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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Inupiat Heritage Center
Utqiagvik, Alaska
October 14, 2022
9:02 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chairman
Esther Hugo
Brower Frantz
Peter Williams
Eddie Rexford

Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiagvik, Alaska - 10/14/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll do a roll call
and get started.

Leigh.

MS. HONIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Gordon Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MS. HONIG: Wanda Kippi.

(No comments)

MS. HONIG: Steve Oomittuk.

(No comments)

MS. HONIG: Billy Patkotak.

(No comments)

MS. HONIG: Eddie Rexford.

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

MS. HONIG: Morning. Martha Itta.

(No comments)

MS. HONIG: Esther Hugo.

MS. HUGO: Here.

MS. HONIG: Brower Frantz.

(No comments)

MS. HONIG: And Peter Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS. Here. Good morning.

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1 MS. HONIG: Good morning.

2

3 MS. HONIG: Okay. So that's four out
4 of the nine seated Council members so no quorum yet.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
7 Coordinator. We'll acknowledge the Council members as
8 they come in. Brower Frantz is out and about. He was
9 here yesterday so we expect him to help establish a
10 quorum later today. Steve did indicate he'd call if he
11 can. Yesterday he was online for a while and I'm not
12 sure if Mar -- Martha was here yesterday in person and
13 I'm not sure exactly her situation this morning so
14 we'll acknowledge them as they -- as they join. And
15 perhaps Wanda would join us today if -- you know, I
16 don't have her phone number.

17

18 With that I'm going to ask Eddie to do
19 a Kaktovik report real quick. We went through the
20 Council member reports yesterday and I'm going to give
21 you the opportunity to provide a report for Kaktovik.

22

23 Eddie, you have the floor this morning.

24

25 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 And I apologize for not calling in yesterday, I forgot
27 there was a meeting scheduled for yesterday and I look
28 at my calendar.

29

30 But anyways folks have been successful
31 in harvesting caribous and they're still harvesting
32 caribous at this time. And we've successfully landed
33 three whales for the fall season. And hopefully we're
34 supposed to have a moose quota soon. Haven't heard
35 from the Refuge Manager lately on that topic. Other
36 than that we've been successful in the community
37 harvesting subsistence resources that the community
38 needs for the year. And that's kind of short and sweet
39 on the report from our end.

40

41 And a little update on the cooperating
42 agency for the EIS. NVK and KIC is going to be meeting
43 this coming Tuesday to look at the MOU with Fish and
44 Wildlife and we'll -- hopefully we'll be joining again
45 this year to represent our community and the Borough.

46

47 So that's all I have for now. Thank
48 you, Mr. Chair.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native),
2 Kaktovik. It's always good to hear from you, Eddie.

3
4 Any questions for Eddie Rexford and for
5 Kaktovik area.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, (in
10 Native). And for those that are online it would be
11 good when you're not speaking to go on mute as it gets
12 pretty noisy very quickly for background.

13
14 And thank you, Eddie, for that brief,
15 short and sweet report from Kaktovik.

16
17 And once we get Wanda online and we'll
18 ask Atqasuk to do their report or Blair, Billy Patkotak
19 gets on we'll ask Wainwright to do their report as
20 well.

21
22 With that I'm going to ask the
23 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program folks to continue
24 the dialogue on the PINs and later on this will be a
25 action item. I don't think we have a quorum right now
26 so we can't act on anything that we need to act on, but
27 we can certainly discuss items listed and as soon as we
28 get a quorum we'll go to some of the action items to
29 get past some of those that -- like our annual report
30 and our winter confirmation dates and fall, 2023
31 confirmation dates. Seems like our quorum keeps being
32 fragile and once we get one we want to get these out of
33 the way.

34
35 With that I'm going to hand the mic
36 over to Hannah and to Karen on the Fisheries Resource
37 Monitoring Program. You have the floor.

38
39 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
40 and Council members. For the record I'm Karen Hyer,
41 I'm a Fish Biologist with OSM. And I'll let Hannah
42 introduce herself.

43
44 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. Hannah
45 Voorhees, Anthropologist with OSM.

46
47 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
48 members, I thought we had some really good discussion
49 yesterday and from our discussion we have the PINs that
50

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1 were listed here in the book and then I added a couple
2 more. So I think what I'd like to do is just work down
3 the list starting with book page 104 and then adding
4 what I heard us talk about yesterday. So we're going
5 to -- because I talked to Martha yesterday and she
6 wanted to go back to her community and get some
7 specifics so I have general PINs and we can go back to
8 the office and work with them and get some -- have some
9 communication so we can get them exactly as we want
10 them before they're put out with the notice of funding.
11 But right now I'd just like to get the general ideas
12 down because that's what we can go ahead and make a
13 motion on.

14

15 So if you start on page 104 what we
16 have listed for this region you can find under North
17 Slope. And I'll go ahead and just read them to you and
18 we can just kind of work down the list together.

19

20 So using traditional ecological
21 knowledge and harvest monitoring document new fish
22 species and changes in abundance, size, timing and
23 distribution of existing fish species as well as
24 impacts as new or expanding species on other fish that
25 are important to the subsistence in the North Slope
26 region.

27

28 So that's the first one. Is there any
29 input on that?

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to find
32 the page.

33

34 MS. HYER: It's 104, right under North
35 Slope.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, any questions
38 on that, on new fish species and changes in abundance,
39 size, timing and distribution of existing fish species
40 as well as impacts of new expanding species on other
41 fish that are important to subsistence on the North
42 Slope region.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I haven't really seen
47 something drastic changing in terms of invasive species
48 or anything like that. You know, back in the '70s we
49 had all of these -- you know, we used to call them
50

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1 humpies, you know, they get these -- their salmon about
2 this big with a big back on them. I know there's
3 another word for them, I just.....

4

5 MS. HYER: Is that the pink salmon?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think they're
8 pink salmon. And we get lots of those. And some
9 people feel like it's something different, but when I
10 was a kid in June those kind of fish would go up
11 Ikpikpuk all the time. And so it's not a big -- maybe
12 it's people that are not used to seeing some salmon in
13 our rivers. I've seen those -- you know, you'll see
14 them from the airplane toowhen they're moving in the --
15 in the Ikpikpuk River. So to me it's not -- I don't
16 see a really big difference in say the addition of
17 invasive species impacting local fish. Maybe some
18 other parts, I don't know. I'll just leave it at that.

19

20 If any of the Council members want to
21 say anything about that. But these are candidates for
22 PINs, right, these are candidates for study. And, you
23 know, it's very hard to get the resources and money.
24 So if we do get something qualified to get funding we
25 should really look at what we need because it's hard to
26 get that money funneled up this way.

27

28 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
31 Esther, from Anaktuvuk.

32

33 MS. HUGO: Yesterday we discussed about
34 the PINs and it's about the fish, the grayling, so
35 maybe we can go back and listen what's going on in
36 Chandler with the graylings or within our area.

37

38 MS. HYER: With grayling in your area?

39

40 MS. HUGO: Uh-huh.

41

42 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. I will --
43 I will add that to the list.

44

45 MS. HUGO: Well, due to the discussions
46 that we -- the information we got yesterday on the
47 grayling. I'm pretty interested to see if there is
48 contaminants or no.

49

50

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1 MS. HYER: Yeah. Absolutely Council
2 member.....

3
4 MS. HUGO: Well, from the liver,
5 I'm.....

6
7 MS. HYER:are we talking about
8 grayling or lake trout or both?

9
10 MS. HUGO: Both.

11
12 MS. HYER: Okay. Okay.

13
14 MS. HUGO: Lake trout because we eat a
15 lot of that and when they go ice fishing in April,
16 March I do get a lot of lake trouts. Most of the
17 salmon the family eat and a lot of times I'll get a
18 whole bunch of these huge lake trouts and I try to save
19 and eat them and share them. So I'm just interested.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther. I
24 think that's a good observation. We had that
25 presentation from those other lakes and being that
26 trout is a predatory fish and seems to me that there
27 were some issues with that species in other parts --
28 other partsof Alaska. It would beprudent I think to --
29 yeah, get that as a priority information need.

30
31 MS. HYER: So.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would support that.

34
35 MS. HYER: Okay. So, Mr. Chairman and
36 Council members, I do have a priority information need
37 listed and I -- I'm just going to throw it out because
38 I might have to wordsmith it later, but I do have
39 document population, structure and health of lake trout
40 in Peters and Schrader Lakes. Do you want to add
41 Chandler to that?

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

44
45 MS. HYER: Okay. And then -- then
46 you're interested also in grayling health an abundance
47 and populations in Anaktuvuk Pass area?

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

50

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1 MS. HYER: Okay. Okay. I have that
2 one also. So if there's nothing else I'll go on to the
3 second -- which would now be the third PIN.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're just going to
6 hear what you -- as you down the bullets and.....

7
8 MS. HYER: Yeah. I just want to make
9 sure that I communicate everything I have on my list in
10 case there's some gap. Like I didn't have -- just for
11 example I didn't have grayling on my list, I just had
12 the two pop -- the two lakes, Peters and Schrader and
13 so I just added Chandler and I just added grayling
14 because I didn't have that. So that's the value of
15 this is you can see what I have, if you don't want it
16 you can say get rid of that and if you want to add
17 things because I don't have them so that was very
18 helpful.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
21 Karen. And for benefit for Kaktovik as you're joining
22 on the second day we did have a pretty robust
23 discussion yesterday around fisheries resources
24 monitoring, we had a video which was pretty startling,
25 kind of -- could be scary to folks that may not know
26 what happens on the Slope from time to time around
27 freeze up and especially around warm spring areas and
28 things like that which we know to exist, those kind of
29 things. And to develop a -- continuing to develop a
30 priority information list to try to secure funding for
31 Fisheries Resource Monitoring on the North Slope within
32 region 10. So that's what we're doing this morning
33 again, Eddie, and if there are any concerns about your
34 fish and areas that you want to be included in a PINs,
35 that's the acronym for the priority information needs
36 and things like that. So and if you want to chime in,
37 Eddie, I know that they've had studies down your way
38 from time to time on arctic char and things like that.

39
40 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council
41 members.....

42
43 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Yeah. Yeah, there was mention of Peters and Schrader
45 Lake and for your information I do own a -- my mother's
46 Native allotment on Schrader Lake and we do quite a bit
47 of ice fishing during the fall and winter and spring.
48 And I've been noticing in the body cavity that there's
49 white lumps and little pockets and which could be I
50

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1 guess tapeworms. I don't know if there's more fish
2 like that, I don't know if it's because of the water
3 warming up or what, but some of the fish we -- I
4 harvested had some of that white pockets in the body
5 cavity and folks were reluctant to eat fish. So that's
6 just a personal observation on lake trout that I have
7 for -- from Schrader Lake and I thought I'd throw that
8 in.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
13 Rexford. And yesterday's video and presentation around
14 various lakes from different parts of Alaska was --
15 they had some very important information that would I
16 think lead us to support some of these kind of studies
17 they did in other parts of the State on lake trout and
18 that we should follow suit with those types of studies
19 on the North Slope especially, you know, because we
20 consume those trouts as well.

21

22 So with that, Karen, I'm going to hand
23 the mic over back to you. I just wanted to make sure
24 Eddie was more in the loop about what we were
25 discussing yesterday about Fisheries Resource
26 Monitoring Program.

27

28 MS. HYER: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chairman. Okay. So the second which is now the third
30 one I have is document and investigate the possible
31 causes of mold, disease and discoloration on broad
32 whitefish in the Colville River in the vicinity of
33 Nuiqsut, compare environmental conditions in the
34 Colville River including temperature with those in the
35 Ikpikpuk River where whitefish are healthy and mold has
36 not been observed to date. Investigators are
37 encouraged to draw on both stock status and trends and
38 ecological knowledge research.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know that's --
41 we've added to that to try to see how maybe even
42 because of the broad whitefish having fish mold seems
43 to be not palatable for the Technical Review Team
44 maybe, I don't know, to formulate a funding mechanism
45 to -- if there are ways to assist maybe it's a
46 wordsmthing, how we say and make it a little bit more
47 broader might be beneficial to actually seeing why our
48 fish are encountering those kinds of ailments I guess.
49 And so -- and maybe it's a broad white study in itself

50

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1 and their distribution patterns. I think the Sag
2 River, the Sagavanirktok River, is one of those that is
3 a rearing ground as well. It's known to have whitefish
4 in that area too. So I think it's still ongoing and we
5 heard it from Nuiqsut yesterday about that particular,
6 you know, concern. And there's this sentiment that's
7 kind of developed over time that, you know, we talk
8 about it and we talk about it, but nothing actually
9 comes of it. And maybe it's time to develop -- I like
10 to say wordsmith, that you say things the right way
11 that would be palatable for a Technical Review Team to --
12 I think there's -- it's just the way it is expressed.
13 It may be the abundance and health and distribution
14 patterns related to these fish. I don't know. So I
15 can't emphasize enough that concern to Nuiqsut.

16

17 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
18 members. I think one of the things that North Slope
19 has struggled with is actually not the challenge of the
20 TRC, but the challenge of getting investigators to come
21 and do proposals because when we get proposals from the
22 North Slope they're usually very successful through the
23 process. It's just -- it's just a huge area and we
24 don't have an over abundance of investigators that work
25 up here so it's finding the right person to come do
26 this and working on the outreach of, you know, getting
27 the information out that we're looking for studies in
28 this area.

29

30 I do have one thing I would like to
31 follow-up with your comment because from yesterday's
32 discussion I also make a note about broad whitefish in
33 the Sag and looking at distribution, abundance and
34 health. And that would be different than this PIN
35 right here. And I was going to present that also as
36 something to add to the list and so I just want to make
37 sure that is something that you'd like on the PIN list.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's -- this
40 is Gordon Brower. I think it's important, it's a
41 subsistence resource and should -- these resources
42 struggles elsewhere, we should know whether or not, you
43 know, the Sag River, Sagavanirktok, is altogether a
44 different stock than those on the Ikpikpuk because from
45 what I've heard over time the Ikpikpuk is a ideal
46 location from the Teshekpuk Lake, from various other
47 little lakes, they all come out at the same time from
48 these lakes and converge on the Ikpikpuk to spawn. And
49 I've heard that from elders. And it seems to me that

50

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1 the Sag would probably represent that type of
2 distribution pattern unless they're connected together
3 in some way. But most fish in my view they go back to
4 where they spawned, even the young ones, something to
5 do with the scent of that river or something, they'll
6 go back to that and Ikpikpuk is -- it's a very big
7 concentration area of the broad whitefish. And I got
8 pictures right in my phone from last year's fishing
9 where that concentration has never let up. It's always
10 -- it's always there. And it would be important to
11 should something happen to Ikpikpuk and we need to
12 reconnect with the Sag and with the same types of fish
13 would be important PINs in my view.

14

15 MS. HYER: Okay. Great. Thank you for
16 your input. So I'm kind of going back and forth
17 because you bring up things that I had written in my
18 notes. And so I -- I'm taking the opportunity to add
19 those into this list. So but I'm on the third bullet
20 now on page 104 and it says document the effects of
21 climate change including lake freeze up on subsistence
22 fishing access, harvest and preservation methods and
23 the impact of these changes on community wide harvest
24 levels and food security on the North Slope. Research
25 could investigate adaptations for continuing community
26 wide harvest levels where traditional preservation
27 methods are impacted. Studies include Ikpikpuk River --
28 excuse me. Studies including Ikpikpuk River are of
29 particular interest.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. You know, when
32 we talk about that and I'm not one of those big climate
33 change proponent people that say we are doing it, you
34 know, with fossil fuel. And I go way off on a tangent
35 when I start to think about why people think that way
36 because, you know, I've been involved with science
37 studies here since the 1990s and just right up here
38 there are trees that come out of the permafrost
39 routinely, fully intact, frozen solid and you can still
40 burn them. And in 1997 I was helping these scientists
41 to do a tree study and got some elders involved and on
42 the Ikpikpuk it was easy to find white spruce on the
43 high water mark, pick it right up, you can chop it up
44 and burn it. Well, these guys took it to a lab to get
45 it radiocarbon dated and on the high water mark you
46 pick it right up, 36,000 years old white spruce. And
47 they're trying to figure out how did that get there and
48 there's lots of them. And I don't think Noah's flood
49 put it there because you'd have to have Noah's flood to
50

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1 be able to distribute high water mark that far up.
2 This is a local river spring thaw and break up all the
3 time. But anyway needless to say they felt that the
4 Arctic was heavily treed just 36,000 years ago. So
5 it's important to look at the climate related things
6 that we have to endure to be up here. And by the way
7 right in the Colville River they're picking up
8 dinosaurs, you know, a t-rex has been found right
9 there. And it's important to recognize these things.

10

11 But I'm looking at these things we're
12 struggling. Maybe out of the last 10 years maybe six
13 of my catches of fish -- and when I fish and I could
14 show you my photographs, I fish for community wide, for
15 our community. Not very many people do it that much
16 anymore, but a few of us that grew up with old people
17 and say don't forget how to fish, don't forget the
18 right time. And this -- the right time is still right,
19 the fish are not going to change their spawning, but
20 the ability for nature to be our natural freezer, it's
21 struggling. I -- it'll freeze up and I'll put fish in
22 sacks and put them in a warehouse, but it'll warm up
23 and they will thaw out in the sacks in the warehouse
24 and then freeze and then they thaw out again. And then
25 by that time the eggs have gone rancid. And don't get
26 me wrong, we even like rancid food, you know, elders
27 like to make what we call (in Native), you know, the
28 stinkfish. Not everybody likes it, my mom loved it.
29 My mom loved (in Native), especially when you could
30 make it absolutely green. And you would pass out, you
31 know, I would think.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But they're -- those
36 are good things. But the price was the fresh eggs, the
37 (in Native) was a price. You can dip that frozen in
38 seal oil. By the way we invented the first dips on
39 earth, you know, the seal oil dipping is so fantastic.
40 And it's awesome when you can do these things, but
41 we're struggling to do that when half of my catch
42 spoils. I didn't fish that much last year, but I
43 managed to get about 25 sacks. That's maybe -- you
44 know, that's maybe about 5,000 pounds. And I
45 immediately, you know, make a way for it to go to
46 Anaktuvuk, to Point Lay, to Atqasuk, to distribute
47 them. And then the half of them distribute them to the
48 church for Thanksgiving. It's important that we find
49 a way to still get those fish at the right time, but I
50

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1 don't want to fish and let them spoil. I'm going to
2 hesitate to make that much (in Native). And there's a
3 place to make stinkfish, but not all the time and not
4 that much. It's better the fresh fish.

5
6 So there needs to be a mechanism for
7 subsistence because it is a traditional economy, it is
8 a traditional food and we need to find a way to help
9 that. You don't need to study it, we already know it's
10 happening. It might need -- I don't have the resources
11 to put a propeller, all these -- maybe solar power and
12 make a little freezer, a common use freezer. And like
13 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission has walk-in freezers
14 for -- to store the bowhead whale so it won't get -- we
15 can preserve them because a lot of our cellars even are
16 struggling. So anyway I get to go on a tangent like
17 that because even though it sounds like it's a PINs,
18 it's a study on why the ice is not stopping and forming
19 on the river. And back in the '70s and '80s we had
20 nets under the ice on September 15, the river's still
21 flowing and it's October what. And those are major
22 concerns. You cannot put a net with a slush. Believe
23 it or not it snows inside the river. When it's snowing
24 heavy out and it's cold it's (in Native) inside this
25 river. And it catches the net into a big snowball. So
26 those are important things.

27
28 Carmen, I know you've had your hand up
29 for quite some time now and I'll stop there.

30
31 MS. DAGGETT: For the record my name's
32 Carmen Daggett with Fish and Game. So a couple weeks
33 ago I was listening to the North Slope Fish and Game
34 Management/Fish and Wildlife Management Committee
35 meeting and they had a wonderful presentation from
36 ICAS. And during that presentation they were
37 discussing grants that they had received for putting
38 thermosiphons in sealocks and also pursuing some of
39 these issues with foodsecurity and food storage. And
40 it seems like they're being pretty proactive and
41 progressive about trying to address some of those
42 issues. So I wonder if it can't be addressed through
43 this avenue, perhaps teaming up with ICAS and bringing
44 those issues to them might get you some grant money to
45 take care of some of those issues and help get some
46 ideas for the actual dealing with the situation of
47 being remote, trying to find a freezer system that
48 works for that area, how to power it all and everything
49 and then maybe get you some money to do that sort of
50

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1 thing. I know you've been talking about the issue for
2 a while, expressing that concern for a while and I
3 think ICAS really seems to have solved for -- been
4 working on solving some of those issues and it's
5 probably a good avenue for perhaps thinking about
6 trying to deal with that issue.

7

8 Also on the mic, you're talking about
9 different partners and having a hard time finding
10 partners. Brendan and I were talking about a couple
11 different partners that I'm not sure who all gets
12 approached, but I know that there's a couple of
13 connections that Fish and Game has with UAF students
14 and trying to pursue those as potential researchers.
15 I'm not sure if that's in your list of people. I know
16 at least in our division and I'm not sure if he covers
17 fish or not, but Shawn Crimmins is our Cooperative
18 Extension Partner through Fish and Game and he works
19 for UAF as well and matches our research projects with
20 students. So that's part of his job. And so that's
21 someone that should be -- people like that should be
22 approached.

23

24 Just a few ideas to add to the mix.
25 Thank you.

26

27 MS. HYER: Carmen, maybe I'll follow-up
28 with you later on some partnerships that -- yeah, thank
29 you. I appreciate any information about that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, appreciate that
32 feedback. And it's important. I think ICC is working
33 on food security network issues as well and but we
34 should never let up expressing our -- these types of
35 concerns. I always like to remind myself of my mom
36 when she was alive. She said don't forget how to do
37 these things. We grew up in the '60s fishing with them
38 and then we joined them in the '70s, we learned how to
39 do it just like they did. Then we went through the
40 '80s, '90s. Late '90s things started to be more
41 difficult I think, I mean, somewhere about 1999, 2000
42 we started to -- it was still good, but today, you
43 know, I hesitate to go because when we fish we don't
44 fish for ourselves, we fish for our families, we fish
45 for our whaling crew members to feed them on the --
46 when we're whaling and then the community is blessed
47 with a lot of fish. It's a trade practice. I remember
48 my dad trading five sacks of fish to get two (in
49 Native) skins so that we can outfit our boat. And they
50

0173

1 trade, it's a traditional trade tool and stuff that
2 nobody -- we should not forget these things and
3 continue to make a way for that, it is part of the
4 traditional economy, traditional culture to do these
5 things. And one day my mom always say, they went
6 through hunger, you know, she's born in the 1920s and
7 they've heard about going through hunger and you fish
8 and hunt because all the animals have a time, they will
9 be here in their prime for a period of time. And some
10 of them leave altogether for the winter.

11

12 So anyway I'll leave it at that.

13

14 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman and
15 Council members, the last PIN on page 104 is baseline
16 fish habitat and water quality monitoring, especially
17 temperature, dissolved oxygen and silt on the rivers
18 and tributaries important to subsistence fishing
19 communities in the North Slope region. Investigators
20 are encouraged to include overwintering areas.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that's
23 an important one. We saw that in a video yesterday.
24 That's an important -- but looking at that I think it's
25 a great study, we should study that. I think that's an
26 important one. But don't be startled because we've
27 seen those things that will happen from time to time.
28 They will -- some fish will spawn in an area and then
29 it will -- it will get low water or the snow will blow
30 off in a big storm and expose the ice and then the ice
31 gets really thick at 40 below, the snow is an
32 insulating quality. And just for an example we --
33 North Slope Borough Land Management Policy says to
34 avoid overwintering habitat for industrial activities.
35 We had in I think 1998 a tractor, D7, make a shortcut
36 across a overwintering habitat where the river bank has
37 snow all the way to the sandbar and it look ideal to go
38 through. And halfway going through there the tractor
39 fell through the overwintering habitat because of its
40 sheer weight. The ice was only that thick and it was
41 February. And but it had six feet of snow on top as
42 insulation.

43

44 So those are -- they're important
45 things and it may help devise better regulations and
46 protection mechanisms for overwintering habitat. I
47 think it's very important.

48

49 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman and

50

1 Council members. I do have one more that I was talking
2 to Martha about yesterday and like I had said earlier
3 this is just a general PIN because she had wanted to go
4 back and talk to some specific subsistence fishers and
5 then she was going to get back to me. But I have
6 seasonal movement in overwintering of habitats --
7 overwintering habitat, excuse me. Seasonal movement,
8 overwintering habitats of the lakes on the Colville
9 delta. And she's going to -- and I asked her about
10 specific fish and she's said she needed to do a little
11 bit of talking with her community and she'd get back to
12 me because we have a bit of time, these have to be
13 absolutely finalized when we make the announcement.

