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1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7
8 VOLUME I

9
10 Nullagvik Hotel/National Park Service Building

11 March 7, 2023

12 Kotzebue/Anchorage Alaska

13 9:30 a.m
14
15

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17
18 Thomas Baker, Chairman

19 Elmer Armstrong

20 Wilbur Howarth

21 Michael Kramer

22 Hannah Loon

23 Tristen Pattee

24 Robert Schaeffer

25 Raymond Woods
26
27
28

29 Regional Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson-
30 Scarbrough
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Kotzebue/Anchorage, Alaska - 3/7/2023)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, everyone,
8 it is now 9:30 so if we could find our seats and we
9 could go ahead and get started. This is Thomas Baker,
10 the Chair of the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
11 Advisory Council. First on the agenda we have a moment
12 of silence.

13

14 (Moment of Silence)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thanks
17 everyone. Just a reminder since we are doing all
18 teleconference today to make sure whenever you're going
19 to speak please identify yourself for the record and if
20 you don't speak up then I am in charge of making sure
21 you do speak up so Tina can get the recording and get
22 our minutes taken care of.

23

24 So with that welcome everyone. We will
25 do a roll call. Who wants to be the DFO today?

26

27 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, does Lisa want to do
28 it telephonically or do you want us to do it?

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Lisa did you hear
31 that?

32

33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good
34 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. I am
35 the Council Coordinator and the DFO for this meeting
36 and I wanted to welcome everybody so we will go with --
37 with the roll call of the Council members.

38

39 Ms. Hannah Loon.

40

41 MS. LOON: I am here.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Welcome
44 Hannah.

45

46 Tristen Pattee.

47

48 MR. PATTEE: Here.

49

50

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1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael
2 Kramer.

3
4 MR. KRAMER: Here.

5
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Calvin
7 Moto.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Chair.
12 I believe he might be abused, he had some work at the
13 airport but we will see if he checks in later.

14
15 Wilbur Howarth.

16
17 MR. HOWARTH: Here.

18
19 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Robert
20 Schaeffer.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Robert
25 Schaeffer to unmute your phone just do star six.

26
27 MR. SCHAEFFER: I'm here.

28
29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Welcome.
30 Happy -- happy you were able to get on.

31
32 Elmer Armstrong.

33
34 MR. ARMSTRONG: Here.

35
36 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Welcome
37 Elmer.

38
39 Vern Cleveland.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Chair.
44 Vern called in and said that he had to be at work at
45 the airport but he was going to try to check in later
46 so he has -- he's excused right now.

47
48 And Raymond Woods.

49
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1 MR. WOODS: Here.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Welcome
4 Raymond.

5

6 Okay, Mr. Chair. We have eight of the
7 10 Council members present and we do have a quorum,
8 thank you.

9

10 REPORTER: What about the Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. So
13 now that we have a quorum established, do you have any
14 meeting announcements or any housekeeping for this
15 morning?

16

17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Mr.
18 Chair and members of the Council. I just wanted to,
19 again, welcome everybody to the Northwest Arctic
20 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. This
21 meeting is, as we know, being held by teleconference
22 and just wanted to say -- extend that we are all
23 disappointed that we are not able to hold the meeting
24 in person as we planned in Kotzebue but the weather
25 storm had the upper hand so we're making it work and
26 thank you everybody for accommodating our meeting as
27 best we can. Hope everybody there in the Northwest
28 Arctic is getting -- staying warm and safe and getting
29 unburied.

30

31 The agenda for our meeting, along with
32 the meeting books for everybody online or for the
33 Council members, if you don't have copies, can be found
34 online on the Federal Subsistence Program website and
35 that is www.doi.gov/subsistence and then you go to the
36 regional tab under Northwest Arctic meeting materials.

37

38 So I'd like to do a few housekeeping
39 tasks if that's okay -- all right, now, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. So
44 anyway I would like to first welcome our new Council
45 members, we have three new Council members. That's
46 Hannah Loon, Tristen Pattee and Raymond Woods. So
47 welcome to our Council, we're really happy that you are
48 coming here to serve and help the people of your
49 region. Also want to welcome and congratulate our new
50

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1 reappointed Council members that will be serving on the
2 Council. That is Thomas Baker, Michael Kramer and
3 Elmer Armstrong. So welcome back to the Council and
4 thank you, again, for your continuing interest and
5 contributions to the region and helping the region in
6 important subsistence matters.

7
8 Okay, for anybody with the public
9 listening in, if you would like to address the Council
10 during the meeting, the Chair will provide that
11 opportunity for you at a certain point to speak at that
12 time. One of the main purposes of our meeting is to
13 encourage and promote local participation in the
14 decisionmaking process affecting subsistence harvest on
15 Federal lands, public lands and we want to make sure
16 that we keep track of those who would like to address
17 the Council. So when you do call in, please announce
18 your name, but before you do say, Mr. Chair, to get his
19 attention. I'd also like to remind folks out there
20 that there will be a time for tribal and public
21 comments on the nonagenda items. So the Chair will
22 announce each morning that there will be an opportunity
23 for those present as well as those participating on the
24 phone which, I guess, all of you are, to speak on these
25 agenda items. So when you do speak on the phone I'll
26 remind you at that time, but please just announce your
27 name or your agency or your group or if you're just
28 part of a community, if you would like to speak.

29
30 In addition we have some -- my epic
31 statement that I need to read.

32
33 So Council members represent the
34 peoples of the region to the Board, the Secretaries,
35 the agency Staff and the general public. As
36 Secretarial appointees Council members also represent
37 the Federal Subsistence Program to the people of their
38 regions, therefore, Council members are expected to
39 treat fellow Council members, agency and organizational
40 Staff and members of the public with respect both at
41 public meetings and at all times.

42
43 The Council meetings are to be
44 conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order. Rude
45 language and unruly behavior toward anyone attending
46 the meetings is not acceptable. All members must be
47 impartial, fair and courteous at the meetings. As
48 outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, the Council Chair
49 may call an unruly member out of order, may order the
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1 member to be silent and may have him or her removed
2 from the meeting if the behavior continues. Any
3 Council member may request the Council to address an
4 offending member's behavior. The Chair, a Council
5 member or the Designated Federal Officer of the meeting
6 may call for a break so that we may speak to these
7 [sic] person privately. Continued uncivil behavior of
8 a Council member toward any person may cause a
9 permanent removal from the Council by the Secretary of
10 Interior and Agriculture.

11

12 Another matter is unexcused absences.
13 Members who travel to a Council meeting and remain in
14 the community but do not attend a Council meeting for
15 any reason other than their own illness will not be
16 excused and may be required to reimburse the government
17 for their travel and per diem. Additionally, the
18 Department's policy regarding the ethics responsibility
19 of Advisory Committee members states that no Council or
20 Council member will participate in any specific party
21 matter, including a lease license permit, contract
22 claim agreement or related litigation with the
23 Department in which the member has a direct financial
24 interest. Prior to any discussion of a particular
25 issue regarding which a member has a conflict of
26 interest as described above, the member will make a
27 conflict of interest statement on the record and recuse
28 himself.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
31 Council. The floor is back to you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. So
34 with that we'll move on to Item No. 5, welcome and
35 introductions. Again, welcome everyone and for
36 introductions if we wouldn't mind, if one person from
37 each organization could come up to the microphone and
38 state who you have with you, whether it's on the phone
39 or in the room today and what organization you're with.
40 And we will start with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

41

42 MR. WIESE: This is Will Wiese.....

43

44 MS. : This is -- go ahead, Will.

45

46 MR. WIESE: Maybe we'll start in the
47 room. This is Will Wiese with Selawik National
48 Wildlife Refuge. Refuge Manager there. We also have
49 Brittany Sweeny, Outreach Specialist and Bill Carter,
50

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1 our Fish biologist and general otologist from Selawik
2 Refuge.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And anyone on the
5 phone with Fish and Wildlife.

6

7 MS. HYER: Good morning, this is Karen
8 Hyer with the Office of Subsistence Management.

9

10 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. This is
11 Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor
12 with the Office of Subsistence Management.

13

14 MR. LIND: (In Native) Good morning
15 everyone, Chairman, Board members. Orville Lind,
16 Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
17 Management. Go ahead.

18

19 MR. PLANK: Good morning this is Tom
20 Plank, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Subsistence
21 Management.

22

23 MR. AYERS: This is Scott Ayers,
24 Fisheries Division Supervisor with the Office of
25 Subsistence Management. Good morning, everyone.

26

27 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. T his is
28 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist, with the Office of
29 Subsistence Management.

30

31 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is
32 Jill.....

33

34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good
35 morning again, this is Lisa Hutchinson-Scarbrough, the
36 Council Coordinator.....

37

38 MS. KLEIN:Klein.....

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH:for
41 Office of Subsistence Management.

42

43 MR. HANDER: Good morning. This is Ray
44 Hander out of Fairbanks with the Fish and Wildlife
45 Service Field Office, Fisheries Biologist. Thanks a
46 bunch.

