to them and I tell them  
7 and I tried to educate them, I said you want to learn  
8 about something go talk to me. I got nothing else to do  
9 in the evening but watch TV, but if you want to BS about  
10 caribou I'll talk to you, I'll teach you. And which they  
11 did, they came at different times, practically say --  
12 tell them the same thing, but I think what you -- the  
13 Federal need to do is put out pamphlets saying stuff like  
14 this for education by the State and the Federal and put  
15 it on the caribou comments. What kind of rifles to use  
16 at certain time. It really important, part of the  
17 education should be part of it.

18

19                   So if you guys want to hear more about  
20 other issues that we have I could talk about -- a lot  
21 about trout. So Raymond is right, caribou cross and boy  
22 did they cross last year in numbers that pretty high.  
23 And we were scared they were going to cross through that  
24 open water and it's so called that I even had the trooper  
25 try to divert them toward -- they were in front of a army  
26 base where it's open. We shot them and he brought me  
27 there, Justin. We flew and he say he can't do that. I  
28 say I know you could do that, but this is one time I will  
29 allow a plane to do it, because I didn't want the caribou  
30 to go down there when we -- the current was going strong  
31 out, real strong at the time. And it was scary last year  
32 when they went -- sure, they needed by people of  
33 Kotzebue.

34

35                   Thank you.

36

37                   MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hannah.

40

41                   MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
42 Excuse me. Last year we -- after our meeting in  
43 Anchorage, the all regional RACs, we received a letter of  
44 unauthorized spending by our Council members. And they  
45 never specify how we un -- you know, use our -- not per  
46 diem, food for unauthorized spending. And I just maybe  
47 on the next meeting I don't -- it was a letter from Carl.  
48 So on the next meeting he could send us an email because  
49 there were too many of us RACs people in Anchorage.

50

1                   And I am concerned about members from  
2 Ambler and Kivalina not engaging in our RAC meetings for  
3 several -- I don't know, several -- we just got elected  
4 a person from Ambler and not attending or even  
5 communicating with you I believe. We need to have some  
6 kind of a policy that allows us to -- this RAC committee  
7 to make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board  
8 who is very locally knowledge and who is willing to spend  
9 his or her time for free to attend these meetings because  
10 we are volunteering right now. And we need to have --  
11 address those very soon.

12  
13                   And Kivalina is an affected area by the  
14 Red Dog Mine where the caribou migrate through sometimes.  
15 Sometimes they do get caribou from the haul road with  
16 their Hondas, you know, even though they say your  
17 liability and -- we are liable if you -- something  
18 happened to you. We need representatives who can speak  
19 on behalf of the Kivalina people because they're affected  
20 by the water environment in the mine.

21  
22                   And about the closure of the non-  
23 Federally recognized people hunting on the Federal lands,  
24 I fully support this one. It's been a long time coming  
25 and I believe that we could keep it closed for some time  
26 until the health of the caribou is going back -- is back  
27 to normal. We know that they are mixed with reindeer and  
28 we also heard from the local people and from here that  
29 they're -- not only the bear and the eagles and the other  
30 things, there are wolves and ravens that are affecting  
31 their population. And also their -- we understand they  
32 are healthy, but what's causing them to decline year  
33 after year. And we know also when they come to our area  
34 after they do their birthing up in the North Slope and  
35 they come to our area they start to get fat because of  
36 the rich light and more food to eat.

37  
38                   And our cost of living in this area is  
39 very expensive. For instance an outboard motor is 12,000  
40 and you need gas ranging from six to \$12 per gallon.  
41 Sometimes fuel have to be flown into like Ambler in  
42 wintertime and those are issues that are too expensive so  
43 they have to, you know, buddy-buddy to go up -- to go  
44 hunt together as a group. So it's the economic cost of  
45 living to hunt and gather.

46  
47                   In reference to the fish in Selawik, it's  
48 not only -- they wanted to do a study on the (in Native),  
49 broadnose Susan, humpback, the one Enoch have, lot of  
50 nice roe and it's usually common in September. We used

1 to hang rows and rows (in Native) or fish (in Native) or  
2 eggs still intact, but now we hardly. I think the fish  
3 is either blocked someplace or caused by beaver or going  
4 other areas to -- like Kotzebue. And there are in --  
5 there are other species that are showing up in Selawik  
6 like Beluga and seal. So sometimes in the future the  
7 locals could recommend to have a -- themselves to be on  
8 the beluga committee.

9

10 Thank you very much.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Hannah.

13 Mike, have you got.....

14

15 MR. KRAMER: This is for our annual  
16 report, right? Okay.

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair, yes.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, as they stated -- all  
21 stated, you know, about the caribou herd and it being a  
22 concern. I think we should wait until our spring meeting  
23 to make the decision for -- one we get the final head  
24 count and then what we'll do is we'll minus the  
25 harvestable amount and then we'll go ahead and decide  
26 from there. It -- I'd like to continue with 16-01 also.

27

28 The other issues is I notice people  
29 haven't really talked about any frapping bears. You  
30 know, we talked so many times about predator control and  
31 I haven't seen one agency step forward and say hey, let's  
32 do something about it. Bunch of pansies, let's get off  
33 them rear ends and start protecting people. I mean,  
34 bears are starting to take caribou out of boats, grab  
35 tents and ripping them in half while people are sleeping  
36 in them. They're getting into communities, they're  
37 walking around town at nighttime. Either the agencies  
38 are going to start putting their foot forward and start  
39 doing something about it or, you know what, you guys  
40 might as well just pack up and leave and let the people  
41 take care of business on their own. You know, when you  
42 talk about a predator issue that's involving communities  
43 and/or, you know, that threatens the life of people,  
44 individuals who are out there hunting, action has to be  
45 taken. This is ridiculous. Should we wait until a whole  
46 family is killed first before an agency says, hmmm, let's  
47 put on our government thinking hat, should we do  
48 something about it now. I think every agency needs to be  
49 liable for every person who is killed on Federal lands  
50 and they should be paid out due to the fact that whether

1 they do nothing about it or they do something about it  
2 and they start protecting people and they start  
3 preventing these kind of issues by encouraging people to  
4 do predator control. You know, something's got to be  
5 done, it's getting crazy, these bears are just -- they're  
6 just getting too many. People are starting to -- you  
7 know, I've heard about four or five people just randomly  
8 shooting them for the ugly fun of it and dragging them  
9 out in the river and ditching them. I applaud those  
10 people because the government agencies aren't doing  
11 anything about it. And I'd like to see more of that  
12 because if you guys don't do nothing about it, we are.  
13 And it's going to be very, very hush-hush.

14  
15                   You know, the wolves, a lot of people,  
16 you know, there's some people in Buckland who get a lot  
17 of wolves. I know a bunch of people around here in  
18 Selawik who harvest a lot of wolves in the wintertime.  
19 I -- hopefully I'll be up in the Kiana and Ambler area  
20 this year hunting and trapping so I should be able to  
21 take out a bunch of them up there, me and my boy.

22  
23                   You know, it's -- the other issue I want  
24 to talk about is, you know, these moose. I heard I think  
25 Selawik Wild Life Refuge talking about their moose  
26 population is on the decline. It's time to take action  
27 there and stop any future moose hunting on Federal lands.  
28 You know, because once the caribou is depleted and then  
29 they start depleting the moose and then what are we going  
30 to have, nothing. We're going to have absolutely  
31 nothing, everybody is going to be limited. I'd like to  
32 see something done, you know, about that moose counts  
33 done on Federal and State lands. I know at the -- I  
34 believe I -- when I first came in I heard Selawik  
35 National Wildlife Refuge talking about something about  
36 their moose populations were declining and I know I've  
37 heard Brandon say that -- Brandon say to us that they've  
38 reduced the amount of harvest tickets on the State side.  
39 I haven't heard anything on the Park side yet.

40  
41                   So I think it would be a wise decision  
42 for me to make a motion to shut down all moose hunting on  
43 all Federal lands. Do I hear a second on that?

44  
45                   (No comments)

46  
47                   MR. KRAMER: To non-Federally-qualified  
48 subsistence users.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's a motion?

1 MR. KRAMER: That's a motion.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: While we're waiting to  
4 take action on the moose hunt that -- on.....  
5  
6 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.  
9  
10 MR. STEVENSON: I'd have to -- I'm not  
11 certain that this is the opportunity right now to take a  
12 motion on the special action. I haven't encountered that  
13 before. I've got -- just checking my procedure. Just a  
14 moment.  
15  
16 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I understand, yeah.  
17 Okay. So we can't do that I guess.  
18  
19 MR. STEVENSON: I'm not saying we can't,  
20 Mike, I'm just need to review my protocol here.  
21  
22 MR. KRAMER: You know, on all the studies  
23 that we need to try and continue to begin to start  
24 performing, we need to start looking at other species,  
25 kind of spread out the spectrum. We need to start  
26 looking at doing all kinds of other studies and involving  
27 our youth.  
28  
29 That's all I have.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, somebody on -- you  
32 got an answer? Okay. That's.....  
33  
34 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
35 was just speaking with Eva. I was trying to respond to  
36 Mike's point just a moment ago about the possibility of  
37 taking action or initiating a special action on a  
38 potential shutting down of moose hunting on Federal  
39 lands. And I've been instructed if upon completing the  
40 RAC's report -- considerations or items for an annual  
41 report to the Board, we can certainly consider a motion  
42 from the Board to consider a special action on moose. So  
43 I'm not sure if there are more items that the RAC would  
44 like to submit for their annual report. Are we still  
45 going on that or are we wrapped up?  
46  
47 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Vern.  
50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: I work as a NANA trespass  
2 officer, armed officer. And I watch over the NANA lands.  
3 And I'm supposed to working with the Federals -- Feds  
4 with Dan Sullivan and State in Kot, but you can tell when  
5 you're on the river who's not from the area, you can tell  
6 whether they're -- and there are a lot of them. Nobody's  
7 watching the rivers, nobody. I can't go to Federal lands  
8 because I'm the one that's just got to be on NANA land,  
9 I'm taking care of NANA lands, but who's taking care of  
10 the State and the Federal lands. And there's poachers  
11 going -- I mean, you can tell and you call them, right,  
12 and nothing happens. Say hey, we got some guides here,  
13 they're not supposed to be here, they're not supposed to  
14 be in this area at all. And you guys just made a closure  
15 on Federal lands, on -- for hunters, outside hunters, our  
16 Anchorage hunters and still as an officer, as a trespass  
17 officer, there's people going in, get what they want, do  
18 what they want and nothing happened, they just pull back  
19 -- right back up. Put it on my report, nothing happens.  
20 How we going to do it to make it better so this won't  
21 happen. Anybody got any solutions, I don't think so  
22 because we don't -- if you don't be out every day, I  
23 mean, you're out every day and you know all the boats, I  
24 mean, you know there's boats to Noorvik, Kiana, Selawik,  
25 Noatak, Kotzebue and you can tell where the boats come  
26 from, where they -- where they come from, you can tell  
27 because of the -- like I know Attamuk's boat, bang, I  
28 know that's Attamuk right there. He's okay. He's okay,  
29 just leave him there. But if you see another boat and  
30 there's other guys in there with a lot of meat, I say  
31 hey, something's wrong here, something's wrong with this  
32 picture. But I can't get to them because they're on  
33 Federal lands, that's out of my jurisdiction. Mine is  
34 just the NANA lands. And you get -- by the time you get  
35 ahold of Dan Sullivan, gone, they're out of there, there  
36 not there no long -- no more. So what's the point. If  
37 we're going to put a closure you have to ride the river,  
38 you fly over them, you got no -- you got no float, you  
39 got nothing, you can't land to them, you just fly right  
40 over them, just can't do nothing. So when I went out  
41 hunting on NANA lands I just tell them guys -- all the  
42 guys make sure you have your hunting license and your  
43 boat registered. Other than that it's going to be costly  
44 for you. And I don't want -- and I don't hurt no one's  
45 feelings, I don't want to bust nobody for anything but  
46 the State and the Feds can, that's what I told them. You  
47 go on Federal lands, State lands, and your boat is not  
48 registered and you don't have a hunting license or  
49 caribou tags or anything, bang, you're busted, you're  
50 done with, you're out of there.

1                   We're not pressuring enough, we're not  
2 pushing our people enough to understand some of these  
3 rules that change on a yearly basis. Got to let them  
4 know like what Lance said, we have to put this on the  
5 air, on radio, that way the people can listen to see what  
6 we're trying to get to, what we're trying to vote for the  
7 future, for our kids, for our people, more safeties, less  
8 the high cost of living. This is where we get our food  
9 right there. But as a trespass officer we got nine, we  
10 got three in Selawik, two -- one from Noorvik, one from  
11 Kiana, one from Noorvik, we were short this year, so I  
12 had to go from Noorvik all the way up to Ambler, back and  
13 forth with boat. That's a long trip. And where's the  
14 guides up in the air, I have no idea. But we have to get  
15 through and work together. If we don't work together  
16 it's not going to work.

17

18                   Thank you.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hannah, you had your  
21 hand up? Before you get going, Hannah, excuse me, I sure  
22 what to thank some of these youngsters that came in to  
23 our meeting here on the -- you know, in school, in the  
24 district. It's my honor, you know, to see you guys, to  
25 see all these people here at our Regional Advisory  
26 Council. I'm glad you're here and I'm glad you're  
27 listening. That's where you are going to be next, be a  
28 leader of leading this Northwest Alaska Caribou Working  
29 Group, our Federal Subsistence Board, our Regional  
30 Advisory Council, that's where you will be. I'm glad you  
31 guys are here and listening what we are saying.

32

33                   Thank you so much for being seen in this  
34 meeting.

35

36                   Thanks again.

37

38                   Hannah.

39

40                   MS. LOON: I appreciate Michael's motion  
41 to close the moose, but during the summertime when we run  
42 out of caribou and we're eating fish and we're tired of  
43 eating fish and sometimes a moose meat -- a piece of  
44 moose meat would be -- you know, that's what we always  
45 crave for. And if it should be -- if the motion is  
46 addressed to the -- addressed to the Federal issues  
47 annual report, I would like to add maybe to if the moose  
48 population is declining I would like to add maybe five --  
49 four or five per village to the community.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

4

5 MR. SHIEDT: Zach.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead, Zach.

8

9 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, and responding  
10 to some comments on what appear to be closing comments.  
11 I just wanted to remind folks that we are on the agenda  
12 item D, identifying issues for the annual report. So I  
13 was unclear whether or not everyone had finished those  
14 items for the annual report and if so just to continue on  
15 with our next item on the agenda which was item F, review  
16 of the charter for clarification.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 MR. SHIEDT: Over there.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We -- go ahead. Enoch.

23

24 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
25 want to -- this issue is going to fall on the annual  
26 report. I wanted to get a letter of support. I'm Enoch  
27 Mitchell, I'm Chair for RAC subsistence group in  
28 Noatak/Kivalina. And we got two proposals that will go  
29 before the Board of Game in January so I'm asking this  
30 RAC to take action for -- by drafting a letter of support  
31 for our AC. And we got two proposals that will go before  
32 the Board of Game and these two different proposals are  
33 for two different conflicts in two different location.

34

35 The first one, the first proposal is to  
36 extend the upper seaway boundary for Sapun -- from Sapun  
37 Creek to Cutler. At the moment last year there was too  
38 much crowding at Sapun at the headwaters of the seaway  
39 that they were scaring the caribou and it was too high  
40 density of non-Federal-qualified users over there and was  
41 getting overpopulated. So if we -- if we move the  
42 boundaries from Sapun Creek to Cutler Creek that'll  
43 really divide the local and non-local and will reduce  
44 conflict on -- in that area.

45

46 And the second proposal was to space  
47 camps three miles apart on the Squirrel River, Eli River  
48 and the Aggie River to try to let the migration go back  
49 to normal before it becomes permanent. As of now they're  
50 going further east to down near Shungnak and popping out

1 to Noatak up there, way up river by Sapun Creek and  
2 that's very cost effective for a lot of our people and a  
3 lot of our elders and -- that don't have jobs to get the  
4 gas to go there. And this second proposal actually was  
5 to space the camps in this corridor by the Aggie River so  
6 the migration -- the caribou could migrate through these  
7 corridors. And thus they'll be crossing to the village  
8 of Noatak causing these elders and people that can't  
9 afford to hunt caribou way up there by Sapun, that they  
10 could be able to get caribou closer to the village. And  
11 that will be very helpful for saving gas -- a lot of gas  
12 on the village of Noatak.

13

14 So those two proposals will be going to  
15 the Board of Game from our AC in January, 2017. So, Mr.  
16 Chair, I'm asking that this -- it's important for the  
17 subsistence users, it saves us gas and we'll be able to  
18 get a quota of caribou. It is also a conservation  
19 concern because the decline is still going down, our  
20 caribou is still going down, it didn't level off yet, it  
21 slowed down, but it's still declining. So and  
22 traditional knowledge and facts we got there because we  
23 need our food, it is our culture, it is our lifeblood for  
24 Noatak that we depend on our caribou.

25

26 And I guess that's it. So with this I'm  
27 asking the RAC to take action by drafting a letter of  
28 support for us.

29

30 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Enoch. As  
33 you see now -- oh, excuse me.

34

35 Zach.

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 And thank you, Enoch. I've been informed that we do have  
39 copies of those two State proposals available and if the  
40 RAC would like to review them and -- in response to  
41 Enoch's request we can do that at your liking, either now  
42 or at the end of the meeting.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. SHIEDT: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

49

50 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I have a question for

1 you, Enoch, then. So you're going to propose that you  
2 take a reduction yet to the Western Arctic Caribou  
3 Working Group, are you going to propose to them to make  
4 -- to take a reduction?

5  
6 MR. MITCHELL: I could ask for a letter  
7 of support from them too.

8  
9 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.

10  
11 MR. MITCHELL: And actually I'm just  
12 asking for a letter of support from this group too.

13  
14 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Because if the  
15 Council here -- I will support you if -- but I would like  
16 to see the State too do it for Northwest Alaska, that way  
17 our caribou could rebound a lot faster.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: One thing, you know,  
22 that concern all of us, you know, on these reports that's  
23 very important to all of us, one thing that I've seen in  
24 the last 15 years for police, you know, is don't feel  
25 bad about saying something about our local enforcement  
26 officers out in the field. Of course, you know, we get  
27 officers from the State, BLM, National Park, wildlife  
28 Refuge, just a number of officers. Sure they're doing  
29 their job, but however what's happening 15 years ago is  
30 still happening today that if you were hunting out in the  
31 BLM or National Park or State land or wildlife Refuge,  
32 when we run to an officer that our -- let's say -- let's  
33 say at -- in the government land like the Squirrel River  
34 is by Federal government and right next to it is the  
35 State and right next to it is National Park, no, I'm with  
36 the BLM, you go to the Park Service right now. I'm say  
37 20 miles away so I had to go back to Kiana and go to  
38 National Park and that's a law that was broken in that  
39 certain area. Why are they doing that, they say just go  
40 to National Park, go tell them, I can't help you, the law  
41 enforcement. Something has to be done about that  
42 situation. And then your report will fail. That's  
43 something all agencies should get together and look at  
44 it. That's something that bothers all of us.

45  
46 MR. SHIEDT: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

49  
50 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. It's my fault, I --

1 on my report if I get add on our resources here in  
2 Northwest Alaska that we -- on your studies you need to  
3 include trout heavily more because they're coming and  
4 when -- as a commercial fisherman they're coming in  
5 earlier in July not in August like they do at Noatak and  
6 they're going up Aggie about the same time. But this  
7 year my boy tell me that the Aggie they're about two  
8 weeks early going up the Aggie, the trout, they're  
9 different stock completely than the Noatak char even in  
10 size. And you guys need to worry about the trout heavily  
11 because Noatak and Kivalina do depend heavily on trout,  
12 on char. And they're being affected because Kivalina  
13 call me that last summer they get early and yet they're  
14 coming in later at falltime. I said this yesterday also  
15 that at Sisualik when the trout is not going through  
16 Sisualik, this is three years straight, the other year  
17 was -- they did come in a little bit, but this year, the  
18 other year, hardly any. This year I never did get one in  
19 front of my camp. I had to -- in order for me to get  
20 trout I had to go down Sealing Point which is about 12  
21 miles away from my camp, I had to go down the coast to  
22 get my trout. That's the drastic change that's  
23 happening. And we need to find out.

24  
25                   And on your studies you'll say Federal  
26 grant is good for three years, sometimes resources take  
27 longer than that to rebound and always check on it more  
28 even if your three years are up because you -- if you  
29 doing a study on trout and if you do the study on caribou  
30 when you're flying over, it might need -- might not be  
31 part of the study, but just look at say oh, there's trout  
32 this year this time for the region or there's no trout.  
33 Because due to global warming our migrations are changing  
34 and your studies are on set dates year after year, your  
35 set dates need to change earlier and later. That's all  
36 I'm asking, please. Like I state again my Northwest  
37 Alaska to me is so gifted, we need to preserve for the  
38 future because if we have no more resources, all the  
39 Federal will have no more jobs to protect and they will  
40 be all laid off, you'll be out of a job. So protect your  
41 jobs by protecting our resources.

42  
43                   (In Native), Raymond.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

46  
47                   Any more reports before we take a break.

48  
49                   Zach.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, if you prefer  
2 to take a break right now we can address this when we get  
3 back.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know they got me  
6 sitting her for quite some time now.

7  
8 MR. STEVENSON: All right.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Let's take a 10 minute  
11 break and we'll continue on and finish this.

12  
13 MR. MOTO: You know.....

14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin, go ahead.

16  
17 MR. MOTO: .....we had people come to  
18 Deering to talk about the Western Arctic caribou herd,  
19 but they never let people in the village know until they  
20 get to Deering. Consequently most of the hunters that  
21 wanted to comment wasn't able to go to those. So what  
22 I'm trying to say is if they're going to come to Deering  
23 about an issue to let us know a week -- at least a week  
24 ahead of time because the hunters that do hunt would be  
25 able to let you know what -- what's going on.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.

28  
29 Let's take a 10 minute break.

30  
31 (Off record)

32  
33 (On record)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We're done with  
36 our break now, it's a good long 10 minutes so we'll begin  
37 again with our continuation of this morning's situation.  
38 So we start with Zach, what we be dealing with.

39  
40 Zach.

41  
42 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
43 are now on page 2 of the agenda for the Northwest Arctic  
44 Subsistence RAC fall meeting agenda. On item F, which  
45 was the charter review and through the Chair, before  
46 going into that I just wanted to get a quick time check  
47 where we're at in the agenda. As we were discussing  
48 issues for the annual report three items were raised for  
49 action by the Council. One was a request to have a joint  
50 meeting, our next meeting be a joint meeting with the

1 Seward Peninsula, that was one action item request. The  
2 second was addressing, and this is from Enoch Mitchell,  
3 two proposals that came through the State AC process and  
4 taking action, getting letters of support on those two  
5 proposals. The third was a request from Mike Kramer to  
6 initiate a special action requesting a closure on Federal  
7 public lands to -- affecting potential non-Federally-  
8 qualified users regarding a harvest of moose. So I was  
9 going to suggest through the Chair that we add those  
10 three action items after the agency reports, after agenda  
11 item 12. That was going to be my recommendation and then  
12 just continue with our agenda. That's the question for  
13 the Chair.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Which one did you want  
18 to begin with?

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: We are at -- we begin  
21 with item F, the charter review. Page 55 of your meeting  
22 books.

23

24 Through the Chair. On page 55 of your  
25 meeting books we have the charter and the charter is --  
26 it's just a -- it's the set of guidelines or rules that  
27 help kind of guide the functions and roles of the  
28 Regional Advisory Councils. And in about four pages,  
29 starting on page 55 of your meeting books, if you turn to  
30 page 55 you'll see at the top of the page the Council's  
31 -- if you see at the top of your meeting books on page 55  
32 it says Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and  
33 Wildlife Service, Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional  
34 Advisory Council Charter. And I'll briefly review the  
35 charter for me, this helps me to understand what is the  
36 function and roll not only of Northwest Arctic, but of  
37 all the Councils throughout the State that are working  
38 right now.

39

40 And basically the charter states that the  
41 Regional Advisory Councils, the RACs, came about through  
42 the National Interest Lands Conservation Act. And that  
43 was enacted to essentially serve as a means for helping  
44 our communities share their knowledge of local  
45 conditions, resources and through that really have a  
46 meaningful role in helping to shape subsistence  
47 management on Federal lands and waters in their regions  
48 and in this case in Northwest Alaska. And then it goes  
49 on on item four and lays out a couple duties or kind of  
50 key responsibilities of the RAC. And those are helping

1 to initiate proposals, evaluate them, review them and  
2 through that helping to share information on subsistence  
3 use of fish and wildlife on public lands. On item B it  
4 talks about expressing opinions and recommendations by  
5 interested parties, basically helping to create  
6 communication dialogue between affected communities and  
7 land managers again on issues of subsistence and fish and  
8 wildlife within the region. It talks a lot about  
9 participation in decision making and we've been doing a  
10 lot of that, really making sure that communities have a  
11 role in decisions that affect subsistence users. Another  
12 thing that we talked about just a moment ago was our  
13 annual report. The charter goes on to give a little bit  
14 more detail about the role of the annual report, but it's  
15 again to help identify or show issues that are currently  
16 going on or may happen in the future that affect fish and  
17 wildlife in the region, evaluating anticipated or  
18 expected needs so in the future things that we might need  
19 that affect fish and wildlife populations in the region.

20  
21

22                   Turning to page 56 at the top of the page  
23 the charter also spells out the need for helping to  
24 recommend strategies for ways to better manage fish and  
25 wildlife in the region and again to meet the needs of  
26 subsistence users. It also talks about helping to frame  
27 recommendations or helping to shape policies or standards  
28 and guidelines to help us implement or carry out those  
29 plans. So how do we do that. Well, the charter spells  
30 out that we appoint three members from different parts of  
31 the region including Cape Krusenstern National Monument  
32 and Kobuk Valley National Parks Resource Commissions and  
33 we have someone here today who will talk a little bit  
34 about that process. And of course one member of Gates of  
35 the Arctic National Park RC, the Resource Commission.  
36 And again that comes through ANILCA. Helping to make  
37 recommendations on the determinations of customary and  
38 traditional use of subsistence resources and making  
39 recommendations on the determination of rural status.  
40 And then lastly we have some information about providing  
41 recommendations to establish a membership to local  
42 Advisory Committees. And I know several of you serve on  
43 those Advisory Committees.

44

45                   We also have an agency or an official to  
46 whom the Council reports. So the RAC reports to the  
47 Federal Subsistence Board Chair and the Chair is of  
48 course appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with  
49 the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture -- with the  
50 agreement of the Secretary of Agriculture. And as many

1 of you are aware now we're taking applications for our  
2 new Chair. Chairman Towarak had retired and that --  
3 those letters of application are due on the 7th, so those  
4 are due tomorrow if any of you are interested in  
5 applying.

6  
7                   Support. The Fish and Wildlife Service  
8 will provide support -- administrative support, for the  
9 Council through the role of the Office of Subsistence  
10 Management. The annual cost for doing all of this is  
11 \$130,000 which has the indirect expense coverage of about  
12 .9 staff years. We have a designated Federal officer,  
13 that's me, and that individual is a full-time Federal  
14 employee and their job -- my job, is to approve or call  
15 the Advisory Committees and Subcommittees' meetings,  
16 prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend  
17 committees and subcommittee meeting, adjourn any meeting  
18 when the Federal officer determines adjournment to be in  
19 the public interest and chair meetings when directed to  
20 do so by an official who the Advisory Committee reports.