14

15 So anyway that is the last PIN I had
16 and so I'll take any comments on that or any additions
17 that people feel like need to be added to what I
18 presented.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it's important
21 to say our piece and I say more than my share seems
22 like. You know, when we're looking at lakes, you know,
23 we've expressed from Utqiagvik region, the (in Native)
24 Lake, the (in Native) Lake and some of those that the
25 hunters for maybe a 10 year period saying the abundance
26 of whitefish in these lakes, we're not catching what
27 we're used to catching. And then about two years ago
28 we start to see it change again. And so I think it's
29 important because lake whitefish is very different in
30 taste than those that are riverbound and that are
31 anadromous and move in and out of the coast and go into
32 the rivers. Their taste, like the ones at (in Native),
33 those to me are like butter. And it might be what they
34 eat. And when you look at them they eat snails in that
35 lake. So and it might be important to study if their
36 foods are struggling as well in those lakes.

37

38 So I'm with Nuiqsut on studying the
39 abundance of fish for subsistence in the lakes
40 surrounding communities because those ones are a
41 constant. The ones in the river are a -- like if
42 you're going to go for the spawning ones you got about
43 four weeks and you're going to miss the whole thing and
44 it's over. I have my nets under the ice from --
45 typically should be mid September to about mid October.
46 After October 10 you're going to get three. October 9,
47 the day before, you're going to get 200. They
48 disappear that fast in the river. But in the lake you
49 can fish until it's -- the ice too thick and then you
50

0175

1 can't do it anymore. And it's -- they're good
2 subsistence resources.

3
4 And there should also be some ways to
5 look at lakes that might not have fish, but look at
6 them to put fish in those. And the reindeer herders
7 used to talk about that all the time, they used to move
8 fish around and stock lakes after they checked the
9 depth. At least from the guys that I talked to,
10 they're not here today, but they had a practice of
11 checking water depth, if it was deep enough and not
12 freeze all the way to the bottom it was a candidate for
13 them to play around and move fish and check it a few
14 years later and do things that way. But that's 1930s,
15 that's 1940s. And when the Navy at that time was a big
16 problem for them, the Navy was dynamiting lakes and the
17 (in Native) is one of those that has been completed
18 dynamited in one year to do seismic back in the '40s
19 and '50s they would use dynamite and there'd be a big
20 die-off and fish all around the edge of the lakes
21 because they were dynamited. So but some of those fish
22 obviously survived, you know, and then there's still
23 more fish in them. Anyway.....

24
25 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
26 members, that's all I have. We don't have a quorum
27 yet, do we. This is an action item so we need to vote
28 on it when we do get a quorum, but that is the list
29 that I have.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other Council
32 members have feedback on any of these, I know I've been
33 providing a lot of feedback and, you know, on fish
34 studies you might have something in your area that
35 might not be on this list, but you added the Schrader
36 Lake or Chandler.

37
38 MS. HUGO: Chandler.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Chandler Lake.
41 And I think it's very important to let them do that
42 kind of study. (In Native) you have to think about the
43 health of these fish, especially those that were being
44 studied in other parts of the State at these -- some of
45 these bigger lakes on trout. And because we consume
46 them and they're good eating. We want to make sure
47 we're not going to glow.

48
49 So the mic's open for any feedback on
50

0176

1 any PINs or any other that you might want to add, that
2 you might think about.

3

4 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther from
7 Anaktuvuk.

8

9 MS. HUGO: Yes. Karen, I'm curious
10 does it have to be the Chandler because we do ice fish
11 at Schrader Lake. It's just northeast of us and that's
12 where they catch a lot of lakers and -- especially
13 lakers, lake trout.

14

15 MS. HYER: So when you say Schrader
16 Lake, is that the same lake that Brendan was talking
17 about.....

18

19 MS. HUGO: No.

20

21 MS. HYER:yesterday? There's
22 another Schrader lake?

23

24 MS. HUGO: In our area.

25

26 MS. HYER: Okay.

27

28 MS. HUGO: Not Schrader, Shaynin Lake.
29 I'm sorry. Willow Lake.

30

31 MS. HYER: Willow.

32

33 MS. HUGO: Some people call it Willow
34 at home and then it's Shaynin Lake. I'm sorry.

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, you got me lost.

37

38 MS.HUGO: Yeah, it's in -- near Barter.

39

40 MS. HYER: So and that is a different
41 -- that's -- you have Chandler Lake, right?

42

43 MS. HUGO: Chandler Lake is west of us.

44

45 MS. HYER: And that's a big place that
46 you get lake trout and then this Shaynin.....

47

48 MS. HUGO: Shaynin.

49

50

0177

1 MS. HYER:Shaynin Lake.....

2

3 MS. HUGO: Shaynin Lake.

4

5 MS. HYER:Willow Lake. So.....

6

7 MS. HUGO: Willow Lake slash.

8

9 MS. HYER:that's another place
10 that Anaktuvuk harvest a lot of.....

11

12 MS. HUGO: Yeah.

13

14 MS. HYER: So would you like to add
15 that to the list also?

16

17 MS. HUGO: Yeah.

18

19 MS. HYER: Okay. Absolutely.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me check online
22 if Steve Oomittuk, did you happen to join us this
23 morning yet?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So once
28 we get I think one more, if Mr. Frantz would join us
29 this morning sometime or we should be able to get a
30 quorum and formally act on some of these things.

31

32 Did you have something, Carmen.

33

34 MS. DAGGETT: For the record this is
35 Carmen Daggett with Fish and Game. I just wanted to
36 throw this out just for discussion purposes more than
37 anything and you guys can think about it or not, but it
38 seems like I've been reading a lot about water -- about
39 lakes draining more and more and hearing about -- I
40 know there was one that drained over by Nuiqsut this
41 year. And there was another one that drained by
42 Kotzebue this year. And so I'm wondering how that
43 might tie into maybe some of these other research
44 projects and if it's an element that you guys might
45 want to consider adding to one of these projects,
46 especially perhaps exploration of where fish are
47 currently or might be in the future or whatever.

48

49 Just something to think about, but I

50

0178

1 thought I would add that piece just because I've seen a
2 lot of people talking about it on social media and on
3 the LEO network.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
6 And that's been around for sometime unfortunately, I've
7 seen a whole lake full of pike that breakthrough on
8 Ikpikpuk. I remember being a kid and my brother came
9 running saying I got an alligator. And it was a little
10 pike and we tied it on the hook and threw it back in,
11 not even 10 seconds he had a big pike on there. They
12 were hanging out on the edge trying not to be eaten by
13 big pike. And that lake went and so we know these
14 lakes around highly eroding rivers especially during
15 spring breakup are very susceptible to (in Native), you
16 know, they will -- you know, they're not -- yeah,
17 they're -- I don't even know how you would try to save
18 something like that. I -- it's what happened to Point
19 Lay, all their entire water supply drained away a few
20 years ago. And so that is a common problem and that
21 was -- but it would be a good study to look at what
22 lakes that might have fish are at risk from these types
23 of local events.

24

25 All right. Well, we made some
26 discussions. Maybe we can take a look at any other
27 items that are not action items and go through the
28 agenda there. So Fisheries Resource Monitoring, we
29 went through the PINs.

30

31 MS. HUGO: We have a quorum now, Mr.
32 Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Just in
35 time.

36

37 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is
38 Eddie.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
41 Eddie. And just for the record we'll recognize Brower
42 Frantz as here this morning and we now have a quorum
43 and able to act on action items this morning.

44

45 So go ahead, Mr. Rexford, out of
46 Kaktovik.

47

48 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Just a little
49 informational. We do have broad whitefish right next
50

0179

1 to the Canning River on the coast which my father
2 identified in the past and he applied for a Native
3 allotment in that area. It's like I believe 20 to 25
4 miles away from Kaktovik, but hardly anybody go over
5 there to try to harvest some of those broad whitefish.
6 And it's on a lake right next to the coast on the
7 Canning River just for informational purposes if some
8 of the folks don't know about that stock. It could be
9 used for comparison purposes probably in not -- some
10 study. But just a little information on that.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
15 Eddie. That's good information. Let me know, maybe
16 I'll follow you and we could go check the depth and put
17 a (in Native) in there and them lake fish are
18 fantastic, I'll tell you that much.

19

20 There's another one that came up one
21 time and we met up with some elders like Paul Kenneak,
22 Sr., Warren Mutamap, Arnold Brower, Sr., and the
23 industry wanted to put a runway, an ice runway to serve
24 as a field depo for seismic operations. And we were
25 tasked to talk about what issues might come up. And
26 those guys talked about the lakes between the Chip
27 River delta area and the Alaktak River delta area,
28 there's these lakes in there and they have very small
29 creeks, like some of them are only four feet wide, but
30 they're like eight feet deep, the little creeks in
31 those areas. And he mentioned that they had a fish
32 called (in Native). And he said well, they wanted to
33 identify exactly -- so these elders went on their own
34 mission and retired guys and they went to go put a net
35 up there by themselves. And a couple of weeks later
36 they called us, why don't you guys come over and visit
37 us here, we show you what it is. And sure enough they
38 were lakes just abundant with small lake trout, rainbow
39 trout, they were rainbow trout. And those guys call
40 them (in Native). And they were green, orange,
41 different colors on them, very pretty fish. And it
42 seemed to be a very localized area where those could be
43 found on those -- I think it's three particular lakes
44 in that area.

45

46 So lake fish are important resources so
47 I'll just run with that.

48

49 All right. With that, Madame

50

0180

1 Coordinator, I believe we have a quorum now.

2

3 MS. HONIG: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And earlier we
6 discussed since we're having difficulty maintaining a
7 quorum that there are a couple action items that are
8 very quick, that we get them out of our way real quick
9 in case, you know, we can't maintain a quorum.

10

11 MS. HYER: So, Mr. Chairman, we've just
12 been over the PINs. Now if you'd like to make a motion
13 we could vote on that right now and then we'd be
14 completely done with this.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen.
17 And I'm going to start off with maybe seeing the
18 appetite of the Commission here to do the very, very
19 easiest ones. I think the PINs we might have a little
20 discussion as we try to think about which ones should
21 be our priority list versus I think we can get future
22 meeting dates done in three minutes.

23

24 MS. HYER: As you wish, Mr. Chair and
25 Council members. We'll come back when you're done with
26 all that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Well, what's
29 the wish of the Council about -- item 13 is an actual
30 action item. And I know we lost Steve yesterday and we
31 lost Martha today and we're very grateful that Brower's
32 about to -- Mr. Frantz able to be with us this morning.
33 I think selecting future meeting dates takes a few
34 minutes. If we can do that it's an actual action item
35 and that'll go a long ways to getting the agenda for
36 the next meetings. And we can go to page 116 real
37 quick.

38

39 MS. HONIG: Yes, Mr. Chair, if I may.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Leigh.

42

43 MS. HONIG: There was a new edition of
44 the calendar of some of the other meeting dates that
45 have been decided upon by the other Councils. I can
46 run and grab that so everybody has the most current
47 version.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

50

0181

1 MS. HONIG:version in front of
2 them. Hold on one second.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the other action
5 item that we have is to adopt our annual report. I
6 think we have to go by a motion on that.

7
8 MS. HONIG: So, Mr. Chair, if I may.
9 If you'd like to start with the winter, 2023, if you'd
10 like to confirm the meeting dates for the North Slope
11 RAC will be February 23rd through the 24th in Kaktovik.
12 I will point out if you're interested in changing that
13 meeting date that the Southcentral Regional Advisory
14 Council has moved their meeting just by one day from
15 March 15th to March 16th in Anchorage.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So our winter meeting
18 dates of February 23 to 24, we can just reconfirm that
19 to be in Kaktovik?

20
21 MS. HONIG: That is correct, but here
22 is Katya.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Katya.

25
26 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
27 members of the Council. For the record my name is
28 Katya Wessels. And I just would like the Council to
29 consider to move this date maybe to 22nd through 23rd.
30 So we -- like Friday I think, you know, we run into
31 situations where we end up flying on the weekend or
32 airplanes maybe not flying and it would be difficult
33 for the Council members to return back to their
34 communities especially if we will hold the meeting in
35 Kaktovik. So if we have meeting on Wednesday and
36 Thursday and then we have Friday to make it home
37 instead of like running into the weekend if the Council
38 is able to consider this switch that would be
39 preferable.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. What's
44 the wish of the Council. There's a recommendation to
45 move it to Wednesday, February 22 and February 23
46 instead of February 23, Thursday, and February 24,
47 Friday, to give an opportunity for meeting goers to
48 have a good chance of getting home too. So.....

49
50

0182

1 MR. FRANTZ: Just I guess one note to
2 throw in. How many of our folks are possibly on the --
3 any of the North Slope Borough's meetings that are on
4 the last Thursday of the month.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, if you're a
7 Planning Commissioner that might be a Planning
8 Commission day. That's the last Thursday of the month.
9 But you can always, you know, have an alternate.
10 There's always alternates too on the Planning
11 Commission. I think right on the -- on this date we
12 tried to accommodate some of the issues described -- is
13 it Katya? Yeah, Katya just mentioned.

14
15 So what's the wish of the Council or do
16 we need to act by motion to confirm those dates?

17
18 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

21
22 MS. HUGO: I don't have any problem on
23 the Thursday and Friday, it's just that if we're done
24 with the meeting on a Friday Everts don't fly weekends
25 and I know Wright's fly up there. Otherwise we'll have
26 to spend the weekend on Barter Island.

27
28 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, there's a
33 recommendation to change the date by one day to
34 February 22 and February 23 instead of 23, 24.

35
36 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower.

39
40 MR. FRANTZ: I'd like to move to accept
41 the change and move the date from the 23rd to the 22nd,
42 making February 22nd and 23rd the meeting dates and try
43 to make it home before the weekend so we don't have any
44 hang ups.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
47 the floor for the winter meeting to be in Kaktovik and
48 changing the date to February 22 and February 23.
49 There's a motion on the floor.

50

0183

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

2

3 MR. REXFORD: I'll second.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been
6 seconded.....

7

8 MR. REXFORD:the motion from
9 Kaktovik.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER:by Kaktovik.
12 Any discussion.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MR. REXFORD: Call for the question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
19 called for to -- all those in favor of moving the
20 winter meeting, 2023 to -- in Kaktovik on February 22
21 and 23, signify by saying aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
26 nay.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we have
31 a winter date set and we will visit Eddie Rexford's
32 territory.

33

34 All right. We have the fall calendar,
35 fall, 2023, Regional Advisory Council meeting calendar
36 last updated 10/6/2022. So our window is between
37 August 14 and that window closes November 3.

38

39 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, if I may.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Leigh.

42

43 MS. HONIG: The Southcentral Regional
44 Advisory Committee, they just wrapped up their meeting
45 and they -- for their meeting dates they chose October
46 2nd and 3rd in Kenai. Just to put that on the calendar
47 for you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, there's a big

50

0184

1 window of opportunity for the fall meeting. I know
2 August is always a heavy subsistence -- actually peak
3 subsistence is August and September, we start to wind
4 down a little bit I would say October 24 or October 25
5 might be good. What's the wish of the Council.

6

7 MR. FRANTZ: So do we have -- do you
8 know if we have a set location for this that we have in
9 mind?

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we can do it
12 for Utqiagvik for now and then in our winter meeting we
13 can reconfirm.

14

15 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. I was just
16 wondering because normally around the 21st, 22nd --
17 well, at least for this year and previous years AFN is
18 around that time. So just not sure -- well, I guess
19 that's after those dates. I'm not sure what it is for
20 next year, but the dates sound good to me. And I'll --
21 I don't have anything around then. So.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, considering
24 that, I mean, you know, maybe even October 17 or
25 October 18. I know you're right, AFN might be around
26 those dates as well. It's usually around the end of
27 October or somewhere around there.

28

29 So the mic's open for any suggested
30 dates.

31

32 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, if I may.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Madame
35 Coordinator.

36

37 MS. HONIG: I just received word that
38 AFN is going to be the 20th and 22nd of this -- in
39 October.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For this year?

42

43 MS. HONIG: Correct. For 2023, next
44 October.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I say for now
47 November 1 and November 2. Of course I'm just saying
48 that.

49

50

0185

1 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

4

5 MS. HUGO: I don't have any problem
6 with the dates, just end of the month. November 1 and
7 2 sounds okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that a motion.

10

11 MS. HUGO: I make a motion.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
14 for fall, 2023 meeting to be November 1 and November 2
15 in Utqiagvik.

16

17 MR. FRANTZ: Seconded.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.

20 Any discussion.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
27 called for. All those in favor for the fall, 2023
28 meeting to be November 1 and November 2 in Utqiagvik
29 signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
34 same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing
39 none, ayes have it. We'll have our fall, 2023 meeting
40 dated for November 1 and November 2 in Utqiagvik. And
41 we probably will reconfirm that in our winter meeting.

42

43 All right. Thank you on that. So,
44 Madame Coordinator, if you can help us with our next
45 action item which is our annual report.

46

47 MS. HONIG: Yes, Mr. Chair. Okay. So
48 it -- Leigh Honig for the record. It is time for the
49 Council to decide what issues to include in its annual
50

0186

1 report. For your information guidelines for annual
2 reports can be found on page 107 of your meeting books.
3 And this is an action item.

4
5 So ANILCA established the annual report
6 as a way to inform the Federal Subsistence Board of
7 regional subsistence uses and needs and to provide
8 recommendations for regional fish and wildlife
9 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines
10 and proposed regulations. Section 805(a)(3)(d) of
11 ANILCA stipulates that your annual report should
12 contain one, an identification of current and
13 anticipated subsistence uses for fish and wildlife
14 populations within the region; two, an evaluation of
15 current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and
16 wildlife populations within the region; three, a
17 recommendation for the management of fish and wildlife
18 populations within the region to accommodate such
19 subsistence uses and needs; and, finally four,
20 recommendations concerning policies, standards,
21 guidelines and regulations to implement the strategy.

22
23 I would like to emphasize that your
24 annual report ensures the Board has the most up to date
25 awareness of issues, concerns and current events that
26 impact your subsistence way of life. With your report
27 and recommendations the Board can make informed
28 decisions on regulatory and policy actions. So this is
29 the time for the Council members to share items or
30 information that you would like to see raised to the
31 Board's attention in your fiscal year 2022 annual
32 report and have a discussion on what you would like OSM
33 to include under the topics. And I'll make note of
34 these items at this time and after the meeting is over
35 I'll draft the topics for your annual report based on
36 the information you gave in this discussion. And then
37 at the winter, 2023 meeting we can review that draft
38 report and the Council will have opportunity to provide
39 at it any additional information. And if you cannot
40 think of any topics at this time to report on now
41 remember them later through the duration of this
42 meeting and you can share them at a later time with
43 permission of your chair.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
48 Coordinator. And I know we've talked about a
49 considerable amount of issues since yesterday. I think
50

0187

1 some of those topics are very ripe to be on the report.
2 And I would advocate that we look at some of those.
3 Some of the other things that I think are important are
4 food security issues regarding traditional preservation
5 methodologies and looking at ways how OSM and -- could
6 collaborate with local entities or tribes on -- in this
7 area. I mean, being able to subsist and then
8 preserving that food in the traditional way is -- we're
9 struggling with that. And I don't really like to go to
10 my cabin to do the big, large scale fishing because
11 when half my catch is going to spoil. And that is a
12 detriment to the community in my view. And those are
13 alarming to me. And there should be some ways -- that
14 is part of subsistence is to preserve that food and I
15 would hope that are in our annual report that these
16 types of issues that are plaguing the community. It's
17 not just preserving fish and I -- we heard a little bit
18 from Carmen earlier about some grants being funneled to
19 try to maybe work on ice cellars that are faltering
20 with being able to even store whale is starting to get
21 challenging. And the best flavor there is is the
22 cellar whale. And believe it or not if you put it in
23 the earth to age is very different than just putting it
24 out in the weather to age.

25
26 And but that too, you know, is
27 struggling a little bit. We've had to pull out whale
28 from our cellars and -- after they age. Thank god they
29 age good, but when they start thawing out and making
30 big pools of blood at the bottom of the cellar and not
31 for -- keeping frozen, you got to pull them out, you
32 know, you might make poison at that point because if
33 you don't take care of your food.

34
35 That's one issue. I'm going to yield
36 to the Council to see if there's anything else that the
37 annual report should discuss.

38
39 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

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41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

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43 MS. HUGO: Yes. Leigh, I don't know if
44 this is the right place, but we really need support and
45 we need that proposal that we had proposed a couple
46 times that was rejected by the Board of Game. And if
47 we can look into that because I know we can do the
48 proposal before the 2023 I believe. And we really need
49 that support coming from our community. And maybe in
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1 the future we really -- North Slope Borough Biologists
2 do a great job, but we need our own in our area
3 regardless because we've got a two story Gates of the
4 Arctic, maybe they can join together and maybe they can
5 help each other and start monitoring and start getting
6 those concerns about our tutu. We've been waiting too
7 long, we've been having meetings and it's just ongoing.
8 And the most important is the food security and what we
9 put on our table for the community.

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
You know, sometimes I think about what we do with
bowhead whale locally and through the Federal
government. Because the quota system and the
protections for bowhead whale, we can actually do time,
area closures for industrial activities. And tell the
industry to quiet down, quit using barges during this
period of time until the quota is met. It seems to me
during peak subsistence activities, you know, there
should be a time, area closure maybe in the village
area of influence or the lands immediately outside of
the village district boundaries that are used for
traditional and subsistence activities. Maybe a
proposal to the Board of Game from this Council
requesting either a tier two hunt and define a boundary
for a time, area closure and then once that period is
over it goes back to normal -- normalcy. Because I
certainly believe that you can deplete the resource
from an area by deflection even if the abundance of
caribou is in the liberal management scheme. Even
though there's so much caribou there's enough to go
around for everybody, but if you put hunters in the
wake of its migration and potential needs -- the needs
for the community are -- it's like putting a line of
hunters in front of the community to give them first
chance and then they turn. They go through maybe a
different pass or something. It seems to me we haven't
used all of the resources that we could use or try to
implement to do some of these things because I
certainly believe that it becomes practically a tier
two event when the deflection is occurring.

And anyway, thank you, Esther for that
or Brower.

MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hannah.

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4 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. Yeah, Hannah
5 Voorhees for the record. Esther, I was just wondering
6 if you could just so we have it on the record just
7 restate which proposal you were referring to with tutu
8 in your area. Just I know we've discussed, but just
9 specifically what you were hoping to have in such a
10 proposal so that we can make sure we write up the
11 correspondence to reflect your concerns.

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MS. HUGO: Thank you. I'll have Gordon
-- I mean, Brower, answer that.

MR. FRANTZ: So I believe the proposal
she's referring to is one that the Fish and Game
Management Committee had submitted and I think that was
it. And that was through Brian Person.

MR. WILLIAMS: Who paid for that?

MR. FRANTZ: Huh.

MR. WILLIAMS: Who paid for that?

MR. FRANTZ: Fish and Game -- North
Slope Borough Fish and Game, FNGMC, the Fish and Game
Management Committee. And that was submitted while I
was Executive Chair for the -- or the Executive Manager
for the Wildlife at the time. So I was involved with
that. So I won't -- you know, I don't work for them
anymore, so I won't speak anymore to that, but I just
wanted to point out that that's where that came from,
was that proposal that was submitted through the North
Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower.
And maybe you had some others that -- on your own
there. Go ahead.

MR. FRANTZ: So I did have a couple
other comments on this though. I think you're right,
we're not using all the -- all the tools that we have
in front of us. And a couple other things that I think
we should be looking at is the population, we can
definitely use that I guess to try and help that area
out. So the -- it looks like there has been some
decline and we can definitely try to use that to try to
do some sort of management effort in that area so if

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1 the population does hit a certain threshold which it
2 looks like they're borderline we can definitely discuss
3 trying to throw some recommendations out to regulate
4 sport harvest in the area. I think that's one
5 opportunity there that I see with the trend in the
6 population that we can try and -- try and push for
7 something like that in the area. So try to dampen the
8 sport hunt in the area.