47

48 REPORTER: Go ahead Jill.

49

50

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1 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
2 Klein out of Anchorage, Regional Subsistence
3 Coordinator with Fish and Wildlife Service. Good
4 morning.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thanks
7 everyone. Next, do we have anyone from the National
8 Park Service in the room.

9
10 MS. CARLSON: Good morning. This is
11 Annie Carlson with the National Park Service, the
12 Western Arctic National Parklands. I'm the Resources
13 Program Manager. And with me in Kotzebue is Joe
14 Dallemolle, our Law Enforcement Ranger and Emily Creek,
15 our Anthropologist.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Anyone
18 from the Park Service on the phone.

19
20 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is
21 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the
22 Arctic National Park based out of Fairbanks.

23
24 MR. JOLY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
25 This is Kyle Joly, I'm a Caribou Biologist for the Park
26 Service.

27
28 MR. JUNGE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
29 This is Justin Junge, Archeologist with the
30 Western.....

31
32 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. Ken
33 Adkisson with the National Park Service, Nome office.

34
35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Would that
36 last person repeat their name please.

37
38 REPORTER: It was Ken Adkisson, Nome.

39
40 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
41 Park Service, Nome.

42
43 REPORTER: Go ahead Justin.

44
45 MR. JUNGE: This Justin Junge,
46 Archeologist with Western Arctic National Parklands and
47 Bering Landbridge National Preserve out of Kotzebue.

48
49 MS. FRONSTIN: (In Native) This is
50

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1 Martha Fronstin with the National Park Service in
2 Kotzebue.

3

4 MS. FLOREY: This is Victoria Florey,
5 National Park Service, Subsistence Program Analyst out
6 of Anchorage.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And we can hear some
12 background noise, if we could make sure to mute.

13

14 Thank you, everyone.

15

16 Do we have anyone from Fish and Game in
17 the room.

18

19 MR. HANSEN: Good morning everyone.
20 This is Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and
21 Game. I work with the Western Arctic Caribou here in
22 Kotzebue. And with me today is Christie Osburn the
23 Area Biologist.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And anyone with the
26 Department of Fish and Game on the phone.

27

28 MR. SCANLON: Good morning. This is
29 Brian Scanlon, the Northwest and North Slope Area
30 Fisheries Biologist out of Fairbanks.

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett
33 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game up in Barrow.

34

35 MS. URQUIA: Good morning. This is
36 Morgan Urquia with the Division of Subsistence here in
37 Fairbanks.

38

39 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
40 with the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you.
43 Anyone from BLM, Bureau of Land Management, either in
44 the room or on the phone.

45

46 MR. SEPPI: Good morning. This is
47 Bruce Seppi with Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

48

49 MR. GUSSEY: Good morning. This is

50

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1 Walker Gussey with the Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

2

3 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning. This is
4 Craig Townsend, Wildlife Biologist, Anchorage Field
5 Office, BLM.

6

7 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. This is
8 Chris McKee, Statewide Subsistence Coordinator and
9 InterAgency Staff Committee member for BLM.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Do we have
12 anyone from any tribal governments.

13

14 MS. MURREY: This is Emily Murrey. I'm
15 from the Native Village of Elim, originally from Golovin
16 and I'm the Vice President of Norton Bay Tribal
17 Watershed Council.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Welcome.
20 Anyone from any other Native organizations.

21

22 MR. KIRK: Good morning. This is
23 Robbie Kirk with NANA.

24

25 MS. FERGUSON: Good morning. Elizabeth
26 Ferguson with NANA as well.

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Excuse me,
29 would you please repeat your name.

30

31 MS. FERGUSON: Elizabeth Ferguson.

32

33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And anyone from the
36 State of Alaska in the room.

37

38 MR. CANTINE: Good morning. This is
39 Trooper Cantine with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers out
40 of Kotzebue.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Anyone
43 else with the State of Alaska on the phone.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And any members of the
48 public in the room or on the phone.

49

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank
4 you everyone. Again, welcome to the winter meeting of
5 the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory
6 Council. We'll go ahead and move on to Item No. 6,
7 which is review and adoption of the agenda. Lisa, do
8 you have any recommended changes to the agenda.

9

10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council.

12

13 MR. RISDAHL: Hey, Mr. Chair, I
14 apologize for interrupting but there may be a few other
15 people online. I'm Greg Risdahl with the Forest
16 Service. Thank you.

17

18 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. This is Glenn
19 Chen from Bureau of Indian Affairs also attending.
20 Thank you.

21

22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Could you --
23 excuse.....

24

25 REPORTER: Glenn Chen, BIA.

26

27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, Glenn
28 Chen, thank you, sir.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before you go on Lisa,
31 anyone else on the phone that hasn't introduced
32 themself yet.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, Lisa, if
37 you would, do we have any recommended changes or
38 amendments to the agenda.

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, thank
41 you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. So the agenda
42 that the -- the current agenda is found in your Tab 1
43 of your supplemental folders and for those of you
44 online it's posted. There are no changes from that at
45 this point. Thank you, sir.

46

47 (Teleconference interference --
48 participants not muted)

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. At
2 this time is there a motion to adopt the motion as
3 presented.

4
5 MR. KRAMER: I make the motion to
6 adopt.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Michael Kramer
9 makes the motion, do we have a second.

10
11 MR. HOWARTH: I second, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And your name for the
14 record.

15
16 MR. HOWARTH: Wilbur Howarth. Noorvik.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur. So
19 a motion by Mike and a second by Wilbur. All those in
20 favor of adopting the agenda please say aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed,
25 same sign.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We have an agenda. So
30 with that we'll move on to item No. 7, the election of
31 officers. Lisa, would you please kick this off.

32
33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,
34 again, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. So,
35 again, for the record my name is Lisa Hutchinson-
36 Scarbrough and I am the DFO for this meeting, for the
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for the Northwest
38 Arctic.

39
40 Okay.

41
42 In accordance to the Council charter
43 Council members elect a Chair, a Vice Chair and a
44 Secretary for a one year term. The term usually starts
45 at the beginning of the calendar year.

46
47 So right now I would like to open the
48 floor for nominations of the Council's Chair. The
49 nominations will not need to be seconded.

50

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1 So do we have any nominations for
2 Chair.

3
4 MR. ARMSTRONG: Elmer Armstrong. I
5 nominate Thomas Baker.

6
7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you.
8 Do we have any other nominations.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. LOON: I make a motion to close the
13 nomination. This is Hannah B. Loon.

14
15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Who.

16
17 REPORTER: Hannah.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: You'll need it seconded
20 if she made a motion.

21
22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Okay,
23 Ms. Loon, thank you, we need a second if she made a
24 motion.

25
26 MR. ARMSTRONG: Second, Elmer
27 Armstrong.

28
29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. We
30 have a first and second to close the nominations.
31 Okay, we're going to vote, we have Mr. Thomas Baker
32 nominated to your new Chair. All those in new favor
33 please say -- actually let's do a roll call vote, okay.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: First you need to vote on
36 the motion to close.....

37
38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: What?

39
40 MS. WESSELS: First you need to vote on
41 the motion to close nominations.

42
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Oh. Okay,
44 excuse me, you all need to vote on the motion to close
45 the nominations, okay. Do a roll call or.....

46
47 MS. WESSELS: No.

48
49 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. All
50

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1 those in favor of closing the nominations please say
2 aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Those
7 opposed, say nay.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, that
12 passed that we close the nominations. So now we will
13 vote on if everybody is in favor of Thomas Baker being
14 the new Chair.

15
16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18
19 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, we're
20 going to do a roll call vote on the nomination of Mr.
21 Baker for Chair.

22
23 Hannah Loon.

24
25 MS. LOON: Yes.

26
27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen
28 Pattee.

29
30 MR. PATTEE: Yes.

31
32 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael

33 Kramer.

34
35 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

36
37 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Calvin

38 Moto.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: He's not
43 online so Wilbur Howarth.

44
45 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

46
47 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Bobby

48 Schaeffer.

49
50

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1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer
4 Armstrong.

5

6 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Raymond
9 Woods.

10

11 MR. WOODS: Yes.

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And Vern
14 Cleveland is not available right now so we have eight
15 out of 10 members voted yes, so, Mr. Baker you are now
16 our new Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can I vote yes for
19 myself.

20

21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: No, we're
22 not going to let you vote.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Mr.
27 Baker, do you accept that you're -- Mr. Baker, do
28 you.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. And
31 thank you, Council.

32

33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes.
34 Sorry, this is the first time I've done this so.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay.

37

38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, so
39 congratulations on the Chair and I'm going to hand --
40 send this back over to you Mr. Baker to do the
41 elections for the Vice Chair and Secretary.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. So
46 with that do we have any nominations for Vice Chair.
47 Currently our Vice Chair is Michael Kramer.