21  
22                   The Council meets one to two times per  
23 year and at the end of today's meeting we'll select our  
24 next meeting date and location. And that'll -- and those  
25 times are designated by the Federal Subsistence Board  
26 Chair or the DFO. The duration is continuing which means  
27 our work will continue and the Council would be inactive  
28 or terminate two years from the date the charter is filed  
29 unless prior to that date it is renewed in accordance  
30 with the provisions of section 14 of FACA. So we are  
31 continuing, we're not being terminated. We also have  
32 membership composed of representative members so the  
33 members are knowledgeable and experienced on matters  
34 relating to subsistence use of fish and wildlife. To  
35 ensure that the Council represents a diverse group of  
36 interests the Federal Board reviews their nomination and  
37 recommendations with the Secretary to ensure that we have  
38 seven members, 70 percent representing subsistence  
39 interests within the region, 30 percent or three members  
40 representing commercial and sports interests and I  
41 believe currently that role is filled by Mr. Kramer. The  
42 position -- the portion of the membership representing  
43 commercial and sport must include where possible at least  
44 one representative from the sport community and one  
45 representative from the commercial community. The  
46 Secretary of the Interior appoints members based on the  
47 recommendations from the Federal Board in concurrence  
48 with the Secretary and members are appointed for three  
49 year terms. Some of you have approached are up for re-  
50 appointment and I have presented those individuals who

1 are with incumbent forms if you choose to re-apply. And  
2 the Council elects a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for  
3 one year terms. And we just -- at our last meeting we  
4 had those roles re-appointed with now Mr. Stoney serving  
5 as Chair, Mr. Shiedt serving as Vice Chair and Ms. Loon  
6 as the Secretary.

7  
8                   Members of the Council will serve without  
9 compensation, however while away from home members are  
10 provided with per diem, including travel allowances in  
11 lieu of subsistence in the manner of persons employed  
12 through government services under section, this is a lot  
13 of legal language here, 57.03 of Title V of the U.S.  
14 Code. Council members will participate in official  
15 business in a member -- pardon me, with a member having  
16 a direct financial interest -- without having a direct  
17 financial interest or lease, license, permit, contract,  
18 agreement or related litigation with the Department. And  
19 subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling  
20 information and conducting research. However  
21 subcommittees must act under the direction of the DFO and  
22 the recommendations to the full Council for  
23 consideration. Subcommittees may not provide advice or  
24 work products directly to the agency. The Council Chair  
25 will the approval will appoint subcommittee members.  
26 Subcommittees may meet as necessary to accomplish their  
27 assignments or to the approval of the DFO and the  
28 availability of resources. And then lastly,  
29 recordkeeping, this is on page 58, records of the Council  
30 and formally or informally may establish subcommittees or  
31 subgroups to be handled in accordance with general  
32 records.

33  
34                   So that's the nitty-gritty of our charter  
35 and how the Subsistence RAC operates. And are there any  
36 questions on the charter through the Chair.

37  
38                   MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. I have a question on  
39 your members that were only for every three years. The  
40 way the paperwork is done is taking so long, is there a  
41 possibility we could change it to renew our application  
42 every five years? And you guys need to advertise more in  
43 the upper Kobuk region for new members from the upper  
44 Kobuk I know it's hard, I know it's all -- we are all  
45 volunteer, under a volunteer basis. The reason why I say  
46 that, last year when we were -- proposed that closure for  
47 the Western Arctic caribou herd, transports and operators  
48 were coming. I told you I was going to go to Anchorage  
49 early because I was going to meet with five different  
50 transports and operators and two were from Miami. And

1 you guys had a problem with that because I had met with  
2 them and they were trying to convince me to stop it. I  
3 met with them on Saturday, two of them, and I met with  
4 three of them on Sunday. And I was trying to do this to  
5 save and make sure our proposal pass. They didn't like  
6 the idea of us closing transport and operators from  
7 coming in.

8  
9 I think you guys need to revisit, the  
10 Federal need to revisit. We are all on volunteer. Sure  
11 we get per diem like when we come here to Selawik. Yet  
12 when you ask for our two cents you email us and we read  
13 them and we take our time and you don't even give us per  
14 diem or anything for that. I enjoy serving on the  
15 Council, but after last year I got my times and limits if  
16 you guys hit us hard because I will support you hard,  
17 make sure we close on Federal lands. And I told Zach I  
18 was going to meet with him on Saturday and Sunday and our  
19 meeting was on Monday, Tuesday or something like that.  
20 Anyhow I end up paying for my own hotel. I don't -- I  
21 don't care about the fare, I told Zach I could pay my  
22 hotel, but these are the things that you guys need to  
23 consider, if -- it's more like doing political work for  
24 us Council to be affected. Sure they were mad at me, I  
25 met with them face to face, I didn't really care to. I  
26 made sure I done it in public, we did it at lobby at the  
27 hotel and I take them to my room because we start getting  
28 kind of noisy amongst each other. And I didn't want to  
29 get kicked out of that hotel so I take them to my room  
30 and I -- my wife leave and that way it'll be okay.  
31 That's what I'm saying.

32  
33 But my main concern is this terms of  
34 three years, to me that's a little bit too short, it  
35 should be longer. I know it's -- you have to change it  
36 through congress, but keep pushing it, one day they will  
37 make a mistake and sign it, yes, we'll do it for five  
38 years.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk.

43  
44 Eva. Oh, just a minute. Vern.

45  
46 MR. CLEVELAND: I don't see anything like  
47 some of the -- our Board here, some of them guides that  
48 signed up like Louie Commack and Austin Swan and I  
49 haven't seen them since -- and, I mean, and there's no  
50 policy on this. If you miss two, three meetings you're

1 out. And, I mean, it should be like that. And if you  
2 don't -- if you have your name there and you don't show  
3 up to meetings what's the deal on that, what do you do,  
4 do you get them out or replace them. Just got to be some  
5 sort of a policy or something. If you got someone in  
6 here and they don't show up to meeting there's got to be  
7 some kind of policy on that.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, you may now.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. To  
14 address a couple questions that were brought up here.  
15 Enoch raises a really good question in terms of Council  
16 member terms. We have many, many Council members from --  
17 throughout all of the RAC regions who have served some  
18 for the entire lifetime of the existence of the Federal  
19 Subsistence Program. And two years ago all of the  
20 Councils made recommendations on changes they would like  
21 to see to the charter that are not immediately within  
22 your purview as a Council, directed a letter through the  
23 Federal Subsistence Board to the Secretary of the  
24 Interior making several very concrete recommendations  
25 that were supported by all of the Councils. And one of  
26 them was term length, requesting to extend the term  
27 length especially for long serving Council members so you  
28 didn't have to reapply every three years. The letter was  
29 not officially responded to by the Secretary of Interior.  
30 We heard indirectly through the special assistant to the  
31 Secretary of the Interior that they felt that wasn't an  
32 option at this time. So that letter did go to the  
33 Secretary of the Interior making that request, we haven't  
34 received an official response yet on that.

35

36 The other question that has been pursued  
37 in the past too is more supportive per diem for Council  
38 members. It's recognized you are all volunteers, you do  
39 a tremendous amount of work in preparation for these  
40 meetings, at these meetings, working in your community to  
41 get information back to the community and throughout the  
42 region. And the response from the Secretary's office at  
43 that time, when that request was made some -- and that  
44 was many years back to pursue that was that it's not an  
45 option because of the way the Regional Advisory Councils  
46 and the appointments through the Secretary's work. So we  
47 have pursued that and we are still waiting or pressing  
48 for a response from the Secretary on appointment terms.

49

50 And the outreach in the region to get

1 greater representation from communities throughout the  
2 region, that is something that each of us as Council  
3 coordinators and the program are working on. So your  
4 recommendations of which communities, you know, we're  
5 missing representation from or want more participation  
6 from and we'll assist with that outreach to the city  
7 councils, to the Tribal councils, to try to make sure we  
8 have representation and are reaching all of the  
9 communities.

10  
11                   There is Council member conduct  
12 guidelines, both for conduct during the Council meetings  
13 itself, but attendance is another one. If Council  
14 members are appointed then it's important to have their  
15 participation at the meetings. And so if they are absent  
16 for a number of meetings and the Council is concerned  
17 about that then that can be addressed so that their  
18 position is able to be filled by an individual who would  
19 be participating.

20  
21                   So there are some that are addressed,  
22 there's some we're still waiting for a response from the  
23 Secretary.

24  
25                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26  
27                   MR. SHIEDT: Could I.....

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

30  
31                   MR. SHIEDT: .....follow-up on that? We  
32 going to have a new president pretty quick, please  
33 resubmit that letter on our terms especially. So, you  
34 know, and the question there is basically all same, do we  
35 know about something, do we know and they just reword it  
36 on and on and on. And they need to change that. But  
37 there's going to be a new president and probably a new  
38 Secretary of Interior and they might look at it  
39 different. So resubmit it.

40  
41                   Also I'll support Vern. The upper Kobuk  
42 comment when he call me, I'd rather have a meeting in  
43 Anchorage. Maybe that's why he's not here. I'm not  
44 going to say his name, but you know who I'm talking  
45 about. And these are things if we going to serve on the  
46 Council we need to serve in the villages. And I don't  
47 really care to have meetings in Anchorage, but I'd rather  
48 have it in the villages, but I hear what you are saying,  
49 Vern, completely. And he commented to me that, I'd  
50 rather serve -- I'd rather go Anchorage. But we, the

1 Council, serve the villages.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hannah.

8

9 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
10 strongly believe Kivalina needs to be represented like I  
11 said. I know Austin is -- Austin's plate is very full,  
12 not only is he a mayor, but he is also working on the  
13 evacuation road and he's on the Eskimo Whaling  
14 Commission, he's got his plate full and working with the  
15 city and IRA to go to Washington, D.C. to get funding for  
16 the school and access road or evacuation road. I just  
17 wanted to address that when I know his plate is full.  
18 And I don't know about the other one, but he might have  
19 conduct issues.

20

21 We need representation from Kobuk or  
22 Shungnak or Ambler. I know -- Vern, thank you very much  
23 for always addressing upper -- upriver even though you  
24 live in Shungnak because that's your home is upper Kobuk.

25

26

27 And in -- on page 55 that management of  
28 fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the  
29 region. Isn't there a difference between -- it should  
30 say waters in the region, it's just only in Federal  
31 waters? It's on item number 3 on the charter.

32

33 MR. STEVENSON: On.....

34

35 MS. LOON: It say on.....

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: .....55, Hannah?

38

39 MS. LOON: Yes. In the last sentence,  
40 item number 3. Federal lands and waters in the region.

41

42 MR. STEVENSON: And through the Chair.  
43 Hannah, are you -- you're just asking for a clarification  
44 on what Federal waters.....

45

46 MS. LOON: Yeah, because the State waters  
47 escaped, right?

48

49 MR. STEVENSON: (In Native)

50

1 Eva, could you help clarify that.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
4 Hannah, you are correct for the Federal Subsistence  
5 Management Program, the jurisdiction is on Federal  
6 waters. However the Council also has the authority to  
7 make recommendations to State Board of Fish and State  
8 Board of Game. And so there are opportunities for this  
9 Council to weigh in on management on State waters as  
10 well. The Council's direct authority is directly to the  
11 Federal Subsistence Board and that's the primary duties  
12 of this council. But you have the opportunity to review  
13 and make recommendations as a Council on Board of Game  
14 and Board of Fish proposals as well in the region.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Pippa.

21

22 MS. KENNER: Hi, I'm Pippa Kenner with  
23 OSM for the record, just real quickly. And it might be  
24 good for you to know that for the purposes of fish the  
25 Federal Subsistence Management Program manages fish in  
26 waters that are running through and adjacent to Federal  
27 public lands. However for the management of wildlife we  
28 manage wildlife only on Federal public lands.

29

30 MS. LOON: I would also like to add to  
31 Vern's that the staff work very closely with the local  
32 communities of the upper Kobuk and Kivalina to get  
33 recommendations of names to represent those areas.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.

40

41 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
42 wanted to if I may briefly respond to Hannah's point  
43 about working to get communication with our other  
44 communities about recruitment of RAC members. I have  
45 this past winter was in contact with Millie Holly at  
46 Native Village of Kivalina, encouraging (in Native) to  
47 apply for future openings on the RAC. But I would agree,  
48 I think Kivalina right now is by necessity focused very  
49 closely on relocation. And I respect their immediate  
50 needs, but also want to make sure that their interests

1 and needs are represented on the Council. So I am  
2 continuing to keep that relationship strong, but I also  
3 could use some support from our RAC. If there are people  
4 maybe that I don't know or perhaps I haven't talked to  
5 that we should please feel free to give me a call and  
6 we'll certainly engage those folks too. Same in (in  
7 Native).

8

9 (In Native)

10

11 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Vern.

14

15 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, you never know with  
16 all this clearance and everything when you go through a  
17 -- he might -- for the upper Kobuk, he might be the only  
18 clean guy up there and Kivalina too, but you never know.  
19 And you go through so many Federal -- I mean, you got to  
20 go through Federal clearance and all that stuff. And he  
21 might be the only clean guy in the river. So you never  
22 know, it -- and the way we went through Federal clearance  
23 and to go through Federal clearance, it's a broad range,  
24 I mean, you went -- I went through it and it went like  
25 that, clear. But some folks don't have the opportunity  
26 to do that, I mean, you have to go through Federal  
27 clearance and State, no arrest warrants, no DUIs, no  
28 nothing, you know. But there might -- there might be a  
29 few guys out there that are clean, never know, unless you  
30 switch it around, but it may not.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I got a question to  
35 either one of you. For upper Kobuk, does that require  
36 three other representatives like Ambler, Shungnak and  
37 then Kobuk or just one for those three villages?

38

39 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. My  
40 understanding is that we need an upper Kobuk  
41 representative. So it could be any one of those three.

42

43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, just one. Okay.

44

45 Vern, that's.....

46

47 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. I'm the Chairman  
48 for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and I  
49 had a hard time getting one from upriver. And I -- so I  
50 just appointed because I know everybody upriver, I just

1 appointed one guy, Garrett, you're going to be on this no  
2 matter what. And we call all the IRAs, look for an  
3 alternate, no response. I just call one guy, say hey,  
4 you're going to be an alternate, you're it. And if  
5 they're not responding to you, you know, people, just say  
6 as a Chairman I just appointed people. As -- to be on  
7 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, appointed  
8 them, see how they do and if it works out it works out.  
9 And in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd it's been working  
10 well. Upper river -- for Kobuk's been showing up real  
11 well. Well, it's been very well and he speaks out a lot.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I imagine I got one  
16 question for either one of you about the applications for  
17 Regional Advisory Council because I made the application  
18 a number of times. Every time I do make an application  
19 I -- it's always the same interview and there should be  
20 some changes because a lot of people ask me the same  
21 question. When I interviewed last year, year before last  
22 and this year, same questions three years ago. Do we  
23 have to have that, that interview? That's my question.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
26 Excellent question. And that's also something that we've  
27 been working on. While we didn't get a response from the  
28 Secretary of the Interior on the term appointments, we  
29 were able to change the incumbent application form. So  
30 those of you that are already serving on the Council and  
31 wish to reapply again to the Council can just simply say  
32 on your application form nothing's changed, it's the same  
33 information I've provided you before unless you'd like to  
34 add something else. But now you have that opportunity to  
35 just say review my previous application, please, nothing  
36 has changed. So you don't have to walk through those  
37 steps all over again to provide the same information.

38

39 So that's one change that was made for  
40 those of you who are serving on the Council and we hope  
41 will be in the future.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So all of us here if  
46 our term is completed and do we have to make the same  
47 application or just call the Federal Subsistence Board  
48 Chair or somebody in Anchorage, well, I decided to renew  
49 my staying with the RAC. Just call them or just write  
50 them or just what or write the whole complete

1 application?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, Zach will provide  
4 you with -- so there is still an application for the  
5 incumbent form, but it's a simple form that you can just  
6 say my information is the same and then sign and date.  
7 So you're still reapplying, but you don't have to fill  
8 out that application form all over again.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So Zach will make  
13 sure that you get a copy of that and, you know, it's a  
14 simple one pager if nothing has changed. So it  
15 simplifies it a little bit that way.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know most of you are  
20 pretty well tired now, it's getting to lunchtime. We  
21 complete this thing and then take a lunch break. I  
22 thought we needed a lunch break one way or another. How  
23 much time we got left now on this issue?

24

25 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, did you -- through  
26 the Chair. I -- did you have a question, Mike?

27

28 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I've heard somewhat  
29 repeatedly, you know, that we're -- and especially we're  
30 noted in the charter that we're volunteers. You know,  
31 I've had my last two per diems confiscated by the State  
32 of Alaska, Department of Child Support. It's kind of  
33 funny because I'm not a Federal employee, per diem is  
34 considered non-disposable income. I still have yet to  
35 get ahold of CSSD to find out what the legalities on  
36 that. You know, I asked some people about it and, you  
37 know, one of the people had told me that per diem isn't  
38 disposable income so it can be garnished. If CSSD  
39 thought you were getting a honorarium or stipend that  
40 could be considered disposable income and garnished it's  
41 -- I suggest you contact them and ask why they thought  
42 garnishing per diem was legal. And if it wasn't part of  
43 the honorarium or stipend then it needs to be reimbursed  
44 immediately. It doesn't necessarily bother me that it  
45 went there, I do provide for my children anyway, but the  
46 problem -- the thing that bothers me the most is it  
47 states that we're volunteers so, you know, as it was  
48 stated that it went through the Department of Treasury  
49 and they looked at all the other things like IRS, you  
50 know, this is not -- this per diem is not part of my

1 income. I already paid through my employer. So I think  
2 stuff like this should be left out I still would like to  
3 get a letter, you know, stating as to why they thought it  
4 was disposable income. And I will be contacting CSSD to  
5 find out why they thought it was legal to take it.

6

7 That's all I have for right now.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mike.

10

11 Attamuk.

12

13 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, just to follow-up  
14 Mike. I push for people from Shungnak and Ambler to come  
15 and from Kivalina to apply. Their first question was  
16 would child support take my per diem and I know from the  
17 past experience from Mike that they take their per diem  
18 and he said then how am I going to feed myself if I go  
19 Anchorage. He have no problem in the village, he say he  
20 might have relatives where he could go eat and that's why  
21 they never apply, Zach, the per diem, especially at  
22 Anchorage, well, any bigger town, how they going to take  
23 care of themselves, how they going to get on a taxi to  
24 pay for if they have -- most of us -- most of them have  
25 no money. And that's why they never apply, that's the  
26 big thing and the other one is what Vern is right, the  
27 other person said I got a record that happened 25 years  
28 ago, it still follow me today. That's why he couldn't --  
29 he say I can't apply, I know I'm not going to pass.

30

31 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

34

35 MR. MOTO: Talking about compensation,  
36 I'm having a run-in with Alaska Public Offices  
37 Corporation, they're trying to tell me that I'm on the  
38 Northwest Arctic Borough instead of the Northwest RAC.  
39 They're fining me \$1,400 because I didn't file a form  
40 that I belong to Northwest Arctic Borough. And I -- I'm  
41 not -- I didn't fill that out, but I got a letter from  
42 them in my bag which I'm going to show to the Borough  
43 when I get there, ask them what's going on because  
44 they're fining me \$1,400 for something I didn't do. I  
45 don't belong to Northwest Arctic Borough, I belong to the  
46 RAC, right, that's a Federal, is that separate from State  
47 or do we have to fill out a form.

48

49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Yeah, go ahead.  
4  
5 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6 Responding to the comments raised by member Mitchell and  
7 member Moto, in the interests of time I would like to  
8 offer that we follow-up with members individually  
9 offline, just both in the interest of time and  
10 confidentiality if that's okay, and continue with agenda  
11 item G on page 2 of the agenda.  
12  
13 MS. PATTON: We do need a motion to  
14 support the charter.  
15  
16 MR. STEVENSON: We -- yes, pardon me. We  
17 also need a motion from the RAC to support the charter.  
18  
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Or to make any amendments.  
22  
23 MR. STEVENSON: Or to make any amendments  
24 as needed, yes, Mr. Chair.  
25  
26 Thank you.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: To.....  
29  
30 MR. STEVENSON: To support or amend the  
31 charter.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.  
34  
35 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: (Indiscernible - away  
38 from microphone).....  
39  
40 MR. SHIEDT: So move.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So move by Attamuk and  
43 second?  
44  
45 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second. Any  
48 further.....  
49  
50 MR. CLEVELAND: I call for question.

1                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Question's been called  
2 for. All in favor signify by saying aye.  
3  
4                   IN UNISON: Aye.  
5  
6                   (No opposing votes)  
7  
8                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Your charter passes the  
9 Regional Council.  
10  
11                   What else you got now before lunchtime,  
12 do you want to take a lunch break or what?  
13  
14                   MR. STEVENSON: For the record to repeat  
15 the motion. This is a motion on approving or modifying  
16 the charter and that passed unanimously to support the  
17 charter for the record by the Northwest Arctic -- we have  
18 a motion by Chairman Stoney to support and approve the  
19 charter, seconded by Chairman Shiedt -- pardon me, by  
20 member Shiedt and the motion was supported and approved  
21 unanimously.  
22  
23                   MR. CLEVELAND: The motion was made by  
24 Enoch and I seconded.  
25  
26                   MR. STEVENSON: Noted. Thank you.  
27  
28                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: You guys want a lunch  
29 break.  
30  
31                   MR. STEVENSON: We're just a -- we're  
32 just a few minutes short of lunch now. Let's break and  
33 -- with the Chair's approval and when we return we'll  
34 briefly address the feedback on the Council meeting and  
35 move into agency reports.  
36  
37                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38  
39                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: 12:30?  
40  
41                   MR. STEVENSON: What time shall we  
42 resume?  
43  
44                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.  
45  
46                   MR. SHIEDT: Okay. We got nowhere else  
47 to go.  
48  
49                   MR. STEVENSON: Okay. 12:30. Thank you.  
50

1 (Off record)  
2  
3 (On record)  
4  
5 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Zach.  
8  
9 MR. STEVENSON: Continuing with the  
10 agenda, we are at item G on the all council meeting at  
11 the top of page 2. But before continuing I wanted to  
12 provide a brief clarification for the record.  
13  
14 Court recorder, can you hear us?  
15  
16 REPORTER: Yes.  
17  
18 MR. SHIEDT: Zach, before you start, I  
19 think we need to reopen the meeting from our -- we just  
20 break for lunch, the policy we have to go through, we got  
21 to reopen the meeting. We reconvene at 1:45.  
22  
23 Thank you.  
24  
25 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. Thank  
26 you Attamuk. To clarify the previous motion for the  
27 record, the approval of the charter was initiated by  
28 Enoch Mitchell and seconded by Vern Cleveland. Pardon  
29 me, seconded by.....  
30  
31 MR. CLEVELAND: I seconded. He.....  
32  
33 MS. LOON: He motioned.  
34  
35 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk.  
36  
37 MS. LOON: Attamuk motioned.  
38  
39 MR. STEVENSON: Attamuk Shiedt motioned,  
40 seconded by Vern Cleveland and approved unanimously.  
41  
42 Thank you.  
43  
44 Though we were on agenda item G, feedback  
45 from the all council meeting, I was made aware that Enoch  
46 Mitchell has a 3:00 p.m. flight that he needs to catch.  
47 Is that correct, Mr. Mitchell?  
48  
49 MR. MITCHELL: At 3:00 o'clock we will  
50 call.....

1 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. MITCHELL: .....find out.  
4  
5 MR. STEVENSON: So with the Chair's  
6 permission I'm wondering if we could address the action  
7 item that was requested by Mr. Mitchell regarding the two  
8 State proposals. And I'm -- I would be asking member  
9 Mitchell to review the information that he had before him  
10 so that the RAC could take into consideration a letter of  
11 support that was requested by Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Chair.  
12  
13 Thank you.  
14  
15 MR. SHIEDT: Is this going to be under  
16 tribal government, agency reports? I'm just trying to  
17 clarify the agenda.  
18  
19 MR. STEVENSON: The -- through the Chair.  
20 Attamuk, the intention originally was to have it  
21 addressed under tribal government reports per item number  
22 12 on the agenda, however given that Enoch Mitchell needs  
23 to depart at 3:00 o'clock I was requesting that we modify  
24 the agenda so that he could deliver his information now.  
25  
26 Thank you.  
27  
28 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead.  
29  
30 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.  
31 Enoch, would you be able to share your information now  
32 regarding the two proposals and your request for a letter  
33 of support?  
34  
35 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, I brought this up to  
36 the RAC for support. The first proposal, proposal 44, it  
37 involves controlled use areas. Modify the area of the  
38 Noatak controlled use area in unit 23 as follows. Noatak  
39 controlled use area (i), the area consists of that  
40 portion of unit 23 and a corridor extending five miles on  
41 either side of and including the Noatak River, including  
42 the river, beginning at the mouth of the Noatak River and  
43 extending upstream to the mouth of the Cutler River, then  
44 it continued from Sapun Creek to Cutler River.  
45  
46 The area is closed from August 15 to  
47 September 30 to the use of aircraft in any manner for big  
48 game hunting, including the transportation of big game  
49 hunters, their hunting gear or parts of big game.  
50 However this prohibition does not apply to the

1 transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear or  
2 parts of big game to and between publicly owned airports.

3

4

5           What it is you'd like the Board to  
6 address and why. There are increased conflict between  
7 local and non-local hunters at the head boundary of the  
8 Noatak controlled use area that are reducing caribou  
9 hunter success in the falltime. And that was reported by  
10 Noatak, Kivalina and Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory  
11 Committees.

12

13           This is one of the conflicts that we are  
14 experiencing above the headwaters of the head of the  
15 seaway (ph), the head boundaries. So Sapun Creek is  
16 right in our traditional ground and right behind where we  
17 park there's a airport down the hill and my son counted  
18 88 sporthunters on the hill behind him. And that is  
19 increasing. And the -- one of the hunters came down and  
20 spoke to my son and said that you can't shoot the caribou  
21 in the water. Noatak is one of the rivers that can shoot  
22 caribou in the water. So we got not only they're scaring  
23 the caribou and now they're telling us what to do on our  
24 own traditional grounds. So that controlled CUA,  
25 originally it was to -- created to separate local and  
26 non-local hunters so there wouldn't be conflict, but at  
27 this moment everybody's right at Sapun Creek, local and  
28 non-local and it's causing a lot of conflict. Both sides  
29 of that area is not being successful hunting. Local  
30 hunters complain many time that when they're waiting for  
31 the caribou, the caribou would come down early morning or  
32 late evening and the females would come out first.  
33 They'd work their way down the hill, through the trees,  
34 through the willows and stand right at the edge of the  
35 river for about 10 minutes, just standing there then they  
36 would cross the river, the females. Then about five  
37 minutes later the bulls would come out. The same thing,  
38 they would work their way -- and this is only early in  
39 the morning and evening -- in the evening. They eat all  
40 day in the hill. So the bulls would come out and do the  
41 same thing and wait a little longer than the females at  
42 the edge of the river then cross the Noatak. Local  
43 hunters would get them with small caliber .22 rifle. We  
44 don't use big rifles because you damage the meat and the  
45 skin.

46

47           So this has been going for some -- quite  
48 a few years now. And we did testify before the Board of  
49 Game, but we were turned down, but this time we want more  
50 support and more people to testify. I'm going to try to

1 take two more and this Board of Game meeting is in  
2 January of 2017.

3  
4                   And then proposal 45 is another conflict,  
5 you know, address another conflict in the Eli, Aggie and  
6 Squirrel Rivers. See the normal migration route for  
7 years has been -- either been -- I graduated and go to  
8 high school in Kiana and I watch these caribou falltime.  
9 They would cross Kiana River and front the Y and they'd  
10 work their way and go up to Squirrel River. And I saw  
11 that for years until -- now we go up to Noatak resident.  
12 After here at Kiana I guess about five days to a week  
13 then we start seeing the Western Arctic caribou herd.

14  
15                   The Western Arctic caribou herd does not  
16 travel on only one migration route, it goes through the  
17 NPR, through the Squirrel River, goes to Kobuk, it goes  
18 to (indiscernible), it goes to Kiana. So there are many  
19 leaders. But we're focusing on this little group that's  
20 traveled from Kiana to Noatak. And this group help the  
21 village plenty that's why. If they go to the Noatak,  
22 Squirrel, you know, and Aggie Rivers they'll begin  
23 crossing right across from the village all the way up to  
24 Richard's camp, all treeline and mountain on this side in  
25 the Noatak flats. They begin crossing them all the way  
26 up to Richard's. And that saves us a lot of gas, we just  
27 need to get five to 20 to 30 gallons of gas. Right now  
28 the average boat is getting 97 gallons of gas to go to  
29 Sapun and that's hurting a lot of people. Those that can  
30 afford it they can go up there. Right now I'm speaking  
31 for those elders, those -- these people that didn't have  
32 meat in their freezers for a while and they have to pool  
33 their monies together and get a number of hunters to go  
34 up and they don't have the funds to go up over and over,  
35 it's just one time hunt for them. They're my people,  
36 they're in my heart and I'm speaking for them.