9

10 The other I think is still a good idea
11 is the one I was talking about yesterday with talking
12 with the State because it -- the problem area there is
13 within the State's boundaries and jurisdiction. So the
14 State openly gives permits and we know exact locations
15 for all of their fly-in hunters and once again they
16 have almost no enforcement there whether it be State
17 troopers. I know I see some occasional fly-in, but
18 there's really almost no enforcement other than what
19 they have to submit to the State and Borough. So that
20 section of it I think coupled along with the State's
21 and also the Borough's radio collars, you can get the
22 dates of when and where the guys were hunting that are --
23 you know, they're allowed there by the State. So we
24 know the dates, we know the GPS locations and then we
25 can also couple that with the migration pattern and the
26 dates off of the collars and see if there is deflection
27 there. And at least that would either confirm or rule
28 out the sport hunters that are in the area. So there
29 is documentation there and it should be, you know,
30 heavily documented. It's just a matter of extracting
31 that for this purpose. So I think that's a good idea.

32

33

34 And yeah, it does seem that we have
35 kind of an issue there to where more hunters are let in
36 and approved for hunting during this specific period of
37 time, you know, once -- if you've never been on the
38 Haul Road during the falltime I highly suggest you go
39 there between August and September and see how many
40 people are on the sides of the roads, walking the
41 tundra, flying in with multiple charter flights. And
42 it's not just there either, it's -- we after they
43 closed 23, this is kind of a sidebar to that, we did
44 see a big influx of hunters around the Point Hope area
45 being flown in after 23 was closed. So they're going
46 more north into the Borough and landing there and we
47 have issues there as well.

48

49 But so I just in short -- I'll cut it

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1 short here, I do think looking down that avenue of, you
2 know, at least requesting or proposing something
3 through the State, Carmen did mention there was an open
4 period so maybe we can submit through the RAC something
5 of that nature, I wouldn't know exactly how to word it.
6 You know, with the Borough Fish and Game Management
7 Committee we had the Biologist go through and submit
8 so, you know, maybe a motion of some sort to submit
9 something through the State's proposal system I think
10 would be the proper path. Also Brian could do
11 something with the population and, you know, do some
12 kind of management change there.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
17 Frantz. I think these are all important. And I'm
18 going to go ahead and yield to Carmen from ADF&G.

19

20 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, thank you. To
21 member Frantz. I think if you wanted to do something
22 formal that's not quite the same process that's like
23 the Fisheries Program has as far as a formal process
24 for wildlife research projects. However I do think
25 perhaps if you wanted to do something formal a letter
26 would probably be the best and citing the things that
27 you are most interested in and then, you know,
28 submitting that. You can submit it to me and I can
29 give it up the, you know, the chain to my superiors and
30 have them look at it and hopefully get it prioritized
31 for funding and considerations. Because I've had some
32 discussions about looking at fall migration before and
33 drivers in fall migration before, but there's a lot of
34 projects that are up for consideration and so they are
35 internally competitive with each other. And so having
36 something directly from you guys like a letter might
37 push that issue a little bit more and show the level of
38 priority it is for you guys. So that would be my
39 recommendation. And if you wanted to submit it
40 directly to someone above me instead, Ryan Scott is
41 probably the right person and then go from there. And
42 if you want his contact information I can get that for
43 you.

44

45 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you, Carmen.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
48 And I think those are important discussions. Any other
49 items that we may want to have drafted for our annual
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1 report.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Peter.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Chairman. Anyway
8 I like what Esther spoke about fish. Back in '90s I
9 recall and remember one time a person caught a fish,
10 but in the stomach it's just like milk. And, you know,
11 plus that we never seen no biologist people in
12 Anaktuvuk, just a few times like sheep. The only sheep
13 study I seen a few people that sheep study that one
14 time, that's about it. And it brought up a lot of
15 tension about all these pipelines and all these
16 corroded equipments on there, you know, in them sloughs
17 and, you know, they're buried in the ground and you
18 don't see it, but that's something that, you know,
19 that's lit and that -- and that iron, you know. And
20 but what I'm saying is that we need to stand up to, you
21 know, someone that study, that we studied on our
22 fishery mostly because in summertime that's all mostly
23 that's what we eat is fish. I know that because where
24 I come from, you know. And I want to clarify to you
25 all that I'm from -- actually from Fort Yukon. They'd
26 give me this funny look every time I'd speak up about
27 Interior they look at me like huh.

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For instance like Gordon brought up
this attention about cellars. In hometown when we go
fishing for salmon we always dig out a hole about six
feet by eight feet deep and we put willows in there and
grass and around the edge we put rocks, greenwood,
because greenwood don't smell, it just -- anyway we
don't cut our fish open, we throw them inside that
cellar to be cold. But if you cut that fish open it'll
dry up. You see what I'm saying, that fish will dry
up. But if you leave it closed, cover -- I mean, you
don't have to leave it in there all summer, I mean, all
winter, I mean, you know, they just leave it there so
they can cut it out, cut it open. As long as you got
it inside the ground that stomach wouldn't spoil. And
same way with other animals, you know, you don't treat
it right it'll get bum on you. And old people used to
tell us that fish are the easiest thing to get spoiled,
you can leave it there for half a day and it just get
mushy.

So that's something we need to study on

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1 and I like what Esther said about, you know, bringing
2 up this attention.

3

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Peter.
Any other discussion items that we may want to add to
our annual report.

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(No comments)

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MS. HONIG: Correct.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: It shouldn't stop
there. And because they're issues that we're going to
repeat and we're going to continue to deal with those
issues. And I've read one response to we're
practically saying it was a matter that couldn't be
addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board. And things
like village area of influence by local ordinance
adopted by the Assembly to provide for this traditional
and subsistence use patterns for a village. If that's
mandatory by State statutes that we develop these
things and mandatory for us to implement by municipal
code of the Borough and adopted by ordinance which
makes it into the law, it seems to me that the State
and the Federal agencies need to think about how to --
how to work within those confines to balance, balance
that approach. Would you want to put guides in front
of a village area of influence where the expected use
of the village to provide food on the table is directly
competing with sport hunters and personal use. Maybe
that should be changed to -- maybe that's a category to
be changed into a tier two for time, area closure.
Only look at an area in that area of influence that --
well, from July 31 to October 10 it should be a tier
two hunt in that area meaning it might need to be local
residents that have immediate accessibility where you

1 can't fly-in, you can't -- you know, personal use is
2 different in these areas. And those categories are
3 seldom ever used because it's always a management
4 scheme that is always either liberal and allows for the
5 use by all residents unless the resource is in
6 preservative, declining, depleted and there's only four
7 left, you know, just like what's happening with the
8 sheep. And then now nobody can use it because it's so
9 declined in 24 and 26B that we all advocated for sheep
10 to be closed in that area because the management scheme
11 was so liberal and we were so hard nosed about who
12 should be hunting there that we allowed the resource to
13 get completely depleted.

14
15 Now there should be a lesson in that in
16 some fashion to where even in liberal management these
17 resources can be depleted in an area where they're most
18 needed by local users. And should be, you know, tier
19 two or restrictor for a period of time to prevent the
20 depletion of those resources where they're normally
21 found and they're expected to grace the community at
22 some time.

23
24 Anyway that's -- the other part is
25 maybe this body needs to pick up a rezoning application
26 of the Borough and rezone State and Federal land to
27 identify these lands as what they've been identified in
28 comprehensive plans as area of influence and category
29 -- categorize them and rezone them just like we do for
30 oil and gas. We rezone lands from conservation to
31 allow for large scale development proposals to go
32 through and put in pipelines and all of this kind of
33 stuff and only the Assembly, even you go through the
34 EIS process or the public process to do that and
35 finally the rezone to reclassify those lands, maybe
36 it's time to classify some into subsistence or area of
37 influence. And sponsor an application because we might
38 be talking into deaf ears, you know, in hard times.
39 Anyway I get going on a roll sometimes, it's
40 heartbreaking to my ownself.

41
42 Anyway I'm hoping that there's multiple
43 issues here for -- to craft a good annual report and if
44 there aren't any answers that the Subsistence Board
45 can't, they really need to reach out beyond, maybe the
46 Secretary of Interior at that point that appoints these
47 folks to gain that attention. Just like what Ahtna did
48 a few years ago. They now have some local control, the
49 Ahtna model, to have their own quota for moose and to
50

1 manage it themselves and take away from the management
2 scheme of the Department of Interior to grant I think
3 it was the Ahtna that did that. And there should be a
4 presentation on that. There should be a presentation
5 how the Ahtna is doing with their co-management. I
6 want to hear that presentation, that they were given by
7 the Department of Interior Secretary the ability to
8 manage their resources in their Ahtna land. And it's
9 important, maybe it's time for ICS to do the same
10 thing. And it's an important thing so I think part of
11 that report should include some feedback and
12 presentation about what happened to Ahtna, are they
13 being successful in managing those resources for their
14 people.

15

16 I'll stop there.

17

18 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower.

21

22 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, I guess that kind of
23 triggers a few thoughts of, you know, your discussion
24 there of who's in charge of what. You know, I think
25 we've got a good grasp of how things work up here,
26 who's -- you know, who's the enforcement, who's in
27 charge of keeping tabs of the numbers and there's --
28 you know, there's definitely the Borough, the State and
29 Federal side of things too. But, you know, you have
30 all these things in place, but also I think back of how
31 we know certain areas are capable of keeping track and
32 how they manage their section. Kind of like a C-plan,
33 you know, for oil field, similar to that. How -- so if
34 they let a thousand sport hunters in how are they going
35 to manage their span of control, who's in charge of
36 that. So let's say the State of Alaska allows a
37 thousand sport hunter to come in, what is their span of
38 control, how are they going to manage those people.
39 Same with the Federal side, but the Federal side, it's --
40 you know, it seems to be not as many, but I think we
41 have an issue there to where we don't know how many,
42 you know, people are coming in. I don't think they
43 know. So I think having something like that in place,
44 how are they going to manage all the people that
45 they're expecting. And, you know, have the Borough in
46 that discussion too because the Borough is definitely,
47 you know, here, it is -- it's kind of a weird mix
48 situation between, you know, enforcement versus
49 landowners.

50

1 And, you know, we do have things
2 documented such as the ASRC issue to where, you know,
3 we -- the guy was hundreds of miles away from his State
4 location that was permitted to him and caught red-
5 handed flying, you know, people in and it made national
6 television, his hunt, and that's how they got -- you
7 know, that's how they got caught really was the
8 background that they showed gave away their entire
9 position and they ended up getting a fine through the
10 State, you know, the troopers stepped in. Things like
11 that. So it's -- I don't even think they -- you know,
12 it was the landowner that called it in too so, you
13 know, obviously people aren't submitting what they're
14 supposed to, to who they're supposed and just doing
15 whatever they want up there. So, you know, that might
16 be something to think about is, you know, put them on
17 notice and say hey, how are you going to control this,
18 this is -- you know, you are approving all of this to
19 come in and, you know, what can you do it. So I think
20 that might help too.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
25 Frantz. So maybe at this point I'm going to yield over
26 to Madame Coordinator, what do we need to do to close
27 discussion and give you some direction on the annual
28 report, maybe give us some feedback on that.

29

30 MS. HONIG: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 So I can go through briefly the topics that were
32 mentioned and then you guys can vote to approve that I
33 move forward and write this up for the annual report to
34 the Board. And so just to quickly clarify and of
35 course I'll go into much more detail in the annual
36 report and do research on my own to make sure that it's
37 a sufficient letter to the Board so you guys can get
38 the feedback that you are looking for. But, you know,
39 topics of concern are food security and preservation
40 methods, caribou issues for the Anaktuvuk Pass area
41 including sport hunters and researching how the sport
42 harvest is influencing the migration patterns to get
43 the caribou to your area.

44

45 Let's see here. And, Mr. Williams, you
46 had brought up, you know, studying fish in the
47 Anaktuvuk Pass area and also food security and
48 preservation methods there.

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1 And then I can submit in the annual
2 report to the Board and then in addition I can draft a
3 letter too that we can present to Fish and Game if you
4 would like to see like a collaborative research on
5 tracking caribou and the influence that sport hunters
6 might have on those migration patterns.

7
8 So that is what I have succinctly.
9 Please let me know if I missed anything. And if not
10 then the Board can or the Council can move to adopt
11 those topics.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
16 the Council. I think there's a laundry list that she's
17 developed, there's also some stuff that are -- have
18 been discussed yesterday, that you can weed some of
19 that out too to include.

20
21 MS. HONIG: Yes, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it'll be a draft
24 report until we say it's good. And it'll be subject to
25 probably approve maybe in our winter meeting?

26
27 MS. HONIG: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we have now to get
30 her going with this stuff and I'm pretty sure we're
31 going to give more feedback and I'm thinking somewhere
32 around December you might have a draft letter and say
33 hey, how does this look. And then we could add or
34 delete a draft.

35
36 MS. HONIG: Right. And this will be up
37 for discussion at the winter meeting too where we can
38 provide additional edits or comments and work to
39 finalize it then.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's right. I
42 normally get to see a draft somewhere around December
43 in the times past and.....

44
45 MS. HONIG: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to see if you're
48 on the mark or something like that so that by the time
49 it's in our winter meeting it's more substantially in
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1 line with our thoughts.

2

3 MS. HONIG: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'll
4 definitely be working through you and the Council
5 members to make sure that I have fully incorporated all
6 of the viewpoints that need to be in that letter prior
7 to the winter meeting.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. What's
10 the wish of the Council. She's got a laundry list that
11 she read us and some of the material that we went
12 through yesterday to be included into the annual
13 report. What say ye. We need a motion.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: I so move on annual
16 report.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
19 the floor for the list that we've been talking about to
20 develop the annual report. And there's a motion on the
21 floor to get it going from Peter Williams.

22

23 MR. FRANTZ: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
26 Mr. Frantz from Utqiagvik. Any discussions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. HUGO: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
33 called for. All those.....

34

35 MR. REXFORD: Call for the question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER:in favor of
38 having the Coordinator embark on developing the annual
39 report with the list provided and the materials that
40 we've been discussing the past couple of days signify
41 by saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
46 nay.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
2 ayes have it. You have your marching orders, Leigh.

3

4 And now if there's no wish to go on a
5 break or anything like that we'll go to the Fisheries
6 Resource Monitoring, the PINs, and get back to that and
7 give that group some direction on their -- on
8 prioritizing the list of Fisheries Resource Monitoring
9 Program. See if we can't get some money floating
10 around.

11

12 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council
13 members. I'm looking for a little bit of guidance
14 here, how you want me to proceed. Would you like me
15 just to read the PINs as I have them from our
16 discussion, then you can add, subtract, make a motion,
17 does that sound good?

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that sounds
20 just fine. Yeah, we went through a pretty good
21 discussion and seems like, you know, and, Brower,
22 earlier this morning we went through more discussions
23 on Fisheries Resource Monitoring, we went through that
24 video a little bit yesterday, I think that's ripe for a
25 study too I think about off ice and springs and how
26 fish get entrapped and maybe concerns to their
27 abundance. Seems to me if that happened on the whole
28 river and you could wipe out an entire species in that
29 area right there. But those are things that we know
30 that happened.

31

32 So with that go ahead, let's go with
33 your current list and the things that we've discussed
34 and we'll go from there.

35

36 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
37 members, I'm going to just read.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just for really
40 quick, can we get some coffee real quick like three
41 minutes?

42

43 MS. HYER: Two.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We get two
46 minutes. Two minute coffee break.

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48 (Off record)

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1 (On record)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're about ready to begin. We'll come to order and we've got all our coffee in order now. I was just jealous of Esther and Earl, they got fresh coffee. So I said, man, I need some coffee.

All right. Karen and Hannah, you have the floor. We're going to go to the PINs.

MS. HYER: All right. Mr. Chairman and Council members. I'm going to just read this into the record and then after I'm done we discuss, make a motion, subtract, add, whatever the Council wishes.

Okay. So I have on my list -- let me get to my list, can't use the one in the book. Using traditional ecological knowledge and harvest monitoring document new fish species and changes in abundance, size, timing and distribution of existing fish species as well as impacts of new and expanding species on other fish that are important to subsistence in the North Slope region.

Document and investigate the possible causes of mold, disease and discoloration on broad whitefish in the Colville River in the vicinity of Nuiqsut, compare environmental conditions in the Colville River including temperature with those in the Ikpikpuk River where whitefish are healthy and mold has not been observed to date. Investigators are encouraged to draw on both stock status and trends and traditional ecological knowledge research methods.

Document the effects of climate change including lake freeze up on subsistence fish access, harvest and preservation and the impact of these changes on community wide harvest levels and food security on the North Slope. Research could investigate adaptations for continuing community wide harvest levels where traditional preservation methods are impacted. Studies should include Ikpikpuk River and other -- boy, I messed that one up. Studies include Ikpikpuk River are of particular interest.

Baseline fish habitat and water quality monitoring, especially temperature, dissolved oxygen and silt on the rivers and tributaries important to subsistence fishing for communities of the North Slope

0201

1 region. Investigators are encouraged to include
2 overwintering areas.

3

4

5 Distribution, abundance and health of
6 stocks of broad whitefish on the Sag River. Seasonal
7 movement, overwintering, habitat on the -- in the lakes
8 of the Colville River delta. Document population,
9 structure and health of lake trout in Peters, Schrader,
10 Chandler and Shaynin/Willow Lake which actually I'm
11 going to get on a map and make sure I know what you're
12 talking about, Anaktuvuk Pass grayling health and
13 abundance.

13

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So that's the list I have.

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(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, the -- these
are including (in Native). So that's what it is, they
would -- they are looking to see our concerns and to
study the issues related to our fisheries. And
hopefully we'll get some money coming down the North
Slope. I know we always have this concern about who's
going to do it, you know, is it so challenging in the
Arctic that you don't get a willing participant to do
these things because some of them might -- if you're
going to study overwintering habitat guess what, you're
going to be up there in February in the coldest part of

0202

1 the month and very, very remote area and say well, I
2 got to check the baby fish, see if they're alive, you
3 know, that -- that's what you're going to do. And I
4 would love to help you do that, I think that would be a
5 fantastic study for me to say hey, I'll do it. I know
6 how to do it, I'll study the fish. I might eat them,
7 but, you know, but I'll study them first.

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(Laughter)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native) we think
they got it, we could just say, yeah, that's the list.
Let's go with it and just try to encourage a motion.

MR. FRANTZ: So can you read back
anything you might have for Nuiqsut again, just
the.....

MS. HYER: Yes. So for Nuiqsut we have
the second bullet in your book. Document and
investigate the possible cause of mold, disease and
discoloration on broad whitefish in the Colville River
in the vicinity of Nuiqsut. And we also have the lakes
that Martha talked about yesterday. And I am going to
get with her later because she was going to go back and
check with the fishers, but I have the seasonal
movement in overwintering habitat on the Colville. And
for that -- that's for the fish species of interest and
she was going to check on that and get back to me on
that.

So is there anything else, Hannah?

MS. VOORHEES: Those are the two.

MS. HYER: Okay.

MR. FRANTZ: Okay. No, she's just not
here so I just wanted to double check, make sure that
was on there.

MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

MR. FRANTZ: I would -- I guess I'd
make a motion to go forward with the PINs.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
the floor for the PINs that have been discussed this
morning and identified by Karen and Hannah.

0203

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Peter. Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by
4 Anaktuvuk. Discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just one under -- for
9 under discussion. Another one for Nuiqsut was the
10 lakes.

11

12 MS. HYER: Yes. And that's the one I
13 was trying to describe second there. And I just wanted
14 to make the comment that we had talked about it
15 yesterday, she's not here today, but she said she was
16 going to check with some subsistence users and get back
17 to me. So we're going to finalize that, but the idea
18 is on the list and it's part of the motion.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. It's been
21 seconded. Any further discussion.

22

23 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

26

27 MS. HUGO: Karen, maybe in the future
28 we got what, various places that we do our fishing in
29 the summertime because our creeks are so small, you
30 know, there's a couple of places that we do a lot of
31 that during the summer, July, August.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
36 Any further discussion on the motion.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
43 called for. All those in favor of adopting the
44 priority information needs, the PINs, that have been
45 discussed this morning, and the process we went
46 through, signify by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50

0204

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
2 nay.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
7 ayes have it. We have our priority information needs
8 identified.

9
10 Thank you, Karen, and thank you,
11 Hannah.

12
13 MS. HYER: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,
16 it looks like it's about 11:20. How much more of an
17 agenda and where we're at. I'm going to yield to you
18 to reorient where we are.

19
20 MS. HONIG: Thanks, Mr. Chair. If you
21 would like to keep on with the action items, we just
22 have a couple more left. The first one would be the
23 joint meeting for the North American Caribou Workshop
24 and Arctic Ungulate Conference in May. And then right
25 underneath that is the harvest and wildlife for sport
26 purposes in National Preserves from the National Park
27 Service. And that will be the end of the action items.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So we'll
30 go to 11G, joint meeting -- is that the joint meeting
31 for North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate
32 Conference in May, OSM?

33
34 MS. HONIG: Yes. So that will be
35 Kendra. So I think she just stepped out for a second.
36 So but while I have the mic I will clarify the harvest
37 of wildlife for sport purposes in National Preserves is
38 no longer an action item because I guess it has not
39 been published in the Federal Register.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that H?

42
43 MS. HONIG: Yes, that is correct.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we'll delete H
46 from this list.

47
48 MS. HONIG: Correct. And then Kendra
49 is -- we -- is available to do the North American
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0205

1 Caribou Workshop if you're ready for that, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Kendra,
4 you're up.

5

6 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
7 members of the Council. My name is Kendra Holman and
8 I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
9 Management. I'm presenting an announcement about a
10 caribou and ungulate conference next year that will
11 hopefully be of interest to the Council members. I'll
12 also be seeking your input on a couple of matters
13 relating to the conference. An additional flyer for
14 this conference can be found in your meeting book on
15 page 109.

16

17 A joint meeting of the North American
18 Caribou Workshop and the Arctic Ungulate Conference will
19 be held in Anchorage on May 8th through the 12th, 2023.
20 The meeting will bring together an international group
21 of managers, researchers and indigenous and local
22 knowledge holders who want to share the knowledge --
23 their knowledge of caribou, muskoxen, dall sheep, moose
24 and reindeer. The theme for this meeting is crossing
25 boundaries. Arctic ungulates regularly cross landscape
26 boundaries connecting ecological processes between
27 different systems. This necessitates collaboration
28 across geographical boundaries and also calls for
29 crossing boundaries between western science and local
30 and indigenous knowledge.

31

32 The conference will include sessions on
33 co-management, the status of caribou globally,
34 integrating western science and indigenous knowledge
35 and the affects of climate change on caribou. Field
36 trips, workshops, research talks and a poster session
37 will also be held as part of the conference.

38

39 The conference web address is included
40 on the flyer of your meeting books.

41

42 Before I move on do you have any other
43 questions?

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from
46 the Council.

47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: Is the villages are
49 invited?

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0206

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kendra.

2

3 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This
4 is Hannah with OSM. This conference is open to anyone
5 who would like to attend. And we at OSM, Kendra will
6 get to this in more detail, but OSM is able to support
7 travel and attendance for one Council member from this
8 Council. And but there is -- unfortunately there is a
9 registration fee for anyone who'd want to attend, but
10 if tribal members or if a tribal representative is able
11 to come and attend that would be very, very welcome.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I think
14 that's important to know. So you're advocating that
15 maybe we decide somebody from this Council should
16 attend and their airfare and lodging will be provided.

17

18 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. And I
19 will cover that here in just a minute.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure.

22

23 MS. HOLMAN: So now I'd like to ask for
24 your input as a Council. One of the events that will
25 take place during the conference is a facilitated
26 discussion on Alaska State and Federal ungulate
27 management. This session is intended to be a neutral
28 forum of -- from -- for Council members such as
29 yourself, State Fish and Game Advisory Councils,
30 Federal and State Staff agencies and other interested
31 parties to discuss ungulate management in Alaska
32 specifically regarding harvest regulations. So my
33 question for the Council at this time is what topics
34 and issues would you like to have discussed during this
35 session. It could be anything of concern related to
36 harvest regulations and ungulate management.

37

38 Mr. Chair, I now turn the discussion
39 over to you for this topic. Your suggestions will be
40 very important and is setting the discussion agenda.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kendra.
43 All right. Council, this is a important -- I think
44 this is an important conference. And the -- there's a
45 question on what is our top priority for this -- from
46 this Regional Advisory Council we should want them to
47 discuss. I certainly think maybe distribution pattern
48 of the caribou on the Slope coupled with village
49 harvest needs. And I think that's -- if you start from
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0207

1 that it's not -- it's putting the needs of villages and
2 to express those and highlight those. I mean, we can
3 talk quite a bit about tier two, we can talk about
4 liberal management, we can talk about ANS, harvestable
5 surplus and issues like that until we're blue in the
6 face, but when we are struggling to put food on the
7 table and the needs that need to be addressed, whether
8 it might be new tools or develop new compassion to
9 address the needs of villages. And certainly right now
10 the management scheme on State land is -- it's kind of
11 like the needs of the cities because it's all personal
12 consumption. All those that are rich with aircrafts
13 for personal use have their way up there, the guides
14 sometimes they go -- they get out of their own
15 concession area and do their own thing and they've been
16 -- they've been discovered, fined, in some cases have
17 lost their licenses and in some cases lost their
18 permits. And we continue to see these kind of things
19 while the communities suffer. And I think it's
20 important to put communities in and look at that.
21 Maybe it's a village quota that needs to be established
22 like a bowhead whale, you can't allow for the peak
23 subsistence period to occur to have a quota in this
24 area and make it a tier two so that even personal use
25 aircraft from Fairbanks or other places are not
26 qualifying for a period of time to be in these areas
27 except for those that live immediately adjacent to
28 these lands that are expected to harvest these
29 resources.