48

49 MS. LOON: I, Hannah, nominate Michael

50

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1 Kramer for Vice Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah nominates Mike.
4 Any other nominations.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none we'll go
9 ahead and close nominations. Do you accept the
10 nomination?

11

12 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, did Michael
13 accept the nomination? He has to accept the nomination
14 according to Robert's Rules.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I was just asking.....

17

18 REPORTER: So is that Bobby talking.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I was just asking him.
21 And, yes, Tina, that was Bobby.

22

23 MR. KRAMER: Yes, this is Michael, I
24 accept.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Mike accepts the
27 nomination. All in favor of the one candidate for Vice
28 Chair of Michael Kramer, please say aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed, same
33 sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that Mike is our
38 Vice Chair. And next we have Secretary and I don't see
39 that we have one. The last Secretary would have been
40 -- was it you, Elmer, or was it Barbara.

41

42 MR. ARMSTRONG: I think it was Barbara.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we currently don't
45 have a Secretary. Do we have any nominations for a
46 Secretary.

47

48 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I nominate
49 Hannah Loon. This is Elmer Armstrong.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And, Hannah, do you
2 accept that nomination?

3
4 MS. LOON: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other nominations
7 for Secretary.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, close the
12 nominations for Secretary. Wilbur Howarth.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
15 With that we'll go ahead and close, all those in favor
16 of Hannah Loon as the new Secretary please say aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed,
21 same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that, thank you,
26 Hannah, you are now our Secretary.

27
28 So we'll go ahead and move on to Item
29 No. 8 on the agenda, which is the review and approval
30 of previous meeting minutes. Those are on Page 6 in
31 our main book. Does anyone have any comments,
32 questions or a motion to approve the meeting minutes of
33 our previous meeting.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Would anyone like to
38 make a motion to approve.

39
40 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair, this is
41 Michael. I'd like to make a motion to approve.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. So a
44 motion to approve by Mr. Kramer. Any seconds.

45
46 MS. LOON: Second, this is Hannah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Hannah.
49 All those in favor approving the previous meeting
50

0018

1 minutes please say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed,
6 same sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. So we have
11 approved the meeting minutes of the October 31,
12 November 1, 2022 fall meeting of the Northwest Arctic
13 RAC. And we'll go into Item No. 9, which is reports.
14 So for our newer members this section, we'll go around
15 the table and so what this is is an opportunity for us
16 as members of the Council to report on what subsistence
17 activities have been going on, whether it's personally
18 or in the communities that you represent. I know that
19 we finally have some representation from some of the up
20 river communities now and knowledge about Selawik,
21 Shungnak, Ambler, Kobuk, so anything in the communities
22 that you spend time in, the areas that you subsist in,
23 this is your opportunity to report on that.

24

25 So with that we will start on the
26 phone, Mr. Tristen Pattee, would you like to start us
27 off.

28

29 MR. PATTEE: Yes, thank you, Chair. So
30 just kind of a concern, the caribou have been showing
31 up later and later. This year they showed up to Ambler
32 October 9. But when they did finally show up people
33 were actually able to gather their subsistence food for
34 the caribou.

35

36 The moose.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Tristen, I hate to cut
39 you off, but you're pretty quiet here in the room, are
40 you able to speak up a little.

41

42 MR. PATTEE: How's that?

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Perfect, thank you.

45

46 MR. PATTEE: Is that better?

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Perfect, thank you.

49

50

0019

1 MR. PATTEE: So, yeah, the caribou are
2 definitely showing up later and later every year and
3 it's kind of frustrating because the locals are not
4 able to get their caribou on time and fuel costs are
5 over \$14 a gallon, so that's a pretty big concern.

6
7 Moose. We -- some people got moose but
8 not a whole lot.

9
10 Fish. The sheefish are -- they're very
11 great so lots and lots of sheefish and a lot of people
12 in Ambler have been hanging salmon and gathering fish
13 to kind of -- when they don't get caribou they're able
14 to have their fish at least.

15
16 But I've been up and down the river
17 between Ambler and Kiana quite often this summer and
18 fall and yet I didn't really see too much wildlife on
19 there.

20
21 And that's it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tristen.

24
25 Mr. Bob Schaeffer, would you like to go
26 next.

27
28 MR. SCHAEFFER: Good morning, can you
29 hear me?

30
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you, Bob,
32 we can hear you.

33
34 MR. SCHAEFFER: Okay. Well, I've got a
35 lot to say. But since I'm not there personally I'll
36 just make it kind of short.

37
38 But I just wanted to say
39 congratulations, Tom, and Mike and Hannah. I think
40 that, you know, we put the time and place and the
41 issues that we're going through up here with the
42 caribou and fish die-offs and the weather changing. Of
43 course we're all experiencing this and it's kind of --
44 it's kind of an issue that -- it goes beyond just
45 local, it's more towards to climate change and global
46 warming -- global warming there.

47
48 So first of all I wanted to express the
49 most important thing, in order for me as a Council
50

0020

1 member to be successful, communication is really
2 important. I'm not talking about the Fish and
3 Wildlife, itself, and the Office of Subsistence, but I
4 think inner-Council communication is really important.
5 Tom, I wanted to express my concern, maybe we should
6 talk about -- about hearing more from the Council
7 members itself because I'm not hearing from what's
8 happening within the Council and it's hard to put
9 yourself in a position to address some of the
10 subsistence issues that we're dealing with and so my
11 suggestion, of course, is that maybe the communication
12 of the inner-Council should be increased and if anybody
13 has any concerns, that they relay those concerns to Tom
14 and then Tom can be -- then Tom can communicate those
15 -- that information to us on the Board level. It's
16 really difficult to try to sit back and -- and -- in my
17 situation and not receive any communications from the
18 Chair that were happening -- are happening region-wide.
19 And so that's just my suggestion that maybe we should
20 improve our communication between each other, that's
21 sorely missing and I'd just like to express my concern
22 about that and -- and then hope that in the future we
23 can communicate better so when we come to these
24 meetings we're better prepared because we've had a
25 chance to delve into it with more information, and
26 this, of course, is where Lisa comes in too, is, you
27 know, as a Coordinator, Tom -- Tom relaying that
28 information to her, especially if it comes through
29 getting resources -- you know, to look into some of the
30 things that are affecting our subsistence way of life.

31

32 That's one of the things.

33

34 I also work with -- for the tribe here
35 locally and also Alaska observation program that they
36 have and I observe some of the changes that are
37 happening up here and so far environmental --
38 environmental changes that I see happening locally and
39 the elders -- elder person that can compare what's
40 happening today with the past and what it used to be, I
41 -- I welcome any observations from the people of the
42 other villages that are part of this RAC committee. If
43 you see something that's different, or you see
44 something -- or some environmental changes that are
45 affecting any of our subsistence I'd sure like to know
46 about them and you can communicate with me through
47 Lisa, I believe she's got my email and if she wanted to
48 -- you know, to communicate some of those concerns that
49 you have about the environment then you can communicate

50

0021

1 them to me at the same time, Lisa will have that
2 information as well. I'm just trying to figure out how
3 we can better improve our communication because it's
4 sorely lacking and I just wanted to discuss my concern
5 on that.

6
7 But, anyway, this is something I wanted
8 to bring up.

9
10 Thank you, very much.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob. Duly
13 noted. I'll make sure in the coming year to
14 communicate more and everyone has my contact
15 information, and, if not, then make sure you do so
16 things can be expressed and we can communicate
17 throughout the entire Council.

18
19 Next, Raymond, would you like to give a
20 report on any subsistence activities you've had going
21 on this year.

22
23 MR. WOODS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Raymond
24 Woods again. I just got to the Council and then -- but
25 from my experience I can go ahead.

26
27 There's one concern that I have,
28 especially to the caribou, biologists reporting caribou
29 -- is I would like to know if the herd that just showed
30 up on the head waters of the Kobuk right now, they have
31 been coming around like every mid-February or early
32 March, they just now are showing up now, is there
33 anyone here that knows about that report, are the
34 caribou actually scattered right now or, you know, over
35 the -- traditionally, the caribou crossing the -- where
36 they -- you know, in the fall, this herd is just now
37 showing up again. Where is this herd coming from, is
38 it -- they've been hiding out between the headwaters of
39 the Noatak, or some area above Kobuk, or where is this
40 coming from?

41
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So to that question,
43 Raymond, we will have reports from Fish and Game and
44 from the Park Service on caribou movements later in the
45 meeting, okay.

46
47 MR. WOODS: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we will get to that
50

0022

1 and we should have some information that they can pass
2 around that will speak to that question.

3

4 MR. WOODS: Other than that, the
5 caribou, this fall we had very good fishing season
6 upper Kobuk, the ones that goes out, and -- I hate to
7 say that, but, you know, ultimately we -- we do not
8 know much about how we're doing with fish because the
9 local involvement in that is kind of low this year
10 because of all this Pandemic last year and then people
11 are finally getting out now again and myself, working
12 with school district and taking kids out, you know, my
13 activity has been very slow this year to taking kids
14 out fishing, hunting and everything that we -- our
15 resources of the land, to educate our kids, it's been
16 very slow.