37  
38                   So this 45 as amended will help these  
39 people, these that can't afford that 97 gallons of gas to  
40 go up to Sapun Creek. And we're paying like \$10 a gallon  
41 of gas, just gas alone is about \$1,000.

42  
43                   So proposal 45 as amended reads require  
44 hunters -- I call my coordinator, I call my rep -- AC  
45 member and we amended this one because the actual 45  
46 didn't really -- I talk with Lincoln about this three  
47 miles apart, that would be a hassle, that would be a  
48 problem to try to put them three miles apart on these  
49 rivers and if the sky is not clear the three miles might  
50 be off and difficult to do. So instead of using that

1 three miles apart we come up with spacing the hunters on  
2 one side of the river. That worked before, we did that  
3 with the IRA Council, with me and Frank Hayes, put them  
4 on one side of the river and it worked well. So the prop  
5 45 as amended will read require hunting camp to camp on  
6 that side of the Squirrel river, Aggie River and Eli  
7 River.

8

9 And what is their issue. Okay. It begin  
10 camps are required to camp on the north side of the  
11 Squirrel and Aggie Rivers. And because this would allow  
12 the caribou to migrate with less destruction. Before  
13 there was high density of camps in these three rivers  
14 that diverted the caribou. So the destruction of big  
15 game hunting in the falltime in the Squirrel, Aggie and  
16 Eli Rivers due to increased density of hunters creating  
17 a barrier to the migration. That's one of them. And  
18 leaving the south side open for caribou to migrate  
19 through thus bringing the normal migration pattern that  
20 they've followed for centuries and it'll be coming back  
21 to normal once they get their path too.

22

23 So there -- that's what I wanted to do  
24 with prop 45 is to space become -- begin camps on one  
25 side of the river and leave the south side open for  
26 caribou migration. And it would work fine with Lincoln  
27 because he wouldn't have to worry about spacing three  
28 miles apart, instead we'll have one side of the river  
29 open for base camps and one side for caribou.

30

31 Those are the two proposals I have.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. I have a question for  
36 someone in the public that Sapun is in the Noatak  
37 Preserve, they should not have a hunter right at the  
38 land. That's Noatak National Preserve Sapun is at, the  
39 one he's talking about.

40

41 MR. MITCHELL: (Indiscernible - away from  
42 microphone).....

43

44 MR. SHIEDT: Yes. If you look at the map  
45 here, look at the map here and you look at -- on this  
46 temporary action W 16-03, the other map I'm looking at,  
47 it's right at Sapun you're talking is national preserve  
48 area.

49

50 Correct me if I'm wrong somebody.

1 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. I  
2 believe, member Shiedt, you're referring to special --  
3 temporary special action 16-01 and asking whether or not  
4 Sapun is in fact on Federal lands. Am I correct?

5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: No, I'm using -- he's using  
7 the area we call Sapun, that's in Noatak, on Noatak  
8 National Preserve, and if it's on national -- Noatak  
9 Preserve what I'm going to tell Enoch is this, he don't  
10 have to have a special action because hunters are not and  
11 transporters are not allowed in all Federal lands and  
12 that's Noatak National Preserve. I know somebody correct  
13 me wrong. And if they were there enforcement should have  
14 been there to give them citation. Why -- what good is we  
15 -- Federal Board come up with no transporters and no  
16 outfitters on Federal land and they're not being forced  
17 by someone. That's the trouble with the system here we  
18 having, I know the enforcers are very few on Federal  
19 lands. We need to be able to get a phone contact and  
20 somebody in the air within 24 hours to help people like  
21 -- from Noatak. Or what we need to do is Noatak  
22 Preserve, Kivalina, Selawik Wildlife Refuge, Bering Land  
23 Bridge, is need to do -- get a contract with Vern, with  
24 NANA, to make sure when they fly if they see any problems  
25 that we get a contract with them and they could say this  
26 is a problem we see. Their job is not to enforce, their  
27 job is to inform the troopers, say what's going on. I  
28 think we need to sign a contract like that to help people  
29 in -- us in the future.

30  
31 And, Enoch, I -- and somebody correct me  
32 if I'm wrong, that hunter should not have been there.

33  
34 Go ahead, Susan.

35  
36 MS. GEORGETTE: This is Susan Georgette.  
37 Just a couple things I guess. One is that the closure's  
38 only for caribou so if they wanted to be hunting  
39 something else they could be landing there. And then I  
40 think it's -- what Enoch wants would be permanent or  
41 semi-permanent or whatever and this -- and this special  
42 -- the closure's a year long right now. And then the  
43 last thing is that, and this is just a complicated  
44 reality of how the Federal lands work, but the gravel  
45 bars in the Noatak Preserve don't fall under the Federal  
46 Subsistence Board. And that's just what we're stuck  
47 with, that's just how the rule is. So I think what Enoch  
48 Mitchell's talking about would -- I mean, there are  
49 people who could be using the gravel bars right now with  
50 an airplane for legal reasons.

1                   MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Then let me ask you  
2 this. Enoch, could I -- Vern, Raymond. I need -- I  
3 think what we need to do then to quell, restructure the  
4 whole land structure, the high water mean mark. Yet  
5 earlier you guys comment in the Federal waters. Our  
6 Federal waters drain, clear the river. When it rains we  
7 drain on the Federal land and it drains through the  
8 river. I would say forget the State, they don't do much  
9 for us and they don't do us, we just forget the State, we  
10 Federals should own all the rivers and all the land that  
11 will be preserved for the future. I think I -- it's  
12 going to be a lot of work for the Federals to do it, but  
13 I think it could be done. It's going to take forever for  
14 congress to approve it. I know it's going to take work,  
15 but work on it now because I tell you one thing 50 years  
16 from now when we're all well gone it's going to get  
17 worse. And this is going to happen and pretty soon  
18 there'll be no more Natives and the western world is  
19 going to control all these preserves and monuments in the  
20 Selawik Wildlife Refuge. All that work we're doing now  
21 is going to be for nothing.

22  
23                   So, Enoch, I hear what you're saying and  
24 yet you tell me that he tell you -- he tell your boy he  
25 can't shoot caribou. Was he there hunting caribou or  
26 not, can you answer it, please, Enoch, whether that guy  
27 was there hunting caribou or not?

28  
29                   MR. MITCHELL: What's that?

30  
31                   MR. SHIEDT: You said you -- he tell your  
32 boy he can't hunt caribou. Was that guy there hunting  
33 caribou or what?

34  
35                   MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, he was one of the  
36 sporthunters on the.....

37  
38                   MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, that's what I'm  
39 saying. If he is a sporthunter he should not have been  
40 there to begin with because we put proposal 16-01 for  
41 transport, outfitters not to drop off hunters there.

42  
43                   MR. MITCHELL: What.....

44  
45                   MR. SHIEDT: I mean, that -- I'm trying  
46 to make her understand and -- you know, I'm trying to  
47 understand what he's trying to say. I understand him, I  
48 will support him, but still these are -- I think that  
49 could get complicated and that's the things we need to  
50 take care of.

1 MR. MITCHELL: These things happened last  
2 year. This year we didn't have much conflict because of  
3 this Federal proposal. But this proposal -- these two  
4 proposals were a long time coming, two years in the  
5 making actually and.....

6  
7 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Then it's.....

8  
9 MR. MITCHELL: .....so the -- before the  
10 16-01 was implemented.

11  
12 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.

13  
14 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah.

15  
16 MR. SHIEDT: Then I'm sorry.

17  
18 MR. MITCHELL: So.....

19  
20 MR. SHIEDT: Then you should have said  
21 that when you talked, this was before 16-01 became  
22 effective. I thought it was last summer the way you were  
23 talking. We need to watch how we say things because like  
24 me I retranslate and I understand you're wrong. You.....

25  
26 MR. MITCHELL: I.....

27  
28 MR. SHIEDT: .....guys hear what I'm  
29 saying. I -- that's the way I understand, I'm sorry.  
30 That's why and I -- then I rephrase and take whatever I  
31 said back you could erase.

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. I'll clarify on  
36 that. These two proposals were a long time working and  
37 coming. And we still pushing them because these two  
38 proposals will be permanent and this WSA 16-01 closure is  
39 only for one year and we're not depending on that. This  
40 will be permanent and this will help us in the long run  
41 even if the closure never goes through. But we're  
42 depending on this closure and we're depending on these,  
43 these two proposals. If both of them were good that  
44 would be good, that would be great. If we continue the  
45 closure that would be good, but we still want to see  
46 these proposals enacted.

47  
48 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

49  
50 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Vern.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, Susan brought a  
2 good point about these sandbars, high watermarks. Who  
3 owns land.....  
4  
5 MR. MITCHELL: The State.  
6  
7 MR. CLEVELAND: .....below high  
8 watermarks.  
9  
10 MR. MITCHELL: The State does.  
11  
12 MR. CLEVELAND: Because NANA don't own no  
13 land below the high watermark, everything below there  
14 it's anybody's land, I mean, anybody could land there and  
15 do their hunting as long as it's below the high  
16 watermark. Right, am I correct, I mean, you can land --  
17 anybody can land on the -- direct on sandbar and hunt,  
18 but the -- but the Federal lands are higher up, you can  
19 land on the sandbar and hunt if you want. Nobody got no  
20 control on that water and ground, gravel, sandbar, of  
21 course you can hunt. There's a -- no, we have to fix  
22 this to a way that all hunters can stop hunting. There's  
23 a point where the high watermark and wanted to map all  
24 that gravel, that water goes down and all the gravel  
25 sandbars which all up to you. We have the control -- we  
26 have no control over that.  
27  
28 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, that's a hard one.  
29  
30 MR. CLEVELAND: Is that what it is,  
31 Susan?  
32  
33 MS. GEORGETTE: Well.....  
34  
35 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.  
36  
37 MS. GEORGETTE: .....you know, it's a --  
38 I think it all comes back to like years ago the State's  
39 rights was -- you know, areas became State so these are  
40 State lands. But the State can control it, so whatever  
41 the State regulations are apply to gravel bars. And so  
42 whatever the State caribou regs or special use or  
43 controlled use areas apply. It's the Federal regs that  
44 at least in the Noatak Preserve and the Refuge the  
45 Federal -- it doesn't fall under the Federal  
46 jurisdiction. It's different for the Parks, but I'll let  
47 the Park Service talk about that. But the State  
48 regulations apply to the gravel bars.  
49  
50 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan. Then I'm

1 going to advise Stewart to go back to the Federal office  
2 and look into this legally and see what would it take to  
3 change it because when the State probably designed the  
4 structure that no Native was involved on high water mean  
5 mark. Because I'm from Noatak, everybody know how high  
6 my camp is from the river, it used to flood up to there,  
7 that's why I put that house that high. That's way up,  
8 it's about a good 40 feet on the low water. That's what  
9 I -- and maybe if they control it on the water mean mark  
10 they own more than the Federal did. I mean, we got to  
11 take the control back.

12  
13 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

14  
15 Go ahead, Vern.

16  
17 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to amend  
18 proposal 44 and 45.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 MS. LOON: Seconded.

23  
24 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, 44 is okay, we just  
25 make amendments on 45.

26  
27 MR. SHIEDT: Amendments to what, Vern,  
28 could I ask?

29  
30 MR. MITCHELL: Proposal 44, what -- 44 as  
31 amended and 44 is good, 45 as amended.

32  
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. 45.

34  
35 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. There was a motion on  
36 the floor and seconded.

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

39  
40 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

41  
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, just  
43 to clarify for the record. You were asking for an  
44 amendment to proposal 44, a motion to.....

45  
46 MR. MITCHELL: Proposal 45. I want just  
47 to -- we -- the AC made the amendment, but we're just  
48 asking for a supportive letter for these. 40 -- support  
49 letter 44, support 45 as amended. The AC already made  
50 the amendment, we don't need to make amendments here.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll make a motion to --  
2 for proposal 45. No amendment, nothing. Just the  
3 proposal to pass -- the proposal 45. Is that my motion.  
4  
5 MR. SHIEDT: You -- recorder, you got his  
6 motion?  
7  
8 REPORTER: Yes.  
9  
10 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.  
11  
12 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.  
13  
14 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.  
15  
16 MR. STEVENSON: Forgive my ignorance  
17 here, I just want to make sure that I'm understanding  
18 this correctly. Enoch, are you referring to simply 45 as  
19 amended or are you asking for a letter of support both  
20 for proposal 44 and 45 as amended?  
21  
22 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, that's right.  
23  
24 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, and.....  
25  
26 MR. STEVENSON: The latter?  
27  
28 MR. MITCHELL: I'm asking for support on  
29 proposal 44 as is it and I'm asking support for proposal  
30 45 as amended.  
31  
32 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you for that  
33 clarification.  
34  
35 MR. CLEVELAND: That's my motion.  
36  
37 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Vern motioned that,  
38 do we have a seconded.  
39  
40 MS. LOON: Second.  
41  
42 MR. SHIEDT: Second by Hannah.  
43  
44 MS. LOON: Question.  
45  
46 MR. SHIEDT: Question's been called for.  
47 All in favor signify by saying aye.  
48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.  
50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you. For your  
4 information Raymond asked me to take over, okay, I'm not  
5 trying to take over. He asked me quietly and I wanted to  
6 put it on record that Raymond asked me to take over on  
7 this so we could understand a little bit better.

8

9 Yeah. Thank you. That's what I was  
10 trying to understand, the amendment for proposal 45. I'm  
11 trying to make sure it's accepted. And now that we're  
12 done with Enoch's there, they passed and I will gladly  
13 support it.

14

15 Is there anything else we have to do,

16 Zach?

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Attamuk. I  
19 think now that we've addressed Mr. Mitchell's actions, I  
20 would suggest completing item G at the top of page 2 of  
21 our agenda, feedback on the all council meeting.

22

23 And I'll be brief if I may, Mr. Chair.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, go ahead.

26

27 MR. STEVENSON: Briefly the all council  
28 meeting was held this past winter and it was to my  
29 knowledge the first time in almost a decade that all the  
30 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils throughout the  
31 State of Alaska had met. From my perspective there was  
32 an incredible learning opportunity through interactions  
33 with all of our Council member colleagues, the State and  
34 Federal agencies, and there was also training provided  
35 particularly on the laws such as ANILCA section VIII and  
36 also the Roberts Rules of Order process to help us do our  
37 job successfully and effectively. One of the major  
38 outputs of that event was a letter that was drafted  
39 jointly which you've all received sharing some common  
40 needs and priorities, everything from requests to the  
41 Federal Subsistence Board for ongoing meeting where in  
42 the future we can meet again and share information  
43 amongst our various RAC members as well as the need for  
44 certain things like developing an initiative to help  
45 support future wildlife research and strengthen some of  
46 those needs.

47

48 So in brief I wanted to thank all of  
49 those here on the RAC that participated and our hope is  
50 that we can do it again in the near future.

1                   Any questions or comments from the RAC on  
2 their observations or feedback from that meeting? This  
3 is an opportunity to share your perspectives or  
4 observations following the all council meeting that you  
5 attended.

6  
7                   Thank you.

8  
9                   MR. SHIEDT: Thank you.

10  
11                  Go ahead, Mike.

12  
13                  MR. KRAMER: Yeah, it was a great  
14 opportunity to be able to be there with everybody. I'd  
15 like to see Northwest Arctic RAC submit a letter to Tim  
16 Towarak for -- thanking him for all his years of service  
17 and his gratitude for serving the State of Alaska in his  
18 journey that he put in front of him, for all these years  
19 of service helping out the people in the state with all  
20 their subsistence issues and being a very open-minded  
21 person.

22  
23                  Thank you.

24  
25                  MR. SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

26  
27                  Anyone else.

28  
29                  (No comments)

30  
31                  MR. SHIEDT: You hear -- I mean, write  
32 letter of support, Zach.

33  
34                  Thank you.

35  
36                  Anything else you need to go on the  
37 agenda.

38  
39                  (No comments)

40  
41                  MR. SHIEDT: If not I got my two cents.  
42 And when we do have these meetings, all council meetings,  
43 they were trying to limit what I was trying to say at the  
44 meeting, yet I was trying to cover all our concerns.  
45 They weren't as much as the Southeast Alaska because they  
46 got less land and less resources and I was trying to  
47 explain to them and I was -- they were saying time. That  
48 should not happen because in order for the -- us to  
49 protect Alaska, the whole state, if there's issues and  
50 concerns, please, at big meetings like this we should be

1 all heard without a time limit. I don't mind staying  
2 until 7:00 o'clock at Anchorage because I don't -- if I  
3 go -- you know, we go eat somewhere, it's different than  
4 here. And that's why I kept talking because I felt at  
5 the time with our issues with caribou I thought the whole  
6 state should hear it, that way they could support us.

7

8 Okay. Anything -- back to agenda.  
9 Anything else, Zach, we need to do?

10

11 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Shiedt, I'm unclear  
12 whether we need a motion to support a letter thanking  
13 Chairman Towarak for his involvement in the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board. Is it -- yes, we need a motion.

15

16 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move.

17

18 MS. LOON: Second.

19

20 MR. SHIEDT: Motion by Vern seconded by  
21 Hannah.

22

23 MR. MITCHELL: Question.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Question been called for.  
26 All in favor signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Shiedt.  
33 That brings us to item 12 at the top of page 2 on the  
34 agenda, agency reports. At the top of the list there we  
35 have tribal governments and I understand that we had a  
36 report from tribal governments to be delivered by Mr.  
37 Mitchell who had some letters that were drafted by the  
38 Native Village of Noatak and some of its residents.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Enoch.

43

44 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair, may I do this?

45

46 MR. SHIEDT: You go right ahead, sir.

47

48 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. It's addressed to  
49 -- October 4, 2016 to RAC. To the members of RAC. The  
50 closure of nonrural, non-Federal on Federal lands has

1 been successful. It has stopped the conflict totally and  
2 people of Noatak has been getting their quota of caribou  
3 instead of two or three at a time. Today Western Arctic  
4 caribou herd is still coming through our area and the  
5 closure has been a blessing. It was like a good break  
6 from sporthunters scaring the caribou and we hunted in  
7 places and got many caribou. The much needed caribou  
8 will take us through the winter. Thank you very much.  
9 Noatak AC Council, Noatak Tribal Administrator, Herbert  
10 Walton, Sr.

11  
12                   And from the Council, Tribal Council of  
13 Noatak. To RAC. This is for the closure of -- on  
14 Federal land. This has helped our community a lot when  
15 we don't see or hear a sporthunter upriver where our  
16 hunters go hunt. Now today our hunters go and we got  
17 lots of caribou for the families in the village. Thank  
18 you. Eva Onalik, Treasurer, IRA Council.

19  
20                   To RAC. This letter is a request to keep  
21 the sporthunters closed for longer timing, for our people  
22 to have time to hunt and fill our freezers because we  
23 can't afford to pay for 40, \$50 steaks that we pay for at  
24 the store. Please consider this letter of support.  
25 Thank you, Mr. Mitchell. Thank you, Tribal -- thank you  
26 from tribal secretary Hannah Dralik.

27  
28                   And we got one from the IRA office, from  
29 the APA department. Also from -- she's also a resident.  
30 To whom it may concern. Please accept this letter of  
31 appreciation for the passage of WSA 16-01 in unit 23,  
32 closing non-Federally-qualified hunters effective July 1,  
33 2016. This closure really, really helped the folks on  
34 the Noatak River with their fall harvest of caribou in  
35 2016. First time since 2010 or so many households in  
36 Noatak have caribou to fill their freezers for winter.  
37 Prior to that only a handful, say about 10 households  
38 from approximately 110 households, got their catch.  
39 There's many people going without caribou for winter  
40 which can cause many hardships ranging from food buying  
41 at the local store to going hungry. Other households  
42 that can afford went many miles to as far as Ambler  
43 River, Buckland area and Kobuk Rivers to get their catch  
44 for winter in those lean caribou years, 2010 to 2015.  
45 The caribou have been a staple, they're our lifeblood of  
46 Inupiat today who live here as for time immemorial.  
47 Thank you for making the closure available and making  
48 local resources go to local folks that live here,  
49 especially in today's day and age in rural Alaska where  
50 cost of living is so high. For instance here in Noatak

1 we pay 8.99 to 9.99 per gallon of gas, we pay electric  
2 ranging 280 to 640 per month, water and sewer at 138 per  
3 month, et cetera. If you should have any questions,  
4 please, feel free to call. And Carol Wesler of Noatak  
5 written this.

6

7                   There's other ones, four letters. There  
8 was more letters being made at the school from students,  
9 but I didn't stop by to the school to pick them up, but  
10 I will take them with me when I go testify to the Board  
11 of Game in January.

12

13                   Thank you.

14

15                   MR. SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank you,  
16 Enoch. Anyone have questions for Enoch at this time?

17

18                   Go ahead, Zach.

19

20                   MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. If  
21 the Council were -- if it was the Council's  
22 recommendation the Council may make a motion to draft a  
23 letter to the Board referring these letters as addressed  
24 to the Council.

25

26                   Thank you.

27

28                   MR. SHIEDT: Thank you. So you need a  
29 motion?

30

31                   MR. STEVENSON: If the Council would like  
32 that they may do so.

33

34                   MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. You put  
35 it under motion, Enoch.

36

37                   MR. MITCHELL: I make a motion that this  
38 RAC.....

39

40                   MR. SHIEDT: Acknowledge these letters.

41

42                   MR. MITCHELL: I don't know how to word  
43 it, support these letters or support these letters and  
44 support to the Board of Game from the RAC.

45

46                   MR. SHIEDT: No, I think what he's trying  
47 to say -- what Zach is trying to say is that these  
48 letters were read here and they were well supported and  
49 they appreciate these letters from the village -- from  
50 the community and village of Noatak. That's what they're

1 trying to say -- that's what he's trying to say.  
2  
3 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.  
4  
5 MR. SHIEDT: So we need supports,  
6 whatever.  
7  
8 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. My motion --  
9 that'll be my motion.  
10  
11 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.  
12  
13 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.  
14  
15 MR. STEVENSON: And to clarify through  
16 the Chair. I'm simply stating that if the RAC so wishes  
17 they may take a motion to draft a letter to the Board and  
18 in doing so see that these letters are shared with the  
19 Board.  
20  
21 Thank you.  
22  
23 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.  
24  
25 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.  
26  
27 MR. SHIEDT: Motion by Enoch, second by  
28 Vern.  
29  
30 MS. LOON: Question.  
31  
32 MR. SHIEDT: Question been called for.  
33 All in favor signify by saying aye.  
34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.  
36  
37 (No opposing votes)  
38  
39 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank you.  
40 Thank you so much. Go ahead, Raymond, you want to say  
41 something?  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: No.  
44  
45 MR. SHIEDT: We're on that tribal  
46 governments, right, under agency reports?  
47  
48 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, Mr. Shiedt.  
49  
50 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Dan, we

1 need any letters or any comments from the Native  
2 organizations. Was there any letters submitted by Native  
3 corporations?

4

5 Zach, he -- that's the Eskimo way of  
6 saying no, no, no, and he shake his head. And he did a  
7 response with the recorder so Zach know Eskimo way.

8

9 Okay. Anyone from U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service here?

11

12 Go ahead, Susan.

13

14 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, thank you. My name  
15 is Susan Georgette, I'm the Refuge manager for Selawik  
16 Refuge at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And I just  
17 wanted to give you a few highlights of some work we've  
18 been doing.

19

20 This is a map of the Refuge to remind  
21 people where it is. It's -- I know it really hard on the  
22 ground to know where anything is and the Refuge is most  
23 of the Selawik River and most of the Kobuk River delta.  
24 There's a lot of NANA land around Selawik Village and  
25 Noorvik, but that just gives you an idea of where the  
26 Refuge is. Our staff has been very stable. We have two  
27 people here in Selawik, Nicole Hanshaw and Frank Barry,  
28 Jr. We hired Sircor Whiting this winter so she's been  
29 working with us. We have Chester Ballot, works for our  
30 admin and then Brittany Sweeney and she's in our  
31 outreach. Bill Carter is a fish biologist, David  
32 Sabrisky is our deputy and Sean is our maintenance. So  
33 we're the same folks that have been here for the last RAC  
34 meeting.

35

36 This is a photo the thaw slump. So this  
37 is that big mud slide that took place in 2004 on the  
38 upper Selawik. And there was a fire last year that  
39 burned right to the edge of it and so you can see in the  
40 photo there it was all black in there. And there's  
41 already a lot of grass coming back. We had a geologist  
42 go up there this summer with Joe Foxglove from Selawik  
43 and it's growing back really quickly. It burned over  
44 some equipment that was out there, some weather station  
45 material and permafrost and so we brought back a bunch of  
46 junk. Between the weather, the wildlife and the fire it  
47 does kind of hard duty on scientific equipment and we've  
48 really tried to cleanup staff that gets broken. So we  
49 brought a lot of stuff back. And it doesn't put nearly  
50 as much silt into the river as it once did, it just had

1 a really steep headwall that was just constantly dropping  
2 rocks and mud, but that slope now and it's really  
3 vegetated and you used to be able to not walk in it, it  
4 was like quicksand and now you can walk around on it. So  
5 that's good news for sheefish.

6

7                   We're doing some water chemistry work.  
8 So we have a couple young folks who go between the Aggie  
9 River on the Noatak and the Selawik River and Frank Barry  
10 takes them out and they do water sampling. And the point  
11 of this is that we're looking at how melting permafrost  
12 affects what nutrients get put into the river and how  
13 that in fact affects the base of the food chain. So all  
14 the little bugs and invertebrates and plankton that are  
15 in the water are affected by the nutrients that come off  
16 the land. And so this is a project that's been ongoing.  
17 It's really hard in science to say much without a lot of  
18 data and so you kind of have to do the same thing for a  
19 few years. So we're going to be doing this again next  
20 summer.

21

22                   I talked about the sheefish already so I  
23 can skip that. We're looking at how many fish are  
24 spawning and the effect of the slump.

25

26                   We did a fair amount of work this year on  
27 caribou outreach, both with the new caribou season that  
28 came about last year as well as the caribou closure and  
29 we worked with our colleagues at Park Service and BLM and  
30 at NANA to get the word out about the closure. Park  
31 Service and Fish and Wildlife between us we went to every  
32 village in the region and sometimes we went to Tribal  
33 Council meetings, sometimes we went to the community, we  
34 did different things, but we went to every community to  
35 explain to people about the closure. And we had a good  
36 time doing that, it was really useful and a lot of people  
37 had heard about it, some -- a lot of people didn't know  
38 the details, but that was -- that was useful. And we had  
39 a fact sheet that we posted on the web and we posted --  
40 oh, we made maps that we gave to the villages and we did  
41 a fair amount of work on that and helped answer a lot of  
42 questions.

43

44                   I mentioned the declining moose  
45 population, I'm going to leave that to Brandon to talk  
46 about. I think the take home message on that is just  
47 whether we should start thinking about changing moose  
48 hunting regulations. Mike already brought up a  
49 suggestion today, there's a cow season that runs right  
50 now from August to the end of March on Federal land so we

1 might want to think about limiting it to bulls or  
2 shortening it, but it's just -- I'll let Brandon talk  
3 more about moose.

4

5           This year we had a youth conservation  
6 corps crew for the first time so that is a national  
7 program that involves getting youth working on the  
8 different Federal lands. And we hired four Selawik youth  
9 so they're like -- I think it's 15 to 19 years old and  
10 one crew leader in Selawik and they spent three weeks  
11 working on different projects. You can see their help --  
12 work on our fish and wildlife cabin upriver, they did  
13 painting and put up the new weather port, put in a new  
14 woodstove, helped with a lot of projects there. They  
15 helped on that water chemistry project, they helped  
16 cleanup the river bank in Selawik, they helped cleanup  
17 the graveyard and cemetery and they also did  
18 environmental outings and picnics. And I'll say it was  
19 really cool. Brittany did a lot of work with that and it  
20 turned out really well and we're hoping to keep doing  
21 that. The community was happy that we hired -- that  
22 there was a program to hire youth.