30
31 That's a super long-winded way of
32 trying to see what discussions should be had and that's
33 my only suggestion. I'm going to yield to the Council
34 and see, you know, what this Council should recommend
35 be discussed over there.

36
37 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Peter.

40
41 MR. WILLIAMS: That's the reason why I
42 brought this to the attention of this Council. We deal
43 with caribou up here and mostly the North Slope
44 residents live on migratory herd. And they know what
45 year, what time and what date they'll be coming through
46 and when the -- when they get the right caribous and
47 how to treat it, you know, you just don't just cut it
48 out and say hey, that's it. But I just want to say I
49 fully support this and just hoping that Anaktuvuk will
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0208

1 be there because, you know, it's our livelihood there
2 and better understandings that we need more people in
3 this to continue supporting one another on this because
4 it's an important matter.

5

6 Thank you very much.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Peter.
9 You know, he brings out really good points and the peak
10 periods and the use pattern is so much more important
11 today when we have inflation that is so rampant and the
12 cost of living and the cost of goods are so outrageous
13 and it's important to look at these things. It's
14 almost putting the communities in the most
15 disadvantaged arena of the economic spectrum. We don't
16 have the Walmarts to go to like the guys with the
17 airplanes in Fairbanks and Anchorage. The land is our
18 Walmart. We'll go pick berries and we will try to get
19 our food, we'll get some wolves and wolverine to make
20 our clothing. Believe it or not we still do a lot of
21 that and depend on that. It's important.

22

23 Like I said the -- we're almost
24 disenfranchised now, we're -- you see the cost of fuel
25 going up. Last year -- well, 2022, the North Slope
26 Borough resorted to rolligoning fuel because the
27 community was fuel rationing. There was not enough
28 fuel and they had to use it so wisely to keep the power
29 on and for the community to not freeze up. We had
30 extensive 40 below plus weather where the normal fly-in
31 fuel for Fairbanks couldn't do it. We had covid where
32 the pilots are so specialized, these are World War II
33 era airplanes, DC3s and those kind of things, they're
34 very specialized pilots to fly these things and when
35 you don't have a pilot in abundance and they got covid
36 coupled with weather that can't bring in the fuel on
37 top of now the price of fuel, going to be a huge plank.
38 And the North Slope Borough Mayor resorted to
39 rolligoning 29,000 gallons of home heating fuel into
40 Anaktuvuk, first time probably since the Hickel Highway
41 was done back in the '60s I think, the Borough had to
42 rolligon in fuel. And these are important time to
43 prioritize correctly, a very important time. So thank
44 you, Earl, for reminding me of that. I mean, just that
45 little bit of talk about our back yard. Before we
46 start saying -- I might be saying to Earl, Earl, am I
47 stealing from my back yard, are we that regulated that
48 it feels that way. You know, that's -- those are some
49 of the, you know, biggest concerns.

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0209

1 Thank you. Any other discussion items
2 that we want to project on over to this ungulate
3 workshop.

4

5 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

8

9 MS. HUGO: Yes, thank you. I hope
10 that AKP or Anaktuvuk will be able to participate in
11 this conference. It's been repeated so long it sounds
12 like a broken record every time and still we discuss in
13 our meetings because I got on 2009 and here I'm still
14 discussing about our caribou issue, our livelihood, our
15 food to the table. I just wanted to mention that the
16 first week, the 4th of September that we had asked the
17 aerial map and they were passing Umiat on the 4th on
18 the map, they were like 25 miles, 50 miles south of
19 Umiat. We knew they were heading our way, but within a
20 few days, week, like maybe three days we requested for
21 a map. Before the 14th of September, about a week or
22 10 days later all these caribou that were heading our
23 way, the migration trail, they all headed -- they were
24 like beyond Umiat up north and then more east to
25 Nuiqsut. And that's when we decided we needed to come
26 together and have our hunters go to our neighbors, to
27 Nuiqsut, and hunt, at least get a bite before they rut
28 knowing that these were very fat caribou, the bull
29 caribou that we catch every migration time. But to
30 find out that there is a sport hunter right there,
31 right in Umiat.

32

33 A couple years ago we had stopped the
34 Piper Cubs from coming and landing every August,
35 September. Now they're going to Coldfoot and Bettles.
36 And they know what we've been going through all these
37 years. But sometimes like in July, August we'd be, you
38 know, at home and then all of a sudden one day I saw
39 six Piper Cubs. It reminded me of those -- the old war
40 where they were tailing each other. And we -- I said
41 wow, look at that, there's six of them all in line.
42 And I know they were going up north, probably sport
43 hunters looking for the antlers. That's been a problem
44 so I just wanted to mention how they keep telling us
45 it's not the sport hunters, but, you know, we believe
46 that because they're catching what we've been waiting
47 for time after time. We even -- we even used to keep
48 our dogs quiet, all our dogs. We used to have growing
49 up dog sleds, all our dogs would never bark, they
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0210

1 didn't make a sound. That's how it was when we were
2 growing up. So there's a lot of disturbance and we
3 always believe they're catching what we wait for
4 patiently. They're going right to them. Us, we were
5 taught they're coming, just -- and they'd always come.
6 Due to the tragic changes of this wide NPR-A, there's
7 no monitoring. We've got troopers at Coldfoot and
8 Bettles which is south of us in this vast, you know,
9 the NPR-A, right, north of the mountains. Nobody knows
10 that a Piper Cub just landed near Gunsight or near one
11 of the banks there, the river banks. We don't know
12 that because nobody monitors. Even if we call, you
13 know, there's Piper Cubs or there's a plane heading
14 north, a lot of times it's pretty hard to get the tail
15 numbers. So I just wanted to mention that.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
20 So, Kendra, we'll go back to you and Hannah.

21

22 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.
23 Thank you. I just wanted to thank you for all that
24 feedback. I think this will be a really unique chance
25 to bring together those who depend on caribou, your
26 representatives of your communities with State and
27 Federal Managers in a neutral, productive, hopefully
28 context. And I've heard you identify a few issues here
29 including community centric approaches to harvest
30 management that put your needs first, challenges to
31 food security that have made reliance on ungulates even
32 more important and the issues surrounding sport hunters
33 and enforcement and how caribou migrations have not
34 aligned with needs.

35

36 And I did want to mention also that
37 there will be a separate panel at this conference on
38 caribou co-management which will bring together
39 representatives of entities such as the Western Arctic
40 Caribou Herd Working Group as well as representatives
41 of caribou co-management organizations in Canada. And
42 that may be of interest. And, Mr. Chair, you had
43 mentioned interest in Ahtna community harvest system.
44 And Ahtna has been invited to that as well and may be
45 able to kind of explain their community harvest system
46 and how it's working for them in that setting may be of
47 interest.

48

49 Thank you.

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0211

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hannah.
2 And, Kendra, what are looking for and this is -- is
3 this an action item?

4
5 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'll
6 address the action item here next. So I would like to
7 thank all of you for your discussion, that's absolutely
8 great and thank Hannah for helping me take notes here
9 as I'm unable to do that right now.

10
11 So a critical component of this
12 conference is making sure that local knowledge holders
13 are able to attend and participate. The Office of
14 Subsistence Management is able to provide financial
15 support to send one member of each Subsistence Regional
16 Advisory Council to attend the conference. We are
17 asking that as a Council you nominate two people --
18 members to attend and participate. One would be the
19 primary and a second as an alternate in case the
20 primary is unable to attend. Again the conference will
21 be held May 8th through the 12th of next year in
22 Anchorage and OSM will cover all expenses such as
23 travel and conference registration. One expectation of
24 the nominated Council member is that they will be an
25 active participant in the State and Federal ungulate
26 management symposium which you will just provide input.

27
28 Now I'd like to turn the discussion
29 back over to the Chair and the Council and ask you to
30 nominate a Council member to attend as well as an
31 alternate for whom you feel represent local knowledge
32 and the concerns of your region related to ungulates.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kendra.
35 We have a task here. I think it would behoove us to
36 think other than maybe a representative from Anaktuvuk
37 should attend and one other to -- as a primary from
38 Anaktuvuk and one other as a secondary in case.....

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. That's
41 what we like to see, one.....

42
43 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

44
45 MS. HOLMAN:person nominated to
46 go and a second person as a backup in case that primary
47 person is unable to attend.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
50

0212

1 you. Kaktovik, I heard you, Eddie. Go ahead.

2

3

4 MR. REXFORD: Yes, thank you for that
5 information, Hannah. And you mentioned that our
6 Canadian neighbors would be also doing a presentation
7 I'm guessing on the Porcupine Herd and management
8 scheme that's in place. I know Kaktovik's on the
9 International Porcupine Board. I'm hoping maybe that
10 somebody from our community could attend also to
11 represent Kaktovik if the Canadian representatives are
12 going to be doing the conference also. Just a thought.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eddie, you
make some good points. So I think right now we should
try to think about a representative that could speak on
behalf of the communities that would be impacted and
bring in a lot of traditional knowledge into that
conference.

So I'm inclined to nominate maybe
either Esther if -- to be represented as our primary
and then put Eddie Rexford as a secondary from
Kaktovik. Both those two have a vested interest in
caribou uses since the Canadian co-management scheme
will be discussed during this conference as well which
Kaktovik is part of that. And if there could be --
find a way to send both of them would be important.

I'm going to yield over to Carmen real
quick.

MS. DAGGETT: Pardon me. I just --
this topic is very important to members of this -- of
all of the communities on the North Slope and I was
wondering if it's worth talking to the Wildlife
Department to see if they could maybe help find some
additional funding to send another member or multiple
members to participate in these discussions. And
perhaps they might want to send some people from their
Advisory Committee as well. So that's a discussion
that might be worth having with the Wildlife Department
to see if they can provide some additional funding in
addition to what OSM is offering.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen. I
think we can't underestimate, you know, here, you know,
today we're dealing so much with economic issues and

0213

1 hardships, if the rest of the United States is having a
2 problem we should be in a crisis up here because, you
3 know, we have to ship just to be warm unless we go back
4 to our little hovels in a sod house and use some other
5 means of heating and providing food which we don't have
6 alternatives. We just can't go to the Walmart.

7

8 So I think those are good points,
9 Carmen, that these invitations should be extended to
10 the North Slope Borough through the Mayor's office
11 probably and look for additional attendance pressure on
12 this kind of stuff. And.....

13

14 MR. JOLLY: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

17

18 MR. JOLLY: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 For the record this is Kyle Jolly with the National
20 Park Service. I'm not sure you'll need an organizer
21 for the conference. The conference hasn't been held in
22 Alaska for almost 20 years and it might not be held in
23 Alaska for another 20 years. It's the largest
24 gathering of caribou stakeholders, biologists,
25 managers, researchers, so I'm really excited that the
26 Council is interested in it. I'm going to work my best
27 to find additional funding to bring people to the
28 conference. So I'll -- it's worth an idea for you to
29 think about which is maybe to develop a priority list
30 of participants that you would like to send, that OSM
31 will obviously send the top person on that list, but I
32 can work with other channels to try and get other
33 members to the conference if you provide that list.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that
36 sounds fantastic to do that.

37

38 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower Frantz.

41

42 MR. FRANTZ: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chair. So with that being said if it will be open to
44 pursuing other means of additional folks I would like
45 to propose Esther as the primary, Peter as a secondary
46 with the addition of Eddie being sent from Kaktovik.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
49 that's -- I think that's very palatable, I think it's

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0214

1 very good. And if I can go I'd go myself too because I
2 would help support Esther and others and their
3 communities and try to articulate with them what these
4 needs represent to the North Slope region as a whole.

5

6 So I think is that in the form of a
7 motion there, Brower.

8

9 MR. FRANTZ: Yes. A motion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
12 to have Esther primary, secondary Earl and additional
13 funding be granted to have Eddie Rexford be part of
14 that group from Kaktovik. Motion on the floor.

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Second, Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.
19 Any further discussion.

20

21 MR. JOLLY: Mr. Chair, this is Kyle
22 again.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

25

26 MR. JOLLY: I thought I heard you say
27 that you would go if you could. Can I have somebody
28 think about adding you to that list?

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's a
31 request for an amendment to add the Chair to the list
32 as probably the fourth wheel. That's a request form --
33 is that Kyle Jolly?

34

35 MS. HONIG: Yes.

36

37 MR. FRANTZ: Move to accept the change
38 to add the Chair or well, we didn't get through with
39 the question yes on the first vote.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: If you want to amend the
42 motion you just make a motion to amend to add the
43 Chair, and then you'll vote on that motion and then
44 you'll vote on the original motion as amended.

45

46 MR. FRANTZ: All right.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: You have to have two
49 votes.

50

0215

1 MR. FRANTZ: So we have to move to
2 amend the motion to add the Chair to the original
3 request.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
6 the floor to amend the original motion to add the
7 Chair.

8
9 MS. HUGO: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.
12 Any further discussion on the amending motion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
19 called for. All those in favor of adding the Chair to
20 the main motion signify by saying aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
25 nay.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
30 motion's been amended. We're back to the main motion.
31 Do we hear a second.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: You already have the
34 second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any
37 further discussion on the main motion, the revised main
38 motion.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MS. HUGO: Question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
45 called for. All those in favor of recommending Esther
46 Hugo as the primary, Peter Williams, secondary, Eddie
47 Rexford from Kaktovik and the Regional Advisory Council
48 Chair for Region 10 to be added signify by saying aye.

49
50

0216

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
4 nay.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it. We
9 have a recommendation.

10

11 MS. HOLMAN: For the record this is
12 Kendra Holman again. Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of
13 the Council. I appreciate all of your discussion and
14 input. Your nomination -- again this conference is
15 open to anybody who's available to come. So
16 registration -- the closing date for the registration
17 should be on the website so you can take a look at that
18 for anybody else who is interested in coming or trying
19 to find funding from other sources.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So Esther
24 would have to register on her own or can those be
25 registered by Leigh or.....

26

27 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is
28 Hannah with OSM. I can work with Esther and get you
29 registered and go through that process.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think any
34 assistance would be most helpful. Sometimes internet
35 is not always that good in our communities as well
36 anyway. And again this will be open and I'm pretty
37 sure the organization of this conference is still in
38 the works and that formal invitations may be
39 forthcoming to other participants, maybe tribes and
40 maybe to the Borough, who knows.

41

42 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair,
43 information should be coming out to everyone that we
44 know of and can reach out to that the conference is
45 happening and that people are welcome to come. We'd
46 love to have more people out there.

47

48 Thank you.

49

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0217

1 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we're knocking that off the list. And it is lunchtime and I would like to suggest that we take a hour recess for lunch.

MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, if I may.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Leigh.

MS. HONIG: So we are kind of up against a time crunch. We've moved through the agenda pretty quickly so I would estimate though that we have a couple hours of agency reports to do.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

MS. HONIG:and so if possible we need to wrap up by 3:30 at the latest. So I did want to mention that we do have soup available here. Maybe if the -- if you would approve we could take kind of an abbreviated lunch, step down for a moment and come back maybe in a half hour if the Chair so sees it.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of the Council. They would like us to wrap up maybe by 4:00 o'clock or 3:30 or something like that. Do you guys want to take a 30 minute lunch or eat here or talk really fast later and still take an hour.

MR. FRANTZ: I think a 30 minute lunch sounds okay, 12:30ish. Does that sound good to you guys?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thirty minute break. (In Native). Okay. We're going to take a 30 minute break and be here about 12:35 or something.

MS. HONIG: Okay. Sounds good.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon and we're a few minutes late here. And we took a 35 minute

0218

1 lunch break and we'll call the recess back to order.
2 So let's get back to where we were. We're on new
3 business, item F. Is it?

4

5 MS. HONIG: Yes. No, I'm sorry. I
6 missed -- Karen is going to give a call for Partners
7 too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. All right.
10 We'll go to item F which is fall, 2022 Council
11 application nominations, opening season.

12

13 Madame Coordinator, I'll give you the
14 floor on that.

15

16 MS. HONIG: All right. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chair. So Leigh Honig for the record. I would like to
18 thank all Council members for your volunteer service on
19 the Council on behalf of the Federally-qualified
20 subsistence users in your region. Your knowledge and
21 experience is of great value to the Federal Subsistence
22 Management Program and to the Board. And the program
23 constantly continues to work on having robust Councils
24 with full membership. And at the request of the Board
25 we are going to engage the help of the Native Liaisons
26 of Federal Agencies in helping us to solicit more
27 applications during this appointment cycle. And we are
28 also requesting you Council members to help because you
29 are our connection to the communities and the region
30 that you represent.

31

32 The 2023 Council application period
33 opened on September 13th. We are encouraging you to
34 help us spread the word about it in your region and
35 recruit new applicants. You know the people in your
36 region and you can also share the firsthand experience
37 of what it means to serve on the Council, what is
38 involved and how much time it takes. You can also
39 nominate the candidates of someone who is interested in
40 applying, but is having a hard time filling out the
41 application. The application packets are available on
42 our website at www.doi.gov/subsistence/region. We also
43 have a number of application packets here at the
44 meeting that I'll give out to each Council member so
45 you can take them back to your community. Additionally
46 we are mailing out about a thousand copies of the
47 application packet to various addressees across the
48 State. If someone needs a copy to be faxed to them we
49 can do that as well, just let me know.

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0219

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We are hoping to have a good number of qualified applicants this year so we are able to fill all vacant seats and have alternates available for situations when Council members resign or move out of the region or pass away. And I would really appreciate your help with recruitment this year. And the application period is open until February 21, 2023. I'm also encouraging all of the incumbents on your Council to reapply and to do it before we depart this meeting. This way you'll not need to mail your incumbent application, you just hand it to me. All incumbents whose seats expire on December 2nd, 2023 will need to reapply during this cycle and I will hand out the incumbent applications to you. The North Slope Council will have five seats that will become open for appointment or reappointment on December 2nd, 2023.

All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Leigh. And in terms of -- I see number 2, vacant. Did that -- do you recall who was in that post before, was it a Utqiagvik representative or a Point Lay representative or.....

MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, I do not know that information. I can look into that and get back to you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. We've always tried to strive to get a representative from every community and I think we should continue to do that.

Go ahead there, Carmen.

MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, if my memory serves me right I think William Hopson used to be on this, didn't he, and I wonder if that was his seat. Also I think it's prudent to recognize his passing as well. He was a very valuable member of this community and of this Committee. He will be missed.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you, Carmen. And I think you're right, maybe that was a seat that was held by William Hopson at one point. And he did pass away just recently I believe, yeah.

So I've been trying to reach out to others, I think I talked to Konik about trying to get

0220

1 on the Council. He's a very notable hunter, fisherman
2 and I think it's very important too for those types to
3 start to take up the slack as some of us get old enough
4 retire and want to do our own thing and let somebody
5 else make the rules, you know. And I happen to believe
6 in this organization wholeheartedly because this is the
7 Council that provides a rural subsistence priority to --
8 a deference to our communities.

9

10 So go ahead.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Katya Wessels. I just checked the records and the seat
14 number 2 actually has been vacant since 2019. And
15 Robert Shears of Utqiagvik, he was in that seat when it
16 was last filled in 2018.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.
19 And I do remember Bob, Bob Shears. Yep. So either way
20 it's a seat, he did represent Wainwright from time to
21 time including Barrow when he moved over to Barrow from
22 Wainwright. And very good. So I encourage all of us
23 here, you know, encourage others and talk about this
24 Regional Advisory Council, it's a Federal Council,
25 appointment by appointment from the Secretary of
26 Interior should you pass muster and I do know rules
27 have been strengthened to give more deference to this
28 Council by -- for the Federal Subsistence Board to, you
29 know, what the Council had to say was very important.

30

31 With that we'll -- Leigh, what's the
32 action item on this one here. Is it -- or was it just
33 informational or.....

34

35 MS. HONIG: Yes, just informational, no
36 action item.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So my term
39 expires in 2023, is that December, 2023?

40

41 MS. HONIG: That is correct.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very
44 good. And I'm -- I've been heavily thinking about, you
45 know, just doing my own thing and as much as I love to
46 work with the -- all the folks in all the communities
47 and the -- you know, I've been think about just doing
48 my own thing. And it doesn't mean I stop hunting or
49 anything like that, it's just I find it important to
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0221

1 be, you know, doing various different things. So I'm
2 contemplating that I would not re-up myself and -- or,
3 you know, seek the seat after my term expires. And
4 that's, you know, looking at the year I started was
5 1998 so that's, you know, 20 some years ago. And
6 happened to believe in the program when I was first
7 introduced I think. I remember Harry talking to me
8 about how important it was and the State's impasse, I
9 think it was -- was it 1992 or somewhere around there.
10 And then Federal management on Federal lands had to
11 take place because State management didn't coincide
12 with Federal regulation in providing for a rural
13 subsistence priority. And that's what this Council
14 does is gives and has a lot of deference to it.

15

16 Anyway I encourage our Council to
17 advocate to make sure our vacant seats are filled and I
18 think our younger folks should be highly encouraged in
19 -- to continue this process.

20

21 With that, any comments from the
22 Council on the -- on the application and nomination
23 open season. And if you have anything to add, I just
24 think it's important.

25

26 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
29 Esther.

30

31 MS. HUGO: Just listening to you, so
32 your term is up in 2023 and you're Chair. Are you
33 going to be willing -- are you going to be attending
34 the conference that Karen and Hannah just mentioned?

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My term will end in
37 December, 2023 so.....

38

39 MS. HUGO: Oh. Okay. Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER:in December,
42 2023.

43

44 MS. HUGO: December. (In Native).

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. So I don't
47 know if I'll attend, it's just that I think they're
48 going to seek alternative funding to add more
49 participants. And if that happens I will be excited

50

0222

1 and elated to go. And very good. And I'm always
2 animated when I go anyway, I'm always talking about
3 community. Community is where it's at.

4

5 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Frantz.

8

9 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, so just in relation
10 to this. The application process I guess is pretty
11 lengthy, but just in my own experience with it, you
12 know, I was -- must have been four or five years ago
13 now, I actually filled out the application with your
14 encouragement there. Never did submit it because I
15 didn't feel like I was completely ready or associated
16 with certain areas, then I moved to Wildlife, got to
17 the Fish and Game Management Committee, dealt with, you
18 know, multiple agencies at that point that pertained to
19 this subject, you know, gained a little more knowledge.
20 So it took a few years. So I think the proper -- you
21 know, I did have it in the back of my mind, I still
22 have that first application, but having I guess the
23 knowledge base and the people there to support you, you
24 know, I'd highly encourage that from every village that
25 might have anybody that you think should be on this
26 Council.

27

28 You know, that's exactly what happened
29 to me is that it was more than one person driving. You
30 know, I -- it was never in my mind to become a part of
31 this until somebody said hey, you should put your name
32 in for this. And it took multiple folks that actually
33 handed me the same application from different places.
34 You know, after the second time it was like all right,
35 I'll submit it this time. So I think having the right
36 support is there, so I would encourage all of our
37 members to do that, to push it towards somebody that
38 you think has the knowledge base, even if it's not all
39 complete yet to go for it. So that's my recommendation
40 is just please, you know, try to push the next
41 generation of folks into this kind of like I did. I
42 think it was great. It was all I think because of
43 Gordon and Konik's support that, you know, they both
44 kind of stressed me to put my name in the hat and
45 that's how I got here. So I like to push that story
46 forward and, you know, please try to do the same for
47 anybody else in your community.

48

49 Thanks.

50

0223

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Mr.
2 Frantz. And I keep wanting to -- I -- and my hearing
3 is kind of funny sometimes, is it Kassel?

4
5 MS. WESSELS: It's -- no, it's Katya.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Katya.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Katya, K-A-T-Y-A.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Katya.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Katya Wessels.

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Katya.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: You know, I was actually
20 going to ask you to teach us how to pronounce Utqiagvik
21 correctly, you know, because the way you were saying it
22 is not how we're saying it, but I'm sure your
23 pronunciation is right, but that's not why I'm, here.