17

18 And -- but other than that the moose
19 harvest it's pretty good upper Kobuk, but what we need
20 to really look at is how are we -- how our are people
21 -- there is -- why are we throwing down -- using our
22 inheritance from our ancestors to do our culture
23 activities to -- to -- in the region. I mean maybe I'm
24 asking this because I work with the kids. I take kids
25 out. Don't get me wrong, I take kids out, and over the
26 last 13 years I have taken kids out at least -- at
27 least kids out into the field to show them culturally
28 -- cultural education to know about subsistence, our
29 job here, which I just joined as a new Council is very
30 important, so just listening to Bob on the
31 communication, that is very important. We just can't
32 go show up to a starting line with a half a gas tank to
33 say we're going to get this thing done. It needs to be
34 thoroughly reported, caribou report needs to be
35 thorough, Fish and Game needs to be thorough with their
36 report.

37

38 That's all I got, thanks.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thanks, Raymond.
41 Hannah, would you like to go next.

42

43 MS. LOON: We report on subsistence,
44 what we get?

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And your name for the
47 record.

48

49 MS. LOON: Oh, Hannah Paniyavluk Loon.

50

0023

1 They call me Paniyavluk. And I provide my daughter in
2 Selawik, like a SnoGo that she's able to go out and
3 gather things primarily in the springtime right after
4 the ice breaks. And as soon as the ice breaks we like
5 to go to the slough because the fish would -- you could
6 get maybe three tubs a day if you watch your -- put
7 that on your fish and make dried whitefish. So I
8 provide her with those and thank you to Native Village
9 of Selawik for giving us gas in order to do that
10 through Maniilaq. And so everything comes from --
11 comes to me from Selawik, she's sending me fresh
12 whitefish that were harvested in the falltime under the
13 ice and also some dried fish if there is enough. But
14 we did get enough pike, I like -- I go primarily for
15 pike and in springtime when I went out to set nets for
16 pike there was hardly any pike, just mostly whitefish
17 and it was strange to see that I think because if you
18 set a net in a slough you expect to get pike but it was
19 unusual, they were late. We like to catch those in our
20 nets.

21
22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24
25 MS. LOON: There was very, very unusual
26 to get (In Native) there was hardly any roe in them.

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30
31 REPORTER: Okay, Hannah. Hannah.
32 This is Tina, the court reporter.

33
34 MS. LOON: Yes.

35
36 REPORTER: I want you to stop just one
37 second please.

38
39 MS. LOON: Okay.

40
41 REPORTER: Sorry to interrupt you. But
42 there's a lot of paper shuffling going around and some
43 whispering and you're kind of fading out and I really
44 can't hear you speaking as clearly as I could a minute
45 ago.

46
47 So people online, if you could please
48 mute themselves so we can listen to Hannah's report, I
49 would really appreciate that.

50

0024

1 Okay, Hannah, go ahead.

2

3 MS. LOON: Yes, thank you. So that was
4 unusual to see that (In Native) were not what you
5 expect to find in your net.

6

7 Greens. My daughter collects lots of
8 greens and not much salmonberries, blueberries, even
9 blackberries, very little this summer, even in
10 Kotzebue. It's really -- there's a social impact on
11 the community that went through the Covid time and
12 normally they would go get the caribou right now and
13 then -- the community, and butcher it right there and
14 feed cooks and.....

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18

19 MS. LOON: I did have some caribou here
20 at the church and that in the absence of caribou for
21 our cultural activities but it's real different.
22 Caribou are no longer passing through to Selawik each
23 fall. They're -- usually in falltime we usually see
24 them go through Kiana and then through the mountains
25 and then to Selawik, we've not seen that. People would
26 go to Lloyd's camp, not their -- their harvest
27 (indiscernible) it's not that way anymore.

28

29 So that is my report and thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah.
32 Elmer, would you like to go next.

33

34 MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, in July I got our
35 salmon net and we were able to get salmon, filet them
36 and put them away.

37

38 And due to work I was able to only go
39 out a few times for moose but I wasn't successful and I
40 saw
41 a cow here and there and October, I was out of town but
42 when I came home I think the ice was like eight inches
43 thick but I was able to put out a net under the ice and
44 -- for whitefish, I still have whitefish right now and
45 salmon in the freezer.

46

47 Caribou. I was gifted maybe two or
48 three caribou, which was good, because during the fall
49 it started to freeze up and caribou didn't show up in
50

0025

1 our area, the lower Kobuk. I know I seen through media
2 that some caribou was caught in the lower drainage by
3 friends. But I'm not sure they came through the coast
4 but they probably did, probably slipped through the
5 coast and the lower drainage of the Kobuk.....

6

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MR. ARMSTRONG:and I know through
12 media, too, I've been seeing friends taking out their
13 kids for rabbits and ptarmigans showing the younger
14 generations how to set snares for rabbit, for -- get
15 them started on rabbit and ptarmigan.

16

17 Other than that I think that's all I
18 have to report.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer.

21

22 Wilbur.

23

24 MR. HOWARTH: Good morning. Wilbur
25 Howarth, Noorvik. It's been a tough season getting
26 caribou and stuff but we had to go up -- for caribou up
27 to Onion Portage but it was already snowing. I went to
28 the (indiscernible), I had to go because my son broke
29 down (indiscernible) so I had to load up myself. That
30 was a long lonesome ride myself, I went up there to
31 pick him up, but they got caribou. I was going up
32 there -- caribou were often Onion -- above the Onion
33 Portage, right in that bend, you know, where the Onion
34 Portage is. But anyway we got some caribou.

35

36 And the fish, they went up -- we
37 usually set nets and get (In Native) like Hannah was
38 saying, but they went up early because of the high
39 water maybe and the ice never freeze up so fish,
40 there's lots of fish, we even have hybrid (In Native)
41 mostly (indiscernible) four different types of hybrid
42 fish now in the nets. Otherwise fish are plentiful.

43

44 Like Hannah was saying about the pike,
45 they came out almost earlier than the whitefish this
46 time but I missed them too. I'm always drying fish, my
47 wife and I, and we're trying to keep on top of them but
48 they're just going out too early, due to climate
49 change. It's getting warmer, too early.

50

0026

1 Oogruk hunting -- maybe I have to keep
2 in touch with Bob, Mr. Schaeffer, because I am still
3 jammed up in the river when the oogruks are -- when
4 everybody's hunting oogruks down here but I do take
5 young men out, different men every year to hunt oogruk
6 so we have seal oil, which is goal. And my son and I
7 we came down with like three boats maybe and everybody
8 was -- got our -- and went back home. Through the ice,
9 I had to go along the whole Kobuk Lake to come up it
10 was still (In Native) made my way out and it was good,
11 and headed back home.

12
13 The moose was plentiful this year. I
14 was able to get a moose. So -- and I seen a lot and it
15 was already late, end of August, September when moose
16 season opened. They were already moving up north
17 towards Kiana and they stayed in that area above
18 Noorvik, they were right by -- from the Delta, they're
19 always moving when it's getting later in the fall. So
20 maybe that's why Elmer never seen moose, they were
21 already up around Kiana but I seen a lot of moose. And
22 they're healthy. They're going by twos now. It's good
23 to see a mother with two calves and I see them all
24 along. Well, I have three different rivers that come
25 from the Delta and I'm always boating, subsisting, and
26 always happy to see a female moose with two calves so I
27 think the moose are doing okay.

28
29 By the way I am not hurting, I know the
30 caribou is -- a lot of people didn't get any from
31 Noorvik, we had to go up to Onion Portage and they
32 stayed -- the caribou are -- they're separated all
33 over. They didn't get to move south because of the
34 warm weather or something, they feed up there above the
35 Shungnak area and right now there's a whole bunch in
36 (In Native) and that's between Huslia or something. So
37 there's a lot of caribou up there right now, and
38 they're staying there. So they just didn't come down
39 this way this year. And the only caribou I saw that
40 came along the coast was maybe 30 caribou that was
41 about all I seen this fall come through below Noorvik.

42
43 That's all I got, Mr. Chair.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer.
48 Mike, do you have anything to report.

49
50

0027

1 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I spoke to a lot of
2 people.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Your name for the
5 record.

6
7 MR. KRAMER: This is Vice Chair Kramer.
8 I spoke to a lot of people and I communicate with a lot
9 of people because they have a lot of concerns regarding
10 caribou and moose and bear and wolf. I know that
11 several people had -- you know, this fall, they had
12 caribou stripped out of their boat while they were
13 sleeping in their tents or in their cabins. I know a
14 lot of people were approached by wolves, you know, to
15 where they felt afraid with a pack of wolves hanging
16 around their camp and kind of harassing them. They
17 didn't want to shoot one in self defense because they
18 were afraid of the paperwork. Also with the bears, you
19 know, a lot of people got harassed by bears daily.