23

24           We had the 14th year of the Selawik  
25 science culture camp. That's a cooperative effort  
26 between out office, the school and the tribal office in  
27 Selawik. There's funding from NANA, the borough and  
28 Maniilaq as well. And it's really a community effort.  
29 I'm really impressed by it because it doesn't rely on any  
30 one person. You know, if -- Fish and Wildlife Service  
31 contributes some money, but there's all sorts of people  
32 who worked as boatmen and cooks and educators and  
33 instructors and different elders and Hannah Loon was  
34 there this year for a week of it. And I think there's at  
35 least 150 kids that go through it. There's a lot -- the  
36 whole school goes on different days. And it's really a  
37 neat thing, it's neat to see all these kids that have  
38 learned how to cut fish and scale fish and all. So that  
39 continues.

40

41           And then you already heard from the kids  
42 with the Onion Portage caribou collaring.

43

44           So that's really all I had. I wanted to  
45 address really quickly a couple of things that have come  
46 up I didn't have in here. So as far as the guides and  
47 transporters on the Refuge, we don't get the harvest data  
48 from them yet, we get that by February or January. But  
49 last year we had -- well, we always have one guide, last  
50 year we had five transporters, they took 47 hunters and

1 they are mainly hunting moose so they took 18 moose last  
2 year and seven caribou. The caribou haven't been far  
3 enough south during September in the last few years so  
4 there's very few caribou taken on the Refuge, it's almost  
5 all moose. This year we had even fewer transporters, we  
6 only had -- we had three transporters, one of them is  
7 Eric Sieh's operation, Arctic Backcountry, Golden Eagle  
8 in Kotzebue and then there's one called Air Juneau that  
9 comes out of Soldotna. And then we have the one guide.  
10 So I don't have any harvest numbers for this year, but  
11 again they're mostly moose. We had a special agent named  
12 Mike Wade who's in Nome who patrolled the Refuge for  
13 several days in the middle of September and he stopped --  
14 he flies in a floatplane, stops and talks to everyone he  
15 can. Most of the people he encountered out there were  
16 drop off hunters that were going for moose. And he ran  
17 into a few -- there's like a handful of people that use  
18 the Refuge who are from Kotzebue that have airplanes or  
19 maybe used to live in Kotzebue that have airplanes. But  
20 everyone seemed to be behaving themselves.

21

22                   And so I think that's all I had unless  
23 people have questions.

24

25                   (No comments)

26

27                   MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you. And thank  
28 you, Selawik, for hosting us. It's been a pleasure.

29

30                   MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I have one about your  
31 moose. Since they're declining maybe for Selawik what we  
32 -- you need for or come here, we need to put a proposal  
33 if they want to -- since their numbers are down if they  
34 want to hunt moose for them to get a permit that they  
35 have to do it locally, they can't do it online or they  
36 can't mail in an application and say I want to do it,  
37 they have to do it in person.

38

39                   Do you want me to restate that?

40

41                   REPORTER: You're fine.

42

43                   MR. SHIEDT: That would make them do it  
44 in person, that would make it harder for an outsider to  
45 come in like the State did on the moose. And the moose  
46 would escape. When I talked to Jim Dau, it went way  
47 down. Maybe that will help populate the moose back up if  
48 you make it harder for them to get permit.

49

50                   MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, that's an option

1 that we've just started kind of thinking about it, I  
2 mean, and open to any ideas. It would be a -- I mean, we  
3 work with our colleagues at Fish and Game and with the  
4 RAC and everyone about what -- you know, should we do  
5 something, if so what should we do, what would be  
6 effective, what -- like, you know, should there be  
7 reductions and -- well, whatever, there's all sorts of  
8 options I'd say. So that's a good idea though, Attamuk.

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Better than trying to say  
11 close it like we did with the caribou yesterday, you have  
12 less chance of someone trying to say.....

13

14 MS. GEORGETTE: Right.

15

16 MR. SHIEDT: .....it's not legal for  
17 that. But you make it harder for them to get the permit.

18

19 MS. GEORGETTE: Right. So we'll be back  
20 talking about that, I mean, at the Advisory Committees  
21 and RACs and everything. So it's just something to start  
22 thinking about.

23

24 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Good report.....

25

26 MS. GEORGETTE: Thanks.

27

28 MR. SHIEDT: .....and good -- thanks. On  
29 your way back you -- Council members, if you have any  
30 questions for Susan you could say it now.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. SHIEDT: If not we'll continue on to  
35 the next one. It's USFS.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

40

41 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.

42

43 MR. STEVENSON: That was a typo on my  
44 part, that should be National Park Service who's on the  
45 agenda next for their report.

46

47 And I also just briefly wanted to  
48 mention, we have Norma Ballot and her youth who have also  
49 joined us. So I just wanted to recognize them and thank  
50 them for being here as well. And thank Susan Georgette

1 and her team from the Refuge for their wonderful report.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. SHIEDT: Stand corrected. Thanks.

6

7 MS. ROBINSON: No, we're not going to  
8 have a Powerpoint.

9

10 MS. ATKINSON: Hi, this is Hannah  
11 Atkinson, I work for the National Park Service in  
12 Kotzebue in cultural resource management. And I wanted  
13 to talk with you all today about some announcements from  
14 our staff and from the Subsistence Resource Commission  
15 who I work with.

16

17 And the first announcement, I wanted to  
18 let you all know in case you haven't seen the news that  
19 we've had a superintendent selected for the Western  
20 Arctic National Parklands. And Maija Katak Lukin, her  
21 parents are Harris and John Finn and she's from Sisualik.  
22 And she'll be starting -- she's from Sisualik and  
23 Kotzebue and she'll be starting her job in Kotzebue at  
24 the National Park Service I think early November. So  
25 we're all excited to welcome her to the team and start  
26 working with her.

27

28 And the announcements that I have from  
29 the Subsistence Resource Commissions are really brief.  
30 The Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission last  
31 met on February 9th, 2016. And the Commission discussed  
32 the proposed rule for subsistence collection of horns and  
33 antlers which is still a proposed rule, it's being  
34 reviewed, hasn't been put out yet, but the Commission  
35 submitted comments in support of the proposed rule.

36

37 And the Commission has received some new  
38 appointees. I wanted to update you about the members.  
39 The Governor's office has appointed Hannah Loon to the  
40 Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission and the  
41 next meeting will be November 7th, 2016. So if anyone  
42 interested there'll be a call-in number. Many of you  
43 will be there because you're part of the Commission.

44

45 But, yeah, and the update from the Kobuk  
46 Valley Subsistence Resource Commission is that they last  
47 met on February 11th, 2016 and in the absence of the  
48 quorum we held an information session. And the  
49 Governor's office appointed Enoch Mitchell to the  
50 Commission this July. And the next meeting of the Kobuk

1 Valley SRC will be November 9th, 2016.

2

3 And that's all I had to update you on.  
4 And Hillary has all the rest of the National Park Service  
5 updates.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. SHIEDT: Before we get to her let me  
10 ask members of the Board if they got any question for  
11 Hannah.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. SHIEDT: If not, go ahead. And  
16 before you start I would like to welcome the students for  
17 coming in. You're welcome to listen and (in Native) you  
18 kids for coming in.

19

20 MS. ROBINSON: Good afternoon, Council  
21 members and Chair Stoney. Thank you for having us here  
22 today, we're happy to be here and Hannah gave a nice  
23 introduction on some news and the SRC reports.

24

25 Our law enforcement ranger, Dan  
26 Stevenson, was going to call in. I don't know, Dan, are  
27 you on the line?

28

29 MR. D. STEVENSON: Yeah, I'm here,  
30 Hillary.

31

32 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. I didn't know if  
33 you would like to give an update to the Council members  
34 about -- in your own words?

35

36 MR. D. STEVENSON: Sure. Yeah. Yeah.  
37 Thank you, Council Chair and Council members. My name's  
38 Dan Stevenson, I'm based in Kotzebue, I'm the ranger  
39 pilot. I spend -- most of my time I patrol the Noatak  
40 controlled use area, I spend a great deal of time up  
41 there looking for illegal use of aircraft in sporthunting  
42 activities on a controlled use area. So I spend a great  
43 deal -- quite a bit of time up there. And then also we  
44 have the delayed entry area as many of you know on the  
45 Koug and the Kelly drainages. So I spend quite a bit of  
46 time in that area as well patrolling those two area with  
47 the aircraft.

48

49 We -- as many of you know for the last  
50 several years we've been bringing up a helicopter which

1 we use throughout the Noatak Preserve to check hunters,  
2 transporters. And the helicopter is a great platform for  
3 our work, it's very effective. We often will check, you  
4 know, anywhere between 75 and 100 hunters in a two week  
5 period. So it's pretty effective, it's very expensive.  
6 This year we weren't able to bring it up for a number of  
7 reasons so we didn't have the helicopter this year. We  
8 hope to bring it up again next year. But that's a pretty  
9 effective tool that we try to use and we only use that at  
10 established camps or established airstrips, we don't  
11 interrupt people in the middle of their hunt unless we  
12 have an illegal invest -- an investigation that we're  
13 pursuing. But generally we land at more short airstrips  
14 with the helicopter.

15  
16 This year we also had two rangers based  
17 out of the Charley River ranger station and so we use a  
18 jetboat to patrol quite a bit of the lower Noatak and  
19 they talked with quite a few hunters along the Noatak --  
20 along the lower Noatak right up to Nimi and the main  
21 areas that they were working.

22  
23 I did -- I wanted to thank Lance Kramer,  
24 I got a good report from Lane of some hunters up above  
25 the Nimi. We tried to get up there two different times  
26 and the high winds just prevented us from getting up  
27 there actually to that specific camp. So I just wanted  
28 to let Lance know we did try to get into that camp, but  
29 we were shut down a number of times this year from the  
30 strong winds in the upper Noatak and just some of the  
31 tough weather.

32  
33 But let's see, what else. We also spend  
34 time as much as we can, we try to get in the Kobuk Valley  
35 National Park and we also try to patrol the Cape  
36 Krusenstern Monument too which is right near Kotzebue.  
37 So we -- we're looking at both of those areas for -- to  
38 make sure Federally-qualified subsistence hunters are  
39 using those two areas as well. And so we get over there  
40 as much as possible. We're also looking at Harper  
41 violations, looting on some of the cultural resource  
42 sites especially along Cape Krusenstern. So we try to  
43 spend time doing that as well during the summer and fall  
44 months.

45  
46 So that's about it, Hillary.

47  
48 MS. ROBINSON: Thanks, Dan. Do any of  
49 the Council members have questions for Dan?  
50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Any questions for the  
2 enforcement?

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, if not. Continue.

7  
8 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. Then through the  
9 Chair, I wanted to share with you this handout I gave to  
10 each one of you yesterday that provides an update on the  
11 wildlife surveys and studies we've been doing at the  
12 National Park Service and some of the work we've done in  
13 conjunction with Fish and Game. On this handout there's  
14 a map on the front that shows where some of the surveys  
15 and studies were done just to give an overview of where  
16 things happened and when they happened.

17  
18 I'll leave -- let Fish and Game speak to  
19 caribou, but I wrote a small summary about that as well  
20 as I'll let them talk about moose as well, but I have a  
21 small, little summary here, but more specifics will come  
22 from Fish and Game when they give their presentation.

23  
24 One thing I'd like to discuss is with our  
25 muskox survey. I -- we talked about this a little bit  
26 last year about the fact that we wanted to do a survey in  
27 the core area which we normally do of the -- for the Cape  
28 Thompson population which occurs within Cape Krusenstern  
29 National Monument and slightly beyond it. But we were  
30 also interested in repeating a study that was done in  
31 2011 which looked at an expanded area to see whether or  
32 not animals from the core area were moving into an  
33 expanded area because numbers in the core area seem to be  
34 declining, but we didn't know if that was a range shift  
35 or what was happening there so we wanted to follow-up  
36 with that. So last March we did a population count  
37 survey and then we followed that up with a composition  
38 survey to look at different age classes of males and  
39 females. And we came back with a population estimate for  
40 the area that was not significantly different from the  
41 2011 survey for the entire area. But the animals in the  
42 core population appear to have declined from a high of  
43 370 animals in 2005 to around 220 to 230 animals in 2011.  
44 But it is -- remained stable since that time.

45  
46 So using these numbers that we get from  
47 the population surveys, the count surveys and the  
48 composition surveys we work with Fish and Game to allow  
49 a harvest rate in 2016 that considered 2 percent of the  
50 core population and 10 percent of the mature bulls in the

1 core population. And this was the first year that we had  
2 Federal muskox hunts in the Monument and in areas  
3 adjacent to it above the Kobuk River drainage. And I  
4 have a map here that I can show you, it was posted around  
5 town when the eligibility notice went up, it looked like  
6 this. And I've seen them up in the villages around town  
7 when we went and did caribou closure outreach. So that's  
8 really good that it made it to the villages and people  
9 knew of the opportunity. So there were two new notes, FX  
10 2303 which is in Cape Krusenstern National Monument which  
11 was open to residents of the NANA region except residents  
12 of Buckland and Deering and Point Hope. Then there was  
13 also hunt FX 2312 which included Federal lands north and  
14 west of the Kobuk River drainage. And it was open to  
15 residents of game management unit 23 except residents of  
16 Buckland and Deering. So this is a map of those new hunt  
17 areas.

18  
19 So in collaboration with Fish and Game we  
20 came up with an allowable harvest of six animals under  
21 these two Federal hunts and the existing State hunt.

22  
23 Then moving on to dall sheep. The Park  
24 Service conducted surveys across Noatak National Preserve  
25 in 2011 and 2014, including available habitat along --  
26 within game management unit 23 and 26A and in two areas  
27 in the western Baird Mountains and central Delong  
28 Mountains. These surveys were repeated in the Baird  
29 Mountains and the Delong Mountains this year and  
30 estimates of adult sheep declined by over 70 percent  
31 between 2011 and 2014 across the Noatak survey area. And  
32 preliminary estimates indicate continued decline in the  
33 Baird and Delong Mountains. The ratio of lambs per sheep  
34 were higher this year than the previous two years so that  
35 was encouraging, but they're still low. So the decline  
36 in the western Baird Mountains appears to have affected  
37 all age classes. There were an estimated amount of 173  
38 adult sheep in 2016 in the Trail Creek, Kougarok River  
39 area of the central Delong Mountains and this is  
40 comparable to the numbers that were observed in the '90s  
41 when populations were low across the western Brooks  
42 range. The Baird Mountains and Delong Mountains and the  
43 Schwatka Mountains and the remainder of GMU 23 outside of  
44 Gates of the Arctic are currently closed to sheep hunting  
45 under State regulations and Federal regulations.

46  
47 There is a study that has been put into  
48 our funding system to fund -- which was approved, to fund  
49 survival and recruitment studies of sheep starting fiscal  
50 year '18 and going forward in the next three years.

1 We've actually been making a concerted effort to try to  
2 start some of those surveys before that funding cycle  
3 because we want as much reliable data as we can to make  
4 inferences on what's happening with the sheep population.

5  
6           Moving on to brown bears. This May we  
7 did a survey of brown bears in the lower Noatak with an  
8 aerial survey that involved about six planes and many  
9 observers both from the Park Service and Fish and Game.  
10 And we're working on those results currently and we hope  
11 to have results in December.

12  
13           But I'd like to -- as Attamuk said, you  
14 know, phenology, which is the way that things are  
15 happening earlier because of changing climate and  
16 changing conditions and so one of the things that we  
17 considered when we started this survey was I talked with  
18 many people from -- local people from the area who've  
19 lived in the area for decades or their whole life to say,  
20 you know, what do you think is going on, this is when we  
21 want to do the survey, should we bump it up because of  
22 the way, you know, climate is changing. And so we did  
23 actually bump the survey up by over a week to account for  
24 those changes. So we are thinking about those things.

25  
26           I also wanted to mention that -- a study  
27 that's being done in the lagoons on -- in Bering Land  
28 Bridge and in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, looking  
29 at fisheries that are important for subsistence because  
30 that came up yesterday. So there's a study going on out  
31 there that runs from March through October and this year  
32 was the second year of that study. So looking forward to  
33 the results from that. They just wrapped up recently  
34 from their second year. But we'll report back to you  
35 when we have more information on the data that they've  
36 collected.

37  
38           Also I wanted to briefly mention some of  
39 the outreach we've done. Susan mentioned that we worked  
40 with the Refuge, BLM and NANA and the local villages to  
41 travel to the villages in the region and communicate  
42 changes in caribou regulations as well as the closure to  
43 non-Federally-qualified users in unit 23 to caribou  
44 hunting. In those villages we held open house, the Park  
45 Service. We went to Kiana, Noatak, Kivalina, Ambler,  
46 Kobuk and Shungnak and held open houses there and also  
47 went into some of the schools and gave presentations on  
48 how to use GPS units because there's some interest. Some  
49 folks have GPS units, but don't know how to use them and  
50 would like to learn more about it so we held some

1 workshops to do that. We also gave out keychains with  
2 our telephone number on them, floating keychains as well  
3 as carabineer keychains with our number on it so that if  
4 people saw things this year that they wanted to let us  
5 know about quickly that they would have our phone number  
6 somewhere readily available on their boat keychain or ATV  
7 keychain. And that number is 1-800-478-7252. And so I  
8 just thought I'd provide that to you guys as well here.  
9 Additionally the Park Service has a radio show on KOTZ on  
10 Friday mornings where we give updates on various things  
11 happening in the Park. And so that's some other outreach  
12 we do.

13

14 In addition to that one of our rangers,  
15 Tyler, he travels to the villages and gives presentations  
16 and workshops with kids in the villages. He's -- I just  
17 talked with the principal today, she said Tyler that,  
18 yes, we're looking forward to having him coming and all  
19 the kids -- every village we went to all the kids came up  
20 to us and said Ranger Tyler, Ranger Tyler. So they look  
21 forward to him coming and working with them. We also  
22 have a camp, an overnight camp for kids age 10 to 15  
23 called Camp Willow where the kids hike five miles and  
24 they pick berries and they put up tents and they cook  
25 over fires and practice with their GPS units. So that's  
26 another outreach activity we do working with the kids.

27

28 Just one more thing about the phone  
29 number I gave. We're also interested in hearing about  
30 incidents throughout the region, whether it's bears  
31 taking caribou from boats or other wildlife damaging  
32 property, documenting these is helpful for us because it  
33 helps us come up with ideas and provide -- look into  
34 partnerships for mitigating some of those problems. So  
35 we have a form in our office that we can fill out when  
36 you call that number to start getting consistent  
37 information that we can use to help make a difference, to  
38 mitigate the problems.

39

40 So I realize that was a broad brush, but  
41 I'm happy to take any questions about any of these  
42 issues.

43

44 MR. SHIEDT: Anyone from the Board have  
45 a question for Hillary? You're Hillary, right?

46

47 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

48

49 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Raymond.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know that  
2 originally that we were told that, you know, since the  
3 sheep was declining also very slowly so the condition of  
4 the sheep is -- and we know it is low, so it will also be  
5 closed for subsistence users if you want to hunt sheep?  
6

7 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. The sheep is  
8 currently closed for subsistence hunting, yes.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's the entire unit  
11 23?  
12

13 MS. ROBINSON: It is in -- I'll read it  
14 here for you. The Baird and Delong Mountains, the  
15 Schwatka Mountains and the remainder of game management  
16 unit 23 are closed to sheep hunting under State  
17 regulations. And the same areas are closed under Federal  
18 regulations except for Gates of the Arctic.  
19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.  
21

22 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. Thanks,  
23 Raymond.  
24

25 Go ahead, Vern.  
26

27 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I had the same  
28 question what Raymond just asked about the dall sheep  
29 because they start coming in by -- right behind Kobuk,  
30 the sheep are finally coming back. So we told them guys  
31 to leave them alone, leave them sheep alone, let them  
32 grow until they get enough for -- let them grow and let  
33 them get, you know, get that population up. They're just  
34 starting, just leave them alone until the population come  
35 up, then we can hunt them because they're right up there  
36 behind Kobuk right there.  
37

38 MS. ROBINSON: Uh-huh.  
39

40 MR. CLEVELAND: So I've never seen them  
41 in my lifetime, never did. I lived all my life in that  
42 and I never -- my parents, my grandparents talk about  
43 sheep in that area, all my life I've been looking for  
44 sheep, nothing. Now that I moved away from there they're  
45 seeing sheep up there. So I told them guys leave them  
46 alone until their population gets up.  
47

48 Thank you very much.  
49

50 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, thank -- through the

1 Chair. Thank you, Vern. When we went to the villages  
2 doing the outreach trips we talked with people in Kobuk  
3 who talked about the sheep up in that area and they  
4 mirrored exactly what you said. They said we're leaving  
5 them alone and we just watch them. So.....

6

7 MR. SHIEDT: Anyone else.

8

9 MR. MOTO: Right here.

10

11 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

12

13 MR. MOTO: Good afternoon. I see a side  
14 note here about red crows and yellow belly loons. You  
15 know, we used to -- years ago they used to say in the  
16 morning if you hear the loon the way or sheep make a  
17 noise it'll tell you whether the weather's going to be  
18 good or bad, you know. And I could hear them for a long  
19 time, now I haven't heard the loons. They have a  
20 distinct sound, you know, (loon sounds), if they go like  
21 that it's going to be good, if they go (loon sounds) they  
22 say it's going to be bad, you know. But these used to be  
23 my weather predictors early in the morning. They need a  
24 long lake to take off just like a big jumbo jets, you  
25 know. But used to listen to them early in the morning.  
26 And I'd just lay -- they'd make noise for a couple --  
27 about five, 10 minutes, (loon sounds). Yeah. And I used  
28 to love to hear them, they had a beautiful voice for  
29 singing. I just thought it be -- I wonder how many --  
30 did you ever do a survey how many there are over in that  
31 area?

32

33 MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, through the Chair.  
34 Thanks, Mr. Moto. I put the loon survey on there and I'm  
35 glad that you asked about it. Yes, there were two  
36 surveys that were done this summer looking at red  
37 throated loons and yellow billed loons. And they are  
38 looking at the number of both of those types of birds and  
39 hopefully we'll have some estimates back from those  
40 studies. And also in addition to that there's been a  
41 subset of work that's done on looking at contaminants in  
42 -- for yellow billed loons. So we hope -- we're looking  
43 forward to reporting back to you on the results of that.

44

45

46 MR. MOTO: Yeah. Yeah, when the fall --  
47 when it start to get dark they sound like babies crying,  
48 you know, but used to be kind of nice. But I just  
49 thought I'd bring it up. I was wondering how many we --  
50 we used to have two hanging around Deering a long time.

1 Obviously they just not around anymore, maybe they got  
2 old and passed away. I don't know.

3  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you,  
7 Calvin.

8  
9 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead, Vern.

12  
13 MR. CLEVELAND: Do we have any more new  
14 regulations on brown bears or how many tags per person we  
15 can get, two tags per year or is it three?

16  
17 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, there are currently  
18 a few proposals in to the Board of Game this year to  
19 change hunting regulations for brown bears in unit 23.  
20 Those are in the proposal booklet and one of them is to  
21 change harvest for brown bears to two a year.

22  
23 MR. CLEVELAND: You said two a year?

24  
25 MS. GEORGETTE: That's what the proposed  
26 change is for.

27  
28 MR. CLEVELAND: So what time of the year  
29 do we hunt brown bears, is it year round or do they close  
30 for some period of time during the wintertime -- during  
31 the year or.....

32  
33 MS. GEORGETTE: Yes, there are seasons  
34 for that and I would like to take the opportunity to pull  
35 out the regulation book so that I'm not misspeaking about  
36 what those are. And I'd be happy to go through those  
37 with you, I have some reg books with me.

38  
39 MR. CLEVELAND: Because we sure do have  
40 a lot of brown bears out there that are roaming around  
41 and they're terrorizing camps and everything else. So  
42 I'm glad the regulation is changing.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 MS. GEORGETTE: I would just like to  
47 clarify through the Chair that there's a proposed  
48 regulation to change harvest, to increase the harvest,  
49 the -- from what it currently is.

50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.  
2  
3 MS. GEORGETTE: So I can read you the  
4 Federal regulation. It says unit 23, one bear by State  
5 subsistence registration permit, August 1st through May  
6 31st for unit 23. That's Federal regulation. State  
7 regulations, I have a copy of those with me, but not with  
8 me right here at the table to read to you.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you.  
11  
12 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Native)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.  
15  
16 MS. GEORGETTE: Okay. Excuse.....  
17  
18 MR. SHIEDT: Maybe it'll be my turn now.  
19 I would like to -- yeah, go ahead, I was.....  
20  
21 MS. GEORGETTE: Can I say one more thing  
22 through the Chair?  
23  
24 MR. SHIEDT: Go right ahead.  
25  
26 MS. GEORGETTE: State regulations are the  
27 same for brown bear.  
28  
29 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. And what  
30 I was going to say is about time Park Service or some  
31 Federal agency hired a Native at administrative level.  
32 You guys hired Maija, that's a big step forward. And I  
33 hope she do a good job not only for us, but for the Park  
34 Service also to help preserve because I got a call from  
35 her and she's, Attamuk, I got to thank you. I heard  
36 about it the day she heard about it. She was so excited  
37 and I compliment the Park Service for finally hiring a  
38 Native at that high level. And I tell you one thing and  
39 you could tell her I will give her support and if she  
40 have any questions on plants I will be there for her.  
41 Because we came from the same area that we want to  
42 preserve the lands around Northwest Alaska.  
43  
44 And, yes, I attended -- for your  
45 information, Vern, I attended the sheep meetings this  
46 winter. That was paid by the -- my fare was paid by the  
47 State and the sheep is closed because they crashed. And  
48 like I stated earlier that we try to tell the agencies  
49 and the State that they were crashing, that's what we're  
50 hearing from people, and the people from Noatak was

1 calling me and telling me it's not because of hunters,  
2 it's because of mother nature, the weather did its thing.  
3 Maybe we got to think twice, maybe that's what's  
4 happening to our caribou, mother nature, but where's all  
5 the carcasses.

6

7 Okay. Anything else there from the Park  
8 Service?

9

10 MS. ROBINSON: I actually do have one  
11 more thing. I thank Dan for his update, that was really  
12 helpful. And I did get some additional information that  
13 from September 4 through September 14th, 55 to 60  
14 contacts were made in the Noatak and 80 percent of those  
15 were subsistence users. Several bears were also taken  
16 through guided hunts in the Noatak which is legal  
17 activity, but I thought I'd just give you some of those  
18 numbers as well.

19

20 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you.

21

22 Anyone else, question on Hillary now.

23

24 Go ahead, Vern.

25

26 MR. CLEVELAND: One more. I don't know  
27 if this relates to you or not, but national park winter  
28 trails. Are they marking the winter trails, is it up to  
29 the Park Service to mark the winter trails? I -- in one  
30 of my meetings earlier in fact there was some proposal  
31 that the Park Service is going to mark the trails between  
32 Selawik and Ambler because it's national park that-a-way.  
33 And I don't know what the outcome of that was and I just  
34 want to find out.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. ATKINSON: We could see if someone on  
39 the line has the answer for that. I think there's a  
40 couple more Park Service people in Kotzebue listening on  
41 the line, I'm not sure about that proposal, Vern.

42

43 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

44

45 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Now,  
46 Vern, for your information I know the Northwest Arctic  
47 Borough do winter trail marking in the trails -- in the  
48 winter trails. Okay.

49

50 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, we had to deal with

1 that. And that's the reason I didn't.....

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. He said he -- they  
4 had to deal with it and it's DSC.

5

6 Go ahead, Calvin. Make it sweet and  
7 short.

8

9 MR. MOTO: Since the Park Service are  
10 doing the muskox work I know we get a lot of complaints  
11 about muskox in our area destroying property and  
12 destroying grave sites in our village and hanging around  
13 our village. We're trying to figure out what to do with  
14 them when they do come because it's -- I know it's  
15 illegal to kill them, but we take them out of town and  
16 they come back again. I don't know how many people talk  
17 to you people and complain about the muskox.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MS. ROBINSON: Through the Chair.  
22 Thanks, Mr. Moto, for your concern. I've -- I am aware  
23 of the problem down in your area and thank you for  
24 bringing that up. Marci Johnson who's a wildlife  
25 biologist on our staff has been working to -- on a  
26 wildlife conflicts group that includes different agencies  
27 to look at some of these issues on how we might try to  
28 address some of those issues. She might be on the line,  
29 I'm not sure. Marci, are you on the line?