24
25 So I was -- thank you very much, member
26 Frantz, for your feedback. That's very important to
27 us. And I also would like to ask the Council if you
28 have any ideas for our program, for Federal Subsistence
29 Management Program, to whom else should we reach out in
30 the region to get more applications because we want at
31 a minimum to be able to fill the seats and also have
32 alternates if possible because your charter now allows
33 for alternates in case a Council member resigns in the
34 middle of their term. So if you have any ideas which
35 organizations or tribes or how we should spread the
36 word, you know, because we try to do our best, we using
37 the media, we sending applications out, but how do we
38 follow-up this effort, whom -- with whom should we
39 talk. That would be great if you can provide us some
40 ideas for us.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's good. And
45 Utqiagvik, you know, you got to put that behind your
46 tongue. Utqiagvik.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Utqiagvik.

49
50

0224

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Utqiagvik. It's
2 almost like -- it's almost like maybe you're speaking
3 Spanish or something, you know.

4
5 MS. WESSELS: You're saying Utqiagvik.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Utqiagvik.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Utqiagvik.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Utqiagvik.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But there's different
16 ways too, you can say Utqiagvik with a P. Utqiagvik.

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Utqiagvik.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know what that
21 means, a place where you hunt snowy owls. That's the
22 name of our village corporation. Utqiagvik. That's
23 this place too, it's original name is Utqiagvik.
24 That's riddled in our village corporation. Utqiagvik.
25 There's two terms for that. One place to get clay and
26 the other is where you return. Utqiagvik.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: We will return.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway Utqiagvik.
33 Very good. And I would suggest it's important to
34 always reach out to village leadership in each
35 community. You know, when I was in Permitting for
36 many, many years and I was a manager and we had permits
37 that would affect communities. I'd tell my Staff call
38 the president of the village corporation of that
39 community if that project is in their village area of
40 influence. Village area of influence. Area of
41 influence. Same thing about what it means to
42 communities. It can mean that a public hearing will
43 occur in your area if that project is in that village
44 area of influence. And the Borough uses that area of
45 influence because it's the law. And I encourage
46 Federal Managers, I encourage those State Managers,
47 Land Managers, be wise about that. But village
48 corporation president, tribal president, city mayors,
49 reach out to those because they know too who is a
50

1 community harvester. They -- a lot of times they
2 coordinate with communities all the time and would
3 know, you know, if you were in a community looking for
4 representation that's where I would look to if I didn't
5 know areas where -- who to nominate I would look at
6 those. I mean, it wouldn't -- you could also look at
7 who's on the planning commission, who is on the city
8 councils, those kind of things. I think those are
9 important areas as good leads and you'll get good
10 results.

11

12 And then existing Council, I think we
13 know a lot of people. Like sometimes I think of young
14 men out there that are ambitious and are -- they hunt
15 for the community. And they don't -- they don't really
16 hunt for themselves. They will -- they go out of their
17 way to hunt for the community. Like I remember my dad
18 lecturing. I said, dad, I think we should stop
19 shooting. He said no, there's more bullets, keep
20 shooting, you don't know what you're talking about,
21 keep killing them, you know. We would keep us going.
22 And then one day we sat down and talked about it, he
23 said he hunts for the community, he hunts for his
24 whaling crew, he hunts for the (in Native) feast so
25 there's abundance of food for everybody.

26

27 So those are important things and when
28 I try to see who's going to be beneficial. I think a
29 lot of people will be beneficial, but you look at these
30 kind of things as like it's a marker and these guys use
31 the land, they go out there and uphold tradition.
32 Because this also is a C&T representative, customary
33 and traditional use determinations and C&T's very
34 important because we have a customary and traditional
35 connection to the resources and to the land.

36

37 MS. HONIG: (In Native).

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know what my dad
44 used to say, he said the Inupiaq language had shifted a
45 little bit. It's used today as just communication. In
46 his time it was a very intimate language. It was very,
47 very social language, always -- he said there's some
48 changes, it's almost utility use, just for
49 communication (in Native) more social, you know, those --
50

0226

1 that's what I learned a little bit.

2

3 Anyway thank you for you Inupiaq, that
4 was fantastic.

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: This is classroom.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
11 we're done with the application, nomination, open
12 season is out there. And let's encourage others to
13 fortify this Council now that it sounds like, you know,
14 we can continue to advocate for it and try to get even
15 alternates nominated and things like that.

16

17 So with that we'll go to -- what's the
18 next item, Leigh.

19

20 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 We've been jumping all around this agenda so I
22 apologize for that. If possible can we go to item
23 number D, the call for Partners for Fisheries
24 Monitoring Program proposals that Karen Hyer will be
25 presenting.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Leigh. I
28 think that's an important one. I think, Karen, you had
29 mentioned that was a difficult task to try to call for
30 Partners and I think you mentioned maybe with tribes
31 and things like that might be important.

32

33 So we'll give Karen the floor and the
34 call for Partners.

35

36 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
37 members, I'm going to ask you to turn to page 106 of
38 your books. It's got the pretty sunset on it, that's
39 McLees River on Unalaska.

40

41 So this -- yesterday afternoon and this
42 morning we've been talking about funding fish research
43 projects and OSM provides the money and that's a
44 competitive grant to get money to do that research.
45 Well, OSM also supports a different program which is
46 called the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program
47 and it is also a competitive grant. And through this
48 grant rural nonprofit and Alaska nonprofit and Alaska
49 Native organizations can apply for funding, they can
50

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1 write a proposal and apply for funding to have either a
2 biologist, an anthropologist or what we call kind of an
3 educator slash outreach person to actually work in
4 their organization. So currently we have a position in
5 the Native Village of Eyak in Cordova; we have one in
6 the Native Village of Paimiut on the Kuskokwim and the
7 Paimiut; we have one in Bethel at ONC; we have one with
8 Tanana Chiefs Conference up in Fairbanks; we have one
9 down in Southeast with Yakutat Tlingit tribe. And so
10 these organizations have been competitively -- they
11 have -- they competed and received money for a four
12 year grant and that grant has allowed them to hire
13 professionals within the organization.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible - away
16 from microphone).....

17
18 MS. HYER: Oh, that would be great. I
19 think Leigh has it.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER:(indiscernible -
22 away from microphone).

23
24 MS. HYER: And so this -- they use this
25 money to hire a professional that then works in their
26 organization and helps the organization engage in
27 Federal subsistence management. And they can engage in
28 many ways just depending on what is needed within the
29 communities they work in. Some of them run Fisheries
30 Resource Monitoring projects, they write proposals,
31 they get funding and they run -- like one of them's a
32 mark recapture on the Copper River where they count
33 chinook salmon escapement. Other ones run smaller
34 projects and they engage the youth in them and they
35 work really closely with Alaska Native Science and
36 Engineering Program hoping to recruit the next
37 professional biologist. And they put a lot of time and
38 effort into youth and run summer camps and then they
39 also work with the Regional Advisory Councils to ensure
40 that the word gets out. So it's really dependent on
41 what the organization needs.

42
43 But the call for that proposal is about
44 to come out. It's right now sitting with our financial
45 aid people and so I expect it to come out in the next
46 week or two and then it will be posted on our website
47 and we'll send out an announcement of it. But I just
48 want to make you aware because if you're -- you know
49 any like we talked about the tribe of Barrow, any
50

0228

1 Alaska Native or rural organizations that might be
2 interested in the position my contact information is
3 right here on this page. And probably the best thing
4 to do is give them that information and they can talk
5 directly to me. It will be posted like I said on our
6 website and we'll do a news release, but I certainly
7 can point them in the right direction and I can tell
8 them more about our program.

9

10 So now you not only have to recruit for
11 our Council, but you have to advertise for our Partners
12 Program also. And it's a four year grant. So and it
13 allows an organization to develop some expertise within
14 the organization.

15

16 So that's all I had there. Are there
17 any questions?

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it seems to me
20 that, you know, I hear from Esther and Peter about
21 wanting a biologist or some help in the community of
22 Anaktuvuk.

23

24 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This would be
27 something that the tribe (in Native) tribal
28 organization can apply for?

29

30 MS. HYER: Yes, it is.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then secure their
33 own biologist in the community?

34

35 MS. HYER: Yes, so we provide the
36 funding and then the organization hires the
37 professional biologist or anthropologist depending on --
38 or outreach person depending on what they want.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

41

42 MS. HYER: So they'd write a proposal
43 telling us what they're going to do with the funding
44 and then it's competitive. So it's like the FRMP, we
45 review proposals and then we'll select probably six
46 organizations and then they'll have four years worth of
47 funding to hire the professional.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Looks like

50

0229

1 provide something for a biologist, a social scientist,
2 educator position in Alaska Native and rural nonprofit
3 organizations with the intent of increasing the
4 organization's ability to participate in Federal
5 subsistence management. In addition the program
6 supports a variety of opportunities for rural students
7 to learn about subsistence resource monitoring and
8 management through science camps and paid internships.
9 When you think about that these culture camps, it seems
10 to me that it's talking a little about maybe let's just
11 say one of the tribes in our communities want young
12 people to be more in tune with their culture.....

13
14 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and often these
17 camps are made.....

18
19 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to learn how to
22 work on traditional resources, how to skin good, how to
23 cut caribou properly, the traditional way, the style of
24 that community, how to make dried fish, even how to set
25 traps, a variety of educational, traditional culture
26 wise. This grant can do that.....

27
28 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to supplement
31 traditional education in my view. Not just to get a
32 biologist, you could steer it to these other types of
33 programs and write a proposal that would do that.

34
35 MS. HYER: Yes. So the grant is from
36 -- the bottom is I think \$20,000 and the cap is
37 \$167,000. And so it is true that you could write a
38 proposal and -- for culture camp. We haven't had that
39 happen, but this program does allow it. Usually people
40 write a proposal for the biologist and they include the
41 culture camp in with that. So if they get the
42 biologist then the biologist helps run the science and
43 culture camp. And so but it is not -- that doesn't
44 have to be that way. If you just had the culture camp
45 you were interested in having and you tie it to Federal
46 subsistence management you could just get a smaller
47 amount of funding for the culture camp. We just
48 haven't had that happen before.

49
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0230

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Very
2 interesting. And I think, you know, things like that
3 should have a little bit more detail because, you know,
4 if I was advocating for that and I would explore what
5 all can be done.....

6
7 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: traditionally
10 with these types of resources and have examples to talk
11 about. But I understand it enough to where you could--
12 I see these things and you could develop programs for
13 communities should we develop the proposal to do that.

14
15 MS. HYER: Correct. And once this
16 grant is posted there will also be dates on our website
17 and we're going to have informational needs where
18 people can call in and they can talk about those kinds
19 of ideas and we can help them develop their ideas and
20 go over the application process so people understand
21 it. So we're available to help. But anybody that
22 calls me at anytime can also get that help, they don't
23 have to come during the scheduled times. And so if you
24 know anybody that you think might be interested please
25 give them my contact information because I'm working
26 with a social scientist from my office and we're going
27 to be available to answer questions, help with idea
28 generation, if they need help structuring the proposals
29 we're available. So just have them make contact with
30 me because sometimes when you go to our website and you
31 see -- especially you haven't filled out a proposal for
32 us before and you see the document, it can be a little
33 bit overwhelming and so we want to make sure that we
34 help people step through it and they understand what
35 they need to be successful.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen. I
38 yield to Mr. Frantz, Utqiagvik.

39 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah. I think this is
40 great, great opportunities out there, but I think we
41 should push this over to somewhere that would be able
42 to make more use of this other than this Council. I
43 think something like the Fish and Game Management
44 Committee who are in touch with the research, their
45 biologists and have outreach programs. You know, here
46 I think the information is great, but whether or not
47 we're going to be able to do anything with this is I
48 think kind of negligible. It looks like something like
49 the Borough or UIC Science or, you know, maybe some --
50

0231

1 this might be able to go to liaisons, but as far as us
2 it's great information, but I think we should probably
3 push this to like the liaisons or a different committee
4 that actually has connection with who might be able to
5 utilize this.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
8 Brower, And I think that's what Karen is advocating
9 for us to help do that. Like I would think I would go
10 see the tribal president and say hey, this program
11 exists. And because there's not a real torchbearer
12 that's going to go see and talk to an organization,
13 it's like we becoming the torchbearer for this to help
14 Karen get in some good proposals. I don't think as a
15 group we're going to do it, but we know that it exists
16 and the money is from OSM looks like which is an
17 organization that we -- we're -- that's our Staff. OSM
18 is Staff to us, they're telling us they got this money
19 to do this and I say, Esther, let's let the -- your
20 tribe put in a proposal for this, for your biologist.
21 So (in Native). That's what they know (in Native).
22 It's important, it's kind of the stuff you've been
23 harping about a little bit.....

24
25 MS. HUGO: Okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we want our own
28 biologist. (In Native) biologist, social scientist (in
29 Native) to learn more about our culture, about proper
30 cutting, you know, (in Native), you know, the (in
31 Native) and things like that, how we make (in Native),
32 that could be a (in Native) class funded right here in
33 my view, use of these resources. And I completely
34 agree with Brower Frantz that we could be the
35 torchbearer to help like hey, Wildlife Department, this
36 grant is there, you can do more with this, you know,
37 and to fund a biologist somewhere.

38
39 Very good. It's call for Partners,
40 it's not an action item it's informational?

41
42 MS. HYER: No, it's just informational
43 and I just want to reiterate that the call has not been
44 posted yet, but it should be posted within the next two
45 weeks. But if you know anybody that's interested at
46 all you've got my contact information so have them give
47 me a call and I can.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

50

0232

1 MS. HYER:certainly let them know
2 when it's posted and help provide more information and
3 guidance as well.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: here's a basic
6 question. Some of our tribes and communities that
7 might benefit from this may not have all the resources
8 and the know how to put in a proper formatted proposal.

9
10 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that something
13 that you can help with?

14
15 MS. HYER: Yes. Yeah, so it's very
16 hard I feel like to put something in the proper format
17 for the Federal government regardless of what it is.
18 So yes, very much so. That's why I prefer if people
19 contact me because then I can help them. And that's
20 also why we're going to have -- we're going to have
21 scheduled meetings so the public can call in and get
22 help so there's no confusion about what we're asking
23 for. Because we have a certain way of -- like our own
24 Federal government language which I think is -- nobody
25 else can quite understand what sometimes we're asking
26 for. Like we call it a NOFO and everyone's like a
27 NOFO. So it's that kind of thing and I can help guide
28 people through the process, yes. So that's why it's
29 important to get them in contact with me.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. You hear
32 it, folks, they will help you put in a good proposal,
33 even help you write it almost. You just got to put the
34 dot over the I.

35
36 MS. HYER: The key is you've got to
37 call me so I can help because you'd be surprised how
38 many times I did say give a call and let me help and
39 how few people actually do.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much,
42 Karen. I think that's a -- that's a fantastic thing,
43 call for Partners, Fisheries Monitoring Program notice
44 of funding opportunity. Very good.

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead there,
49 Peter.

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0233

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'd like to
2 add onto Brower. Anyway when we were growing up back
3 in '69, '68, we used to be excused from school for
4 hunting purpose like, you know, 10 days. They don't do
5 that anymore. I don't know what happened, but, you
6 know, in the -- kind of when I was young -- young and I
7 actually want to go hunting too, you know, I want to
8 follow the -- they give you -- give you 10 days on --
9 10 days on geese, duck hunting and 10 days on moose
10 hunting. And what those old people did is they
11 encouraged young kids and that's probably the reason
12 why so they could eat ducks. But that's just a
13 tradition, you know, what they want their kids to get
14 involved with to see what that real life is out there
15 when you're hunting. And like what Brower said, you
16 know, that, you know, we work as a group, you know, you
17 just can't work alone. If you work as a group, you
18 know, you accomplish something. That's why I like what
19 he said about this.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Very
24 good. I'm going to just check in with Kaktovik.
25 Eddie, are you on and seems like this call for Partners
26 is a funding mechanism that could benefit even your
27 very lake that you were talking about that might have
28 whitefish. It seems like that might be a good way to
29 bring in funding to do more with that lake over that
30 way.

31

32 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman. That sounds like a good grant opportunity
34 for our tribal communities to apply for grants like
35 that to research some of the fish and animals that we
36 do harvest and I'll be -- our tribe will be waiting and
37 looking forward to communicating and maybe apply for a
38 grant like that.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), very
43 good. And thanks again, Karen, for this good
44 information.

45

46 So, Leigh, where are we now.

47

48 MS. HONIG: Well, getting back on track
49 with the agenda. So I think we're at item H, harvest

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0234

1 of wildlife for sport purposes in National Preserves
2 presented by National Park Service.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Who's the
5 presenter, National Park Service.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes. Good afternoon, Mr.
8 Chair and members of the Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ooh.

11

12 MS. PATTON: This is Eva Patton with
13 the National Park Service Regional Office. And I am
14 the Subsistence Program Manager at the Regional Office
15 here in Anchorage and we also have other Staff online
16 with us as well. We have our Regional Wildlife
17 Biologist, Dave Payer on the phone who may be able to
18 address questions on availability. We also have our
19 Gates of the Arctic National Park
20 Superintendent and Staff on as well.

21

22 Just wanted to thank you for giving us
23 some time on your busy agenda to speak with you today
24 about an important issue that will affect how we manage
25 sport hunting in the National Preserve lands here in
26 Alaska. And this was initially on the agenda as an
27 action item we were anticipating that there would be an
28 actual proposal to present to you today. And that's
29 not the case, but we want to make sure that all the
30 Regional Advisory Councils with the National Park
31 Service lands nexus have the information, know that
32 this is likely coming and that we'll keep you posted on
33 that and that there will be formal government to
34 government consultation on this issue as well.

35

36 So last winter the National Park
37 Service was directed by the Department of the Interior
38 to initiate a new rule-making to reconsider some of the
39 factual, legal and policy conclusions that were in a
40 2020 hunting rule affecting National Park Service
41 lands, National Preserve lands. And that 2020 rule
42 allowed for the baiting of bears by sport hunters in
43 National Preserves as well as other previously banned
44 activities by sport hunters such as harvest of wolves
45 and coyotes during the denning season, taking black
46 bear cubs and sows and harvest a swimming caribou among
47 other practices.

48

49 And so right now there's two points

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1 that the National Park Service is specifically looking
2 at in reconsideration of that 2020 rule. And they're
3 mostly examining risk associated with bear baiting on
4 Preserve lands especially in those Preserve lands where
5 there's a lot of public engagement, members of the
6 public come from all over to participate and enjoy the
7 lands there and also specifically several practices
8 authorized in 2020 that may be appropriate for Federal
9 subsistence users, but the National Park Service is
10 reconsidering whether those opportunities should be
11 authorized for sport hunters as well.

12

13 And so that's a really key component of
14 what the National Park Service is looking at now is
15 that none of the current Federal subsistence
16 regulations, Federal subsistence practices, means and
17 methods would be affected by what is being reconsidered
18 right now. The Park Service is just looked at non-
19 Federally-qualified subsistence users or what they
20 refer to in the rule as sport hunters for re-enacting
21 some of those restrictions that had been previously in
22 place prior to 2020.

23

24 And so the Park Service did engage in
25 informal communication with affected tribes and Native
26 corporations and one of the primary concerns with that
27 2020 rule is that it increases competition with non-
28 local hunters in some areas. And as it currently
29 stands the 2020 rule allows for sport hunters to
30 compete with Federal subsistence users for the same
31 resources on Preserve lands. And there is some
32 variability. This is being -- if a new wildlife rule
33 were to be enacted it would be enacted across all
34 National Preserve lands in Alaska and there are some
35 differences from region to region, but wanted to make
36 sure that all the Regional Advisory Councils had an
37 opportunity to provide input on the process. And hope
38 that the process will ensure the prospectus of those
39 who live in the affected area as the priority users
40 under ANILCA are considered.

41

42 And again once a proposed rule does
43 publish in the Federal Register then each of the
44 National Preserve Superintendents will be reaching out
45 directly to invite government to government tribal
46 consultation with all affected tribes and communities
47 in and around the National Preserve lands.

48

49 And I get the understanding that the

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0236

1 new rule would not make any changes to current Federal
2 subsistence activities, it would only address sport
3 hunting and trapping on National Preserves.

4

5 And we don't have more details than
6 that to provide until the Federal Register notice does
7 post, but we will be keeping everyone apprised when
8 that does happen and again that will also trigger
9 direct tribal consultation outreach and invitation to
10 tribal leaders for consultation on the proposed rule to
11 connect more directly with those communities affected
12 with National Preserve lands in their area.

13

14 So we would like to hear your thoughts
15 and ideas or if there's any questions at this point.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
18 Council.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. It's
21 good to hear you and what you're doing sounds pretty
22 controversial to me and bear baiting and that kind of
23 stuff. And when do you feel that this will post
24 anyway, I mean, are we going to be dealing with this in
25 the winter meeting?

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
28 members of the Council. At this time the proposed rule
29 is with the Secretary's office in Washington, D.C.
30 There's not a timeline that we have at this point about
31 when it may be finalized or posted to the Federal
32 Register. When it does there will be a minimum of a 60
33 day comment period in order to allow time to get the
34 information out to all the rural communities and the
35 public and allow an opportunity to comment at that
36 time. Regardless of when it does post it would be a
37 minimum of a 60 day comment period.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
40 concerns or questions or comments from the Council on
41 this.

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Earl.

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Hi, Eva. I just want to
48 say hello, how you doing.

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0237

1 (Laughter)

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(Laughter)

MS. PATTON: Hello, Earl. It's been so wonderful to hear all of your voices and just really wonderful discussions so it's like being there in the room with you. Hello, Earl. Hello, Esther.

MR. WILLIAMS: Enjoy our working.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl.

MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower Frantz.

MR. FRANTZ: So on my comments for baiting. I think throughout our region if there -- if there was an expedited way to get rid of some of the bears and, you know, looking at the population I -- it might benefit to some of the caribou population. So in my eyes this may not pose too much of an issue, it might actually benefit at least for one aspect of it. I'm not sure what your thoughts are, I would probably lean more towards Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass as the ones who would be affected by this type of change.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Frantz. And these are National Preserve and Park Service lands that's being -- sounds like the sport hunting lobby is hard at work and it's important that we stay interesting -- interested and engaged to see how those potential impacts would be on subsistence or if it would compete with our areas, you know, in terms of other resources that could be deflected from their activities or things like that. It's just one concern that might come up to mind. But, yeah, bears are -- man, there's -- I remember our cabin that a sow and two cubs came in and slept on the bed, it stayed in there.....

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BROWER:and then they locked the door so nobody can come in, but they didn't know how to open it so they made a hole through the wall to get out. So -- and so it's -- bears are bears, you know, especially the brown ones are crazy.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and

0238

1 thank you, Mr. Frantz. As Gordon noted just to clarify
2 that this proposal would only affect National Preserve
3 lands. So none of the other Federal lands, NPR-A or
4 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are affected by this
5 proposed rule. It would just be the Preserve lands for
6 the North Slope region, the Preserve lands associated
7 with Gates of the Arctic National Preserve and then in
8 unit 23 because there is some overlap with North Slope
9 communities in unit 23, the Noatak National Preserve.
10 So it is just the National Preserve lands that would be
11 affected by any changes to the current regulations for
12 sport hunting on Preserves.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you for
17 clarifying that, Eva, and that does help. And very
18 good. I suspect we're going to talk more about it when
19 it posts and the outreach starts happening. Anyway I
20 think we had a few initial thoughts already.

21

22 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Esther.

25

26 MS. HUGO: I just want to throw in that
27 back in the late 1990s or early 2000, you know, we have
28 our lookouts within the foothills and we had our
29 migration coming just into the mountains and all of a
30 sudden they turned around because there was some
31 grizzly bears there. And, you know, they are a
32 problem. They're hungry too. So they were the ones
33 that made them divert that one year. They were so
34 close, we were so excited and next day they were --
35 they went back north. So the predators are hungry too,
36 they know caribou eat. Yeah.

37

38 Thank you. Hi, Eva.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Hi, Esther. Great to hear
41 your voice. Thank you so much.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), very
44 good. Thank you, Esther, for those observations and
45 good information. Should have had those scouts come
46 over and take care of them bears.

47

48 All right. I'm going to reorient and
49 see where we are with our Madame Coordinator and what

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1 -- what's up next.

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MS. HONIG: Next item on the agenda and this will be our last item under new business and it's the telephonic and internet expenses related to the Council teleconference meetings and I'll be providing that quick report.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Leigh, Madame Coordinator, you have the floor.