20
21 You know, and that kind of brought up a
22 thought that since this guy, last summer, shot a bear
23 within city limits of Kotzebue and the law enforcement
24 didn't want to do nothing about it, and so this guy
25 took it upon himself to go dispatch this bear himself,
26 turn it into Fish and Game and got cited for it. You
27 know, it's about public safety. You guys out there,
28 you need to do your job, come on man now, this is
29 ridiculous. Are we're going to wait until somebody
30 gets killed, something needs to happen. Either these
31 law enforcement agencies need to get out there and do
32 something about or we're going to be able to be free to
33 go out there and dispatch one of these animals ourself
34 without becoming a criminal because I see kids out on
35 that Loop Road daily riding their bicycles, three,
36 four, five, six, seven, eight years old. What if
37 that's one of your children and a bear kills them. I
38 guarantee you they're going to look at law enforcement
39 as to why they didn't do their job. You know they got
40 less lethal rounds, they got M80s, shotgun shells, you
41 know, take action man, protect the community, do your
42 job, that's what they pay you for, you know. Citing
43 people because they took it upon themselves to protect
44 the public, that's wrong. That needs to change.

45
46 And before this meeting is done I
47 guarantee you that we will put in a proposal to where
48 if a bear is -- no closed season, none. Open harvest.
49 Federal and State lands. Because we feel the need to
50

0028

1 protect our people because other agencies aren't
2 protecting our people.

3

4 I had a lot of concerns regarding
5 caribou. We know that they don't come through here
6 anymore. I haven't gotten any fresh caribou meat
7 within well over a year. It is a big concern. You
8 know, our grocery stores here in Kotzebue, the shelves
9 are bare, man, I mean they get hit hard. They get hit
10 hard. I work out at the airport, you know, we see
11 freight non-stop coming in to try and keep these
12 shelves filled.

13

14 You know this Pandemic has really hit
15 us hard, this winter has really hit us hard with all
16 these storms. And I could just see how it would be in
17 the villages. It's probably three times worse. You
18 know I see pallets daily going to the villages. I'm
19 pretty sure they're going through a very hard time.
20 With the price of fuel, you know, heating fuel, you
21 know all this stuff is increasing. For the price of a
22 brand new snowmachine, it's \$15,000 or more nowadays.
23 Yeah, it's getting very expensive to be able to go out
24 there and harvest. And I know a lot of people, you
25 know, like going out there and pooling their money
26 together and, you know, putting all their fuel and
27 their gas and grub into one boat, you know, with four
28 hunters to go up and try to get caribou for themselves
29 and, man, there's times when they come back with
30 nothing. You know it's beginning to get, in a way, if
31 someone told me this is beginning to get depressing
32 because people aren't filling their freezers.

33

34 You know the moose population has
35 dropped. I haven't gotten an RM880 ticket in probably
36 a year or so because every time I get one I never see
37 anything and then when I don't have one that's when I
38 see all these small moose.

39

40 You know a lot of concerns regarding
41 bears. You know I've brought up in the past that why
42 don't they have some kind of a chemical to where they
43 can dart these bears or just simply sterilize them.
44 They can't produce baby cubs and such. And, you know,
45 do the same thing with wolves. How many packs are out
46 there, you know, my curiosity is how many packs are out
47 there. That's why before this meeting is done I'm
48 going to be making a motion for bear studies where they
49 go out and they collar a 100 sows, you know, you guys

50

0029

1 got the money to do that and don't tell me you don't.
2 And I'd like to see pack distribution, wolf pack
3 distribution throughout the region. It's very
4 critical, we know where these things are. I mean I've
5 left Kiana before going up to the camp to go trap
6 before and go right around the bend and shot five
7 wolves and go up around another bend and shot a
8 wolverine. Those critters are getting closer and
9 closer to communities, you know, we don't want to have
10 to wait until some kid gets picked off in a village
11 because of wolves. These numbers of wolves and bears
12 are beginning to get ridiculous.

13
14 I see a lot of people are having
15 success, you know, out here trapping. My brother and
16 them went out and got a whole bunch of sheefish, sent
17 some down to Anchorage to elders, you know, God blessed
18 my brother, my brother's blessed for providing people
19 with a lot of things that they normally don't get.

20
21 You know, salmon, I didn't even get to
22 go out and get any salmon this year, I was given some.
23 It's been tough. I haven't gotten out in a couple of
24 years. I have a two year old little boy that I always
25 have to pay attention to and once he gets a little
26 older I'll start taking him out and teaching him
27 things. Yeah, it's -- you know, what's going to happen
28 in the next five years, maybe, I'm curious to see what
29 happens in the next five years.

30
31 As for Bob, wanting to have more
32 meetings, you know, or being able to keep in touch. I
33 know in the past we used to have a pre-meeting with all
34 the Council members. I can't remember if we had our
35 recorder there or not, but back then it used to be
36 telephonic and I don't understand why we can't have
37 that anymore. We should have that a month prior to our
38 meetings to where we could sit down via the phone or
39 whatever it may be and be able to talk about issues
40 that are going to be coming up and what kind of
41 proposals we're going to make or what not for our final
42 meeting like this meeting here.

43
44 Until the agencies come up that's all I
45 have for now.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. So
50

0030

1 with that, for this section left is the Chair's report.
2 And there hasn't been much to report in the Kotzebue
3 area since our last meeting just because as people have
4 noted, caribou haven't made their kind of annual trek
5 across the Kotzebue Sound from usually about mid-
6 November to mid-December, we haven't seen that and
7 there hasn't been very many successful hunters. I know
8 people have tried going down to.....

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER:Buckland and
14 going all the way up river by snowmachine but right
15 around the community of Kotzebue there hasn't been much
16 -- most hunters haven't gotten any caribou.

17
18 Over the fall into the winter a lot of
19 people went out for moose and most people that went out
20 were successful if they didn't didn't at least see a
21 lot of animals.

22
23 Yeah, not a whole lot to report.

24
25 People are getting sheefish here around
26 Kotzebue and have been for the last month or so.

27
28 Other than that, I'll keep my report
29 short.

30
31 We will go ahead and move on to Item
32 No. 10, which is the time for public and tribal
33 comments on non-agenda items which is available each
34 morning. Do we have anyone from a tribal organization
35 or a member of the public who would like to speak to
36 something that is not on the agenda. We will have some
37 limited time for questions on agenda items but this is
38 if anyone has any concerns they would like to bring up
39 to the Council.

40
41 TROOPER CANTINE: Mr. Chair. Come up
42 now.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If you could come up
45 and put your name on the record Trooper Cantine.

46
47 TROOPER CANTINE: Mr. Chair. This is
48 Trooper Cantine with the Wildlife Troopers in Kotzebue.
49 I don't know if now is an appropriate time or not to
50

0031

1 address some of Vice Chair Kramer's concerns. I'd be
2 happy to do that either now or later if there's a more
3 appropriate time.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think now would be
6 good since we're kind of in the middle of stuff so the
7 floor is yours.

8

9 TROOPER CANTINE: No, I appreciate it
10 -- Mike bringing up the concerns and I know talking
11 with Mr. Chase, the proposal for no closed season bear
12 is, I believe on the table with our Board of Game so
13 I'm excited to see where that goes.

14

15 Just to clear the air, he wasn't cited
16 for a bad DLP, he was cited for taking a bear out of
17 season. It wasn't reported as a DLP. So there's two
18 different tracks we can go down there and I'd be happy
19 to visit more offline.

20

21 But with regard to just predators in
22 general, and I don't want to steal Fish and Game's
23 thunder or the Park Service, I know they have some
24 predator studies, mostly bear, lined up, and so I'm
25 interested to see where those go. But I would just
26 throw out, since this is a subsistence meeting, I can
27 frame predators as a problem or as an opportunity. And
28 so since we're in a two bear a year area here we do
29 have provision for a free permit through Fish and Game
30 to sell bear hides which provides some additional
31 income, especially with the increased prices of gas.
32 Wolves the same thing. So wolves are going to be open
33 the same day that moose opens on the Kobuk. The moose
34 open a little earlier if you're up toward Point Hope.
35 But I'd be happy to visit with some folks that have
36 concerns over predator -- or either population or best
37 response to that. I try to keep the DLP process,
38 that's defense of life and property, as streamlined as
39 possible, it's a tool to keep people safe, it's not a
40 tool to brow beat people. We just want to make sure
41 that if something is taken in defense of life and
42 property that actually was a defense and I'm not
43 expecting people to have their leg chewed on before
44 they shoot a wolf off of them, you know, there's --
45 there's some common sense that goes into that. And you
46 can ask some folks that have had a DLP locally here and
47 I think they'll tell you that it's a pretty common
48 sense approach.

49

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1 But offline I'd be happy to visit more
2 and I know Fish and Game has some studies lined up so I
3 won't steal their thunder.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before you step away
8 do you have a card or any contact information that we
9 could collect during our next break, which will be
10 coming up here shortly?