30

31 MR. MOTO: Reason I brought that up they  
32 hang around this one lady and she's blind. Some day she  
33 might go out and get, you know, bumped or something  
34 because she can't see.

35

36 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Anything else.

37

38 MS. ROBINSON: No, I think that's it  
39 unless anyone has.....

40

41 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.

42

43 MS. ROBINSON: .....questions.

44

45 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So I  
46 think we need to move on. BLM is next, Bureau of Land  
47 Management.

48

49 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, go ahead, radio land.  
2  
3 MS. OKADA: This is March Okada for Gates  
4 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.  
5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.  
7  
8 MS. OKADA: I'd like to just give a quick  
9 update and I think Zach Stevenson has a handout for you.  
10  
11 MR. SHIEDT: That he's doing. No, he's  
12 not, that's someone else. He's BLM. Zach is looking  
13 at.....  
14  
15 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, the  
16 information from Marcy Okada is held up at the back,  
17 those are on the public display table, the copies are  
18 right back there, we can get those right now for you.  
19  
20 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. They told  
21 me that they were going to pass it out.  
22  
23 Go ahead, BLM. And thanks. Go ahead,  
24 you have the floor.  
25  
26 MR. BITTNER: Hi, my names Alan Bittner,  
27 I'm the Anchorage field manager for the Bureau of Land  
28 Management. And.....  
29  
30 MR. SHIEDT: Excuse me, there's somebody  
31 on the radio. Yeah, go ahead, radio, if you want to say  
32 something.  
33  
34 MS. OKADA: Okay. I don't know if you  
35 have time, but I'd quickly like to just go over the Gates  
36 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve handout.  
37  
38 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.  
39  
40 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Zach.  
41  
42 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, this was a  
43 final -- just wrapping up on the Park Service. We have  
44 a representative from the National Park Service on the  
45 line now, Marcy Okada, who's sharing -- the handout  
46 before you is from Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
47 Preserve.  
48  
49 So forgive me, BLM, that was just -- that  
50 was the item that's before you now.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Sorry about that.

4 Yeah, go ahead. Go ahead, Marcy.

5

6 MS. OKADA: Okay. So in regards to  
7 caribou, data from GPS collared caribou revealed that  
8 caribou from the Western Arctic caribou herd and  
9 Teshekpuk herd were delayed during their -- all migration  
10 an average of 30 days by the Dog Mine Road. Individuals  
11 from both herds encounter the road primarily during  
12 autumn migration. Park Service and the Alaska Department  
13 of Fish and Game biologists captured and GPS collared  
14 adult female caribou from both herds. Delayed caribou  
15 sped up after eventually crossing the road perhaps to  
16 make up ground they lost while they were delayed.  
17 Results from this study suggest however that even a  
18 single road can alter movement behavior for some  
19 individual caribou. And that was published in a journal.

20

21 Moving on to bears. In 2015 the Park  
22 Service and USGS deployed more GPS collars on grizzly  
23 bears along the proposed corridor to the Ambler mining  
24 district. The fieldwork component of this project is  
25 winding down and the collars will be dropping off in  
26 July, 2017 and data analysis will begin. Information  
27 that's being collected is on the movement, denning  
28 characteristics, diet and health of these animals prior  
29 to future development occurring in this region.

30

31 As Hillary has already mentioned, sheep  
32 hunting is still open within Gates of the Arctic National  
33 Park and Preserve. It's the western portion of the Park  
34 that lies within unit 23. And that area is only open to  
35 Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk residents since they are  
36 resident zoned communities for Gates of the Arctic.

37

38 There was one fire within Gates of the  
39 Arctic, it was ignited on July 2nd and it was called the  
40 Maniilaq River two fire that was northwest of Noorvik  
41 Lake. This fire burned into the Park north of Noorvik  
42 Lake on July 17th and consumed approximately 1,394 acres  
43 of Gates of the Arctic. Alaska Fire Service personnel  
44 conducted point protection for the Peace of Selby Lodge  
45 that is on our Noorvik Lake.

46

47 In regards to Ambler mining district  
48 access project, on June 30th, 2016 the Alaska Industrial  
49 Development and Export Authority submitted the  
50 information that was requested by various Federal

1 agencies as part of their initial application for a  
2 right-of-way. As of August 30th the application is now  
3 considered sufficient to allow the right-of-way  
4 permitting process to move forward. The Bureau of Land  
5 Management will be preparing to publish a notice of  
6 intent to conduct an environmental impact statement for  
7 the project and they will be developing a schedule over  
8 the next month or so. Gates of the Arctic is not  
9 required to do an environmental impact statement. We  
10 will be doing an environmental and economic assessment  
11 and also kind of piggy backing off of the public meeting  
12 schedule that will be coordinated in regards to the  
13 environmental impact statement.

14  
15 In regards to the road, there was a study  
16 that was conducted by the National Park Service and the  
17 University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of  
18 Alaska Anchorage. The Park Service is mandated like I  
19 said to conduct an environmental and economic analysis  
20 and that partly pertains to negative impacts that could  
21 occur to subsistence activities. For this project  
22 existing data was used from Alaska Department of Fish and  
23 Game, Division of Subsistence and specific target levels  
24 were assessed based on different household  
25 characteristics. Additionally comparisons were made  
26 between households in villages along the proposed road  
27 and compared with villages that currently exist on a road  
28 system. It turns out harvest was greater in villages  
29 that are not located on road systems.

30  
31 Another study information that was also  
32 published showed that subsistence harvest of those  
33 villages near the proposed road, it was estimated that  
34 the cost to replace those subsistence resources is about  
35 \$6,900. Increased access and numbers of hunters as well  
36 as natural fluctuations can reduce wildlife populations.  
37 Therefore if access increased and greater hunting  
38 pressure arose, one could expect lower populations --  
39 lower wildlife populations and in turn more restrictions  
40 on wildlife harvest. This was also published in a  
41 journal that I have sent to Zach Stevenson to be handed  
42 out.

43  
44 And lastly Gates of the Arctic National  
45 Park Subsistence Resource Commission held an  
46 informational meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass on April 26.  
47 Main topics of discussion were new Federal subsistence  
48 wildlife regulations, cultural resource project updates  
49 and access to Native allotments. The next Gates of the  
50 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission meeting will be in

1 Fairbanks on November 15th through 16th.

2

3

4 And finally a video called Counting on  
5 Caribou was completed and distributed this past summer.  
6 It was created by Farthest North Films and the National  
7 Park Service. Footage was collected as part of a study  
8 documenting traditional ecological knowledge of caribou  
9 and perspectives about caribou held by subsistence users  
10 in Northwest Alaska. And those videos should have been  
11 distributed throughout the villages in the Kotzebue  
12 region.

12

13 And my apologies for moving through this  
14 so quickly, but if there are any questions at this time.

15

16

MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

17

18

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, go ahead.

19

20

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 Marcy, this is Zach Stevenson. The publication that you  
22 referenced in your discussion a moment ago is available  
23 to RAC members, it's on the table by the front door.  
24 That's a scientific publication that looks at the  
25 economic impacts of the proposed Ambler mining access  
26 road to subsistence users. The summary helps to give a  
27 brief overview of those findings. And similarly the film  
28 Counting on Caribou was distributed at the all council  
29 meeting, there were 20 copies that were made available to  
30 members of the public and that film is available for free  
31 both on YouTube and through public television, it's now  
32 being aired on public television in Alaska. Many of the  
33 interviews were done in the Northwest Arctic and it looks  
34 at the affects of caribou on subsistence use.

35

36

Thank you.

37

38

MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.

39

40

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mike.

41

42

MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I had a question for  
43 Marcy. This is Mike Kramer. What was your guys' harvest  
44 -- the harvest on sheep total for Gates of the Arctic  
45 that's open this year?

46

47

MS. OKADA: So, Mike, because sheep  
48 harvest within Gates of the Arctic for that portion  
49 within unit 23 is not under Federal subsistence permit.  
50 Sheep hunters are required to report their harvest

1 through a harvest ticket. And I don't currently have  
2 that data right now.

3

4 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Yeah, I was.....

5

6 MS. OKADA: Previous harvest surveys that  
7 were done in the upper Kobuk show that there's only a  
8 very small handful of upper Kobuk residents that go into  
9 Gates of the Arctic to harvest sheep. For the community  
10 of Ambler it was two sheep that were taken. I believe  
11 that was in a harvest report for 2011.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: Okay. And was there any  
14 other sheep harvested in the remainder of Gates of the  
15 Arctic that's outside of unit 23?

16

17 MS. OKADA: You're talking about the rest  
18 of Gates of Arctic, but in the various units such as 26,  
19 24?

20

21 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

22

23 MR. SHIEDT: I don't think she heard you,  
24 Mike.

25

26 MR. KRAMER: I guess the question is, I  
27 mean, are they -- I just want to find out what was the  
28 harvest in the remainder of Gates of the Arctic that's  
29 outside of unit 23 and, you know, are -- is the  
30 population healthy or are they remaining somewhat  
31 balanced or are they on the decline just like we are?

32

33 MS. OKADA: So I can speak to the harvest  
34 component for -- so for parts of Gates of the Arctic that  
35 are not within unit 23, that would include by communities  
36 such as Anaktuvuk Pass, Wiseman, Bettles/Evansville,  
37 Allakaket, Alatna and Hughes. These are all for --  
38 harvest was for unit 26 and 24. Anaktuvuk Pass has a  
39 harvest range of between 22 and 25 sheep taken and then  
40 the rest of the communities, eastern to southern portion  
41 of Gates combined would just total maybe about 10 sheep  
42 at the most.

43

44 Gates of the Arctic did suffer a decline  
45 in sheep numbers and I don't know if Kumi Rattenbury is  
46 online to discuss the survey results for the surveys that  
47 were conducted in previous years including this past  
48 season's survey.

49

50 MR. KRAMER: Okay. That was what I

1 wanted to hear, whether they were -- you know, whether  
2 they had a healthy population or they were declining.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. RATTENBURY: Marcy, this Kumi  
7 Rattenbury. Hi, to the Chair and to the Council members.  
8 This is Kumi Rattenbury, I'm an ecologist with the Park  
9 Service here in Fairbanks. And we conducted sheep  
10 surveys also in northeastern Gates of the Arctic in 2016  
11 and what we saw there is that adult numbers are kind of  
12 stable. They did decline slightly around Anaktuvuk Pass.  
13 We had higher lamb numbers last year than we have had in  
14 a long time, but that didn't really translate into those  
15 lambs being recruited into the main part of the  
16 population this year. But we had high lamb numbers again  
17 this year.

18

19 The thing with those areas is that  
20 they're continuous of sheep throughout the rest of Gates  
21 of the Arctic and the central Brooks range. So even  
22 though there's like 600 sheep in the corner of  
23 northeastern Gates of the Arctic just to the east of  
24 Anaktuvuk Pass, it's part of a population that was around  
25 5,700 sheep in 2015. So they're very separated from the  
26 Delong and Baird Mountain sheep and it's, you know, a  
27 larger population over a larger area.

28

29 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

30

31 Anyone have any questions for March?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Thanks, Marcy. So we're  
36 back to the BLM. We're -- BLM, sorry for delay, but --  
37 okay. Thank you. You have the floor.

38

39 MR. BITTNER: Hi, Chair and Board, thank  
40 you for the opportunity to be here. My name is Alan  
41 Bittner, I'm the Anchorage field manager for the Bureau  
42 of Land Management and the lands we're responsible for  
43 stretch all the way from the oil and gas fields in the  
44 Kenai all the way up to Kotzebue and throughout the  
45 border of the NANA Corporation boundaries. So it's about  
46 24 million acres that we're responsible for. And I've  
47 talked about this in the past, but we changed our  
48 administrative boundaries last -- a year ago January of  
49 2015, and that brought some of the lands that were  
50 managed by Fairbanks into the Anchorage office especially

1 in the northwest here. So that was a change that -- why  
2 you're seeing more of us out of Anchorage than out of  
3 Fairbanks.

4  
5 So with me today is Bruce Seppi, our  
6 Anchorage subsistence biologist and he's going to give a  
7 report here in a minute. But I also want to introduce to  
8 you in the back, Brian Ubalaker, he's standing in the  
9 back there. And he is a recent hire of ours in Nome.  
10 And so many of you might know Tom Sparks, he's been a  
11 long time employee in Nome and so we've added a  
12 biologist, Brian, to our staff in Nome. And we're also  
13 planing on hiring a recreation specialist in the future  
14 here, in the next few months. The idea with that is to  
15 try to get more of a presence out in western Alaska than  
16 just coming from Anchorage or in the past from Fairbanks.  
17 We want to see some more employees out closer to some of  
18 the land base that we're managing. And so we hope to  
19 have that third position hired here over this winter and  
20 to -- additionally they'll be moving into a little bit  
21 larger office space there in Nome and be more readily  
22 accessible to Kotzebue, Unalakleet, the whole western  
23 area as far as BLM lands are concerned.

24  
25 So I also want to thank you for hosting  
26 us here in Selawik, it's been a great visit to be here  
27 and to -- first time for me in this community and to  
28 visit with some of you and it's also been great to have  
29 the wrestling team provide some of the meals and for many  
30 of the young folks to come and go and hear part of the  
31 proceedings so that's been really great as well and I  
32 appreciate that.

33  
34 So at this time I'll turn it over to  
35 Bruce for our report and then we can field any questions  
36 you may have.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, members of the  
41 Council, I'm Bruce Seppi. We've got two planning efforts  
42 going on right now, the Bering Sea Western Interior  
43 Management Plan which began in 2013 and is still ongoing.  
44 It's not in this RAC, Northwest RAC area, but it's just  
45 to the south and it includes the areas in unit 22 so it's  
46 worth mentioning it. The web address there on that  
47 handout shows all of the different documents that have  
48 been done. A draft of that plan will be out in January  
49 of 2017, but it has taken a lot of our time to come up  
50 with that. There -- on that website there's a public

1 scoping report, a report for the areas of critical  
2 environmental concern or ACECs, and the initial analysis  
3 of a management situation which is on that site.  
4 Currently we're working on alternatives which are the  
5 crux of what will be allowed in a planning area and they  
6 are in draft form right now.

7  
8                   Along with that or separate from that,  
9 but along with the Kobuk Seward Resource Management Plan  
10 we're working on the Squirrel River Special Recreation  
11 Management Plan and that has been revised. It was  
12 brought out to the public in 2004 and in 2011 by the  
13 Central Yukon field office out of Fairbanks. Since it's  
14 been so long we'd like to bring that back out to the  
15 public and get comments from villages in the area and  
16 then incorporate that into the new plan.

17  
18                   On the recreation side in 2015 season,  
19 not this season, but last, BLM had permitted six  
20 commercial hunting guides and five transporters within --  
21 with SRPs within the Squirrel River area. And the take  
22 of animals there, there was one caribou, one brown bear  
23 and three moose in 2015. Three of those permits were the  
24 only ones that were -- are currently active. We still  
25 have under permit six commercial hunting guides and five  
26 transporters in 2016, but because of the closure they're  
27 not required to report until January of 2017 so I don't  
28 have information to tell you what happened this year.  
29 Unofficially we've heard that they didn't hunt at all or  
30 that they went to other areas on State land, but we don't  
31 have that information to share with you right now so when  
32 we do we will. But caribou's the only thing that was  
33 closed, so bear and moose hunts were open on BLM lands in  
34 the Squirrel River area.

35  
36                   Our recreation planner, Stephanie Koons,  
37 and I came out of Kotzebue in early August and we did  
38 compliance checks of the camps that were out there in  
39 August before the State hunt started.

40  
41                   Also for new hires in the Anchorage field  
42 office, we've hired a ranger pilot last month, his name  
43 is Walker Gussy. He's coming from the Park Service out  
44 of Nome and will be involved in law enforcement  
45 activities in unit 23 as well as the rest of our 20 plus  
46 million acres of Anchorage field office BLM lands. He  
47 will be based in Anchorage and his report date is  
48 sometime around Thanksgiving in November.

49  
50                   This year and the year before Seth

1 McMillan, the ranger pilot out of Fairbanks had did --  
2 had done law enforcement during the fall hunts in 2015  
3 and 2016, but I don't have any reports from him, just  
4 after the hunts had closed, the season has closed.

5  
6 Under mining compliance in unit 23, there  
7 are actually two placer mines, they're in the process of  
8 being cleaned up. Cleanup and reclamation of the Cleary  
9 Creek mine which is from the Westlake family about 60  
10 miles east of Kotzebue in the Squirrel River watershed  
11 has been initiated and cleanup is the responsibility of  
12 the operator. The Federal mining claims in there are  
13 closed with some of the State claims remaining. That  
14 cleanup is quite involved and involve removal of  
15 buildings and heavy equipment and old mining equipment.  
16 And because of just the magnitude of it it will likely  
17 take years to accomplish, but that is being initiated.

18  
19 Also in that general area, about 25 miles  
20 north of Cleary Creek there's the Timber Creek mine which  
21 is a much older one. An initial assessment of that's  
22 been done this summer and that also involves solid waste,  
23 like abandoned buildings, spilled oil, lots of lead acid  
24 batteries and hazmat, things like that, and abandoned  
25 mining equipment and heavy equipment. That cleanup, once  
26 it's funded, it's -- we've just done an initial  
27 assessment of it, but once it's funded it will take at  
28 least several year for that to occur.

29  
30 On the wildlife side BLM staff including  
31 myself and our ecologist, Aliza Segal, assisted Fish and  
32 Game along with Park Service personnel to collar caribou  
33 at Onion Portage this last month. It's the first time  
34 I'd been there and I was -- felt real fortunate to be  
35 helping with that and to witness that migration. We  
36 helped deploy 60 collars, satellite and VHS collars on  
37 bulls, cows and calf caribou during that time. BLM and  
38 the Fish and Wildlife Service as you've heard helped get  
39 aircraft and get kids from both Selawik and from the  
40 Kotzebue schools to come out. And that did work and I  
41 was very -- when the Selawik kids were there and Aliza,  
42 our ecologist was there when the Kotzebue kids were  
43 there. Some of those students will be traveling to  
44 Anchorage in December when we have the Western Arctic  
45 Caribou Herd Working Group and they'll give a  
46 presentation which BLM will cover to get their travel  
47 expenses there.

48  
49 And a good segue to that is in December  
50 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting is

1 scheduled to be held in Anchorage on December 14th and  
2 15th with technical group meeting on December 13th.  
3 We've contracted with an organization called Westwind to  
4 help organize the logistics for it last year, for the  
5 lodging and logistics of getting all those people to  
6 Anchorage. This year BLM, Park Service and Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service all contributed funds, they did last  
8 year also, but it was a lot harder through our  
9 procurement process to get it together, but this year all  
10 those agencies, those three agencies, contribute to get  
11 those -- make that meeting happen. The actual venue has  
12 not been chosen, of course it will be in Anchorage. The  
13 planning meetings and final decisions on where it will be  
14 will be taking place shortly here within the next two  
15 weeks.

16  
17 And that's all I had. Is there any  
18 questions from anyone?

19  
20 MR. SHIEDT: Anything -- go ahead,  
21 Raymond.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Of course  
24 I'm give you a brief information of what I know about  
25 Cleary Creek I -- it's just 14 miles from Kiana.

26  
27 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And then of course that  
30 mining situation began way back in early '40s. And  
31 however when they completed their mining in that area  
32 they left all that equipment everywhere up there at  
33 Cleary Creek. However my point is, my question is to  
34 you, as some of these claims are privately owned and  
35 privately owned a lot of equipment themselves, you know,  
36 you seen that name on a paper there.....

37  
38 MR. SEPPI: Uh-huh.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....they are privately  
41 owned. Now it's time to cleanup so the cleanup will have  
42 to be the cost of the privately owner?

43  
44 MR. SEPPI: At that -- at this point it  
45 will be. He's still on the hook and responsible for  
46 getting all that material and equipment out of there.  
47 And that's happened over as you say decades. And that is  
48 no small task getting that equipment out of there. In  
49 the end who pays for that and how that will happen will  
50 have to play out, but right now he's been put on notice

1 that those Federal claims are closed and that will have  
2 to be cleaned up. I suspect that the Federal government  
3 will be doing a lot of that cleanup, but legally right  
4 now the miner is responsible for that. Timber Creek on  
5 the other hand has been abandoned and closed and that is  
6 the full responsibility of the Federal government because  
7 there's no one to actually clean it up. So I actually  
8 flew out in a helicopter in August with our mining  
9 compliance guy to Cleary Creek and witness that and there  
10 are -- there is a lot to cleanup there.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And again another area,  
13 what the BLM has left not done. Salmon River is about  
14 like 40 miles above Kiana. In the early '70s they did a  
15 lot of survey, survey marking just about everywhere, they  
16 had two helicopters and they had hundred of aviation  
17 fuel. So they used most of that that season. After they  
18 do more of their survey, they left the Kouga (ph) with  
19 approximately 50 drums of aviation fuel. That's in early  
20 '70s, it's still there. But the water just washed them  
21 way back in the hills, some are still full. You could  
22 hear them banging on hot days. So.....

23  
24 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....that was the  
27 responsibility of the BLM. I was wondering why did they  
28 leave like 50 drums of aviation fuel?

29  
30 MR. SEPPI: That -- I'm not sure if  
31 that's actually BLM lands and if we are responsible for  
32 that, but I can inquire. That's something that.....

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

35  
36 MR. SEPPI: .....we would want to get a  
37 handle on and get cleaned up.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You should go up there  
40 and look, get a helicopter and find them. There's a lot  
41 of fuel haul up the Kobuk River from.....

42  
43 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....Shungnak and full  
46 fuel -- I guess they use it for something. But anyway  
47 that's a situation where BLM left all that, you know, and  
48 then because I got a camp there when they were doing that  
49 right there within mile away.....

50

1 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....and then I went up  
4 there and checked them, they were two about quarter of a  
5 mile from where the house was, but now they're oh, about  
6 a mile up at northeast where I live. But anyway those  
7 drums should be picked up.  
8  
9 MR. SEPPI: Okay. I agree.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You probably located  
12 wrecks and stuff, you see the wreckage, what BLM has  
13 done. That's one thing we were very concerned about and  
14 number totally it -- I know it's kind of obvious to me  
15 and to you, the air force, you know, they do a lot of  
16 flying in the Kouga with the very high speed jet and C130  
17 aircraft so those jets F15 and F16 they got two I think  
18 hundred gallon fuel tanks on each tip of the wing.  
19  
20 MR. SEPPI: Uh-huh.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: When it empties they  
23 don't care where they dump it, they just release them and  
24 let them go. You'll see them everywhere, a lot of big  
25 100 gallon fuel tanks out in the -- up in the Kobuk River  
26 valley.  
27  
28 MR. SEPPI: They're just laying there?  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.  
31  
32 MR. SEPPI: All right.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I wonder if they're  
35 usable if you wanted them or are they going to take them  
36 out?  
37  
38 MR. SEPPI: I don't know if we had  
39 locations for them. All of these cleanups take time and  
40 money and so when we know about them we submit requests  
41 for funds and it.....  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.  
44  
45 MR. SEPPI: .....it's not a quick  
46 process. But we are slowly in the process of cleaning up  
47 all these things.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, it's just about  
50 everywhere, not in the Kobuk Valley, everywhere they dump

1 those big fuel tanks that I wonder why they do it, you  
2 know.

3

4 MR. SEPPI: I've seen them in other  
5 places too, yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. That's all I  
8 got, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: You're the Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You're the Chair.

13

14 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

15

16 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Vern.

17

18 MR. CLEVELAND: Did you guys issue out --  
19 there was hunters in the Squirrel River, did you guys  
20 issue out anything for hunters for this fall?

21

22 MR. SEPPI: We had -- there were six  
23 active SRPs and five active transporters. We only know  
24 of three that were actually operating this year, but we  
25 don't have any reports back this year yet with the  
26 closure of what they did if they -- they couldn't operate  
27 on Federal lands, but they could operate on State so they  
28 may have went in other places. But they were -- or they  
29 could have been along the river corridors like we had  
30 talked about before, in the navigable rivers. Those are  
31 actually State land and they can be on those. But the  
32 ones that we had permitted were in the Squirrel and in  
33 the past had operated up on ridges and hunted from the  
34 ridges where they were dropped off on. So with the  
35 closure they couldn't do that. So right now I don't have  
36 the stats to tell you how much they operated, but they  
37 couldn't do it on Federal land.

38

39 MR. CLEVELAND: So you're saying nobody's  
40 monitoring just because there was a boat accident, three  
41 nonresidents in Squirrel River, two weeks ago, two and a  
42 half weeks ago. And they got medivacked out of Kiana.  
43 They were boating in Squirrel River and they had a  
44 terrible accident, boat was in mid air flipping, I mean,  
45 and all three hunters got hurt, broken bones and they're  
46 lucky they had a satellite phone.....

47

48 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

49

50 MR. CLEVELAND: .....that's how we got

1 ahold of them, they called. Who's monitoring this, who's  
2 watching over all these things that's going on.

3

4 MR. SEPPI: Right.

5

6 MR. CLEVELAND: And then we find out if  
7 they weren't -- if nobody went there for them guys they  
8 wouldn't be here right now.

9

10 MR. SEPPI: Right.

11

12 MR. CLEVELAND: If they don't know the  
13 river or anything why are they there if they don't know  
14 anything about. And who gave them permission to get in  
15 there, I mean, that's BLM land, Squirrel River, I know  
16 that, but, you know.

17

18 MR. BITTNER: Well, couple points of  
19 clarification there. This is Alan Bittner again. One,  
20 the lower part of the Squirrel is corporation land and  
21 then as you get into the Squirrel the actual Squirrel  
22 River itself and some of the -- either side of the bank,  
23 not just the waterway, but there's State owned land quite  
24 a ways up the Squirrel and on the north fork as well. So  
25 there's a lot of the river bottom and the land on either  
26 side of the river bottom that is State land as you go up  
27 there. And really all the BLM has is about two-thirds of  
28 the uplands in the Squirrel River drainage. And the  
29 other third is State as well. So that's one point of  
30 clarification on what's owned in the Squirrel. So we had  
31 Seth McMillan come out and we don't -- like Bruce said we  
32 don't have a report yet, but he was looking at the upland  
33 camps that we know about in the Squirrel.

34

35 And also the other point of clarification  
36 is that transporters and hunters can go in there, it's  
37 just that on the Federal lands and in those upland camps  
38 they wouldn't be able to have a caribou because of the  
39 closure. But if they were hunting bear or something else  
40 or they were in there for another reason obviously they  
41 could be there. So that's what Seth was doing and also  
42 as Bruce says we've hired our own ranger pilot now for  
43 this field office that will be patrolling in the future  
44 as well. So.....

45

46 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

47

48 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

49

50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. That -- because

1 I'll -- like I said I live in Kiana. That private land  
2 is just -- it's just 14 miles away from Kiana and the  
3 corporation owns it one mile from each side. And from  
4 right there it's BLM marks, right there just about 14  
5 miles from Kiana. So the question was, you know, when  
6 the all Federal land was closed to nonresidents there  
7 were still people that came into the Squirrel regardless  
8 who they were. They don't mind whether there close or  
9 not. So are there any law enforcement in the Squirrel  
10 River this year?

11  
12 MR. BITTNER: Yeah, that was Seth  
13 McMillan or an acting, he had a couple different people  
14 that were coming to help him out, but that's the law  
15 enforcement ranger pilot that BLM has out of Fairbanks.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. And all those  
18 people that came update a number of years, you know,  
19 that's well over a hundred or 200 people that goes up  
20 there. They even bring in their four-wheelers and some  
21 kind of aircraft and take the tires and bring the four-  
22 wheelers up and use them everywhere in the headwaters of  
23 the Squirrel. I wonder if that was legal or not, it's  
24 just -- they must have got permit from BLM?

25  
26 MR. BITTNER: If they're coming privately  
27 they don't necessarily need a permit, it's the.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, these are  
30 not.....