MS. HONIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, Lee Honig. So members for the Council.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

MS. HONIG:for -- oh, I'm sorry. I'm going to present you with information on how you can get reimbursed if you had any telephonic or internet expenses associated with your participation in the Council meetings over the last two and a half years. And the material for this agenda item is in your packet, it's supplemental materials as tab one.

So the issue was brought to the Board's attention by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council during their winter, 2022 meeting. And OSM reviewed the policies regarding reimbursement and I'll just provide you with information on the types of expenses that may be reimbursed and the documentation necessary to receive reimbursement. So for the time period when the Council meetings were held via teleconference you can be reimbursed for internet and phone charges that are in excess of their normal bill. Council members who have internet or cellular plans that charge a flat monthly fee that they pay regardless of Council meetings cannot be reimbursed their normal charges. So in order for Council members to receive this reimbursement for excess charges they'll need to submit a copy of their bill that covers the time period during which the virtual Council meetings took place and indicate the excess charges for attending the virtual meeting. Council members can submit this information to myself or you can mail the bills to our office which will be the Office of Subsistence Management at 1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

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1 And I'll be happy to answer any
2 questions and this concludes my presentation.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
7 Coordinator. Any questions for Leigh on the
8 telephonic/internet expenses related to Council
9 teleconference meetings.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you develop
14 expenses that are above your normal bill make sure and
15 contact Leigh and she'll give you some money back.
16 Sounds like it.

17
18 All right. That completes item 11 of
19 old business or new business?

20
21 MS. HONIG: New business.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: New business. And
24 let's go down to it item 12, agency reports. Time
25 limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance. I
26 haven't had any approval in advance to go past 15
27 minutes. So talk fast.

28
29 We'll go down the list. Any tribal
30 governments agency report.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,
35 did we get any request for appearance?

36
37 MS. HONIG: No, I did not receive
38 anything. There is a report moving down the list for
39 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be the next one
40 that I am aware of, but if you want to give the
41 opportunity for Native organization.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll do
44 so. Native organizations agency reports.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll keep the
49 floor open for that. And we'll go down to U.S. Fish
50

0241

1 and Wildlife Service.

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4 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
5 members of the Council, for the record my name is
6 Nathan Hawkaluk, I'm the Acting Refuge Manager for the
7 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And yeah, I'll
8 definitely keep it short and keep it to that 15 minute
9 goal. Our meeting materials for the Arctic Refuge, the
10 summary of activities didn't make it into your first
11 packet of information, but I had yesterday passed out a
12 hard copy to those present from the Council. And,
13 Councilman Rexford, joining us remotely, I did email
14 you one this morning. I apologize I didn't get that to
15 you sooner, but certainly available to you and we can
16 get it out to you if you're not seeing it later as
17 well.

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And it -- the summary of activities has quite a bit of information in it, I'll just highlight a few things that might be important to this Council. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge covers a couple of different RACs including Eastern Interior on the south side of the Refuge so I'll try to focus some of the reports on the north side.

First of all I'll address something that was mentioned during the beginning of today's meeting and that is the moose permits for the community of Kaktovik. That's Federal moose permit number 2606 which the Refuge Manager has delegated authority to issue those permits each year. It's currently a computation of 10 permits which are provided to the community for distribution among the community members with a harvest quota of three bull moose starting this fall, October 16th, running I believe through the end of March. I might have that end date a little wrong, but it's the pretty much the entire winter. I did email that announcement out on September 28th to OSM Staff as well as Councilman Rexford and Chair, Mr. Brower. And we did put those hard copy permits, those 10 permits in the mail September 29th and they were -- we had a confirmation of the delivery October 4th at 3:00 p.m. So if those in fact have not arrived in the community I'd ask Councilman Rexford to let me know ASAP and we'll try to get those back out again as that season starts in a couple days.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do a quick question.

0242

1 MR. HAWKALUK: Yeah.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just an
5 observation. And, you know, for many, many, many, many
6 years we argue and I think it's important what the
7 National Wildlife Refuge is doing when the authority is
8 given to them to manage those resources. And we would
9 argue over transient population of the moose, they come
10 in and out for many, many, years. Some biologists
11 conflict each other even at times. I just want to
12 applaud how this is going. To have 10 permits is a
13 godsend, it's important for those resources to be had
14 by the community. I could remember us arguing over one
15 permit and fighting for those rights for the community.
16 And we would argue about well, you know, these animals,
17 you might take them all in one season and another batch
18 will come in, they move around. And they're transient.
19 And we get the biologist to talk about it and say yeah,
20 they move around. It doesn't mean that's the stable
21 population in ANWR, it fluctuates. And because there
22 are other areas real close to that where those
23 populations are coming from that come in and out. So
24 I'm just very happy to hear this development for
25 Kaktovik.

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Thank you. And that's all I wanted to
say.

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MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you for that,
Chairman Brower. And well, actually there's a very
short summary about a moose collaring project that's
going to help inform some of those very things you're
talking about deeper into the summary. So I'll just --
again I'm just going to move into the summary now and
highlight a few things that might be of interest to the
Council here.

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You know, what occupies a lot of the
Arctic Refuge's time at this moment is the Oil and Gas
Program and the Supplemental EIS that's going on. I'm
encouraged to hear Councilman Rexford's note this
morning about the potential for NVK and KIC to join on
as cooperating agencies. U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service is currently a co-lead with the BLM on that
Supplemental EIS and it's certainly moving through the
process with the other cooperating agencies and both of
us as co-leads. And hopefully there will be a draft
SEIS out soon for public review and I think they're
still on a target of having a Record of Decision --

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1 final SEIS and a Record of Decision in August of 2023.
2 I haven't heard an updated timeline on that so that's
3 still the goal at this time.

4

5 Something else I was going to just
6 address, I believe it was Councilman Frantz that
7 mentioned it during your report out about the lack of
8 shorebirds present this summer, at least what you
9 recognized during your time out in the field. And our
10 field crew, we have a field crew that goes out to the
11 Canning River delta focused on bird species, but other
12 -- there's other research that occurs out there this
13 year. And highlighted -- I just want to highlight in
14 our summary that there was a note that said overall it
15 was a late spring at the Canning River delta, they got
16 out there June 6th and there was still plenty of snow
17 cover and quite cold temperatures. And preliminary
18 data suggests that tundra nesting bird abundance was
19 lower this year than on average. So what you observed
20 over here was something similar observed by our Staff
21 east over in the Canning River delta part of the world.

22 So and early speculation is that perhaps that late
23 spring maybe caused them to go somewhere else, but that
24 is just speculation.

25

26 So something I want to note from what
27 you said earlier. A lot of the, you know, reports are
28 about some of the bird work that's being done out on
29 the Canning River delta and across the Coastal Plain.
30 A lot of it -- and there's some small mammal work to be
31 done too. And a lot of it is set up to kind of
32 understand the system a little bit more and maybe help
33 mitigate or try to minimize some of the potential
34 impacts of any possible oil and gas activities that may
35 occur out there.

36

37 Something that gets a lot of our
38 attention working collaboratively with Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game as well as the Yukon
40 government colleagues and the USGS colleagues is
41 monitoring the Porcupine Caribou Herd. There's some --
42 currently a five year study going on to understand how
43 climate mediated changes in some of the forage
44 conditions and some of the insect abatement areas
45 affect distribution and behavior of the Porcupine
46 Caribou Herd. So during a specific time of the year,
47 you know, just seeing, you know, how they -- how they
48 use some of the landscape and what potential changes
49 might be predicted, you know, it's climate mediated

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1 impacts.

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4 There's also a research publication
5 that comes out that kind of models that in a sense and
6 kind of shows where a predicted distribution might
7 change into the future. Again this is a model, it's
8 not a 100 percent accurate predictor, but it's just --
9 it is the best available information that's out there
10 that can predict where those -- where the caribou might
11 end up in a way a Manager like me can understand it,
12 it's basically they kind of shift their distribution
13 west into the Arctic Refuge a little more frequently
14 into the future for calving and then also post calving
15 as well. So that's on page -- oh, we don't have page
16 numbers here. It's figure 21 and 22 in your handout
17 there, kind of shows some of that modeling trends using
18 some of the best available information.

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 Touch on it briefly, there's a moose
research project that our Refuge Biologist is working
on again in cooperation with the National Park Service
and the BLM as well as the University of Alaska. This
is figures 24 and 25 and then kind of the synopsis is
on the previous page under moose research project.
Again it's part of a larger effort to understand some
of the moose population dynamics, movement, habitat
selection, all that kind of stuff, kind of the eastern
boundary of the State up against Canada. You'll see
figure 25 shows where on some of the Park Service and
BLM lands previous captures and collaring efforts have
gone on and most recently you'll see up on the North
Slope of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge where 12
cow moose were collared in the Kongakut River draining
and 12 in the Canning River -- upper Canning River
drainage. And that was this past spring and, you know,
this is just a snapshot in time, but those -- that map
kind of shows where some of those moose, those cow
moose are distributing across the area.

 And, you know, it's still very
preliminary so I don't want to make -- you know, it's
tough to infer exactly what goes on with this limited
data set, but, you know, one of the assumptions was
that some of those moose winter in the Kongakut, then
they go back to the Old Crow Flats in Canada for the
summer season. And that certainly is -- it's shown
there pretty -- for several of them that have made that
movement to the south and east in the Old Crow Flats.
But again I wouldn't look too much into this at this

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1 time. This is the, you know, short term data set right
2 here and I'm certainly -- our Biologist will be
3 tracking this -- these moose for more time, more
4 seasons and see how -- what we can learn from that
5 effort.

6
7 So as you said earlier, Councilman
8 Brower -- Chairman Brower, that, you know, that there's
9 a lot that -- it's a pretty dynamic system out there
10 with the moose on the North Slope. Sometimes they're
11 there, sometimes they're not and they're in differing
12 abundances over several years. So hopefully the
13 current system of permits for subsistence works for the
14 community.

15
16 A couple final management kind of
17 issues I'll touch on real quick. Some have direct
18 subsistence impact, others less so. But one is a
19 process the Refuge is going through to evaluate and
20 permit -- allow or restrict or some form of managed ORB
21 access for subsistence purposes. This is a use allowed
22 for under ANILCA section 811(b). And I won't go into
23 it much more than that because it gets pretty complex
24 and my simple mind can't really speak to the legal
25 nature of it, but, you know, we contracted with a third
26 party last year to do a historical access study with
27 the six communities around Arctic Refuge and we've
28 since produced a report or they produced a report and
29 we've shared that with the communities and we're taking
30 our next step to produce a determination based on that
31 and other information. And it's -- that's all I have
32 to report on right now, that's still a work in
33 progress, but soon we'll be engaging again with all the
34 communities affected by that. And I'd like to, you
35 know, hope that by the time we have the winter meeting
36 with this Council we'll have more to report out on and
37 hopefully be able to share that draft determination.
38 So that's certainly something that will affect both --
39 potentially affect this Council at least in terms of
40 informing this group about that.

41
42 And then it's something that we do
43 every 10 years, it takes considerable effort is guide
44 use selections so -- guide use area selections. So the
45 Arctic Refuge is divided up into 16 different guide use
46 areas and this last year eight of those areas were open
47 for competitive application. And it's a pretty lengthy
48 process, but it really does help us select the best
49 available, you know, sport hunting guides for each of
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1 those areas. And we're about ready to wrap that up,
2 we've made our -- we're getting ready to send out our
3 notification of selections on those eight areas. You
4 know, some of them are on the north side, the Kongakut
5 River drainage, the upper Hulu Hulu, the Echooka,
6 Ribdon and Ivishak were open this go round.

7

8 So yeah, I think that's it, that's all
9 I have to report on. Certainly happy to answer any
10 questions that the Council might have.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Nathan,
13 right?

14

15 MR. HAWKALUK: Yes, sir.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And what was your
18 last name again?

19

20 MR. HAWKALUK: Hawkaluk.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hawkaluk. Yeah. And
23 very good, it was good to hear about the permits. I'm
24 particularly interested to learn about the concession
25 areas that you're talking about. And it's important to
26 make sure these outfits also seek local authorizations
27 as well from the North Slope Borough. And all the
28 guides are required to do that and we've had incidences
29 where guides are reported to us and they don't have
30 North Slope Borough permits. They're issued violation
31 notices, those notices also go to the Big Game Services
32 Board, to the State and they don't like that because it
33 affects their licensing. And it's important to remind
34 your concession goers hey, don't forget to seek all the
35 regulatory compliance matters around your activities on
36 the Slope whether it's on Refuge lands or not. And
37 those are important details because they can -- they
38 can lose their licenses by not following local laws and
39 ordinances too. And.....

40

41 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you for the
42 comment, Chairman Brower. You did raise that during
43 our -- the previous meeting in the winter with the air
44 taxi operators and I -- it caused me to go back into
45 our permit process to see how we did inform our
46 commercial service providers on the North Slope that
47 information. At the time I stated I believed it was a
48 condition of our permits, and I believe I followed up
49 with an email to you on this, but I might as well

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1 mention it to the entire Council. It's not a permit
2 condition, it's -- we add it into our cover letter to
3 all our commercial operators on the North Slope, air
4 taxi, guides, et cetera, that we flag it as something
5 that they need to be aware of. So it is in the cover
6 letter to our commercial operators on the North Slope.
7 So.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to the
10 Acting Refuge Manager, Nathan Hawkaluk on his report
11 from the Council.

12
13 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is
14 Eddie.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Kaktovik.
17 You have the floor, Eddie.

18
19 MR. REXFORD: Yes. Thank you. Thank
20 you for that report, Nathan. And is there any report
21 for dall sheep in 26C. I notice there's a closure in
22 24A and 26B and I'm assuming that those sport hunters
23 would come through our 26C hunting area and depleting
24 some of our sheep resources. I know it's hard to keep
25 on track of all the air taxi services that provide air
26 service for the sport hunters and I believe some don't
27 even report to the Refuge of where they're going. Can
28 you provide an update on that?

29
30 MR. HAWKALUK: Councilman Rexford,
31 thank you for the question. Yeah, we -- I hate to
32 admit, but we have not been able to do a dall sheep
33 survey on Arctic Refuge for a couple years now for a
34 multitude of reasons. We did help the Park Service
35 with some of their surveys on the western side of the
36 Refuge or -- well, on Park Service land. But our --
37 mostly due to a lack of aircraft and pilots at the time
38 we weren't able to get that done. But in general I
39 think, you know, there's some -- there's -- lacking
40 some of that specific information, population
41 information, I think there is an acknowledgement that
42 sheep populations range wide are down in places
43 including, you know, the area you're talking about,
44 26C.

45
46 To answer a part of your question, you
47 know, the closure of 24A I believe it was and 26 -- a
48 part of 26B if that displaced hunters. That was a
49 question -- a concern expressed with that closure. We
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1 haven't detected that necessarily, we're still getting
2 client use reports from the air taxi operators that do
3 operate on the Refuge and again we haven't detected
4 that specifically, but it's something we are paying
5 attention to because again it was brought up, you know,
6 during the closure proceedings that that might be in
7 fact what happened, you know. Just speaking from my
8 knowledge of the situation, you know, the area that was
9 closed, 24A and 26B is primarily accessed from the road
10 system or oftentimes -- most of the time has been
11 accessed from the road system, the Dalton Highway Road
12 system. And it really is an affordable option for
13 those that choose the sheep hunt. And of course it
14 could have displaced people to other parts, but -- of
15 the range, but there's a substantial cost difference
16 between, you know, hunting from the Dalton Highway and
17 chartering in with a aircraft which is certainly more
18 expensive and quite limited these days too just because
19 those commercial services book up pretty fast.

20

21 But again I'm getting ahead of myself a
22 little bit, we still are waiting to get the rest of the
23 client use reports in from those operators that do
24 report. And of course those are the commercially
25 permitted operators on Arctic Refuge. Of course
26 there's the private pilot that can fly-in at anytime
27 that they choose and we have no way of really tracking
28 that.

29

30 MR. REXFORD: Yeah. Thanks for that.
31 I know that's kind of a hard job to monitor all the air
32 taxi services that provide services for the sport
33 hunters. Just thought I'd bring that out. And when
34 the -- you guys do provide concession areas for sport
35 guides, what's the season dates, is it for a whole year
36 or is it conditioned for certain months?

37

38 MR. HAWKALUK: Yeah, it is specific to
39 certain times of the year. And there's going to be
40 minor differences, you know, based on every guide's
41 operation's plan, but in general it's going to be start
42 of sheep season, you know, August 10th. They usually
43 get in the field a little before that and get a run
44 through. You know, some areas they'll be done by the
45 early September time frame. Others on the Refuge that
46 operate on the south side where there's more of the
47 moose hunting, caribou hunting clients. That goes
48 through probably the end of September. A few of the
49 guides do hunt spring bear which would be in May, you
50

0249

1 know, for the most part, but again that's pretty
2 limited, it -- not only in the time frame that they use
3 it, but just the amount of clients that they take out,
4 it's not a great deal of use that time of year. It is
5 not year long, it is pretty limited just by the nature
6 of hunting seasons for the sport hunting community.

7
8 MR. REXFORD: And one other concern I
9 have is when sheep hunters harvest their sheep and they
10 don't take all the meat that's edible, I know in other
11 places they come to the community and donate that meat
12 for elders and stuff. Is that something that could be
13 done in the Refuge for our community or just a thought.

14
15 MR. HAWKALUK: Yeah, Councilman
16 Rexford. I'm not aware of any developed meat donation
17 program. You know, most of the meat -- our sheep
18 hunting traffic basically bypasses the communities, you
19 know, in my experience. I don't know of any air
20 charters that operate out of the community of Kaktovik
21 and Arctic Village. On the south side usually gets --
22 they bypass with the, you know, the bush planes going
23 in there. So I -- I'm not aware of that opportunity.
24 It might be more so with maybe moose or caribou, but
25 it's certainly something that we can keep track of and
26 I can call upon my experience from a previous position
27 with Yukon Flats where we kind of tried to develop a
28 program to address that at Yukon Flat communities where
29 it was -- it was a cooperatively hired position that
30 would greet and, you know, kind of have conversations
31 with incoming, inbound hunters and solicit meat
32 donations. Ultimately nothing I don't think ever came
33 of it in terms of meat donation. You know, with -- if
34 we're talking about guides I think there's a way to
35 work with them directly, but I think there might be an
36 opportunity to work with community members as well.
37 That -- and that might be a conversation for another
38 time that we might be able to work with the communities
39 and the Refuge together on that.

40
41 MR. REXFORD: Thank you for that
42 information, Nathan.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
45 questions or comments to the report from Nathan on
46 National Wildlife Refuge.

47
48 (No comments)

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50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very important and
2 very thoughtful.

3
4 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
5 members of the Council, appreciate it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we're
8 down to National Park Service and the first one is dall
9 sheep surveys, William Deacy.

10
11 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon.....

12
13 MR. DOWDLE: Good afternoon, Mr.....

14
15 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair and Council
16 members. Our dall sheep survey update is going to be
17 given underneath our Gates of the Arctic National Park
18 and Preserve update. My name is Marcy Okada, I'm the
19 Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
20 National Park and Preserve and I'd like to refer you to
21 your supplemental packet, tab two, for a written
22 update. We have a new superintendent for Gates of the
23 Arctic. His name is Mark Dowdle and Mark is online for
24 this meeting. We'll have Mark go ahead and introduce
25 himself.

26
27 MR. DOWDLE: Thank you, Marcy, Mr.
28 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Mark
29 Dowdle, I'm the superintendent of Gates of the Arctic
30 National Park and Preserve. And I'm fairly new to this
31 position, I started back in April of this year so this
32 is my first meeting with you all and it's an honor to
33 be with you this afternoon. We do have several updates
34 for you including the dall sheep survey and we're happy
35 to answer any questions you have for us.

36
37 I'm going to go ahead and turn it over
38 to William Deacy, our Biologist.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. OKADA: Oh, this is Marcy Okada
43 again. I'll just give a quick subsistence update and
44 then I'll hand it over to Kyle Jolly for the Western
45 Arctic Caribou Herd and moose survey update and then
46 we'll move on to dall sheep.

47
48 The Gates of the Arctic National Park
49 Subsistence Resource Commission had a meeting last
50

0251

1 April via teleconference and the SRC received an update
2 on the Ambler access road project and we had much
3 discussion on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and moose
4 survey preliminary results. We talked about dall
5 sheep surveys and we also talked about law enforcement
6 along the eastern boundary of the park. Our next
7 meeting is scheduled for November 9th to 10th in
8 Fairbanks and there'll be continued discussion on the
9 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the 2022 dall sheep survey
10 results and we're also going to talk a little bit more
11 about law enforcement and climate change and human
12 impacts on low wildlife populations.

13

14 So now I'm going to pass it on to Kyle
15 Jolly for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and moose
16 survey update.

17

18 MR. JOLLY: Hello, Mr. Chairman. My
19 name is Kyle Jolly, I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Gates
20 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. I'm also the
21 lead Caribou Biologist and I mostly work with the
22 Western Arctic Herd. I work a lot with Alex Hanson who
23 you heard from yesterday so I won't go over what he
24 talked about, but we were helping him put out those GPS
25 collars. We put out 36 GPS collars out of the Dahl
26 Creek area, we were mostly south and west of Ambler
27 when we did that this spring in April. We've got about
28 85 active collars. Like Alex said most of the collars
29 are out on the North Slope. We did have a push go
30 through Onion Portage across the Kobuk River just a
31 couple days ago, but it does look like a lot of the
32 animals will stay up on the North Slope this winter.

33

34 Touching on a couple points that were
35 made yesterday, I heard people talking about herd
36 interchange and migration and the impacts of sport
37 hunting on migration. I just want to let the Council
38 know that the Park Service in conjunction with Fish and
39 Game and other collaborators, we've published a number
40 of studies on all those topics and we're happy to pass
41 those along and answer any questions about those once
42 you've received them and have any questions. But we do
43 have quite a bit of information on all those topics.
44 We've also put together little short movies on the
45 distribution patterns of the Western Arctic Herd so
46 just watching the GPS movements flow across the maps so
47 you get a feeling of where they're migrating and when
48 they're migrating.

49

50

1 And the last point on Western Arctic
2 Caribou that I'd like to make is also echoing Alex.
3 And I think the key thing that we need to be
4 considering right now is cow survival, adult cow
5 survival. The herd's been going down for about 18
6 years now, it's under 200,000. And so I think this
7 Council and other Regional Advisory Councils need to
8 start thinking about how to make -- how to protect the
9 cows more and that might be talking about proposals to
10 limit cow harvest in the future. So I just want to
11 kind of plant that seed for you.

12
13 And that's all I had for caribou. I'll
14 be happy to take any questions before I move on to
15 moose.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kyle. Any
18 questions for Kyle Jolly on his talk with caribou.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In terms of the
23 publishings that you've created in terms of caribou
24 distribution, interference and other things like that,
25 I'd like to see a formal presentation in -- provided
26 including some of the animation that comes with caribou
27 tags and collaring them and maybe in our winter meeting
28 to talk, not just providing the publications, but to do
29 a presentation of those types of concerns that we've
30 harped upon for a long time, it's easy to write about
31 it and then put it on the shelf and let it collect
32 dust. And I'd like the dust to be removed from it and
33 do a formal presentation to the Council.

34
35 MR. JOLLY: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
36 Chairman. I totally agree, you know doing the research
37 is not enough, it needs to get out, it needs to be
38 talked about, it needs to be discussed, it needs to be
39 improved for the next time. And so, you know, if the
40 Council wants us to give a presentation we're more than
41 happy to do that and just let us know when, where and
42 what are the hottest topics you want us to report on.
43 We'd be more than happy to show up and give you that
44 kind of formal presentation.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I see Carmen's
47 raised her hand and so we'll give her the hot seat for
48 a minute.

49
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0253

1 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 do have a couple animation things that I had prepared
3 before for the Planning Commission meeting. And so I
4 do plan to show them as part of my report today.
5 They're not this year's data, but because we can't --
6 it takes a while to process all this stuff. But they
7 are from a couple of different years and we can share
8 that information with the group. And even if we go
9 over on time today I think this room is still available
10 so I think I can utilize the room and show you a couple
11 of videos. So can give you that today.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen,
14 very thoughtful. Yeah, in terms of, Kyle, you know,
15 the publications that you just mentioned to make
16 available and yeah, I would just like to see a
17 presentation on those, you know, in terms of what they
18 represent, including the information around the caribou
19 movements and the 75 collars that you've mentioned. I
20 think it would be important maybe for our winter
21 meeting to work with OSM to get on the agenda to
22 provide that kind of presentation to the Council.

23
24 Go ahead and continue, Kyle.