11
12 TROOPER CANTINE: I certainly do. I'll
13 provide that to the Chair and I'll be happy to provide
14 to Members of the Council if they'd like.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Trooper
17 Cantine. Any other public or tribal comments on non-
18 agenda items.

19
20 MS. MURREY: Yes. This is Emily
21 Murrey. I'm from the Native Village of Elim. I would
22 like to comment, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, go ahead.

25
26 MS. MURREY: I'm thankful for all that
27 are present and I would like to -- specifically the BLM
28 personnel that are present at the meeting. And I would
29 like to just start off by saying, well, good morning my
30 name is Emily Murrey, I am from the Native Village of
31 Elim, originally from Golovin. I am the Vice President
32 of the Norton Bay Tribal Watershed Council.

33
34 And like others that are present within
35 the meeting we have a tribe is a subsistence economy
36 with a (indiscernible) overlay. We rely heavily on
37 subsistence for the health and well being of our tribe.

38
39 This morning I'm referencing the D1
40 lands process, specifically towards the BLM.

41
42 We support BLM's coordinated effort to
43 involve tribal consultation in the National
44 Environmental Policy Act process and we urge the agency
45 to finalize the decision within the next two years.
46 BLM is the lead agency, government agency, with the
47 mandates for environmental protections, natural
48 resource management, land use and spacial planning. In
49 previous resource management plans BLM has recognized
50

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1 potential D1 withdrawal lands that possess and serve as
2 culturally, significant, subsistence and sacred sites
3 for tribes who live on or near these areas.

4

5 Let me give you an example.

6

7 Fortymiles north from the Native
8 Village of Elim lays the largest known.....

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MS. MURREY:uranium deposit in
14 Alaska. The deposit is located at the head waters of
15 Boulder Creek a north tributary to (indiscernible)
16 River. This vital tributary and ecosystem provides
17 habitat and protection for moose, salmon and migratory
18 birds our subsistence economy depends on. As tribes
19 seeking grants for necessary, like for example,
20 infrastructure, we are listed as economically
21 disadvantaged, therefore we highly depend on our
22 subsistence activities for the health and well being of
23 our tribe as a whole.

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27

28 MS. MURREY: We are fully aware that if
29 the uranium mine was to be built and we began to get
30 sick it would be extremely hard to prove in court it
31 was because of the mine because legally, defensible
32 data is very expensive and difficult to obtain and
33 because our population is small. Therefore Norton Bay
34 Tribal Watershed and it's partner tribal government
35 have developed a scientifically based approach in which
36 we actively monitor, gage, and collect water data from
37 the (indiscernible) River to ensure that we do have a
38 sustainable and healthy ecosystem. The outcome of such
39 an approach is to establish a scientific consensus such
40 that the consequences of future NEPA management actions
41 can be identified and easily understood to prevent any
42 risk of irreversible ecosystem changes within the
43 river.

44

45 To conclude we ask BLM to maintain
46 their responsibility to engage in government to
47 government consultation with tribal governments in
48 making decisions on future D1 land withdrawals on or
49 near tribal lands. Our health and well being depends
50

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1 on it.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

I conclude, Mr. Chair.

6

7

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Ma'am. As
8 this is not a BLM meeting, none of us here can really
9 speak for the BLM but I do know there were some folks
10 from that office on the line so thank you for sharing
11 that.

12

13

14

Do we have any other public and/or
tribal comments on non-agenda items.

15

16

17

MS. MOTO: good morning. I am just now
calling in, this is Marlene Moto at Deering.

18

19

20

21

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hello, Marlene, did
you have any comments that you were wanting to make
today or were you just listening in?

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

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30

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32

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36

MS. MOTO: I just had a concern about
our -- I'm happy we have Fish and Wildlife phone number
but I've been calling them every time somebody call
there's animal being shot along the village, like
muskox, one time caribou in the lake and things like
that. I hope people would try to enforce the wanton
waste issues surrounding our area and the caribou --
aren't listening to you guys, and other Fish and Game
that when they get something out in the boonies, like
caribou or something, they just take the whole carcass
home -- because the animals have a trail like the
ravens would take it, and then the wolf would take a
scrap and so on, I'm just concerned about that. Wonder
if we had somebody enforce that wanton waste.

37

38

39

Thank you.

40

41

42

43

Thank you for meeting for our
subsistence. 6-4 Deering, we'll be standing by. And
have fun.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Ma'am. Any
other public or tribal comments on non-agenda items.

MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, can I say
something.

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please Wilbur.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: This is Wilbur Howarth,
4 Noorvik. The lady from Elim, thank you for your
5 concerns. The watershed stuff that we have going on in
6 Noorvik, anyway, I would like to get the upper villages
7 involved with the watershed because we do a lot of our
8 -- our environmentalist does a lot of stuff with the
9 water and stuff. He takes samples. We start right
10 below Kiana and do all the drainages on the Kobuk,
11 every little creek and drainage that comes out to the
12 lake, he's going to go around and keep on doing water
13 studies. So I'm glad she brought that up.

14

15 I would like to encourage Kiana,
16 Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk to try to get into this
17 watershed, there's a lot of grants out there for that
18 getting to your tribe. Because I Chair the tribe in
19 Noorvik and we have this concern about water.

20

21 So, thank you, Mr. Chair, that's all.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
24 And to that note I know during our last meeting we
25 brought up how on some of the rivers, upper rivers we
26 have in this region there was discolorations and all
27 kinds of stuff so we do have some reports on those
28 during this meeting so that issue will be brought up
29 again.

30

31 If there are no other public and tribal
32 comments on non-agenda items, I would like to propose
33 that we take a 15 minute break and reconvene at 11:00
34 a.m.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there's no
39 objection.

40

41 (No objections)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, the time
44 is 10:47 but we'll come back on at 11:00 a.m. I'm
45 going to go ahead and mute the phone in the room and so
46 we will get back with everyone shortly.

47

48 REPORTER: Thank you.

49

50

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1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right it is now
6 11:01 and everyone is coming back together. So at this
7 time we will move on to Item No. 11 which is old
8 business -- Item A under old business is the follow up
9 of the May 2023 North American Caribou Workshop and
10 Arctic Ungulate Conference. Dr. Hannah Voorhees, are
11 you on the line for that.

12

13 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, Mr. Chair, good
14 morning. And, hello, Mr. Chair, and members of the
15 Council. My name is Hannah Voorhees and I'm an
16 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
17 Management. And this is an item we're presenting to
18 you to seek your feedback but it is not an action item.

19

20 During your fall 2022 meeting you heard
21 about the caribou and ungulate conference taking place
22 in Anchorage this May. All Councils nominated one
23 member and in some cases, an alternate, to attend the
24 conference and provided input on possible topics to be
25 covered at one event of the conference, an Alaska
26 Ungulate Management Symposium. An informational flier
27 about this conference can be found in your meeting book
28 on Page 18.

29

30 And before I proceed, would any Council
31 members like a reminder about the conference and would
32 you like to hear more of an overview about the
33 conference?

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah, since we have
36 some new members of the Council, if you wouldn't mind
37 giving a brief overview that would be well received.

38

39 DR. VOORHEES: Sure. A joint meeting
40 of the North America Caribou Workshop and Arctic
41 Ungulate Conference will be held in Anchorage from May
42 8th to the 12th, 2023. The meeting will bring together
43 an international group of managers, researchers and
44 indigenous and local knowledge holders who want to
45 share their knowledge of caribou, muskoxen, dall sheep,
46 moose and reindeer. The theme for the meeting is
47 Crossing Boundaries.

48

49 Wildlife such as caribou regularly

50

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1 cross landscape boundaries. This necessitates
2 collaboration across geographical boundaries and also
3 calls for crossing boundaries between Western science
4 and local and indigenous knowledge.

5

6 The conference will include sessions on
7 co-management, the status of caribou globally,
8 integrating Western science and indigenous knowledge
9 and the effects of climate change on caribou. Field
10 trips, workshops, research talks, and a poster session
11 will also be part of the conference. The conference
12 web address is included on the flier in your meeting
13 books on Page 18 and I encourage you to visit the
14 website for more detailed information.

15

16 Are there any other questions about the
17 conference as a whole?

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Hannah Loon, the
20 floor is yours.

21

22 MS. LOON: Thank you. Thank you for
23 the announcement. Can you define ungulate? Thank you.

24

25

26 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, thank you, Hannah.
27 An ungulate is any hoofed mammal. So excuse me for
28 using that term when I don't need to but just so you
29 know it -- it would primarily refer to caribou and
30 moose in the case of Northwest Arctic.