31  
32 MR. BITTNER: .....it's the guides and  
33 transporters that we.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

36  
37 MR. BITTNER: .....permit and not all of  
38 them have been active. Like Bruce said we're -- we have  
39 six guides permitted and five transporters permitted  
40 there. But also beyond the corporation land, the private  
41 land, there is, both sides of the river and the north  
42 fork are State, it's not.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

45  
46 MR. BITTNER: .....it's not BLM.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

49  
50 MR. BITTNER: So you can navigate up a

1 ways up the river and not be on BLM. And then if you are  
2 on BLM the only thing that this 16-01 said was that you  
3 couldn't have a caribou there. So that's what Seth  
4 was.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

7  
8 MR. BITTNER: .....patrolling for this  
9 fall and that -- we don't have a report yet on it.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So on this closure that  
12 State land was legal to hunt to nonresidents, right?

13  
14 MR. BITTNER: State land was still open,  
15 yes.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

18  
19 MR. SHIEDT: And thank you. And for the  
20 public information, Vern was the one that talking about  
21 the guy that collects horn up and down the river at Kiana  
22 and Squirrel River.

23  
24 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

25  
26 MR. SHIEDT: But I was told he flipped  
27 three times and completely destroyed that boat. He  
28 flipped. So Vern's concern is yet -- Vern, that's the  
29 problem we have is under high water mean mark that's why  
30 I want to look into it and may -- probably make a change  
31 to it, the high water mean mark and take it away from the  
32 State because that's a weapon they going to use if you  
33 close the caribou again.

34  
35 Any more questions for these -- BLM here  
36 from the Council?

37  
38 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

39  
40 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

41  
42 MR. MITCHELL: Alan, what do you think  
43 about putting hunters on one side of the river to let the  
44 migration go through?

45  
46 MR. BITTNER: I think that -- I mean,  
47 that's certainly an option that you guys can put forward  
48 and see how it's received. You know, it's -- like you  
49 said it's a traditional way of doing things and, you  
50 know, in our other conversations that we've had, but it

1 would be something that you guys would have to advance in  
2 front of the Subsistence Board.

3

4 MR. MITCHELL: Board of Game?

5

6 MR. BITTNER: Or Board of Game too is you  
7 wanted to look at it that way, yeah.

8

9 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone else?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. SHIEDT: If not, thank you. And  
14 we're ADF&G. Yeah, thank you, you two.

15

16 MR. SEPPI: Thanks.

17

18 MR. SHIEDT: And whoever was on radio.

19

20 MS. PATTON: So this one's got a  
21 Powerpoint too. Lincoln, I think we might want to come  
22 join the audience on this side.

23

24 MR. SHIEDT: How long that going to take,  
25 maybe we take 10 minute break while you reset up. Let's  
26 take a 10 minute break and let mother nature take over.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 MR. PARRETT: I guess to get started, my  
33 name is Lincoln Parrett, I work for Alaska Department of  
34 Fish and Game. I'm working out of Fairbanks right now.  
35 I'm going to try to get through some caribou stuff and  
36 make sure I leave some time for Brandon to talk about  
37 moose since you guys are both interested in both of those  
38 things.

39

40 So the current population, I talked about  
41 that before because there was a little bit of confusion.  
42 Since 2013 we've gone down at an average of 5 percent a  
43 year to about 201,000 right now. As I mentioned before,  
44 you know, 200,000 is an important number in a lot of  
45 respects, but it's not a magic number, it's not even  
46 particularly significant biologically, but it's in a  
47 bunch of plans. And so this is what this herd's done  
48 since the 1970s, climbed, was relatively stable in the  
49 early '90s through the early 2000s and then started to  
50 drop. It dropped really rapidly here for a little while

1 and that was when animals all over northwestern Alaska  
2 dropped. Rain on snow events, long springs, long  
3 winters, moose, sheep, caribou, muskox too, basically all  
4 these animals suffered from that. Another thing to think  
5 about is at that time, you know, northwest Alaska was  
6 supporting, you know, almost a half million caribou plus  
7 high numbers of moose and almost as high a sheep as we've  
8 seen, you know, in a long time. All these animals were  
9 pretty high and were supporting a pretty high number of  
10 predators. And so then these snows come and these rains  
11 come and the long winters come and I think that between  
12 those affects on nutrition just by the weather itself and  
13 their inability to eat, their body condition seemed like  
14 it was going down. I think animals suffered pretty hard.

15  
16

17                   When we look at why animals die, right,  
18 that's something Raymond asks all the time, you know, how  
19 -- why isn't there 100,000 dead animals on the landscape.  
20 Well, for one thing that happens over many years so in  
21 any given year you're not talking about that many, you  
22 might be talking about 50,000 animals that are dead on  
23 the landscape. And where do they go, a lot of them are  
24 eaten. You know, I visit a lot of collars from caribou  
25 that are dead and a lot of time you can't see anything  
26 there really, you know, maybe a bone or two and there's  
27 not very much to see. On the North Slope where a lot  
28 more animals die of starvation there's more to see. I  
29 mean, you can see a big hair explosion basically because  
30 all that really happened to them is they got pulled apart  
31 by foxes or something. And so it leaves a big mark and  
32 you can kind of see that from the air, but if it's really  
33 killed by a large predator you usually don't see very  
34 much. Sometimes a bear like buries it, but you can't  
35 even really see that from the air a lot of times, you  
36 know. So what are we seeing. A lot of times, you know,  
37 there's just -- there's not carcasses littered across the  
38 landscape unless there was a really big event. We seem  
39 them -- you know, Cape Lisburne and Point Hope sometimes,  
40 you see a lot of animals that die at one time and there  
41 all of a sudden there's a hundred dead animals on this  
42 hillside, you know, but that's the exception rather than  
43 the rule. Calves, what happens when they die. Well,  
44 they're so small they basically just disappear and turn  
45 into poop, you know, there's not much left of them.

46  
47

48                   But where we are now, right, we're right  
49 on the edge of this number. This number means something  
50 because it's in all these plans, 200,000 is the intensive  
management threshold for the State, so when that

1 population goes below 200,000 or when the harvestable  
2 surplus, however we're calculating that, drops below  
3 12,000, the State is obligated to look at intensive  
4 management which in this case basically means predator  
5 control. And so there's been talk about that, why aren't  
6 we doing anything. Well, again it's not a magic number,  
7 but that's a number where we take it all of a sudden that  
8 much more seriously and start to think about those things  
9 much more seriously.

10  
11           So what's happening right now. That's  
12 sort of the bad news, right, we kept going down at 5  
13 percent per year, maybe we'll continue to do that, maybe  
14 we won't. But when you look out on the most recent  
15 numbers here, this is calf recruitment. I remember  
16 something this summer at a meeting I went to, we looked  
17 at -- we look at two different things right now in terms  
18 of calves, what is the number of calves in the population  
19 or the proportion of calves in the population in April  
20 compared to everybody else. So are there a lot of calves  
21 that made it all the way through the years and that's  
22 what that number is. And that number was as high as  
23 we've seen in a long time. So back here. So that's a  
24 really good sign, we had a lot of calves in the  
25 population. The other neat thing about that is not that  
26 many calves were born that year so a lot survived,  
27 clearly a ton survived. We have additional evidence for  
28 that and so that's a sample that comes from looking at  
29 about 10,000 animals. We have a much smaller sample of  
30 calves that we collared at Onion Portage, just 30. And  
31 at another meeting somebody was picking on me about it's  
32 only 30. Well, it's only 30 in that one case, but this  
33 is 10,000. So and they're basically asking kind of the  
34 same question, how many calves are making it through the  
35 year. And what we saw there is that 82 percent of the  
36 calves survived from October to July when we looked at  
37 them again. And so that's amazing. And it's not the  
38 whole year, you know. A lot -- obviously a lot of calves  
39 die between when they're born and October, you know. So  
40 it's not the whole year, but it gives us an idea at least  
41 for the winter what's going on.

42  
43           Which brings me to another question, you  
44 know, that I might as well bring up now. There seems to  
45 be a lot of interest in figuring out what happens between  
46 July and October to those calves. And what that means  
47 for us is probably doing a calf mortality study. And one  
48 of the things I'd asked you guys to talk about at some  
49 point here is are you guys interested in that. At the  
50 Western Arctic Working Group there was interest in doing

1 such a study and we're interested in hearing from all the  
2 ACs and the RACs if people are interested in that because  
3 for us to undertake that is a pretty big deal, it's  
4 expensive and it's pretty disturbing on the landscape,  
5 you know. We got to bring helicopters onto the calving  
6 grounds to catch those calves and, you know, it's an  
7 important question to ask and like anything else you have  
8 to ask is the benefit to try to answer those questions  
9 worth the cost both in terms of money and disturbance.

10

11                   The other good sign here right now, and  
12 this is sort of a preliminary number, this is our  
13 mortality year. We calculate mortality from October to  
14 October so it basically just ended a few days ago. But  
15 this right now is looking to be the lowest one we've ever  
16 seen, the lowest mortality. So the proportion of adult  
17 females that survived right now is the highest we've ever  
18 seen. So that's another really good news.

19

20                   So going back to this, you know, are we  
21 going to continue down at 5 percent per year. Well,  
22 what's this winter going to be like. If we have a pretty  
23 easy winter I would say probably not, you know. If we  
24 have a tough winter, quite possibly, you know. What we  
25 have right now, and Pippa was reading this from this  
26 report, right now we have a lot of calves that were born  
27 this year, you know, that population's made up of a lot  
28 of calves. We have a lot of yearlings that survived from  
29 the year before. So a big part of this population is  
30 pretty young animals. And that's dangerous in the sense  
31 that they don't survive as well as adults, right, so  
32 they're still kind of dancing on the edge of being a  
33 successful, caribou, right. But if they go another two  
34 or three years there's a pulse of caribou then that are  
35 in that population that are going to start reproducing  
36 and producing more calves. And that's really something  
37 there. And so when people ask, you know, what's this  
38 herd going to do, I mean, the short answer is I don't  
39 know, but if we have another good winter it's possible --  
40 a turnaround is certainly possible, but I'm not going to  
41 pretend that I know that that's the case by any means.

42

43                   When you look back at this graph on the  
44 left that's a period when growth was happening. So you  
45 go back to that period when they were ramping up, that's  
46 the same time period. So that's when calf recruitment  
47 was exceeding adult female mortality. So more calves  
48 were surviving to one year than adults were dying and so  
49 the population's growing. Then we get into that stable  
50 period when they're basically doing the same thing, you

1 know, in any given year one's greater than the other, but  
2 they're basically doing the same thing so that's this  
3 stable section kind of in the middle. Then we get into  
4 the decrease phase and you see that adult female  
5 mortality in the red just flew about calf survival, I  
6 mean, there was no way this herd was keeping up and they  
7 were dropping at 15 percent per year. They -- there's no  
8 way that they could, you know, maintain themselves. But  
9 now here we are again and it's just one year data, I  
10 would totally acknowledge that, just one year of data,  
11 but here we have them switched again and so growth is  
12 possible. I mean, and in fact it's likely at least for  
13 one year. So that's the good news, right, there's a lot  
14 of good signs.

15  
16                   When we went to Onion Portage this year  
17 we weigh calves and we weighed 38 calves and those calves  
18 were the second highest we've ever weighed, lower only  
19 than last year which was the highest. And if going into  
20 fall which I believe it is, if going into fall in good  
21 shape, being heavy, fat is a good sign that you're going  
22 to survive the winter which makes sense to me, then we  
23 have another year where animals are in pretty good shape  
24 at Onion Portage at least and they look like they're  
25 pretty well set up to survive the winter as long as it's  
26 not a really hard winter.

27  
28                   So calf weights are high, calf births are  
29 high, calf survival is high and adult survival is also  
30 high. So there's some good signs. That doesn't change  
31 the fact that we were -- we've been declining for a while  
32 though. So you have to ask yourself what's going to  
33 happen here, are we going to stabilize, are we going to  
34 increase, are we going to decrease. All these things are  
35 still possible right now. I mean, anything's possible,  
36 it's caribou, right.

37  
38                   Man this is hard to read. So these  
39 pieces of data they're -- like I've been saying they're  
40 a combination of good and bad news. So 200,000 caribou,  
41 over 200,000, that's still a lot of caribou, you know,  
42 there's still a lot of caribou, it's not like the '70s  
43 yet at all. From the State's perspective, you know,  
44 we're trying to stick to the Western Arctic Working Group  
45 plan which suggests that as long as you're still in that  
46 conservative phase even if you're declining you can  
47 harvest at 6 percent. And the State basically interprets  
48 that as no more than 6 percent, we prob -- I mean, it's  
49 declining so we don't really want to do any more than 6  
50 percent. But if we do 6 percent of the population then

1 there's enough caribou to harvest to meet the historical  
2 need. So if you look back at what harvest has been,  
3 about 12,000 locally plus a few hundred more from non-  
4 locals, we still have enough for that, you know. That's  
5 base -- and that basically was the State's position, you  
6 know, in 16-03 is there's enough. That doesn't talk  
7 about user conflicts or anything like that necessarily,  
8 that's not about that. I mean, obviously the request  
9 addressed some of those things, but in terms of just the  
10 number of animals the State is basically saying that  
11 there's enough for historical need. A lot of caribou.  
12 The decline does appear to have slowed, 5 percent versus  
13 15 percent. Again adult female survival is very high,  
14 overwinter calf survival is very high and calf weights a  
15 few weeks ago were also very high.

16  
17                   The bad news like I've been saying is  
18 we're getting closer and closer to these values, these  
19 critical values, 12,000 is the ANS value for the State  
20 when we start to think about managing hunts differently  
21 in terms of, you know, strictly subsistence versus other  
22 things. It's near those State intensive management  
23 population and harvest objectives so we have to start  
24 thinking about predator control and stuff like that. And  
25 then the other question is at some point we're getting  
26 really close to the time when harvest is more than  
27 harvestable surplus and that means we got to reduce  
28 something.

29  
30                   So what happens if this herd continues  
31 down even at a slow rate. So what I've -- in the next  
32 slide here what I'm talking about is if we did continue  
33 down at 5 percent a year, if we -- if next year we were  
34 5 percent lower this is what we're looking at. So you  
35 see on the top here this is a broad time period when we  
36 could talk about harvesting at 6 percent. Now back when  
37 the herd was really, really high we weren't even coming  
38 close to 6 percent, you know, because harvests have been  
39 really stable, I mean, it's remarkably stable how --  
40 remarkable how stable they've been. But so we weren't  
41 even doing 6 percent, but as we get closer and closer  
42 down to here, this is getting closer to actually killing  
43 6 percent of the herd. And this is harvest, the red line  
44 is harvest, all harvest combined. And so what we see  
45 here is when this line meets this line which it looks  
46 like it's very close to doing right now, we have to start  
47 to manage harvest a little bit more seriously.

48  
49                   I talked to Pippa a little bit earlier  
50 about this, a little bit of a misconception here. Right

1 now based on the plan we're still harvesting at 6  
2 percent. What we would like to do if this herd gets into  
3 that preservative phase is switch to doing 2 percent of  
4 the cows and 15 percent of the bulls. And if we do that  
5 that means that we think that we can afford this much  
6 less harvest. And that's about 20 percent, 20 percent  
7 less harvest. So what happens then. And again this is  
8 just a what if, right, because like I said I -- we could  
9 go up right now, we could still go up, we can stabilize  
10 for a little while, we could go down at 5 percent again.  
11 You know, I don't know the answer, but I think what's  
12 really important and the reason why we have management  
13 plans and things like this is so that you have a good  
14 idea of what you might want to do in the future. So, you  
15 know, the questions I'd ask now are what regulations  
16 would work best to reduce harvest and how can we better  
17 track harvest. The State has some proposals right now,  
18 some of them address user conflict and controlled use  
19 areas, but two that regard this are about harvest tickets  
20 and then about the State has one in to talk about moving  
21 the caribou hunt to a registration permit mostly so we  
22 can monitor it a little bit better and to give us some  
23 tools. The Board of Game gives us tools to manage that  
24 are different than when we're under a harvest ticket  
25 hunt.

26  
27                   So if we needed to reduce harvest by 20  
28 percent how could we do that. So straight up numbers on  
29 average nonresidents account for about 2 and a half  
30 percent of the Western Arctic harvest. You've heard that  
31 many times before. Non-local residents though, everybody  
32 else in Alaska that's not from the herd's range, account  
33 for another 2 and a half percent. So if we were to  
34 assume that those could be completely eliminated and I  
35 think for the purposes of conversation we should just do  
36 that for a second, assume that they're not part of it,  
37 we've got another 15 percent to go that have to come from  
38 local people basically. And Vern mentioned, you know,  
39 switching from five to three. There's lots and lots of  
40 ways to do it, many ways to skin a cat. But one thing I  
41 will say though is that given the importance of this  
42 resource to the area, the huge area that it uses, from  
43 Barrow to Unalakleet, there are a lot of people involved  
44 here and that's part of the reason why the State talks  
45 about this working group so much. We kind of feel like  
46 it's our main hope to try to get people on the same page,  
47 you know, and agreeing on things.

48  
49                   We won't really know the results of what  
50 happened with this Federal closure in unit 23, did it

1 just move where hunting took place, did it change the  
2 total amount. We won't really know the results of that  
3 for at least until mid winter, you know, what really  
4 happened as a result of that. But I've heard what you  
5 guys had to say in terms of moving people around at least  
6 and people being, you know, pretty satisfied with that it  
7 sounds like. And so the question that I still don't know  
8 the answer to is did it really change harvest very much.  
9 And so it's maybe, you know, a solution that you guys are  
10 proposing for user conflict, but I'm not entirely sure  
11 what it does for conservation generally, you know.

12  
13                   Those are maybe two different parts to  
14 that whole story. Basic ideas, you know, the way that  
15 the State, you know, or any wildlife manager normally  
16 approaches this stuff is changing seasons and bag limits,  
17 you know. Right now most of the harvest no matter where  
18 you come from in the range of the herd it still generally  
19 comes from four months. Maybe they're not always the  
20 same months, but they -- most of the harvest tends to  
21 occur in any given place in just four months. And so you  
22 can eliminate some of those months. And that's often a  
23 preference for enforcement officers because there's  
24 hunting and then there's not hunting, right, it's easy  
25 for them to understand. A lot of local people, they want  
26 to be able to go when the going's good, you know, and  
27 that's a real consideration for people, you know, it's  
28 not -- it's a simple solution, but sometimes simple  
29 solutions are not always the best, you know. We can  
30 change bag limits. Again Vern mentioned changing the  
31 daily bag limit from five to three. What would we do.  
32 Unit 22 has an annual bag limit now. Last winter they  
33 proposed to have an annual bag limit imposed on them and  
34 a registration hunt. So they're limit per person is 20  
35 caribou in unit 22 now and that's something that they  
36 chose to do or chose to propose and that the Board agreed  
37 to and adopted.

38  
39                   Twenty, that's a lot for a lot of people,  
40 for some people, not very many people, but for some  
41 people that's not very many, you know. There's people  
42 that kill a lot more caribou than that. And so how do  
43 you accommodate that. Again here's sort of a simple  
44 solution, but I'm not sure that again that works for some  
45 people so how are you going to accommodate those people  
46 that feed lots of other people and kill a lot of caribou.  
47 So that's a question in my mind and I'm not even going to  
48 pretend that I know the answer to that one, you know.

49  
50                   Quotas. You know, you can have and a lot

1 of places where we hunt moose in particular we have  
2 quotas for a specific area. So you could imagine, you  
3 know, Kobuk drainage quota. Everybody that, you know,  
4 hunts in the Kobuk drainage would have all hunting  
5 towards some quota. You could have a unit wide quota,  
6 you know 26 has a quota of 2,000 caribou, 23 has a quota  
7 of 8,000 caribou and 22 has a quota of 2,500 caribou,  
8 whatever those numbers are, you know. And then everybody  
9 just kind of hunts toward that quota. You could split it  
10 up seasonally, you could say we want to hunt 80 percent  
11 of those in the fall and the other 20 percent in the  
12 winter, you know, so that we still have, you know, lots  
13 of opportunity, you know. But the point being here is  
14 that something's got to give, right, people really want  
15 to be efficient, you know, they want a big bag limit so  
16 when I go out I don't want to waste gas, you know, I want  
17 to fill my boat and I want to get as many caribou as I  
18 can fit in that boat and I want to be able to go when the  
19 going's good. Lots of people want that, but at some  
20 point if that's what happens then we need to set a cap  
21 some other way, you know. And I don't really know what  
22 you guys would think about that or what solutions you  
23 would propose.

24

25                   There were a lot of questions that people  
26 asked earlier, if you guys want to ask other questions I  
27 could try to address them, but I'll just probably stop  
28 right now and I don't know, have a conversation.

29

30                   MS. LOON: Is it 20 caribous per day.....

31

32                   REPORTER: Can't hear you, Hannah. Thank  
33 you.

34

35                   MS. LOON: Oh, this is Hannah Loon. You  
36 said something about 20 caribou per day. Can you clarify  
37 for me on that?

38

39                   MR. PARRETT: Yeah. So unit 22 chose 20  
40 caribou per year as their limit. So each person, you  
41 know, and I think that's important to clarify. I  
42 remember when I was at Onion Portage I -- we sat with a  
43 couple different hunters from Noorvik for a little while  
44 and they were like ah, the limit's only five. And I said  
45 well, five, 10, 15, 20, right, and they were like what.  
46 And I said, yeah, 20 man, more than your boat can handle.  
47 And I think that's an important thing to clarify. But in  
48 this case it's 20 per individual.

49

50                   MR. CLEVELAND: Per individual or per

1 household?

2

3 MR. PARRETT: Individual is what they  
4 have right now.

5

6 MR. CLEVELAND: Oh, that's too much.

7

8 MR. SHIEDT: It's by the State.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So on the population of  
11 this herd, you know, that it has been during a lot of  
12 collarings at Onion Point. So you actually been -- and  
13 again this fall you have to do some collaring at Onion  
14 Portage?

15

16 MR. PARRETT: We did already, yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. How many did  
19 you.....

20

21 MR. PARRETT: Thirty-three adults and 30  
22 calves.

23

24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. So the question  
25 came not only from me, but when they first started that  
26 about 20 years ago.....

27

28 (Announcements)

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....so my question is  
31 20 years ago they put normal collar.....

32

33 MS. LOON: (In Native)

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Other --  
36 otherwise some of those collars were fall -- fell off  
37 this caribou. Now they start putting satellites in them.  
38 So the satellite system on these caribou, you know, that  
39 -- I don't know how long they'll last because we seen a  
40 lot of dead caribou that had satellite collars. Now if  
41 that caribou happen to die wearing that satellite system  
42 is that usable, you know, for human use, food, if it ever  
43 die because, you know, it's a -- you know, satellite  
44 system is different thing all together.....

45

46 MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....it's just like a  
49 telephone.

50

1 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, that's fine for  
2 people to eat or harvest. We don't -- you know, since  
3 we're not using drugs or anything like that in those  
4 caribou the only thing they have is that collar and, I  
5 mean, as far as I know that's not harming them in any  
6 other way than some rubbing that you see sometimes, you  
7 know.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

10  
11 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, you're welcome.

12  
13 MS. LOON: This is Hannah Loon. You said  
14 you were collaring calves, are these baby ones that you  
15 -- did you put baby collars on them and when they grow  
16 big like to two year old will it choke them?

17  
18 MR. PARRETT: So the ones we've been  
19 doing so far, we've been doing at Onion Portage and those  
20 are, you know, four months old or whatever, they have two  
21 expansion sections so they've got elastic basically. So  
22 they can grow for the rest of that fall and winter and  
23 stuff like that. We have that set so the maximum size it  
24 reaches is the average size of an adult female collar.  
25 So if it's a female it's really -- it could wear it for  
26 the rest of its life and probably be okay. The males  
27 couldn't. And so we have it -- it falls apart. And so  
28 I just looked -- I just went and radio tracked five days  
29 ago I guess or something like that now to see how many of  
30 the ones we put out last year are still on and I listened  
31 for all the ones that had survived and I only heard three  
32 or something. So I think most of them have fallen off  
33 and are probably somewhere on the North Slope or  
34 something like that, that's where the collars fell off.  
35 So and I used a bunch of these in another study and if  
36 anything they fall off too early and confuse you because  
37 then you don't know did it just break off while it was  
38 still alive or did it die and you just don't know what  
39 happened. But that's the cost benefit, right.

40  
41 MS. LOON: I have another question. Is  
42 the Seward Peninsula -- is the Western Arctic herd when  
43 they're on -- in the Seward Peninsula, the RAC can decide  
44 they can get 20 caribou per day because it's not fair for  
45 us RAC in Northwest region because they are caribou from  
46 this area, it's not fair to us here when we're trying to  
47 be in a conservative mode and them to hoard?

48  
49 Thank you.  
50

1 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, it's 20 a year. So  
2 it's not 20 a day.....  
3  
4 MS. LOON: Oh, okay.  
5  
6 MR. PARRETT: .....it's 20 a year with --  
7 that was the difference.  
8  
9 MS. LOON: I take it back. Thank you  
10 very much.  
11  
12 MR. PARRETT: But it's a good question,  
13 right, I mean, let's say it was 30 a year.....  
14  
15 MS. LOON: Yeah.  
16  
17 MR. PARRETT: .....all right. One of the  
18 things we did is Jim Magdanz put together this super neat  
19 little spreadsheet that kind of looks at people's habits  
20 basically from the data that they have. And one of the  
21 things we did with unit 22 is looked at how many people  
22 are shooting more than 20. And it's pretty common, you  
23 know, in unit 23 for some people to do that. It's  
24 actually pretty uncommon down there and we -- if -- you  
25 know, it's not a lot of data, but with that data it's  
26 suggested that if you did an annual bag limit of 20 very  
27 few people would be impacted at that point. And so what  
28 they were trying to do is -- again it's the same thing  
29 but different, right, I mean, they just said we want to  
30 do a little bit less to show we're doing our part, but  
31 it's not a huge restriction for people at this point.  
32 And so they choose 20 based on that, yeah.  
33  
34 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette, I just  
35 had a quick question. Did you say earlier that you're  
36 going to do another census next year?  
37  
38 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, in the working group  
39 plan -- thank you, Susan. In the working group plan it  
40 also in addition to management suggestions and things  
41 like that it also have suggestions about how often we do  
42 things. And one of the things that it suggests is when  
43 we get below 200 we start trying to get a number every  
44 year. In the past few years we've been trying every  
45 other year and 2015 was one of the first times we've ever  
46 tried and not been successful. It was really  
47 unfortunate, but at this point right now we're planning  
48 on trying every year.  
49  
50 MR. CLEVELAND: I think we're down to

1 200,000 caribou, that's critical. I mean, 200,000. A  
2 few years ago it was 235,000, now we're down to 200,000.  
3 This is alarming. I mean, this is -- we have to do  
4 something about it, we just can't go on and say we're  
5 going to do it next year, we got to do something about it  
6 right now, not tomorrow, got to do something about it  
7 today. Because if we don't do it now then, you know, us  
8 as hunters we're going to be hurting big time. We're  
9 going to hurt ourselves. So we have to look at it the  
10 broad way. By the time they get to Seward Peninsula all  
11 them bulls they all stink to high heaven, I mean, they  
12 don't get no bulls over there. And most of you guys know  
13 it, they don't get no bulls because they -- they already  
14 in rut by the time they get there. So what else do they  
15 get, females.

16  
17                   That's -- and maybe we should go to Nome  
18 and meet with the Seward Peninsula people and see what  
19 they say on when they get the caribou over there. That's  
20 what I want to hear, that's what I -- somebody brought  
21 that up earlier. And that would be a good point right  
22 there to go meet with the people in Nome and see what  
23 they say about that, right then the caribou gets there  
24 from our area.

25  
26                   MR. PARRETT: I mean, again.....

27  
28                   MR. CLEVELAND: I would love to hear what  
29 they say.

30  
31                   MR. PARRETT: And that's partly why, you  
32 know, we really talk about the working group because  
33 there are people from the Seward Peninsula there and  
34 they're in the same room and that's one of the reasons  
35 why we think it's a really important group, you know.

36  
37                   The other thing I should say is that part  
38 of the reason why they wanted the -- sort of the trade I  
39 guess you could call it that they made, they wanted  
40 actually to hunt bulls again because there were these  
41 bull closures and they were like well, you know, we want  
42 to be able to hunt bulls right now when they come down  
43 there and we can choose young bulls or whatever or we --  
44 leave it up to us, don't worry about it, you know, we're  
45 -- we'll take care of ourselves, we just won't shoot more  
46 than 20. And so I -- there are, I mean, definitely the  
47 farther south you go generally the more cows people  
48 shoot, you know, but part of the reason they asked for  
49 this regulation is so they could have access to those  
50 bulls again.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Do their bulls -- I mean,  
2 do their hunt -- the bull season closed October 15th too  
3 in unit 22 or is it different from ours?