25
26 MR. JOLLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Yeah, that sounds good. Generally my schedule is more
28 open at this time of year so I don't know if you want
29 to wait a full year for that. In the spring I'm often
30 out doing capture work and do often miss this meeting.
31 So it's up to you, I will try and make it work when
32 it's best for you, but I'm more than happy to give a
33 formal presentation. Again just let me know when and
34 where and how long you want me to blather on because I
35 can talk caribou all day with you guys.

36
37 So I'll move on to moose. So we did a
38 moose survey in the Gates of the Arctic National Park
39 and Preserve. It was on the southeast portion of the
40 Park and so that's south of the Brooks Range, it's in
41 the Koyukuk, John, Alatna Wild River drainages. The
42 last time we did a survey out there was 2015, we found
43 about 880 moose. This time around which was this
44 spring we found about 1,300 moose. So there was a
45 slight increase in population size, but again this is
46 kind of on the south side of the Brooks Range, it's not
47 up on the North Slope.

48
49 And that's all I had for moose. So
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0254

1 I'll answer any questions that people have on that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions
4 for Kyle on moose.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kyle
9 Jolly, and we'll look forward to hearing from you in
10 the near future on presentations and stuff.

11

12 With that we'll -- is it going back to
13 Marcy or.....

14

15 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 We'll have an update.....

17

18 MR. DEACY: Mr. Chair, this is Will
19 Deacy.

20

21 MS. OKADA: Oh, go ahead.

22

23 MR. DEACY: Sorry about that, Marcy.
24 Mr. Chair, this is Will Deacy with National Park
25 Service. I'll just give a quick update about dall
26 sheep.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have the floor.

29

30 MR. DEACY: Yeah, thank you. This will
31 be a quick update because we're still processing data
32 so I don't have any results for you. This past July my
33 crew surveyed dall sheep in Gates of the Arctic Park
34 and also we collaborated with the BLM to survey BLM
35 lands along the Dalton Highway. We were fortunate that
36 we had the help of three biologists with the Fish and
37 Wildlife Service which really helped our efforts. We
38 completed surveys in the Itkillik Preserve, the
39 southeast portion of the Gates of the Arctic and on the
40 BLM lands. We only were able to complete about half
41 the transects, about half the area around the Anaktuvuk
42 Pass area because some of the (indiscernible -
43 distortion) to the Pass will remember around survey
44 time there was about six inches of snow and that cut
45 our survey short there.

46

47 As I mentioned we're still processing
48 the survey data and so we won't be able to present that
49 until your winter meeting. But we should have all the
50

0255

1 results ready by then.

2

3 Happy to answer any questions if
4 anybody has any questions.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Will. Any
7 questions for the sheep surveys, seems like it's
8 incomplete and we'll hear more on the winter meeting.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, let's
13 move on. Are we up to personnel update probably.

14

15 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
16 Council meetings. This is Marcy Okada. And the final
17 update for Gates of the Arctic National Park and
18 Preserve is we have a new joint project with the U.S.
19 Geological Survey, it aims to measure the effects of
20 iron mobilization on stream water quality and food web
21 which includes resident fish communities. Arctic soils
22 store large amounts of iron and mercury which can be
23 released at permafrost soils thaw. So this project --
24 this project preliminary observations suggest that
25 orange stream reaches have higher iron concentrations,
26 less dissolved oxygen and more acidic water than normal
27 streams. So further the conversion of streams from
28 clear to orange water appears to reflect a considerable
29 deterioration of habitat for insects and fish. They're
30 continuing to work on this project to better categorize
31 the effects of iron and to also map these occurrences
32 across the Brooks Range.

33

34 And so the point of contact for this
35 project is Jon Odonnell and his email address is
36 located in your update.

37

38 And that's the -- that's our update for
39 Gates of the Arctic if there's any questions.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions
42 for Gates of the Arctic and sounds interesting that --
43 with your collaboration there.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none we'll
48 move on to the next. Are we going to talk about BLM at
49 this point or -- so BLM, you're on the hot seat.

50

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1 MS. MIKOW: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
2 members of the Council. For the record my name is Beth
3 Mikow, I'm the Anthropologist for the Arctic District
4 Office. And on the line we also have our Fish
5 Biologist, Katie Drew. So we have the full written
6 report, it's your supplemental tab three. It's a
7 little bit long to cover completely so I figured I'd
8 just point out a few things of interest.

9
10 I wanted to give you a quick update on
11 the Willow Supplemental EIS process and the next steps
12 going forward. The public comment period for the draft
13 Supplemental EIS ended on August 29th and we are in the
14 process of writing comment responses and updating the
15 final Supplemental EIS. We anticipate publishing that
16 final EIS in the fourth quarter. And once the final
17 Supplemental EIS is published there'll be a minimum 30
18 day period between the publication of the EIS and the
19 issuing of the record of decision.

20
21 And those -- that information can be
22 found on page 7 and 8 and there is contact information
23 for the project lead, Stephanie Rice.

24
25 I was going to talk a little bit about
26 the Coastal Plain, however Nathan pretty much covered
27 all the information that we have for that. So again
28 we're joint co-leads with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
29 Service for that.

30
31 On page 31 and 32 is an update on our
32 legacy well program. So for the 2022/2023 winter
33 season we have a contract to complete plugging and
34 abandonment activities at the Iko Bay legacy well. The
35 contractor would mobilize to the well via winter snow
36 trail and complete those activities. Attempts to plug
37 and abandon the Iko Bay legacy well in 2016 and 2017
38 were unsuccessful due to downhole conditions. So we'll
39 be attempting to get that done this season.

40
41 The BLM contractor did complete
42 plugging and abandonment of the Omualik test well 1,
43 Omualik core 2, Omualik core 11, Omualik core 12 and
44 the east Omualik legacy wells over this last season,
45 2021 and 2022. There was contaminated soil encountered
46 which remains onsite and additional work is needed to
47 remove it. So we're working on a removal action plan.

48
49 For fisheries research during the
50

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1 discussion yesterday one of the projects I was going to
2 bring up, the contaminant study that Katie Drew
3 discussed, she discussed in pretty good detail
4 yesterday, but if anybody has any questions she is on
5 the line for that.

6
7 I also wanted to point to some HAFN
8 document -- documentation of harvest of Arctic fishes
9 Nuiqsut. We're currently contracting with ADF&G to do
10 community harvest surveys to get annual estimates of
11 fish harvest. They're additionally collecting
12 information about patterns of use, abundance, health of
13 fish stocks and social factors that have affected
14 fishing practices over time. Additionally they're
15 going to collect data to conduct a social network
16 analysis of sharing and distribution of fish resources
17 within Nuiqsut and between Nuiqsut households.

18
19 So they completed their first round of
20 field work this last winter and spring. I don't want
21 to get too much into it though because I believe that
22 the principal investigator, Helen Cold, with ADF&G will
23 be presenting more on that during this her report.

24
25 And then the last thing I kind of
26 wanted to talk about, it's funny it's come up already
27 during the meeting. Carmen had mentioned that lake
28 near Nuiqsut. So the arctic -- so our Fish Biologist,
29 Katie Drew, was working with UAF Hydrologist, Chris
30 Arp, and they have 32 river and stream gauging sites to
31 monitor water levels, discharge and temperature and
32 collect long-term data for that. And during those
33 routine visits they observed a large lake which has
34 been named Harry Potter or Lake M0007, that had been
35 monitored since 2018, was very close to draining into
36 the nearby meandering stream within the proposed Willow
37 development area. So surface water was noticeably
38 flowing over a lakeshore stream divide in early June
39 with active headwater erosion of ice rich permafrost
40 soil apparent by late June.

41
42 Nearby communities, Permatise and
43 operators in the area were notified of the imminent
44 lake drainage even at this time and in July, 2022 this
45 point breached, draining almost the entire lake within
46 just 12 hours. Water level and turbidity sensors and
47 time-lapse cameras captured this rapid lake drainage
48 event at high resolution. So this fortunate and
49 detailed observation of this event adds to a growing
50

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1 body of research on the impacts of lake drainage on
2 Arctic hydrology and hazard forecasting in the region.
3 So there's good pictures of that lake draining on page
4 13 of our report.

5

6 So that's really all I have unless
7 anybody on the Council has any questions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Questions
10 for Beth.

11

12 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower.

15

16 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah. So I do see some
17 extensive plug and abandonment there, the Oumalik --
18 all of the Oumalik wells. I see one way south, the
19 Tulageak, has that been completed and do you think any
20 other work will be going down that direction?

21

22 MS. MIKOW: So as far as I know that's
23 actually in our upcoming work and I don't know quite
24 off the top of my head the schedule for that to be
25 completed. I know that that bullet point list is
26 basically what they have planned for the next 10 years
27 for plugging and abandonment. But if you have any
28 other questions I can also get in touch with our legacy
29 well contact, her name is Melody Debenham and her
30 contact information's at the back of the report and I
31 also can get more information for the Council as well.

32

33 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. And also the -- so
34 the Oumalik, it's -- looks like they've been done
35 already.....

36

37 MS. MIKOW: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. FRANTZ:and, you know, that
40 crosses some of our main traditional -- well, our
41 hunting routes. So you'll be -- when are they -- is
42 that this year that they're going to be trying to
43 extract the contaminated soil or is that somewhere
44 further down the line?

45

46 MS. MIKOW: Let me double check here.
47 We're working on a removal action plan. I don't have
48 the details on that yet, but that is something that I
49 can get for the Council.

50

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1 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. I'm really
2 interested in that because.....

3
4 MS. MIKOW: Yeah. Absolutely.

5
6 MR. FRANTZ:down next to
7 Tulageak, within a few miles of that, is where I catch
8 all my moose and have for the last 15 years or so. So
9 it's definitely in -- you know, in an area that I cross
10 paths with all the time. So, yeah. No, I would like
11 more information on this and I'm sure I can get more
12 offline with you as well.

13
14 MS. MIKOW: For sure. I know -- I'll
15 actually see if that person is available after we're
16 done with the presentation and if I get that
17 information I'll get it to you today.

18
19 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you.

20
21 MS. MIKOW: Uh-huh.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And on the Iko Bay
24 wells that were not successful, what's the timeline on
25 that, is that this coming winter season?

26
27 MS. MIKOW: Yes, there's a contract out
28 for this coming winter season to get those taken care
29 of. Yeah, they had problems in 2016 and 2017.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And is that related
32 to the Whistling well issue?

33
34 MS. MIKOW: You know, I -- honestly I'm
35 not certain, that was a little before my time, but I
36 can find that out from the same person I'll be talking
37 to to get information for Mr. Frantz.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, because a lot
40 of people have known that well, that was seeping for
41 many years and it's always condensating. But I think
42 there was efforts to take care of that a couple years
43 ago and it sounds like they need to go back and take
44 care of that.

45
46 Any further questions on -- for BLM.

47
48 (No comments)

49
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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know if Martha was
2 here she would probably say a little bit more about
3 permitting and why permits are being issued and things
4 like that. And, you know, being that she's not here I
5 just put in two cents worth of that, you know, the --
6 Nuiqsut being probably in the heart of many of the
7 developed areas there, has a lot of concerns related to
8 displacement and continuing cultural and traditional
9 uses of the land surrounded by industrial development.
10 And that -- that's where it's at.

11
12 And thank you, Beth.

13
14 MS. MIKOW: Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I'll go down
17 the line. ADF&G.

18
19 MS. COLD: Hello there, Mr. Chair,
20 members of the Council. This is Helen Cold with the
21 Division of Subsistence in Fairbanks.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead. Go ahead,
24 Helen.

25
26 MS. COLD: Okay. Thank you. Well,
27 today I just wanted to provide you with some updates on
28 some of the current and proposed research projects that
29 we have going on with North Slope communities. And I
30 have a series of slides, these materials begin on page
31 110 of the meeting book.

32
33 So the first project I wanted to touch
34 on is one that Beth just mentioned in her update, so
35 the Nuiqsut Subsistence Fishery Project. This is being
36 funded by BLM and the purpose of this project as Beth
37 mentioned is to document, describe and quantify the
38 Nuiqsut subsistence fishery. So the way that we're
39 doing this is we're working with households in Nuiqsut
40 to do household harvest surveys and we're also doing a
41 series of ethnographic interviews and some mapping
42 associated with those fish harvest and use areas. And
43 also participant observations trips where we learn a
44 little bit more about specific fishing activities going
45 on at different times of year.

46
47 So this project started in 2020 and
48 it's slated to end in 2023. That's actually an error
49 that I printed, in the materials you have it says 2024,
50

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1 but that's wrapping up next year. And it involved two
2 years of surveys so in spring of 2022 which we already
3 conducted and then 2023 so hopefully next January or
4 February. And these focus on nonsalmon subsistence
5 fish harvest, but we do also ask about salmon fish
6 harvest as well.

7

8 So as I mentioned these are household
9 surveys with the mapping component and these
10 ethnographic interviews as well as the surveys took
11 place in April of 2022 and I was also able to go out in
12 July, 2022 for a participant observation trip with some
13 grayling fishing and also there were some folks setting
14 nets for whitefish. But I hope to in early November
15 head back out to Nuiqsut to learn a little bit more
16 about the cisco fishery happening. And then we'll be
17 doing year two surveys with the communities as well as
18 those interviews in early next year so January or
19 February.

20

21 And then we have another project going
22 on with Nuiqsut that's being funded by Oil Search
23 Alaska. So the purpose of that project is to try to
24 investigate the effects of oil development activities
25 and the associated labor structure on Nuiqsut
26 subsistence hunters. So this project does not involve
27 a survey component, it's strictly ethnographic and
28 participant observation. And this project was designed
29 in coordination with the Nuiqsut Subsistence Fisheries
30 Project to try to reduce community research fatigue.
31 So we're trying to be as efficient as possible when
32 we're working with folks out there.

33

34 This project began a little bit later,
35 started in 2021 and it's slated to end in 2025. And
36 we're doing between 15 and 20 semi-structured key
37 respondent interviews and this also has a mapping
38 component. And we were able when we were out in
39 Nuiqsut in April to conduct seven interviews and then I
40 talked to another individual when I was there in July.
41 And I hope to talk to more people when I visit in
42 November and then also next spring when we are out
43 there doing surveys for the fish project.

44

45 All right. The next project, the
46 Wainwright Comprehensive Survey. So this project is
47 actually -- it's a redesign of a project that was
48 originally funded by UAF that began in 2021, but the
49 community recommended that we work with them to

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1 reschedule the survey work for 2023 or later. So this
2 is being funded by the Bureau of Land Management, but
3 augmented with some State of Alaska funds. And it's a
4 partnership between the community of Wainwright and
5 Fish and Game Subsistence, but we would also be in
6 communication and consult with the North Slope Borough
7 Wildlife Department.

8

9 So for this project we would be
10 conducting a subsistence harvest update for the major
11 resource categories to try to assess the changes that
12 have happened in the last 10 years or so. There was a
13 comprehensive survey that was conducted with this
14 community about a decade ago so the idea here is to try
15 and understand what has changed in the last 10 years.
16 And methods for this would be conducting household
17 surveys, also doing ethnographic interviews with
18 mapping and participant observation.

19

20 And this project that (indiscernible -
21 distortion) started in 2022 and (indiscernible -
22 distortion) go through 2025, but that's to be
23 determined. And it will involve one year of surveys
24 focusing on the harvest of major resources, subsistence
25 resource for the community. And we're currently in
26 consultation with the community to try to restructure
27 and reschedule this survey effort and to interview and
28 participant observation.

29

30 And the last project I wanted to let
31 you all know about is a proposed project considering
32 Kaktovik Beluga Traditional and Ecological Knowledge.
33 So this is being funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy
34 Management and the purpose here is to try to document
35 subsistence harvest practices for beluga and learn more
36 about the traditional ecological knowledge of the
37 Beaufort Sea beluga stock and the folks living in that
38 community, their knowledge on the stock.

39

40 So here there's no surveys involved,
41 this is ethnographic interviews we would be conducting
42 and we would be working with folks to map beluga
43 habitats, migration patterns and traditional hunting
44 areas. And we would work both with individuals and
45 within a focus group potentially to help gather some of
46 this information and there would be also be a
47 participant observation component.

48

49 So the project timeline here. We're

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1 still in consultation with the community and if this
2 project is approved by community partners the research
3 plan would then be developed in collaboration with
4 Kaktovik this fall or early next spring. And then we
5 would actually begin field work in fall or winter of
6 2023 and fall of 2024.

7

8 So those -- that's all I have, but I'd
9 be welcome to take any questions or comments anyone had
10 at this point.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen.
13 Any questions for ADF&G. We have Hannah raising her
14 hand over there to -- we'll yield to Hannah.

15

16 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
17 thank you, Helen for your presentation. I was
18 wondering if you could for the Nuiqsut Subsistence
19 Fishery study, if you could speak to the way in which
20 methods might capture concerns and observations about
21 mold on broad whitefish?

22

23 MS. COLD: Yes. So yeah, as we've
24 heard many folks mention there's significant interest
25 in the mold issue and the health of fish. And so in --
26 built in to the subsistence harvest survey we have, we
27 are asking folks if their -- how many fish of which
28 species they're encountering when they're harvesting
29 for subsistence and how many their having to remove
30 from their catch based on them being sick or diseased.
31 So sometimes that's mold, sometimes that's other
32 issues, but we're asking both for numbers of that and
33 then also a little bit more information in the mapping
34 component of where folks are trying to -- where folks
35 are seeing sick fish, if there's any kind of spatial
36 information that would be helpful in trying to
37 understand that issue. And then again with the
38 ethnographic interviews there have been many different
39 people that have talked about that mold issue.

40

41 So we're trying to cover that issue in
42 a multitude of different ways with this project. And
43 hopefully compare that with information that might be
44 gathered through more biological studies of that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Helen. I
47 hope that was helpful for you there, Hannah. And
48 that's a very interesting -- you know, we talked about
49 our PINs and prioritizing our Fisheries Resource
50

50

1 Monitoring Program and for work that's underway like
2 yours, it's important to see that the -- that this
3 Monitoring Program that you're working with is very
4 much talked about through OSM and trying to make more
5 funding available to look into those kind of things.
6 And it might be important to start to schedule and
7 think about village presentations. We study them and
8 study them and study them, but we lack the physical
9 presence in the community when it's time for them to
10 learn a little bit more of our findings and to bring
11 that to our -- those communities so as not to continue
12 it to fester. And information is power and it's --
13 sometimes it -- well, it can calm the community. So I
14 encourage that.

15

16 All right. Thank you. Is that Helen?

17

18 MS. COLD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carmen.

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: Good afternoon, Chairman
23 and Council. Carmen Daggett again for the record. The
24 information that I'm going to provide today is on tab
25 number 5 of your meeting packets if you wish to take a
26 moment to orient yourself to that reference. So just
27 to start out with, I'm going to start with the
28 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd update information. All this
29 information I'm presenting is made possible by multi
30 agency cooperation, including the North Slope Borough,
31 the State of Alaska and funding from BLM. The central
32 goal is to ensure caribou for future generations to
33 come and each of these surveys that we're utilizing are
34 indicators of whether the population is growing or
35 declining or total population numbers.

36

37 So the first survey that I'm going to
38 talk about is the photocensus. This summer we were
39 able to photograph the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, actually
40 this week and last week we've been very diligently
41 counting all of those photos. We are very close to
42 being done with that count, there's just a few more
43 groups that need to be counted and I was sort of hoping
44 that we might be able to have those numbers for you at
45 this meeting, but we didn't quite make it despite my
46 best efforts. So hopefully the winter meeting we will
47 have those numbers for you and I'll also make them
48 available through our Facebook -- Region 5 Facebook
49 page so that people can get those numbers sooner than
50

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1 later. I know how important that information is for
2 the public to have so I'm happy to share that
3 information from 2022 as soon as I have it.

4

5 There's also a video that was created
6 by Fish and Game about the photocensus process, it's
7 about 11 minutes long, it's on YouTube. And I actually
8 wanted to make it available today after this meeting if
9 people wanted to stay and watch a video on how we
10 actually do that process so that you can understand
11 where these numbers actually come from. It's a very
12 good video, they did a nice job on it and I think it's
13 worth sharing. So I actually have it queued up for
14 after this meeting. I know we're kind of time crunched
15 so I didn't want to play it now.

16

17 Last year's estimate was around 56,000
18 or not last year's, 2017 estimate was around 56,000
19 animals. So when you get the new number for 2022
20 you'll have something to compare it against for the
21 next most recent estimate.

22

23 Are there any questions on the
24 photocensus information besides how we do it because I
25 think if you really want to know the details you should
26 watch that video, it's way better than me trying to
27 explain it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
30 Carmen on the photocensus.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just wondering,
35 you know, the timing of that. Was that during all of
36 the peak migrations up to the Arctic with other herds
37 or was this during a stand-alone period for the
38 Teshekpuk Herd on the Slope?

39

40 MS. DAGGETT: Great question, Mr.
41 Chair. So July 10th was the day that we shot the
42 photocensus for both the Western Arctic Herd and the
43 Teshekpuk Herd. And so the animals would have not
44 necessarily been migrating that time period, they would
45 be in their insect tight aggregation during that time
46 period, that's the time period that we aim to get those
47 photographs when it's basically the hottest and
48 buggiest time of the year here is when we really try to
49 target taking those photographs so that the caribou are

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1 in the tightest aggregations that we can get.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: So their distribution was very noticeable at that point. Yeah.

MS. DAGGETT: It would have been primarily coastal or in very windswept areas, but most of the animals were at the end of their extent, at least for the Teshekpuk Herd they were at the edges of Admiralty Bay and the edges of everywhere trying to -- some of them probably standing in the ocean and in lakes trying to escape the insects this last summer. You can see a lot of them are next to water, almost all of the pictures are caribou next to water. So.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I was just alluding to they were very noticeable because their distinct locations where they go.....

MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:like (in Native) versus Admiralty Bay for the central -- either side of the pipeline on the Sag area going that way. Seems like they're very distinct at that period of time for their insect relief.

MS. DAGGETT: That is true. They definitely have areas that they target. Probably slightly different each year, but -- and in different intensities, but anyway. Okay.

So with no further questions about photocensus stuff I'm going to move on to talk about the spring short yearling surveys that we do in April. Again this is an indicator survey, it allows us to take a look at how many calves made it through the winter and how they fared through our winters here.

So during the April, 2022 survey I surveyed 2,633 caribou and about 5.8 percent of these were yearlings which is actually quite low. I will say this, it seemed like there was a pretty big difference between the groups of caribou that were in the Brooks Range versus the caribou that were up on the North Slope. The caribou in the Brooks Range seemed to have a slightly higher percentage of yearlings with them whereas the ones on the North Slope were a bit lower despite the larger number of bulls that were in the

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1 Brooks Range this last winter.

2

3

4 So that being said we usually try to
5 count a higher number of caribou during this survey. I
6 was somewhat limited by weather and funds this spring
7 and pilot availability honestly. So but I think that's
8 something we should definitely -- I'm going to keep a
9 closer eye on or continue to keep a close eye on is
10 those short yearling numbers.

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Are there any questions about how we do
the short yearling surveys or any particulars about
that for the Teshekpuk Herd?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I'd ask
you to go ahead and continue.

MS. DAGGETT: Roger that. So I'm going
to move on to the summer calving surveys. We do those
at the beginning of June. And this year there were
about 45 percent of the females were pregnant and we
were looking at primarily females that were over the
age of three. There -- we did look at a few that were
in the two year range and there were a couple that were
actually showing some signs of being pregnant, but most
of the time females over the -- three years and older
are the females that are going to be pregnant as I'm
sure you are all aware. The long term average for
pregnancy rates for the Teshekpuk Herd is about 68
percent so obviously that's pretty low. And we're
going to continue to keep our eyes on that, but kind of
a bit of a rough year for pregnancy. The winter before
and the summer before being major drivers into those
pregnancy rates.

Is there any questions about that
survey or the results of that?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: any additional
questions for the -- for Carmen.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none,
continue.

MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

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1 Chairman. So in addition to the information that we
2 collected during these surveys we also keep track of
3 adult female mortality. As Alex Hanson mentioned for
4 the Western Arctic Herd, we do the same thing for the
5 Teshekpuk Herd. We keep track of the collar data and
6 how many animals die throughout the year and we also
7 keep track of that information when we find mortalities
8 during our survey work. So this last year the adult
9 female mortality was 5.6 percent which is largely
10 average for the Teshekpuk Herd. So not anything too
11 alarming there as far as adult female mortality which
12 is a good sign.

13

14 Okay. Any questions about adult female
15 mortality before I move on?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, go
20 ahead and continue.