31

32 If there are no other questions I will
33 go on.

34

35 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Council
36 Member Kramer. I know that at our last meeting I had
37 asked for the amount of herds, I believe we have 33
38 herds Alaska-wide. I asked for, I don't know whether
39 it was the State to find out what the current head
40 count of each herd within the State of Alaska, are they
41 declining, are they noticing anything different with
42 them, other than their health, disease, you know, I
43 mean this is the time of the year to be trying to
44 figure out why our caribou herds are dropping. I know
45 there's a lot of other things, climate, you know, all
46 kinds of other, predators and such, but I wanted to try
47 to find out the overall health of our caribou within
48 the state of Alaska. And I asked for an updated copy
49 of that, I believe, through the State. I keep looking

50

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1 on their website but I don't see anything new. If you
2 could try and -- if there's anything such as that, that
3 came up new, could you let us know.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you for that
8 request and I believe that there may be a time later in
9 the meeting when the State of Alaska gives an update of
10 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and there may be some
11 other opportunities to direct that question to direct
12 that to the proper biologists.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or
17 are we ready for Dr. Voorhees to continue.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, Hannah,
22 the floor is yours.

23

24 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Next, I'll be seeking the Council's input on one event
26 at the conference. On Page 19 of your meeting books,
27 please find a summary of all the potential topics
28 suggested by Council members this fall, this is from
29 all the Councils, for discussion during an event called
30 the State and the Federal ungulate management in the
31 Alaska symposium. Note that your Council did not
32 actually suggest particular topics but you'll have a
33 chance now to review topics that other Councils
34 identified and give feedback on those.

35

36 This session is intended to be a
37 neutral forum for Council members, State Fish and Game
38 Advisory Committee members, National Park Service
39 Subsistence Resource Commission members, Federal and
40 State agency Staff and other interested parties to
41 discuss ungulate management in Alaska, so that's for
42 moose and caribou, specifically regarding harvest
43 regulations.

44

45 During the fall 2022 meeting cycle,
46 several Councils asked for a follow up summary list of
47 potential topics during these cycle of winter meetings.
48 So Councils are now being asked to review this list,
49 which you will find on Page 19, it's a list of topics

50

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1 that might be the focus of discussion at this
2 particular event and provide additional feedback for
3 the session, such as highlighting topics of particular
4 interest to you. OSM Staff will then decide which
5 topics will be discussed during the event based on
6 feedback from all 10 Councils prioritizing topics that
7 are relevant statewide and applicable to the most
8 regions.

9

10 So, Mr. Chair, now I'll turn the
11 discussion back to you, and any additional feedback
12 will be very helpful in finalizing the discussion
13 topics for this event. And in addition, if requested,
14 I can read the list of topics, although it's a bit
15 long, and, again, that's on Page 19.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah.
20 Does anyone have any questions, comments, anything
21 they'd like to add to this list of potential topics.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: One thing that jumps
26 out at me is an issue that gets brought up a lot here
27 in Unit 23, just because we have a prevalence of
28 transporter operations that bring hunters throughout
29 the region and into the North Slope, what the affect of
30 hunter placement does to migration routes. That would
31 be one thing I'd like to see in this topic just because
32 it's something that we tend to discuss a lot in this
33 Council.

34

35 Any other topics or questions for this
36 list on Page 19.

37

38 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

41

42 MR. HOWARTH: Wilbur Howarth. There's
43 a lot of people that comes to me and they don't know
44 what is really going on in these kind of meetings, and
45 I was always hoping that it could get on KOTZ sometimes
46 because a lot of them don't know really why -- they say
47 is there disease in the caribou and I would say, no, I
48 don't think there is any, just because they're
49 migrating in a different route. They can't migrate in
50

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1 the same area years and years because they eat up all
2 that food and it takes so long for the lichen to grow
3 that the caribou won't come to there. So the people
4 don't really know what's going on unless they hear, and
5 a lot of people listen to the radio station. And I was
6 hoping to have KOTZ here in this kind of meeting. Is
7 that all right with all of you, I think that would be
8 nice.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So our last meeting
11 was on the radio and I believe it was kind of because
12 of the complications of the storm and even KOTZ had
13 some issues with Staffing so we can look into that to
14 try to get a portion of this meeting broadcasted before
15 we finish and just plan for in the future making it
16 public, on the radio, just so that. We had a pretty
17 good interaction with the communities last time because
18 it was on the radio, so thank you for that Wilbur.

19

20 Any other questions or comments.

21

22 Hannah Loon.

23

24 MS. LOON: Taikuu. I looked through
25 the list on Page 19 for the ungulate caribou workshop
26 and in the beginning of our meeting Bobby discussed
27 tribal or we are lacking indigenous voice from the
28 village although we are from village. There's lots of
29 need for ecological knowledge but it seems like to try
30 village meetings with local people regarding the issues
31 that face them year after year in terms of resource
32 management. That is my statement for now, thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Hannah.
35 And kind of building off that, Hannah Voorhees, do you
36 know off the top of your head or if you have that right
37 in front of you, if many tribes, Native organizations,
38 tribal governments were invited to participate in this
39 workshop? Just because we have a lot coming from the
40 Council side of the Regional Subsistence Councils and
41 the local Fish and Game Advisory Councils and
42 Committees, do you know if there's much feedback in
43 response of actual tribal participation in this
44 workshop?

45

46 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 I'm unaware of the answer to that simply because I
48 haven't been involved in organizing this particular
49 symposium but I would direct that question to anyone on

50

0041

1 the line who may be able to address it.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 DR. VOORHEES: And if there's no one
6 online able to speak to that, I would say that we'll
7 make note that that would be desirable to expand the
8 inclusion of voices on the symposium. And if I may I
9 can.....

10

11 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, this is -- Mr.
12 Chair, this is Lisa Grediagin, can you hear me?

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, we can Lisa.

15

16 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, so in
17 response to your question I guess I thought -- this is
18 Lisa Grediagin, Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM
19 for the record. And sorry I thought you were asking
20 about the conference in general whether there was
21 tribal involvement, but if you're asking specifically
22 for this symposium, it's really open to anyone who
23 wants to attend that's also attending the conference.
24 So anyone who's attending the conference is welcome to
25 attend this symposium, it's just going to be about an
26 hour and a half, maybe two hour discussion. It's just
27 the time they're able to give us with everything else
28 going on at the conference so, you know, Council
29 members, certainly hoped that all the representatives
30 from the Councils will attend and Federal, State
31 agencies Staff who's attending the conference, and
32 really anyone else who's there and is interested in
33 discussing ungulate management in Alaska at the
34 conference.

35

36 And you know there's been some slight
37 updates to it since those talking points were developed
38 and, you know, right now it says State and Federal
39 ungulate management in Alaska but we've revised the
40 title to say just ungulate management in Alaska so it
41 is more inclusive of any tribal management, co-
42 management, really any activities regarding ungulate
43 management that would be of interest to people
44 participating in the symposium. I mean the focus is
45 kind of geared toward harvest management, in
46 particular, but everything's related to harvest
47 management so it's really wide open to just -- like
48 Hannah mentioned, be a neutral forum for discussion
49 since so often when we discuss it at Council meetings

50

0042

1 or public meetings, you know, there's a specific agenda
2 where people have certain stakes in what's being
3 discussed or decided whereas this is just an
4 opportunity for people to discuss issues in general.

5

6 So hopefully that answers your question
7 and, you know, as far as tribal representatives
8 attending the conference, I mean it's open registration
9 for anyone that would like to attend so we certainly
10 hope there are people from the tribes that are also
11 attending the conference.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.

16

17 Hannah Loon.

18

19 MS. LOON: I take back what I just
20 stated awhile ago about local indigenous knowledge
21 voice. I should not have addressed this for this
22 ungulate conference but for this Council, the Council
23 to consider -- when we go back to our comments on
24 management, I will address what I am trying to say.

25

26 I apologize, thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No problem, thank you,
29 Hannah. So just a quick housekeeping announcement.
30 Right now this meeting is actually on the radio. We've
31 been on air all day. So thank you, Lisa Hutchinson-
32 Scarbrough for bringing that to my attention.

33

34 Any other questions or comments for
35 Hannah Voorhees.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If not, Dr. Voorhees,
40 did you have anything else?

41

42 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 just wanted to follow up on Lisa's comments and let
44 everyone know that the conference organizers for the
45 conference as a whole are really striving to support
46 travel for as many rural and indigenous residents as we
47 can so that's been a huge part of our planning efforts
48 and hopefully that will result in, you know, a much
49 more diverse participation and robust discussion.

50

0043

1 And in response to those topics brought
2 up by both yourself, Mr. Chair, and Hannah Loon.
3 Hannah, I hear that you just said that you had made an
4 error in traditional knowledge, but I did want to note
5 that one of the particular topics that's already been
6 identified for the ungulate symposium is No. 17 on your
7 list is honoring and incorporating traditional
8 ecological knowledge into harvest management, for
9 example letting the leaders pass and ensuring
10 uninterrupted caribou migrations. So if it's not
11 against your wishes, I might suggest that I would note
12 that that's important to the Northwest Arctic RAC.
13 And, Mr. Chair, topic No. 3, sporthunter disturbance to
14 caribou and law enforcement, I might suggest that that
15 could be expanded to include hunter placement and
16 prioritized by this Council if that sounds correct.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, thank you,
19 Hannah. That sounds agreeable.