4

5 MR. PARRETT: It -- under State  
6 regulations it changed again July 1st so bulls are open  
7 there again. And it did close about the same time that  
8 it was closing in unit 23 before.

9

10 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. Thank you.  
11 Because by the time they get over there to Seward  
12 Peninsula right now I bet they won't even get no bull  
13 because that'll be closed. Look how -- look at today,  
14 what -- they got eight more days before they hit the  
15 Seward Peninsula and I doubt they -- they're not going to  
16 get no bulls over there. Climate change, maybe they got  
17 to start doing that regulation with how our climate  
18 changes. But who can predict mother nature.

19

20 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, their bulls are open  
21 year round now.

22

23 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. Thank you.

24

25 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. I mean, I guess I'd  
26 ask you, Vern, I mean, you know, what would you do,  
27 you're talking we got to do something, what would you do,  
28 what would you want to do?

29

30 MR. CLEVELAND: I love hunting caribou.  
31 I mean, I do. I mean, most of the year round, you know.  
32 But what would we do. I mean, that's a good question.  
33 What would you do if there's a critical point like this,  
34 Kramer?

35

36 MR. KRAMER: For our winter meeting  
37 coming up in March, I -- I'll be making a motion for a  
38 joint meeting between Northwest Arctic, North Slope,  
39 Western Interior and Seward Pen so we'll have a mutual  
40 meeting with all of them in March. So we'll be able to  
41 discuss those issues and be able to push forth all of our  
42 concerns. And I think that would be a great time to meet  
43 with all the other Regional Advisory Councils that are  
44 involved with the Western Arctic caribou herd. Because  
45 if we make drastic measures that all need to make drastic  
46 measures. And if they don't make drastic measures then  
47 we're going to just go put a big old fence right down  
48 their line. Why not, cut them off.

49

50 MR. CLEVELAND: Going to build a fence.

1 MR. KRAMER: I'll help.  
2  
3 MR. PARRETT: Okay, Mr. Trump.  
4  
5 (Laughter)  
6  
7 MR. CLEVELAND: All the regulations got  
8 to change and we've got to go from five per day to --  
9 it's got to go lower, lower than, you know, five per day.  
10 That's way too much to get five per day. And if you  
11 lower it down to three that's still lots. I talked to  
12 some elders in Kiana and Noorvik and they said well, I'm  
13 getting old, I can just handle three now. I mean, why  
14 should you get five now that you're hunting for somebody  
15 else. Three is good enough, you know. But if you go  
16 with a critical -- the way the critical is so low, damn,  
17 we got to go, we have to, we just can't keep going with  
18 five or 20 per year, we got to lower that number.  
19  
20 MR. PARRETT: But you said something  
21 interesting though, you said unless you're hunting for  
22 someone else, right?  
23  
24 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.  
25  
26 MR. PARRETT: So what do you do then?  
27  
28 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, take your wife  
29 along with you, you hunt for them.....  
30  
31 MR. PARRETT: Okay.  
32  
33 MR. CLEVELAND: .....and they'll hunt for  
34 us.  
35  
36 MR. PARRETT: Yeah.  
37  
38 MR. CLEVELAND: You let your partner do  
39 the hunting for somebody else when you have critical.  
40  
41 MR. SHIEDT: I'll be your someone else.  
42  
43 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. I knew -- I knew  
44 you were going to ask that question.  
45  
46 MS. KENNER: Was that a serious question?  
47  
48 MR. PARRETT: It was very serious.  
49  
50 MS. KENNER: Well, I'm not going to go

1 into the State's proxy system, this is Pippa again, Pippa  
2 Kenner with OSM, but in Federal regulations even times of  
3 conservation and lower harvest limits or seasons we have  
4 the designated hunter permit program. You do have to get  
5 a permit, but you can have up to two harvest limits on  
6 you at any one time and you can hunt for an unlimited  
7 number of people. So there are, you know, ways to get --  
8 to be able to hunt for others who need it.

9

10 MR. PARRETT: And it's not.....

11

12 MS. KENNER: And so what you would do is  
13 you would reduce that harvest limit from the potential of  
14 having 10 caribou on you at one time with the designated  
15 hunter permit to only six.

16

17 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, and the State -- like  
18 Pippa said the State has a corollary, it's not identical  
19 by any means, but you can proxy for other people in the  
20 State system too.

21

22 MR. KRAMER: I can remember -- this is  
23 Kramer, member Kramer, when I was in high school and back  
24 when the caribou were kind of -- I'm not too sure what  
25 they were back in the, you know, 1985, '84, '85, '86,  
26 back then, I know that back in the day they used to give  
27 us a pink harvest ticket and we had five separate tags  
28 and we were allowed to take five per year, either three  
29 in the fall and two in the spring or however you want to  
30 do it or if you wanted to take them all in the spring or  
31 all in the fall, you know, it was all up to you. You  
32 know, I'm wondering if after this coming winter's meeting  
33 in March, once we get the final number I think we should  
34 try and come up with either -- something like that to  
35 where we have to start going back to that again. I only  
36 kept three caribou this year, you know, I lost one to or  
37 we lost one to a bear, but I only kept three caribou and  
38 that's plenty for my freezer. I'm starting to lower my  
39 limit and, you know, my -- I -- my mom's older nowadays,  
40 she doesn't as much as she wants anymore. And that was  
41 -- might have to go back to that old tag and ticket limit  
42 of five per year, take a look at it, see what it pans out  
43 to I guess.

44

45 MR. PARRETT: And there is a Board of  
46 Game proposal that asks for that, you know, proposal two  
47 I think it is, asks to go to harvest tickets, you know.  
48 Doesn't necessarily change bag limits or anything like  
49 that, you know, I mean, you could still hunt five a day,  
50 but you have a harvest ticket and it would be another

1 step to say harvest ticket, 10 a year, five a year,  
2 whatever that is, you know, that would be a different  
3 step than what these people are asking for.

4  
5 MR. CLEVELAND: That's per person, right,  
6 five per.....

7  
8 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, that's per --  
9 whatever it is, yeah.

10  
11 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay.

12  
13 MR. KRAMER: Kramer again. What about  
14 for proxies, like if my grandmother wanted me to get her  
15 two caribou, can she fill out a proxy and I can get her  
16 her two caribou if she gets her own tag and tickets or  
17 whatever?

18  
19 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, I mean, who you can  
20 proxy for, there's some rules about who you can proxy for  
21 and that's I think one of the main differences between  
22 the State and Federal system is that, you know, I don't  
23 know how old your mom is, but I'm going to assume that  
24 she's going to meet the requirements.

25  
26 MR. KRAMER: She's 50 something.

27  
28 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, she's going to meet  
29 the requirements for a proxy. If you were handicapped or  
30 anything like that. You know, I can't ask you to proxy  
31 for me though.....

32  
33 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

34  
35 MR. PARRETT: .....you know. But I think  
36 you could on the Federal system.

37  
38 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

39  
40 MS. KENNER: Hi, it's Pippa Kenner again.  
41 Yeah, I know Eva's passing out the proposed regulation in  
42 State regs and I think I had read it. Could you explain  
43 a little bit about why we would want to go right to a  
44 registration permit, are people actually buying licenses  
45 yet it's only recently that there's been a movement to  
46 get people to start reporting their harvest with their  
47 harvest ticket?

48  
49 MR. PARRETT: I mean, I would say that  
50 there is no movement to get people to report harvest with

1 harvest tickets right now because like you -- you're sort  
2 of implying there that there's not enough people getting  
3 those, you know, for us to really work that system except  
4 for in a few places. And, you know, Nome in particular  
5 and unit 22 in general is a little bit more used to that,  
6 they have lots of moose registration hunts and tier II  
7 muskox and all kinds of regulations and stuff. And so I  
8 think those people have many years under their belt of  
9 that system, you know, but why would we go to a  
10 registration rather than harvest tickets. The difference  
11 in my opinion is that harvest ticket is, you know, it's  
12 a tool and hopefully it leads to more harvest reporting  
13 and, you know, people want that and that's definitely  
14 something I want. I mean, me trying to envision in the  
15 future managing without really understanding harvest, I  
16 mean, it's -- your just -- you're trying to ride a  
17 bicycle with no legs, you know, it just doesn't work  
18 really. But the difference again with the registration  
19 permit, the registration permit gives us a few more tools  
20 in what the Department calls discretionary authority. We  
21 have that permit and then we can go to -- when we were  
22 talking to the Board or what we will talk to the Board  
23 about is we would go back every year. So right now State  
24 regulations come up every three years and what we would  
25 do is go to the Board every year and say we've talked to  
26 all the communities and we would like to suggest this  
27 change. It doesn't have to be a huge change in  
28 regulations, it just becomes a change in, you know, our  
29 discretionary authority like oh, these guys have decided  
30 that they wanted to shift their season, you know, keep it  
31 five months, but shift it two weeks earlier now. We can  
32 just do that now, you know. We're going to let them know  
33 and we want to have that conversation and it's not like  
34 we're trying to keep anything under the radar or anything  
35 like that, but it gives us options basically.

36

37 MS. KENNER: Thank you. This is Pippa  
38 again. So what you're saying is that that information  
39 goes on the registration permit.....

40

41 MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

42

43 MS. KENNER: .....there's some  
44 flexibility there whereas if it's a harvest ticket  
45 there's not room to change.

46

47 MR. PARRETT: We can't even change those  
48 seasons without the Board's approval.....

49

50 MS. KENNER: Got it.

1 MR. PARRETT: .....you know, but with  
2 that registration we can change seasons, we can change  
3 hunt areas and stuff like that, we can do that under our  
4 authority.

5  
6 MS. KENNER: And would there be a rollout  
7 over a number of years?

8  
9 MR. PARRETT: And then what -- yeah.  
10 There's obviously -- obviously this is a change and  
11 change is hard and this would be the kind of thing that  
12 I think we would expect a real learning curve and getting  
13 people to work into the system. And I should just  
14 mention this. So registration permits come with this  
15 thing called failure to report, RM880, the moose permit  
16 has that, you know, you need to report your harvest  
17 otherwise you don't get another one next year or  
18 whatever. That is a huge part of the slow rollout. We  
19 would not anticipate rolling that out in a big way at  
20 all, you know, failure to report. I mean, this would be  
21 a huge change all by itself and we'll start slow, you  
22 know.

23  
24 MS. LOON: This is Hannah Loon. People  
25 ask if State is collecting all the information from the  
26 hunters with hunting licenses with caribou or moose  
27 permits. And I get calls from Department of Fish and  
28 Game to track down my nephew who is related to me, we  
29 need their moose report. And then sometimes I will go  
30 home and I will hear Tanya Ballot announcing so and so  
31 and so and so are -- report your moose ticket right now.  
32 So it's on the VHF. I just wanted to make sure that you  
33 know that.

34  
35 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. And that's -- you  
36 know, that -- RM880 is a moose registration permit and  
37 Brandon probably is far better suited than I to talk  
38 about that. But, yeah, we're actively pursuing that  
39 data, you know. The problem is that not enough people  
40 are getting those caribou ones, that we haven't really  
41 pursued them very hard because we know that, you know,  
42 from studies that Susan has done that, you know, if not  
43 enough people are getting those you're not really  
44 understanding what harvest is without going through  
45 community harvest surveys.

46  
47 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Lincoln. It's  
48 Pippa Kenner again with OSM. And so is one of the  
49 potential problems that there isn't a vender in every  
50 village?

1 MR. PARRETT: That's certainly a problem,  
2 I mean, and that's something we acknowledge, keeping  
3 vendors going in communities is difficult. And so, you  
4 know, I mean, obviously you can get things online and  
5 it's funny, you know, I -- you think about oh, well,  
6 that's not necessarily a solution, you know, and it's not  
7 a perfect solution, but there's a computer right over  
8 there.

9  
10 MS. KENNER: But you have to have a  
11 credit card, right?

12  
13 MR. PARRETT: Again, you know, I mean,  
14 it's -- again it's not a perfect solution, but, I mean,  
15 maybe one thing instead of working on vendors it would be  
16 working on computer access, you know, I mean, that's  
17 maybe in some ways money better spent.

18  
19 MS. KENNER: But you have to buy a  
20 license?

21  
22 MR. PARRETT: True.

23  
24 MR. KRAMER: Hi, Mike Kramer again. I  
25 know, you know, these tickets back in the past were  
26 always a problem. You know, I know the State -- the  
27 Federal government recognizes the State's harvest tickets  
28 back in the day when they used to give us the blue ones  
29 and it had a ticket number. And on the back of my  
30 hunting license it had the ticket number and it said  
31 caribou. When you were up at my camp on the Kobuk --  
32 near the Kobuk sand dunes and Park Service agents pull  
33 up, I advised them to say below the high watermark as  
34 they're -- they'd be trespassing on private property.  
35 They continued to say, no, this is Park lands, no, this  
36 is private property. Step off a little ways and I'll be  
37 more comfortable, but anyways they -- I don't know  
38 whether they were just being smart or, you know, just  
39 trying to push the fact, but they said do you have a  
40 hunting license. Well, my kids that were with me were  
41 all under the age of 16 so I pulled out my hunting  
42 license, my blue caribou ticket and that guy said you  
43 know what, we're going to have to cite you, this is not  
44 a caribou ticket. I said you cite me, it's not going to  
45 be good so I suggest you guys go back there, jump down in  
46 your little boat and go back down to Kiana, get  
47 reformed, come back up here and then let's have a chit  
48 chat below the high tide mark. They dropped the subject  
49 and they said okay, have a nice day and they left. But  
50 I think it would be very beneficial for the State of

1 Alaska in order to start promoting people to get hunting  
2 licenses, caribou tickets, and say hey, Mr. Kramer, hey,  
3 cool, you got your hunting license, your hunting,  
4 trapping, sportfishing, whatever it is I get, and you got  
5 your caribou tag, your RM880. Hey, we get your caribou  
6 harvest ticket back when it's supposed to be returned and  
7 we get your moose harvest ticket back when you get it  
8 returned, we'll take \$5 off your next hunting license.  
9 Hey, it comes in full circle, people will start turning  
10 those in and it'll make it beneficial for them to be able  
11 to get another hunting license the next year with \$5 off.

12  
13 MR. PARRETT: Uh-huh.

14  
15 MR. KRAMER: Anything to help make it  
16 beneficial for people, to make it easier to be able to  
17 afford something like that. You know, something like  
18 that should always be looked at and it's beneficial.

19  
20 MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

21  
22 MR. KRAMER: And all you're looking for  
23 is just that reporting.

24  
25 MR. PARRETT: Uh-huh.

26  
27 MR. KRAMER: That reporting helps in the  
28 end with, you know, harvest, counts, everything else like  
29 that. It helps your guys' data base and it also helps  
30 other people when it comes down to getting their hunting  
31 licenses. Yeah, State's going to take a little cut, but  
32 they're going to get something back in data.....

33  
34 MR. PARRETT: Yeah.

35  
36 MR. KRAMER: .....and that's going to  
37 help even more. And I think the Federal government also  
38 needs to go with -- I mean, the Park Service and whoever  
39 else needs to go that same route too and support it.

40  
41 That's all I got.

42  
43 MR. PARRETT: That's a great idea, I've  
44 never heard that one before.

45  
46 MR. SHIEDT: I think we have another  
47 ADF&G or were you the final?

48  
49 MR. PARRETT: No, I'm -- no, Brandon  
50 wants to talk about moose.....

1 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead.  
2  
3 MR. PARRETT: .....and he should talk  
4 about moose.  
5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: I mean, we need to continue  
7 on due to time. We need to move on. Sorry, people, we  
8 need to move on. So come on we need to finish and wrap  
9 this up.  
10  
11 MR. SAITO: Mr. Chair, my name is Brandon  
12 Saito, I work for Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
13 Kotzebue. And I'd like to give a report.  
14  
15 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, continue.  
16  
17 MR. SAITO: Okay. First I'd like to  
18 start off with the Fish and Game's Subsistence Division  
19 report. This is from Nikki Braem. And she has two  
20 projects that are winding down currently. One is the OSM  
21 key northwest fisheries project which was a three year  
22 project documenting subsistence fisheries, climate change  
23 impacts, traditional educational knowledge in eight  
24 communities. And she'll be sending out reports for  
25 review soon.  
26  
27 The other is a Chukchi Sea and Norton  
28 Sound observation network which was another three year  
29 project in nine communities in the Bering Strait, NANA  
30 region and North Slope. And the -- these were  
31 comprehensive surveys coupled with key respondent  
32 interviews.  
33  
34 And then next on the docket for her is in  
35 2017 she's anticipating doing more big game, like caribou  
36 harvest surveys in communities which are not selected  
37 yet. But in 2016 they surveyed Brevig, Teller and White  
38 Mountain.  
39  
40 So next I wanted to talk to you about  
41 moose. As Susan had already gone over a portion of this  
42 you can stop me anytime if it's too repetitious. But we  
43 surveyed the Selawik drainage, this area, I thought this  
44 would be important for this meeting in 2011 and the  
45 population of moose was 1,739. And then just this -- in  
46 April, 2016 we -- our total survey was 940 moose. And  
47 the two populations represent a 46 percent decline  
48 between 2011 and 2016 or a 12 percent annual rate of  
49 decline in the same period.  
50

1 Harvest information is another really  
2 important part about this. You have that report in front  
3 of you. I just documented 2011 through 2015 the number  
4 of moose harvested from harvest tickets. And like we  
5 were talking about with the caribou, we have the RM880  
6 harvest ticket and then the general season moose harvest  
7 tickets, but as you can see here in 2011 we had five unit  
8 23 residents harvest moose in the Selawik drainage which  
9 I'm sure most people in Selawik wouldn't agree with. But  
10 in this household survey that Nikki Braem did their  
11 survey calculated 40 moose that were harvested from local  
12 residents in Selawik. And so that's a pretty large  
13 disparity between what's reported and then what the  
14 household surveys say. And so that leads -- when we're  
15 trying to calculate hunt management and how many moose  
16 are harvested, that really makes it a big problem.

17  
18 For other Alaska residents outside of  
19 unit 23 and nonresidents, we feel like we have fairly  
20 well -- fairly good compliance. And but with these  
21 household surveys that works fairly well. And so what  
22 we've been trying to do is work well with communities to  
23 get better compliance with the RM880, get more people to  
24 get those permits to get better reporting on those and  
25 it's been working out, it's getting better. But this was  
26 just a scary one. But so for this -- in the bottom table  
27 on that page, table five, we just combined the  
28 subsistence household information, an average of that,  
29 which we used for 50 moose and then the combination of  
30 other Alaska residents outside of unit 23 with  
31 nonresidents and came up with a total of about 70 moose  
32 that are probably being taken out of this drainage, the  
33 Selawik drainage which is about 7 percent which is high,  
34 a high harvest, but we believe that it's -- that it's  
35 okay, it's acceptable at this point.

36  
37 But some other observations. I guess one  
38 thing to point out is that there's fairly large gaps  
39 between these surveys and the large gaps are due to  
40 there's more -- I mean, there's -- in unit 23 we have six  
41 different areas that we survey and so we have to rotate  
42 around and so it's -- we try to do it every three years  
43 in each area, but sometimes it takes longer. And so  
44 that's -- three years between surveys, a lot can happen.  
45 And so sometimes we have to rely a lot on what people are  
46 seeing out there and a lot of people have come back that,  
47 you know, have helped participate in these surveys and  
48 said that it doesn't look that great. And so that's why  
49 we were kind of worried about moose. I mean, this  
50 decline is worrying by itself, but further declines can

1 really push us over the edge. So we just -- we didn't  
2 have any real concrete things to bring to you about how  
3 to change the seasons, but we just wanted to let you guys  
4 know that we're starting to think about what we can do.  
5 Currently we have some of the most liberal moose hunting  
6 regulations in the State and we have a Federal hunting  
7 season that goes from August to March 31st with the  
8 antlerless moose we can kill cows. Currently we don't  
9 kill too many cows, but we're susceptible to that if  
10 people -- if caribou continue to decline, I mean, moose  
11 are probably one of the next, you know, large mammals  
12 that we're going to be consuming and cows can be easily  
13 harvested. In the community household surveys it was --  
14 in 2011 there were only two cows that were reported  
15 killed. So it's very, very minimal, but cows are much  
16 more important to the population than bulls.

17  
18 So we just wanted to bring this to your  
19 attention and get you thinking about this. There's lots  
20 of different ways we can go about this.

21  
22 I guess I just kind of wanted to go over  
23 some of these permits and seasons we have. There's two  
24 different permits you can get for up here, there's the  
25 general season and on State land that's only September  
26 1st through the 20th and it's a bull that's larger than  
27 50 inches so it's a pretty restrictive hunt. And then  
28 that RM880 hunt that we were talking about, that's --  
29 it's only during a certain time period that you can get  
30 that, it's June 15th through July or June through July  
31 15th and so you'd have to be here in unit 23 to get that  
32 permit. And that's trying to limit the amount of people  
33 that get that permit. Currently we get about 600 people  
34 that apply for that permit. And that's been a really  
35 tough thing for our office is to keep on top of those  
36 permits, that's -- I mean, we have to make sure that  
37 we're trying to get 99 percent of those people that get  
38 those permits to reply with either they hunted or they  
39 didn't, what they -- you know, what they took and where  
40 it was taken. And that takes a lot of legwork just  
41 calling the villages, not everybody has a phone number,  
42 sending out emails, letters and it -- and that's one  
43 thing to consider on the caribou is, you know, if we go  
44 to a registration how are we going to gain that  
45 compliance for, you know, thousands of people instead of  
46 just 600. But I guess then there's also the drawing for  
47 nonresidents. And so that's one step that's the State's  
48 been taking. In the recent years we've been reducing  
49 that number, there was originally 68 of those permits and  
50 then we've dropped it down 25 percent to 51 and then

1 dropped it down 25 percent again, now it's 38. And so  
2 we're continually trying to reduce the number of out of  
3 state permits. But I think the larger portion is this  
4 Federal Board with extended Federal season.

5  
6 So if there's any questions?

7  
8 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Hannah.

9  
10 MS. LOON: You said you have of the 940  
11 moose you have 630 permits?

12  
13 MR. SAITO: Not -- yeah, it's about that,  
14 600 permits is through all unit 23. That 940 is just for  
15 the Selawik drainage.

16  
17 MS. LOON: Okay. So for the northwest  
18 area the population is 1,739?

19  
20 MR. SAITO: For the -- for unit 23 it's  
21 like 7,000.

22  
23 MS. LOON: Okay. Thank you.

24  
25 MR. SHIEDT: I have a question. You said  
26 Nikki did some surveys, were her surveys done under stats  
27 or house to house surveys?

28  
29 MR. SAITO: Yeah, house to house surveys.  
30 So they generally.....

31  
32 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

33  
34 Go ahead, Vern.

35  
36 MR. CLEVELAND: Do they tell the truth?

37  
38 MR. SAITO: I don't know, you tell me.

39  
40 MR. CLEVELAND: I mean, do they tell the  
41 truth when they tell you that they -- when they're  
42 reporting do they -- I mean, I seen some guys -- maybe I  
43 shouldn't say, but, I mean, man -- I mean, you just don't  
44 get one moose. Soon as it open up there's one -- we got  
45 guys out, you know, hunting moose, no permit, no license,  
46 some of them don't have no permit, no license. They just  
47 go out there bang moose and come back and say hey, that's  
48 not enough, let's go get another one. And he goes for  
49 days. Those regulations just.....

50

1 MR. SAITO: That's.....

2

3 MR. CLEVELAND: That's got to be stopped.  
4 I mean, we got to -- we got to get this information to  
5 our people, but how, we're losing ground. The decline of  
6 moose now and caribou, this is -- we got to get the  
7 message to our people that you just can't go out there  
8 and just bang anything you want, you know, anything that  
9 moves. You know, that's how we used to hunt in my  
10 younger days, anything that moves I'll shoot, you know,  
11 any -- anything that moves. That's how them younger guys  
12 are thinking, I know because anything that moves they're  
13 going to shoot. And we got to get this information out  
14 to our people somehow not to, just get what they need,  
15 not just for game hunting, not just for sporthunting,  
16 just put food on the table. Not just to go out there and  
17 play around, we got to talk to those younger guys. We  
18 were young before, they all know that, they did -- they  
19 done that before too, I done it for years. I never even  
20 bought a license until three years ago, all my life never  
21 bought a hunting license, never bought a moose permit,  
22 never bought nothing until someone say, Vern, you're  
23 going to get busted one of these days. Certainly. Soon  
24 as I got my first caribou here comes a Fish and Game and  
25 by god I was lucky had my license. He come, Vern, do you  
26 have your license, moose permit, hand them over. I was  
27 lucky, I got lucky, I had my hunting license, permit in  
28 my boat. But some other guys they don't. If they see a  
29 plane coming in that's landing, Fish and Game, they're  
30 gone.

31

32 MR. SAITO: Well.....

33

34 MR. CLEVELAND: So we got to do a -- with  
35 this regulation most -- we got to get the word out.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

40

41 Thank you, Vern.

42

43 MS. LOON: I would like to go back to  
44 Lance's. This is pretty serious, everybody agree, go  
45 back to Lance's motion. Let's not wait around and he  
46 made a motion awhile ago to -- Mike. I'm sorry, Mike.  
47 Mike made a motion awhile ago to close the moose season  
48 and somebody was seconded, I would like to go back to  
49 that one.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: This is at what area,  
2 Selawik or.....  
3  
4 MS. LOON: Game unit.  
5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: .....all 23?  
7  
8 MS. LOON: Federal lands.  
9  
10 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead. I was  
11 thinking -- sorry, Zach. I saw you, but I was somewhere  
12 else.  
13  
14 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. We  
15 had one more agency report and that was Stewart Cogswell  
16 on OSM and then we had those two action items.  
17  
18 Thank you.  
19  
20 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, I  
21 think he's trying to tell us kindly to move on.  
22  
23 For your information I think -- this is  
24 for all, even the Federal and the State. We need to put  
25 out more education to the people, when you send out  
26 flyers tell them things like this, what Vern mentioned  
27 because in order for us to -- animals to reproduce we  
28 need to take less.  
29  
30 You've got the floor, Stewart.  
31  
32 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair and members of  
33 the Council, my name is Stewart Cogswell, I'm an acting  
34 deputy assistant regional director for the Office of  
35 Subsistence Management. And we've covered a lot of in  
36 depth items this meeting and I'm ready to end, the last  
37 scheduled thing. So I want it to be exciting and upbeat.  
38 So here we go.  
39  
40 OSM is awesome. We -- it's an exciting  
41 time to be in OSM. Gene Peltola, Jr., is the assistant  
42 regional director, he's the boss and he's assembled an  
43 amazing staff. And I'm here to talk to you about some of  
44 that staff that he has assembled. So and it's -- we have  
45 a lot of new people like myself who are learning and we  
46 have some seasoned people like Pippa Kenner who keep me  
47 on track. So it's a very exciting time, I'm very excited  
48 to work with Gene and his vision and just to implement  
49 some -- to help subsistence users in the field. So I'll  
50 start off here.

1                   We lost three people, there's always  
2 turnover. So we lost Chuck Ardizzone, that was Gene's  
3 deputy. He went to take a job in Texas to be closer to  
4 family. He was -- and we lost Deborah Coble, she was an  
5 outreach coordinator, world class, she was amazing. And  
6 Melinda Burke was a council coordinator, some of you may  
7 know her, she went to the Forest Service. Three very,  
8 very talented people, they moved on, I'm happy for them,  
9 I really miss their friendship, they were great people  
10 and I still keep in contact with all of them.

11  
12                   So those three people leaving, especially  
13 Chuck, Chuck leaving had a cascade effect. Chuck left so  
14 then I moved up to the -- I'm the acting deputy, I'm  
15 Gene's deputy right now. And since I was the Fish  
16 Division chief, Jennifer Hardin, the anthropology chief,  
17 is now the Fish Division chief acting and an  
18 anthropologist, Robbin LaVine, is now the acting  
19 anthropology chief. So we got a little bit of shuffling  
20 as we fill the deputy position and hopefully that's out  
21 soon.