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Alex talked some
23 about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest. It's --
24 we use the same reporting tools, the RC907 caribou
25 registration permits and the RC or DC general season
26 harvest tickets for caribou harvest. So the
27 information that I compiled on here is a combination
28 for both Western Arctic and Teshekpuk. And I would
29 more than anything like to encourage people to utilize
30 these permit systems and similarly really encourage
31 people to utilize the permits for moose and muskox as
32 well. There's a continual education component to
33 trying to get the public to utilize those and the fact
34 that we had 688 reports through the RC907 compared to
35 how much we really know caribou get utilized on the
36 North Slope is an indication to us that a lot more work
37 needs to be done there. So we're going to try to
38 continue to get that information out to the public
39 about utilizing those permits, the harvest tickets and
40 then also the RC907 permits which are the permits that
41 North Slope residents should be utilizing if they're
42 planning on going hunting caribou.

43

44 Are there any questions about the
45 harvest reporting information?

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions
48 regarding that?

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there a fee associated with any of that harvest reporting mechanism for the general public on the Slope?

MS. DAGGETT: The only fee that hunters may have to contend with is getting a hunting license, all the permits are free. You do not have to pay for any of the moose tags or the caribou registration permits, those are all free to hunters and are either available online or you can get them from the office here in Barrow or any other Fish and Game office.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, seems to me there should probably be a set incentive program somehow or more outreach related to this area so you can start to draw in those better harvest reporting and things like that. Just my own observation.

MS. DAGGETT: What would you recommend?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, there's a fee associated with licensing.....

MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:and it's probably 25 buck, who knows.

MS. DAGGETT: Forty-five.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And sometimes it's hard to come by for young people. And versus getting some shells, you know, a box of shells would be 70 bucks nowadays and to do some of this stuff and, you know, getting gasoline and making sure your equipment's running good. More focus on readiness and so I'm just -- I'm just trying to think how we could encourage that aspect of it. I mean, I think people really don't like to be regulated, you know, that might be one of the aspects about it, but when you have good harvest data it's very important for management and just -- I don't know how to overcome that myself. It's just -- you know, just -- maybe there's an incentive way to do those things, you know, like you might be entered into a free drawing for a net or something, a fish net or -- I don't know.

0270

1 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for those
2 suggestions. So if you would turn that summary over,
3 I'm just going to continue on. Hopefully we can get
4 through this fairly quickly here.

5

6 We're -- I'm currently working with
7 Teshekpuk Researcher and others on a new study, a new
8 caribou health study on the Teshekpuk Herd. We're
9 looking more closely at caribou health on the Teshekpuk
10 Herd, measurements of body condition, internal and
11 external parasites, trace minerals, stress related
12 hormones and a wide range of possible diseases. So we
13 began that study last summer and we'll continue to do
14 that for the next two years.

15

16 If there are any questions regarding
17 that particular studies I'm happy to entertain those.
18 We're kind of -- I haven't gotten the results -- all
19 the results back from the labs yet, so I can't really
20 elucidate or expand on any of the information I've got
21 from this last summer yet because I haven't gotten it
22 myself. Perhaps I can give you more information on
23 that at the winter meeting.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like a good
26 plan. Any further questions to Carmen.

27

28 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead
31 there, Esther.

32

33 MS. HUGO: I just got a question on the
34 harvest or the permits. Do you do it individually for
35 villages because our numbers would be way low the past
36 so many years. And I guess I'm trying to mention this
37 because we tried to get a declaration of emergency
38 through our -- for food security, that also was denied.
39 So your surveys or your harvest would tell us that AKP
40 didn't -- we can har -- we haven't had that -- the
41 migration. Numbers need to be shown for each
42 particular our -- our village and the numbers would
43 show the rest of the agencies what we're trying to say
44 or, you know.

45

46 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
47 member Hugo. So a few things. I hear what you're
48 saying that you would only see changes in harvest if
49 those animals are there and available or that's not

50

0271

1 quite right. You wouldn't see a decline in harvest if
2 or you would see a decline in harvest if the caribou
3 weren't there because there would be no harvest because
4 there aren't animals for you to catch. I understand
5 that. And the tricky part is that I think the
6 distribution of a lot of these permits and registration
7 permits in particular on the North Slope are very
8 dependent on whether someone actually goes out and
9 offers them to people. I know that pre-covid I spent a
10 fair amount of time in villages talking with people in
11 all of the villages on the North Slope about the RC907
12 permit and talking with individuals about it. During
13 covid times I'm sure all of you are well aware that
14 travel on the North Slope was very much discouraged.
15 So I didn't spend any time in any of the villages
16 during covid to get these permits out because they --
17 people were not welcome. And that's fair, I understand
18 that. You've had a long history of disease transfer
19 and bad things happen with that and I can appreciate
20 and understand that history and wanting to protect
21 yourselves. That makes perfect sense, however that's
22 going to impact how many of those permits went out too.
23 And without those permits in people's hands we're
24 really not going to see any harvest data because we
25 don't have any other way to get it other than household
26 survey information that perhaps the Borough is
27 collecting, but we don't necessarily always get that
28 information. So some of the information that's in here
29 for this harvest data has to be taken with a huge grain
30 of salt because no one was out doing outreach during
31 covid, the height of covid. And that just is what it
32 is.

33
34 MS. HUGO: Well, technology's here, we
35 could have done it through VIA Zoom or -- I mean, it's
36 already done, I mean, it's the past. I mean, we got
37 technology nowadays, it's just -- it's not just the
38 phone, we do have that. I mean, we don't have to have
39 -- I know covid yes, very important to our health, so
40 is the migration which we've been saying for years.
41 And I see that in your permit that for the nonresidents
42 you reach 400 and -- or 500 of them and most of them
43 got what they wanted, but where's -- sometimes we don't
44 see the meat when the sport hunters are hauling their --
45 all we see is the rack, the big horns wrapped in duct
46 tape. Where's the meat, probably buried somewhere
47 where they're hunting, where we won't even know. You
48 guys fail to do that, especially to that guide hunter
49 that ASC bought off just 35 miles down north of us.
50

0272

1 Where's the meat. I mean, where -- all they do is come
2 up with the racks, the horns.

3

4 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for your
5 comments, member Hugo. If you see no meat and you see
6 racks that information needs to be immediately reported
7 to the.....

8

9 MS. HUGO: We have been doing that for
10 years, Carmen, years. Years. Forty plus years. I was
11 just maybe 21 and we've been hollering, we've been
12 doing this for so long, sometimes it's so
13 disappointing, it's no way, no sense of coming, but we
14 care for our home, our subsistence. And sometimes a
15 lot of us we said we weren't part of the Borough, but
16 we're here. And those sport hunters are just stomping
17 all over us and we know it's them because they're the
18 first people to catch what's coming, what we've been
19 waiting for. And we heard a lot of testimonies from
20 our neighbors, Nuiqsut. I think it's about time we get
21 to the Dalton Highway falltime and then instead of
22 hearing it we probably see it and it's all true for the
23 past 40 years.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
28 With that does that conclude your presentation there.

29

30 MR. WILLIAMS: Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl.

33

34 MR. WILLIAMS: I'd like to elaborate on
35 Esther's comment on caribou. I know I saw when I came
36 back -- no, when I was going to Anchorage for a
37 meeting, I was going through Fairbanks right there and
38 back of the building there was this pad of caribou
39 horns. Three charters came in on that plane, that's
40 from 30 miles -- 35 miles from our area. Because you
41 see that Wright's airplane fly over, the Caravans, all
42 the time flying over. We don't let them on our airport
43 anymore, we brought that attention to them because
44 we're having problems with hunters. Anyway when we
45 were in Fairbanks I was going through Wright's Air, I
46 seen a lot of hunters, just full of -- caribou hunters.
47 Anyway there were a lot of caribou antlers there. And
48 a little kid said, dad, I wonder where's the meat.
49 Even little kids know that. See that, they live on
50

0273

1 that, they survive on that and they know it.

2

3

4 You know, back in '89 when we fought
5 against Richard, he was a guide hunter out of
6 Anaktuvuk, he stopped in Anaktuvuk, he's bringing the
7 meat, but, you know, he's getting the money, but he's
8 bringing the meat over for us because we complain to
9 him about that. We told him, you know, what are you
10 landing here for if you're not bringing meat. He's
11 sending his guide hunters to -- on a plane to, you
12 know, transfer to town to -- from Wright's Air or
13 Frontier someday. But that happened for a long time
14 and we finally got -- got what we -- you know, the
15 Mount Air, it's about 40 miles from us that guide
16 hunters said that -- one of my friends there he said
17 that, you know, I never see that moose -- I mean,
18 caribou meat or moose meat. I said how -- well how
19 come. He never -- they never said anything about it.
20 Even when you see it on the Outdoors channel, you just
21 see the horns, you don't see no meat. What do they do
22 with it, you know. I know they can't eat that fast
23 either because it lasts us over a month, you know, to
24 eat something like this.

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So you know that concerns something
about looking into this more than just elaborating on,
you know, what's being killed or what's being shot
because we all know what's going on, you know. And I'd
like to address this on Esther's behalf and I'd like
this to be, you know, be recorded like because we don't
hear no information from the State, ever since they got
pulled out you don't hear nothing from BLM that -- what
goes on behind the curtain there. Because the way I
heard it's about \$5,000 per hunter so, you know, that's
multiply.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Peter.
Carmen, you going to continue.

MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for your
comments, Peter and Esther too.

So just to wrap up here a few more
things. Western 26A muskox. This last spring, late
winter, early spring there was a minimum count and a
composition survey done. There were 421 muskox
observed in western 26A and the bull/cow ratio was 70

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1 bulls per 100 cows which is a very good ratio and 61
2 yearlings per 100 cows. So we used a different
3 technique or new technique to use aerial photographs to
4 age and sex the different animals in this population as
5 a way to get more information for what we put into it.

6
7

8 So that being said as I mentioned
9 before there's a tier two hunt that can be applied for
10 this fall and the hunt will begin in the fall of 2023.
11 So those hunters who are interested in applying for
12 that hunt can do so either online or in person at my
13 office or I'm going to make rounds out to the villages
14 to be available to help people fill out applications
15 too. So keep your eyes open for flyers if you would
16 like to apply for that in person or you can give me a
17 phone call too and I'm happy to help you do that.

18

19 Last but not least, the Colville moose
20 population. We did a trend count survey this last
21 spring and the trend count area's pretty much
22 Anaktuvuk, the Chandler and a section of the Colville
23 River between Ocean Point and Itkillik. We do that
24 survey annually and then we do a full survey of the
25 river and a larger part of the tributaries once every
26 three years. So this last spring we counted 227 moose
27 in that trend count survey, 19 percent yearlings which
28 is a really high percentage of yearlings for the area
29 so a really good sign. We also saw seven sets of twins
30 which is really different than what I originally saw
31 when I first started surveying this population, when I
32 first started in this position which is really good to
33 see. The 2021 total population number was 427 moose
34 and 20 percent of those were yearlings and we had 18
35 sets of twins during that survey. So the Colville
36 moose population seems to be growing at a fairly steady
37 rate and hopefully that trend continues.

38

39 In the meantime again I would like to
40 really encourage people to get moose harvest tickets.
41 I did a quick search the other day and there was one
42 permit that had been issued for this last year and I
43 know of at least three moose that are dead. So please,
44 please use those permits. It's a way that you can show
45 that you need that resource, a physical representation
46 of that and those numbers matter. So if you could
47 really help spread the word about that, that would be
48 really helpful.

49

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0275

1 And that's all I have, Mr. Chair, other
2 than that I wanted to also say that I've been working
3 with Ilisagvik College to promote fire arm safety in
4 the region too and working on building those programs
5 that are available for communities. It has been
6 indicated that the communities really want to see more
7 firearm safety education out there and availability and
8 so I've been working with them to try to make that
9 service available to the communities if they want it.

10

11 And I don't know if you would like to
12 see the illustrations, the migration patterns now or if
13 you want to wait until after we're done with the
14 meeting and see those at the same time as the
15 photocensus movie. It is your choice.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
18 the Council, would you guys like to take a -- this
19 thing is -- you said it was 11 minutes?

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: The photocensus video is
22 11 minutes. I would wait to the end to watch that one.
23 However the migration videos are much shorter and I can
24 play those now or wait until those -- to the end too.
25 They're kind of different things.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Yeah, I
28 appreciate you offering those videos and, you know,
29 they're a source of -- to me they're good information
30 to learn about their movements and to be able to know
31 which herds you're hunting off of. I mean, they're
32 very -- to me they're pretty distinct, you know, you
33 can't mix the two up sometimes.

34

35 So what's the wish of the Council,
36 would you guys like to take a video break and watch one
37 of the videos.

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: So you don't miss your
40 flight.

41

42 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, that's why I'm
43 offering.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. They're
46 worried about catching flights and timing of those.
47 And it's very important to get our folks off and going
48 as well. So.....

49

50

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1 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, sometimes we don't
2 make it to village because of bad weather and.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
5 you, Carmen. We will go down the line, I think we're
6 up to Office of Subsistence Management on agency
7 report, OSM.

8
9 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, if I may.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Leigh.

12
13 MS. HONIG: There was a unit 26B and C
14 update by Jason Caikoski, I don't know if he's on the
15 line.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Jason, we're almost
18 missing you. Are you on.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MS. HONIG: So we also received word
23 that he may not be available. And I was requested to
24 pass along the information that his report and map for
25 the tier two muskox permit area and drawing hunt area
26 are available under supplemental materials packet under
27 tab six and seven if you guys are interested in reading
28 that report.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
33 Coordinator. Hearing that, we do have that information
34 that Jason would have presented, it's it tab six and
35 seven. And so with that we'll move over to OSM.

36
37 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
38 members of the Council. I'll give the OSM report
39 first.

40
41 Dr. Hannah Voorhees would like a quick
42 update on some designated hunter information that was
43 brought up earlier.

44
45 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Brent. So I
46 just wanted to get this on the record quickly to have a
47 correct response for you. As the regs are written
48 there is automatic option for a designated hunter
49 permit for moose, caribou and deer, but that does not
50

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1 apply to muskox. This is a new Federal hunt for
2 muskoxen in unit 26A and the Council may wish to submit
3 a proposal to create a designated hunter system for
4 muskoxen 26A. I was hoping the news would be simpler,
5 but that's the situation. As this is a drawing hunt
6 there may be some issues with having a designated
7 hunter on those, but those would be discussed and
8 worked out during the regulatory process and I plan to
9 remind you of this at the next meeting so that if you
10 wish to submit a proposal you can and that would be the
11 correct time.

12

13 Thanks.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for the
16 update on that. We'll go ahead and go to Brent, OSM.

17

18 MR. VICKERS: Thank you. And thank
19 you, Hannah, that's actually -- that's a great update
20 so I appreciate it.

21

22 On behalf of OSM I want to thank all
23 Council members for your exceptional work on behalf of
24 your communities, user groups, during these trying
25 times. We greatly value your expertise, the
26 contribution of your knowledge and experience in the
27 regulatory process. I know Anthropology Division for --
28 which I'm -- and Hannah are members of, we really just
29 appreciate everything you all say because we rely
30 heavily on looking through the transcripts to help
31 shape our analyses and take directly from your quotes
32 to help with our analogy so thank you for all the
33 information you guys provide during these meetings. We
34 really appreciate it.

35

36 We're holding all 10 fall, 2022
37 Regional Advisory Council meetings in person. OSM
38 Staff are very happy that we can finally see you all
39 face to face. We thank you again for bearing with us
40 over the past two and a half years during the pandemic
41 and teleconference meetings. The Federal Subsistence
42 Management Program recognizes that in person Council
43 meetings are preferable. Council meetings must follow
44 Federal government guidelines and will continue to do
45 so with future meetings. We hope that covid-19 levels
46 are low enough in each of the communities where Council
47 meetings are planned at the time of the meetings so
48 that we will be able to meet Federal government
49 requirements. We will continue to work with each of
50

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1 the Councils on the specific requirements for their
2 regions to conduct the in person meetings safely.

3
4 OSM is please to welcome two new hired
5 Subsistence Council Coordinators, Lisa Hutchinson-
6 Scarbrough and Jessica Gill. Both have a wealth of
7 knowledge and experience in working with the rural
8 users in the communities as well as Alaska subsistence
9 issues.

10
11 Eva Patton transferred to the NPS as
12 you know, we're very sad that she's not with us on our
13 behalf with this meeting, but it was great to hear her
14 on the phone and we look forward to seeing her again.

15
16 Carry Crow returned to OSM as Budget
17 Analyst. Bernard Shavings joined us as an
18 Administrative Support Assistant. Michelle Andrews
19 joined us as Executive Secretary. The OSM team
20 continues to work on rebuilding our capacity.

21
22 Over the past two and a half years we
23 have been reminding Council meetings about the changing
24 requirements for IDs at the airport. Beginning May
25 3rd, 2023, this coming spring, every air traveler will
26 need to present Real ID compliant driver's license or
27 other acceptable form of identification such as a
28 passport to fly within the United States. This is
29 applicable even when you are on -- fly on small bush
30 carriers. Please note that all Council members will
31 need to make sure that they have the required Real ID
32 for travel to the fall, 2023 Council meetings.

33
34 I'll be happy to answer any questions.
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair, Council members and everyone
36 else.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thanks,
39 Brent. And a Real ID, is that just like a regular
40 driver's license or is Real ID -- a Real ID a new
41 trend?

42
43 MR. VICKERS: I can't speak officially,
44 but it is an updated form as far as I know of the ID.
45 All IDs that have been issued in recent years are Real
46 ID compliant so you -- so you all should check,
47 particularly if you received your driver's license
48 years ago to make sure that they're Real ID or if you
49 have a passport that'll suffice. But the Real ID isn't
50

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1 just like a Real ID, it's an actual upgrade from years
2 past where they -- it's another level of security to
3 make sure that they -- you are who you are.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. I'm sure
6 it's important because it should be for elections too,
7 you know. So.....

8

9 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower Frantz.

12

13 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, it's a driver's
14 license too, you can -- that's an option for it, yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Any
17 further questions for Dr. Brent Vickers.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, tribal ID would be
20 good too because a lot of us use that from the
21 villages.

22

23 MR. VICKERS: That sounds like a great
24 idea. I recommend you speaking with your tribes about
25 it. I don't -- I don't speak on behalf of the tribes.
26 I'm sorry, I wouldn't know.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, we have our own
29 tribal ID that they gave us from our tribe, yeah. We
30 use it most places around the city, yeah.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm going to
35 draw a card and draw my picture on it and see if it
36 works.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. VICKERS: Sounds fun, but I
41 wouldn't recommend only arriving at the airport with
42 that.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thanks
47 again. So with that said, thank you for your update,
48 Brent.

49

50

0280

1 We that we finished item 13 already.
2 I'll move into closing comments and we'll start off
3 with Esther.

4
5 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
6 just happy that I was able to make it regardless of
7 struggles at home and waiting for our caribou. But I'm
8 glad I made it and it's always interesting and I learn
9 more every time I attend meetings. I'm just happy that
10 we're here, I finally got somebody from home to come
11 with me and that's good, Earl. (In Native).

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank
14 you. We'll move to Kaktovik. Eddie, closing comments.

15
16 MR. REXFORD: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. And it's been a very informative meeting
18 today and I apologize for missing yesterday's meeting.
19 So thanks everybody for calling in and having a quorum
20 today.

21
22 Bye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kaktovik.
25 We will move over to Brower Frantz.

26
27 MR. FRANTZ: All right. Yeah, I want
28 to thank everybody for coming to my hometown for this
29 meeting. Born and raised, my name's Brower, I live in
30 Browerville.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. FRANTZ: No, this is really good,
35 my first in person meeting, second total for the
36 Regional Advisory Council here. So it's very
37 informational, I love all the information that comes in
38 from multiple entities that are involved here.
39 Everything has something to do with what we eat so it's
40 a very different world than the world of regulation
41 here. But I enjoy it, the discussions are good for our
42 communities and I'm glad we're discussing what we are
43 and, you know, with the people we are.

44
45 So thank you very much. I missed my
46 moose hunting season this year so that's something I
47 try to look forward to and work with Carmen on. I do
48 do that, at least I do do the tags for moose. So thank
49 you and I look forward to the next meeting and a lot of
50

0281

1 information that's available such as the GPS stuff, I'm
2 definitely interested in to see trends.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower.
7 And we'll go to Earl/Peter.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Chair. Yes,
10 I want to say that we brought up a lot of tension here,
11 I know it's pretty hard to hide it, but sooner or later
12 it's going to pop up. And we're the people are
13 supposed to speak for it, that's why our people put us
14 up here to speak for them. It's not for ourselves,
15 it's for our people and our family to survive. And
16 that's what it's all about.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted).

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: It said that in ANILCA
22 and ANCSA. It said that government, congress, supposed
23 to be our guardians. Any kind of help we need we need
24 to go to the -- our BIA Affairs, ask them for our needs
25 it saidon that paper, that book, Iread it, it stated --
26 stated the case of that. So that's something we got
27 to understand that, you know, the congress made a deal
28 that they're going to guard our health to pay us back
29 for what they did to the lands. It's written right in
30 the book. So we've got to understand one another and
31 we got to work with one another, we just can't work
32 this way and that way because there's a lot of us that
33 want this and that, we can't get it, we've got to work
34 for it. If we're going to to survive this world we've
35 got to stand up together.

36

37 I know how it is, you know, I know how
38 it feels. I see my grandkids and then they said I love
39 Native food. They love that muktuk and stuff when it
40 come in from the coast. And now we're down to -- now
41 we're fighting for fish. We were fighting for caribous
42 for years, I see it. But, you know, grandpa said, you
43 know, there's lines in every village that there's a
44 boundary, you don't -- you just don't cross your
45 people's country, you know, there's like a no man's
46 land too around between Indian and Eskimo too so, you
47 know, that's old, but it's still there, you know,
48 people still use that tradition, they don't bother each
49 other, they don't go across each other's land. It's
50

1 like, you know, just so far they go, there's nowhere to
2 go. And I heard an old background about the government
3 was trying to make reservations up here with Natives,
4 but the Interior Indians they said no. This land is
5 made for us, our people, to survive. And he said that
6 they don't want no reservation, they don't want to be
7 tied down like down states people, they want to travel.
8 A long time ago they said -- some of my people said
9 they would travel all the way to Point Hope, you know,
10 that's a long ways to go, you know, because they had
11 friends there. I know a couple people, people from
12 Point Hope, told me a story about there's about three
13 Indians buried up there in the mountains in TDF. And,
14 you know, these kind of stories you got to know about,
15 you know. That's our history.

16
17 So I just wanted to share that caribou
18 is very important to us and one more thing I want to
19 address is that, man, I wish they could have a
20 conference up here just for our caribou to be heard,
21 you know. Plus we're the only ones that fighting in
22 Alaska for our caribou. A lot of other villages are
23 looking for fish. And our coastal is, you know,
24 mammals. But I just wanted to say that I sure wouldn't
25 mind having our -- all our people together for once
26 like AFN, but I used to see a lot of conference where
27 people gather together, you don't see that anymore,
28 people just push each other out of the way, you know.
29 They want part -- they don't want part of the portion,
30 they want the whole portion. It don't work that way,
31 but we got to learn how to work together and sit here.
32 I'm glad we don't have no conflict with things that
33 goes on, really appreciate this and I'm really thankful
34 to be living with these people because they have a lot
35 of respect and I have respect for them.

36
37 Thank you very much.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Earl. I
40 know Martha would have some closing comments as well.
41 I'm not sure if she's on or if Wanda Kippi. And Wanda
42 serves her community very well and she's due for an
43 award, her five year service. We going to wish her the
44 best and hopefully maybe a little letter along with her
45 award would be good. And get it sent to her. And for
46 Steve, I know Steve would have good closing comments as
47 well, Oomittuk, and he always has good words to say.

48
49 With that, safe travels home and I
50

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1 really advocate for the Regional Advisory Council and
2 bring the nomination papers home, try to get those that
3 would make the Council and strengthen it more. It
4 would be important to try to, you know, find more
5 people that would take up these roles. I think it
6 happens to be very important.

7

8 With that, god bless everybody, have a
9 safe trip back to where you came from and thank you
10 very much.

11

12 With that I will entertain item 14.

13

14 MS. HUGO: I make a motion to adjourn.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, item 15. Item
17 15. We just did 14.

18

19 MS. HUGO: I make a motion to adjourn.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
22 for -- to adjourn.

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.
27 Any discussion.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. FRANTZ: Question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
34 called for. All those in favor of adjourning signify
35 by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
40 nay.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
45 ayes have it. We're formally adjourned. Thank you,
46 everybody.

47

48 (Off record)

49

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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