22  
23                   So now with the new folks. We have --  
24 I'm not going to read this, I'm just going to paraphrase  
25 so Scott Ayers, he's a fish biologist, he came over,  
26 amazing guy, he's doing a lot of work on some -- a lot of  
27 controversial stuff down in the Kenai. He's just been  
28 super talented and he's super motivated, he's doing a  
29 great job.

30  
31                   We hired someone from Louisiana, Gary  
32 Decossas, he's the cajun from Louisiana and he's proud of  
33 it. So he's our biometrician, so he's going to help out  
34 with some statistical analysis so we have someone on  
35 staff to help us with that now. So he's been -- he's  
36 been active on the Kuskokwim and he's going to be  
37 expanding to different areas so we have that expertise on  
38 staff.

39  
40                   We hired an IT, and Oracle data base  
41 administrator. His name, I'm going to get this wrong and  
42 I'm sorry, it's Srinath Doraiswamy. He's came from Texas  
43 and he's going to help us get our data bases in order and  
44 we have big plans for him.

45  
46                   We recently hired and he's not there yet,  
47 Frank Harris, he works in Galena for the Refuge system as  
48 a biologist. So Fisheries for the first time since I've  
49 been there will be fully staffed now so I'm really  
50 excited about that.

1                   We hired Megan Klosterman, she is a new  
2 wildlife biologist. So the Wildlife division is fully  
3 staffed now.

4  
5                   And we hired Dr. Joshua Ream, he's an  
6 anthropologist and he came on in June so he's fairly new  
7 too. And now Anthropology is fully staffed.

8  
9                   And Michelle St. Peters is another one we  
10 hired. She is a grants management specialist so all  
11 these projects, these FRMP projects, we have someone to  
12 take care of them now, someone who's going to be -- do  
13 all the paperwork and helping us get those through. So  
14 she's been just a real blessing to have there.

15  
16                   We had another person, Chris Santos, he's  
17 been helping out with computers and getting out, making  
18 sure we're up to speed on all our computer stuff.

19  
20                   Our newest hire is Sabrina Schmidt, she's  
21 in -- if you walk into OSM and I invite you all to OSM  
22 anytime to come visit, please stop in, the first person  
23 you'll see is Sabrina. She's newly hired, she is a  
24 Cowboy fan, but we'll give her some slack.

25  
26                   And I have on this list Zach Stevenson,  
27 I don't know who that is, but Zach is a newer council  
28 coordinator. How long have you been working here now,  
29 Zach, for OSM?

30  
31                   MR. STEVENSON: Seven months.

32  
33                   MR. COGSWELL: Seven months. Okay.  
34 Zach's doing a wonderful job.

35  
36                   And Jarred Stone. Jarred is a -- he's in  
37 our Pathways Program, he's a graduate student. He's  
38 doing some work on chinook in Norton Sound. Just an  
39 amazing -- he works with Karen Hyer a lot. So and he's  
40 Karen Hyer's, you know, right hand person, he's just a --  
41 he's just rock solid.

42  
43                   And the last person on this list is Katya  
44 Wessels. She's another council coordinator and I think  
45 she got hired around the same time you did. And so she's  
46 going to be working on Eastern Interior.

47  
48                   So we have a little note here, we have 38  
49 of the 44 positions on our organization chart filled. So  
50 we're almost fully staffed. So I expect great things

1 from OSM and I think we want to delve into more outreach  
2 and just be as helpful as we can.

3

4                   So since it -- that's all I have, I just  
5 wanted to do a little brief thing, I know you guys want  
6 to get out of here. But I just want to thank you guys,  
7 guys is a Wisconsin thing, I'm sorry, but I've really  
8 enjoyed being here and I especially bunking with some of  
9 you and I'm away from home, I'm not from around here, but  
10 thanks for sharing the stories from you guys and just  
11 being friendly to me. So I really appreciate that. And  
12 I really want to thank you guys. So I want to thank the  
13 OSM staff who put this on, there's a lot of work that  
14 goes on behind the scenes. So I want to thank Pippa, Eva  
15 Patton, Karen Hyer who left, Karen Hyer's doing a  
16 wonderful job with outreach and with your priority  
17 information needs, she's real strong there. And Zach.  
18 So I just want to thank those guys and all -- you don't  
19 see it, but there's a lot of OSM staff back in the office  
20 that back us all up. So I just want to -- I don't want  
21 to forget about them, I want to thank them too, they're  
22 here to support you and there's a lot of wonderful people  
23 there. So please let me know if there's anything we can  
24 do, we want to be helpful and happy.

25

26                   So thanks for your time.

27

28                   MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you. And you  
29 will put the word back the OSM has good staff. And this  
30 here -- you can turn the recorder off if you want, this  
31 is to make you laugh, because Gene got a good staff  
32 because he hire you, that's why you're saying that. No,  
33 that's just to make you laugh. No, he actually does. A  
34 lot of help goes to us when I call and they're there to  
35 give us answer to help us best as possible. And most of  
36 the time sometimes we're not trying to be hard to you  
37 guys, we want to make sure northwest Alaska and the  
38 migration route of our resources is well taken care of.  
39 That's why we're -- especially caribou is our heart,  
40 everybody knows that by now. And you will tell Gene he  
41 does have a great staff, I'm glad what he's done, but  
42 there's few knicks and knacks we got to take care of, but  
43 when we get to them we'll work on them.

44

45                   So anyone else who would like to thank  
46 the OSM staff?

47

48                   MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

49

50                   MR. SHIEDT: Okay. To make things sweet

1 this is our future dates for winter of 2017. And.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: One more item.

4

5 MR. SHIEDT: One more item. Go ahead,

6 Zach.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Shiedt.

9 We had -- I understood we had two items -- two action

10 items that we wanted to make sure we covered before we

11 closed. One was the motion to support or consider

12 support for a joint meeting of the affected RACs and the

13 second was the proposed special action on the moose.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. SHIEDT: So do I hear a proposal from

18 the Council here on the joint staff -- I'll do it one by

19 one, on the joint staff meeting with Slope, Kotzebue,

20 Nome and the Interior. So that one you could work on it.

21 So do I have a motion on the floor?

22

23 MR. KRAMER: I'd like to make a motion to

24 request a joint meeting in Kotzebue, our spring meeting

25 this coming spring, early '17 in Kotzebue with North

26 Slope, Northwest Arctic, Seward Pen and Western Interior.

27

28

29 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach, you

32 have.....

33

34 MR. STEVENSON: And if I'm not mistaken

35 this would be for the -- proposed for the winter, 2017

36 meeting; is that correct?

37

38 MR. SHIEDT: That's what he mentioned,

39 yes.

40

41 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. And to clarify the

42 -- if I may through the Chair. My understanding of the

43 process would be that we would need a motion from the RAC

44 to pursue that and then I would be tasked with contacting

45 the affected -- the other affected regions to see if they

46 are in support and then we would have to run that through

47 the OSM to get approval to proceed.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Michael made the motion and  
2 Vern seconded.  
3  
4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.  
5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, ma'am, you have  
7 something.  
8  
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. Just  
10 to follow-up. So the Northwest Arctic Council is the  
11 first of those four Councils to meet so we will take this  
12 Council's request and present it to each of those  
13 Councils at their RAC meetings to see if they are also  
14 interested to meet jointly and pursue this.  
15  
16 Thank you.  
17  
18 MR. SHIEDT: And if they question you'll  
19 tell them why because our migration route affects all  
20 four of us, that's why we would like to meet in one room.  
21 Okay.  
22  
23 I had a motion by Mike and seconded by  
24 Vern.  
25  
26 MS. LOON: Question.  
27  
28 MR. SHIEDT: Question's been called for.  
29 All in favor signify by saying aye.  
30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.  
32  
33 (No opposing votes)  
34  
35 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. That passes. And the  
36 other one was for the moose in northwest Alaska, the  
37 decline of moose for the whole north unit 23. Because  
38 right now the State had a regulation if you want to hunt  
39 that -- harvest moose at unit 23 you have to get your  
40 permit in person, right? Could I ask you how effective  
41 it was there, did a lot of less people apply for moose  
42 permit now?  
43  
44 MR. SAITO: Yes, there's those -- the two  
45 seasons that -- the general season and then the RM880  
46 permit. And so the RM880 permit was any bull and it --  
47 and it has that short window of time when you have to be  
48 up here in person in the unit to get that permit for  
49 which is for a later season. So that did reduce the  
50 number of people.

1 MR. SHIEDT: So it was effective is  
2 what.....  
3  
4 MR. SAITO: Yes.  
5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So there  
7 was a motion -- I mean, we'd like to hear a motion to see  
8 if we could take a reduction in moose in unit 20 --  
9 somebody was saying that, I think it was Kramer or who?  
10  
11 Go ahead, Hannah.  
12  
13 MS. LOON: My -- it was Mike who made the  
14 motion.  
15  
16 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. It's back to you  
17 again, Mike.  
18  
19 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I just made the motion  
20 to restrict all nonresidents, non-Federally-qualified  
21 subsistence users to harvest moose within game management  
22 unit 23 on all Federal lands for clarification.  
23  
24 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.  
25  
26 MR. SHIEDT: You got that, recorder?  
27  
28 REPORTER: Got it.  
29  
30 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. And it  
31 was second by Vern.  
32  
33 MR. KRAMER: With a note or with a  
34 question attached to it that all agencies within their  
35 boundaries be responsible for their waters if that can be  
36 added. Let's just say BLM, BLM's land is up high, well,  
37 they'd have to start taking care of the waters within the  
38 BLM land, patrolling because we want to try and make sure  
39 that, you know, this is severely controlled and we don't  
40 want to hear well, this -- below high tide mark is State  
41 and that's BLM or whatever. We want to be able to get  
42 this thing under control because I don't want to put  
43 something in place when there's all this butts. You know,  
44 you can't hunt on this land, but -- but you can hunt down  
45 here below the high tide mark. All that needs to be  
46 weighed out. So we need to try and be strict on what  
47 we're doing and the purpose for what we're doing is we're  
48 trying to -- we want to -- it's for conservative issues  
49 and for conservative aspect of trying to protect what we  
50 have.

1 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. You guys get it, Mike  
2 -- I mean, Zach and our recorder, I want to make sure  
3 this is done right so it won't come back to us.

4  
5 So there's a motion on the floor, do I  
6 have a second?

7  
8 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

9  
10 MR. SHIEDT: Vern seconded it, sorry. I  
11 didn't hear it.

12  
13 Anyhow, there was a motion, there was a  
14 second on the moose reduction in unit 23 area or all in  
15 BLM land. Sorry. Federal lands.

16  
17 MS. LOON: Question.

18  
19 MR. SHIEDT: The question's been called  
20 for.

21  
22 Yes, ma'am.

23  
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If  
25 I may, a discussion on the record as well by the Council  
26 on justification for the request for a special action  
27 request. So special action request comes out of the  
28 regular regulatory cycle. So some of the questions that  
29 are asked for to justify the need is if there's an  
30 unusual or significant change that has happened to the  
31 population or subsistence opportunities. And if the  
32 requested action is to ensure continued viability of fish  
33 and wildlife populations or continue subsistence uses of  
34 fish and wildlife or for public safety reasons. And it's  
35 requested if you can elaborate on, you know, what the  
36 urgency is at this time, what would necessitate a  
37 regulatory change before the next regulatory cycle. So  
38 it would be very helpful for the consideration by the  
39 Board to have some discussion and justification for the  
40 request on the record.

41  
42 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

45  
46 MR. SHIEDT: But I think you hear Susan  
47 and she tell up there that for the moose that population  
48 is down really low and scary. And for Noatak where I'm  
49 originally from at camp, my boys went up to camp how many  
50 times, they did not even see a moose this summer. And we

1 never -- we never take moose, but just the thought of not  
2 seeing a moose made a big difference. So under  
3 justification it's just that moose is declining heavily  
4 as much as caribou I guess. I mean, what I'm trying to  
5 do is make this thing work. So help me someone or is  
6 that enough what you need?

7

8 Go ahead, Mike.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, there's not only that,  
11 I mean, you know, there's not only the data that they  
12 have given and, you know, it's beating way heavier on the  
13 moose due to the decline of the caribou. If people can't  
14 get caribou what else they going to go get, they're going  
15 to go get a moose and that usually will hold them through  
16 the whole year. It's -- we want to be able to, you know,  
17 try and catch it before it gets worse. I'd like to be  
18 able to continue to see us hunt moose for years and  
19 decades and my grandkids and great grandkids can do the  
20 same. You know, because if we don't control anything  
21 now, later who's going to point the finger at us, our  
22 kids and grandkids. And our future youth like, man, they  
23 didn't do enough to protect what they had. No, we're  
24 going to protect it before it gets any worse. You know,  
25 it's called preventive measures, protect what you got or  
26 lose it because the Federal agencies won't do nothing for  
27 you after it's gone.

28

29 That's all.

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank you. Is  
32 that enough what you need?

33

34 MS. PATTON: Thank you. That's helpful.  
35 And if you would be able to speak just to if there was a  
36 change, a reason that would necessitate this request out  
37 of the regular regulatory cycle. And one more issue to  
38 address is if you would like to request for the action to  
39 be 60 days or less or more than 60 days, that changes the  
40 nature of the request, if you were asking for it to be  
41 enacted until the next regulatory cycle.

42

43 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

44

45 MR. KRAMER: When's the next regulatory  
46 cycle begin, June -- where's that.....

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

49

50 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, the  
2 next wildlife regulatory cycle will begin for the call  
3 for proposals in 2017, but then, you know, that's a year  
4 long process before they're enacted.

5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Zach.

7  
8 MR. STEVENSON: I believe it's January,  
9 is that correct? Yeah, proposals will be going out in  
10 January.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I think  
15 it -- this is the time we need help from Brandon. I  
16 think he's the one that said the moose was declining.  
17 And his report would be part of what you're writing up if  
18 that will help you.

19  
20 Correct me if I'm wrong, Brandon.

21  
22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

23  
24 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead.

25  
26 MS. PATTON: If the Council wishes to  
27 cite the reports on the recent moose declines as your  
28 justification for wanting to submit this proposal now  
29 then we can.....

30  
31 MR. SHIEDT: That would be more --  
32 probably help us more. Say this is the report that was  
33 given by, but we need a recorded saying something, it's  
34 on -- already in paper.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 Anyone else?

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 MR. SHIEDT: If not, what else do we need  
43 to do to finish up the meeting. Zach, you said these two  
44 proposals and we want both of them.

45  
46 MS. LOON: Well, we need to vote.

47  
48 MR. CLEVELAND: You've got a motion on  
49 the floor.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: We have -- I thought we  
2 voted on the earlier one and this.....  
3  
4 MR. CLEVELAND: We got a motion on that  
5 vote and we never voted.  
6  
7 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Do I have a question  
8 on the floor?  
9  
10 Go ahead, Zach.  
11  
12 MR. STEVENSON: My understanding was that  
13 regarding the proposed special action or addressing the  
14 moose closure, Mike Kramer had motioned and that was  
15 seconded by.....  
16  
17 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.  
18  
19 MR. STEVENSON: .....by Vern.  
20  
21 MR. SHIEDT: Vern.  
22  
23 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. But we -- what  
24 was the call on that?  
25  
26 MR. CLEVELAND: We never voted on it.  
27  
28 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.  
29  
30 MR. SHIEDT: Do I have a question on  
31 this?  
32  
33 MR. STEVENSON: Need a question. Thank  
34 you.  
35  
36 MS. LOON: Question.  
37  
38 MR. SHIEDT: Question's been called for.  
39 All in favor signify by saying aye.  
40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.  
42  
43 (No opposing votes)  
44  
45 MR. SHIEDT: Calvin's tired. Okay.  
46 Anything else we need to do, Zach, besides the -- do we  
47 need to go to 13, future dates and locations?  
48  
49 MR. STEVENSON: I also had one minor  
50 announcement from Lincoln Saito -- pardon me, Orville

1 Lind, excuse me, Orville Lind with OSM. Orville had  
2 wanted to mention that there will be tribal consultation  
3 coming up in the near future. And he wanted to invite  
4 the Northwest RAC and he'll be inviting others to  
5 participate in that tribal consultation coming up and  
6 that will be for tribal members.

7

8 That takes us to agenda item 13, future  
9 meeting dates. Mr. Chair.

10

11 MR. SHIEDT: And I think we put a  
12 proposal if it's possible or not that we would like to  
13 meet with Interior, Slope, Northwest and Nome. That was  
14 in the spring, Mike, would that.....

15

16 MR. KRAMER: In March.

17

18 MR. SHIEDT: In March. Because our --  
19 the way the caribou are declining we need all, the way  
20 the caribou migrate.

21

22 MR. CLEVELAND: In Nome.

23

24 MR. SHIEDT: You want to go Nome? Let's  
25 put it there, what is the cost effective for all to meet  
26 because -- it'll be up to the Chair, we'll leave it up  
27 to Raymond about where to have it.

28

29 Yeah, go ahead, Vern -- Zach. Sorry.

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: That's all right. On  
32 page -- through the Chair. On page 53 of your meeting  
33 books you'll see the calendar and we just needed to and  
34 we just needed to -- we need from the Council to select  
35 a proposed date for that meeting and location. So if you  
36 look at page 53 you'll see the calendar there in your  
37 books.

38

39 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Okay. I see that for  
40 Northwest.....

41

42 MR. STEVENSON: Right.

43

44 MR. SHIEDT: .....Kotzebue, it's on the  
45 calendar it says on March 1 and 2.

46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Do we want to stick with  
48 those dates?

49

50 MR. KRAMER: Yes, put those dates.

1 MR. SHIEDT: Let's put it this way. Yes,  
2 I know that those are nice dates even for me, but with  
3 Barrow, Nome and Interior, what they think of it. We --  
4 since we going to have meeting with them we got to think  
5 of them now, not just us.

6  
7 MR. STEVENSON: Is that acceptable?

8  
9 MR. SHIEDT: So is that acceptable to  
10 have meeting or let's put it this way, Zach, try to hit  
11 these dates, March 1 and 2 if there's a plan that they  
12 can make it because I love 1 and 2, don't get me wrong,  
13 like anybody else.

14  
15 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, I'm hearing --  
16 through the Chair. I'm hearing that's acceptable and  
17 I'll.....

18  
19 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

20  
21 MR. STEVENSON: .....we'll work to make  
22 that happen.

23  
24 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

25  
26 MR. STEVENSON: And I -- my understanding  
27 was that the second item we had to -- the final item we  
28 had to nail down was the -- selecting the fall, 2017  
29 meeting dates and location on page 54 of our book. I'm  
30 not showing right now the Northwest Arctic RAC having any  
31 dates specified for the fall, 2017.....

32  
33 MR. SHIEDT: Zach, is it possible to pick  
34 the fall meeting after we meet somewhere in March, that  
35 way if one of the -- like Interior or Nome have a problem  
36 we could -- you know, if Nome have a problem we'll try to  
37 have meeting at Nome. Hopefully the community says hey,  
38 northwest Alaska need help, let's have the meeting.  
39 After that or what we hear in March, what do you guys  
40 think of that before I get to you? You know what I'm  
41 trying to see, one of them disagree we need to have a  
42 meeting in their village to try to make them change their  
43 mind. That way -- the way it look we might have to  
44 extend 16-01 the way I see it.

45  
46 Go ahead, Calvin.

47  
48 MR. MOTO: Probably we -- have to be late  
49 March because, you know, tournament, all the.....

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: We'll stay away from  
2 tournaments if possible.  
3  
4 MR. MOTO: In March.....  
5  
6 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.  
7  
8 MR. MOTO: .....they start in March.  
9  
10 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead, Hannah.  
11  
12 MS. LOON: I like the October 4 and 5  
13 because things are kind of -- well, October 4 or 5 or  
14 October 11 and 12, but that's too close to -- I like  
15 October 4 and 5.  
16  
17 MR. SHIEDT: Hannah, the way things are  
18 happening right now, I respect your dates, but the way  
19 the caribou are crossing later and later that might be  
20 right at our prime hunting time.  
21  
22 MS. LOON: Okay.  
23  
24 MR. SHIEDT: Think about it because I had  
25 hard time making this meeting because I still wanted --  
26 I get only two caribou and I make a big sacrifice coming  
27 here.  
28  
29 MS. LOON: How about October 25, 26?  
30  
31 MR. SHIEDT: That's fine with me. Like  
32 two weeks away from now is, you know, close. I need to  
33 hear from the Council the dates that Hannah proposed.  
34 October 25 and 26, right, Hannah?  
35  
36 MS. LOON: Yeah.  
37  
38 MR. SHIEDT: I hear -- heads are  
39 nodding, but the recorder can't see it when she's doing  
40 the paperwork. So I need verbal answers from you guys,  
41 please.  
42  
43 Go ahead, Raymond.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: (Indiscernible - away  
46 from microphone).....  
47  
48 MR. SHIEDT: What I'm trying to do is  
49 seeking approval from the Board to have a meeting on the  
50 dates Hannah suggested because today's date is kind of

1 hard, it's hard for me to be here.

2

3 Go ahead, Zach.

4

5 MR. STEVENSON: So we need -- we need  
6 action from the Board to confirm the fall -- both the  
7 winter, 2017 and fall, 2017 meeting dates. I know we  
8 have agreement on the first item, but we just need a  
9 motion on those two.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. SHIEDT: So we -- let's take it one  
14 at a time then. So we need to have a motion for March 1  
15 and 2. I need a motion from someone to have 1 and 2,  
16 travel dates.

17

18 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move to have the  
19 meeting on March 1 and 2 either in Nome or Kotzebue.

20

21 MR. SHIEDT: I hear a motion to hear --  
22 have it March 1 and 2 in Nome or in Kotzebue.

23

24 MR. KRAMER: Second for Kotzebue.

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: Second for Kotzebue. Anyone  
27 else from the Board?

28

29 MS. LOON: Question for Kotzebue.

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: The question's been called  
32 for. All in favor signify by saying aye to have it at  
33 Kotzebue.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Now we need spring --  
40 no.

41

42 MS. LOON: We need location for.....

43

44 MR. STEVENSON: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.  
45 Excuse me, before proceeding. That was -- the motion was  
46 made by Mike Kramer by Kotzebue?

47

48 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

49

50 MR. STEVENSON: Who seconded that, Mr.

1 Cleveland.  
2  
3 Thank you.  
4  
5 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.  
6  
7 MR. CLEVELAND: I motioned and somebody  
8 second.  
9  
10 MR. KRAMER: I seconded.  
11  
12 MR. SHIEDT: Oh, the other way.  
13  
14 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Just a -- do  
15 you need that clarified for the record?  
16  
17 REPORTER: Vern motioned and Mike  
18 seconded.  
19  
20 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. Thank you.  
21  
22 MR. SHIEDT: Yes. Okay. Now we need the  
23 other one.  
24  
25 MS. LOON: The falltime.  
26  
27 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. For the fall,  
28 2017, we need dates and location.  
29  
30 MR. MOTO: Las Vegas.  
31  
32 MR. CLEVELAND: October 25, 26.  
33  
34 MR. SHIEDT: October 25 and 26 is what --  
35 we're going to talk about where, Kotzebue or where or  
36 Noatak or which town or in Kotzebue?  
37  
38 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion to have  
39 our fall meeting in October 25, 26 in Shungnak, Alaska.  
40  
41 Thank you.  
42  
43 MR. MOTO: Second.  
44  
45 MS. LOON: Seconded by Calvin Moto.  
46  
47 MR. SHIEDT: Shungnak?  
48  
49 MR. MOTO: Uh-huh.  
50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. 25 and 26.  
2  
3 MS. LOON: Discussion?  
4  
5 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead.  
6  
7 MS. LOON: Question.  
8  
9 MR. SHIEDT: Question's been called for.  
10 All in favor signify by saying aye.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 MR. SHIEDT: Now closing comments. You  
17 guys caught up with your notes there, Zach and.....  
18  
19 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. Through the Chair.  
20 We're good. Closing comments?  
21  
22 MR. SHIEDT: Yes. Closing comments?  
23 We'll start from Calvin. Say bye-bye, I love you guys.  
24  
25 MR. MOTO: Well, I enjoyed this trip here  
26 and I'm glad that we agree on pretty much everything that  
27 -- proposal that come up. I enjoy working with you  
28 people because we're all -- although we're all from  
29 different type of -- different places, we all work  
30 together. And I appreciate all the time and effort the  
31 staff put in for us to get here and I look forward to  
32 work with you again at the next meeting. We -- I've been  
33 trying to report to the IRA Councils and city councils,  
34 every time we get done here and make sure that they have  
35 -- make sure they have something to say that I could  
36 bring to you. This is something I -- I even talk to some  
37 of the students sometimes.  
38  
39 And so I wanted to thank you for having  
40 me here and we'll see you next time.  
41  
42 MR. SHIEDT: Anyone else? Vern.  
43  
44 MR. CLEVELAND: It's been a very good --  
45 lot better meeting than the last one. I'd like to thank  
46 the staff, all the guys that put all this meeting  
47 together. And I know it takes a lot of work and effort  
48 to put all this together and you guys did a damn good  
49 job.  
50

1 Thank you very much.  
2  
3 We'll see you guys March.  
4  
5 Oh, wait a minute. I would like to  
6 invite you guys to a Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
7 Group meeting, December 14, 15, in Anchorage. We'll see  
8 most of you guys there. And I know I'll be there.  
9  
10 Thank you.  
11  
12 MR. SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.  
13  
14 MS. LOON: This is Hannah Loon. I would  
15 like to thank the Davis-Ramoth School to accommodate the  
16 meeting and wrestling Selawik strong wrestling students  
17 for providing meals for everybody here. And to  
18 everybody, OSM, all the organizations that come from a  
19 long way. Thank you for you coming here. I know you're  
20 tired and hope you have a good trip back home. And I  
21 appreciate the local people coming here and  
22 participating, sharing their local knowledge. And I  
23 would like to request a letter of appreciation to Davis-  
24 Ramoth School principal and letter of appreciation to  
25 Norma Ballot's Inupiat class as she had them come here  
26 and listen.  
27  
28 Thank you very much.  
29  
30 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
31  
32 Raymond.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. First of  
35 all I want to thank the people of Selawik and the school  
36 district for, you know, giving us a great opportunity  
37 here, a lot of good meals and a lot of good hospitality  
38 and the students are very interested of what the RAC is  
39 doing here, they're very interested. They wanted to  
40 become like what we are doing today, you know, in the  
41 students' school.  
42  
43 So secondly I'd like to thank the staff.  
44 Our staff here work so hard months and months and months  
45 to prepare for this meeting and I want to thank all of  
46 you that came here to Selawik and see, you know, what  
47 Selawik is.  
48  
49 Thank you for very much for coming and  
50 thank the -- our colleagues on the RAC, you know, it's a

1 good meeting and a lot of accomplishment have been done  
2 again for our people in Northwest Alaska.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.

7

8 Go ahead, Mike.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: I wanted to thank everybody  
11 for coming to Selawik and, you know, I pushed for a lot  
12 of our meetings to start being held in the villages  
13 because we're -- that's where probably about 80 percent  
14 of our concerns are in the villages, our wildlife  
15 concerns. I'm glad everybody was coming here and I'm  
16 glad OSM started making this possible for all of us to be  
17 here and come here. Other than saying thank you to the  
18 school and I wanted to make sure that letter gets sent to  
19 Tim Towarak for his years of service and a letter to the  
20 school and all the kids here and it was a blessing to  
21 have them here every day.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Also I would like to thank  
26 Selawik School and the wrestling students for putting on  
27 food for us and thanks for the accommodations. And  
28 thanks for the OSM staff. I don't think Gene could ask  
29 for any better people than what he have and I don't think  
30 they could be replaced. But by the time they learn  
31 they'll probably move to different Park and State of  
32 Alaska which we don't like. I'd rather see the State  
33 come here and we could move them the other way to our  
34 benefit. And thanks for listening to us about our  
35 concerns on our resources.

36

37 And thank you all and thank you everyone.

38

39 Motion to adjourn this meeting?

40

41 MS. LOON: I make a motion to adjourn.

42

43 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

44

45 MR. SHIEDT: All in favor signify by  
46 saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1  
2  
3

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 132 through 273 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 6th day of October 2016 at Selawik, 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 7th day of November 2016.

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