20
21 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. And that's
22 all I have.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Any other
25 questions for Dr. Voorhees before we move on.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none we'll
30 move on to the follow up of the December 2022 Western
31 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting. Will Wiese,
32 the floor is yours. And Alex Hansen, also, yours.

33
34 MR. WIESE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Yeah, this is Will Wiese, the Refuge Manager for the
36 Selawik Wildlife Refuge and I'm joined here with Alex
37 Hansen, the Caribou Biologist for.....

38
39 MR. HANSEN: Alaska Department of Fish
40 and Game, thank you.

41
42 MR. WIESE: Yep, Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game. So this section here is just to give
44 you an update on what occurred at the Western Arctic
45 Caribou Herd Working Group meeting in December.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before you continue on
48 I'd just like to note for the record that Mr. Bob
49 Schaeffer, member of the RAC, has entered the room so
50

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1 he is here now for attendance records.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: I'm good.

4

5 MR. HOWARTH: Glad you're here.

6

7 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Now the floor is
10 yours.

11

12 (Off record comments - getting
13 settled/lunch order)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Now the floor is
16 yours.

17

18 MR. WIESE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. so
19 Alex and I are here today to sort of share what we
20 heard at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

21

22 You know the agencies participate at
23 that group to support it, we fund the working group, we
24 provide technical support, we don't actually sit on the
25 working group as members, that group is made up of
26 subsistence users, folks who represent sporthunters
27 throughout -- I should say subsistence users throughout
28 the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, our
29 region, North Slope, Central Yukon area, many different
30 areas. So we're supporting of that agency -- or of
31 that group, but we're not ones making the decisions
32 there.

33

34 Another thing to remember is the
35 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is not a
36 formal advisory committee, the RAC here is the formal
37 advisory committee, and State ACs are, you know, formal
38 advisory committees so that role of the Western Arctic
39 Caribou Herd Working Group is to sort of give advice to
40 the RACs and the ACs, of, here's what we think on
41 caribou issues, here's the management path we recommend
42 and directly to agencies so they can -- they can put in
43 their own proposals and things as well.

44

45 So at that meeting in December there
46 were several votes taken and I'll just kind of
47 highlight those, there's a lot of discussion about
48 caribou and the declining caribou numbers and that kind
49 of thing and we're going to have more of that with this

50

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1 meeting later when Alex presents there but I want to
2 highlight what they talked about and then voted on.

3
4 So the first thing they voted on was to
5 set a management category for the herd and they have a
6 whole plan, herd management plan, and based on the
7 numbers and the herd number, the metrics, what's going
8 on the herd they set a level that they're going to
9 manage at, so they chose preservative to declining in
10 December, that's the same as what they chose the
11 previous year. With that management category come
12 recommendations for management, ones we talked about
13 most are harvest recommendations. In that preservative
14 declining management category, those recommendations
15 are for no harvest of calves, limiting cow harvest
16 through permits or quotas, limit on harvest of bulls if
17 the bull/cow ratio falls too low, we're not at that
18 right now, and restrictions to resident only hunting
19 using various means.

20
21 Again, those are recommendations set at
22 that level, they're not enacted, they're things that
23 are recommended that Advisory Committees can put in
24 proposals or the working group themselves can put in a
25 proposal as well.

26
27 So as far as those proposals that they
28 voted on, they did put in a proposal to change the
29 caribou harvest level for residents in the state of
30 Alaska in all the units in which the Western Arctic
31 Caribou Herd is, in all the areas, and that limit that
32 they voted on was to go to four caribou per year, per
33 person, and only one of those four can be a cow.
34 That's the same as what the State Advisory Committee
35 for this area voted on earlier in the year too.

36
37 So that was one major vote that they
38 took and that was a unanimous vote of all the members.

39
40 The second thing they voted on was to
41 make a proposal to the Board of Game stating that the
42 amount needed for subsistence, ANS, has been reached.
43 To be honest that proposal is a little unclear to me
44 what that means exactly. The discussion around that
45 proposal was about limiting non-resident hunters, non-
46 resident to the State of Alaska. There was a lot of
47 discussion about that. The proposal doesn't
48 specifically say we would like to make a proposal
49 limiting non-resident hunting, it states that it -- the
50

0046

1 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group thinks that
2 the amount needed for subsistence has been reached
3 which when that's reached, typically, then we would see
4 a restriction to non-resident hunters before resident
5 hunters, and you all know about that subsistence
6 priority and on down the line.

7

8 There was another unanimous -- so I'll
9 say that one was passed, it was a 12-4 vote, some
10 people did dissent to that.

11

12 A third motion that was passed
13 unanimously was to ask the agencies to work together
14 with tribes, local government, all mean necessary to do
15 a better job to collect harvest data in the region. We
16 acknowledge that we don't have good year to year
17 understanding of how many caribou are being harvested,
18 and the working group was really interested in making
19 sure that working with local people to figure out how
20 to get better numbers in the future.

21

22 That passed unanimously.

23

24 Finally, there was discussion of a
25 bunch of different development projects. Ambler Road.
26 Willow. The OTZ Telecomm project that's coming through
27 this region. Peregrine exploration. Noatak Road.
28 Discussion about a bunch of different development
29 projects.

30

31 There was a vote taken to submit a
32 letter to the Department of the Interior asking for
33 permanent protections for the Western Arctic Caribou
34 Herd calving grounds in the NPR-A on the North Slope.
35 So that was the only action taken out of those
36 discussions, of development, was a letter saying that
37 we want the calving grounds protected.

38

39 Those were the major votes that I can
40 think of. I don't think there were any others. And,
41 again, we'll have a lot of time to talk caribou later
42 in this meeting about where the numbers are at and
43 there's a whole agenda item dedicated to State and
44 Federal proposals if we get to that point in this
45 meeting.

46

47 Is there any questions about the
48 working group meeting and what I've said here.

49

50

0047

1 Mike.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, through the Chair,
4 this is Kramer. What did you mean by -- what was I
5 just thinking -- protection of calving grounds, I mean
6 do people hunt on those calving grounds or what was the
7 purpose of protecting that, I mean that should already
8 be sacred ground anyways for the caribou.

9

10 MR. WIESE: Yes, through the Chair.
11 Great question, Mike, I should have been more clear. So
12 that's in regard to a management plan for development
13 on the calving -- on on the whole NPR-A. And so I
14 don't recall where the BLM is at with that management
15 plan but basically there are certain areas where it's
16 open development, certain areas that have restrictions
17 to development.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Oh, okay.

20

21 MR. WIESE: Yeah, it's not protection
22 from hunting it's protection from that kind of
23 development.

24

25 MR. KRAMER: To research and stuff.

26

27 MR. WIESE: And there's -- right now
28 there is a process where they're revising some of those
29 plans and so the working group felt it important to
30 send a letter saying we're in favor of an option that
31 protects the calving grounds.

32

33 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah Loon.

36

37 MS. LOON: Taikuu. Taikuu Alex and
38 Will for your report on the Western Arctic Caribou
39 Herd. And just for your information how local people
40 perceive the bag limit for caribou and when I -- when I
41 was teaching a class and we were talking about caribou
42 I mentioned that there will be four caribou per year
43 and they said, what, we get five a day, so that is how
44 the mind is in the small communities versus here with
45 the Western Arctic Caribou. And I'm trying to absorb
46 all of this, I thought it was five caribou per day but
47 now I know now and where did the Western Arctic Herd
48 meet, where did they meet yearly -- where do they meet?

49

50

0048

1 MR. HANSEN: They meet in Anchorage.

2

3 MS. LOON: Okay, thank you. They meet
4 in Anchorage. You go to Anchorage to meet and the
5 people you're speaking of are here in the village. I
6 don't mean to be disrespectful to you, both of you, but
7 I think it would be very productive if the Western
8 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, that we need to see
9 them here, too, in Kotzebue and then you could have
10 more local voice, because our communication somewhere
11 is somewhat lacking and we need to make sure that our
12 Inupiaq people in the small communities, elders that
13 don't do devices, that they hear this on the radio.

14

15 Taikuu.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. WIESE: Thank you, Hannah. Through
20 the Chair, I can take that concern about the needing to
21 be more accessible to people in the local region back
22 to the Chair of the working group, that's Vern
23 Cleveland, and also to the Coordinator for the
24 logistics of that. There was some discussion, a little
25 bit of that, of where the next meeting would be and --
26 and I know just from a little bit of side conversations
27 that some of the members kind of did want to have like
28 the next working group meeting in Kotzebue, kind of in
29 the center of the range, and that's been done in the
30 past with the working group. You got to remember
31 there's membership from the North Slope, from Nome, and
32 other places and so Anchorage logistically ends up
33 being easier for a lot of folks, and that's where it's
34 landed. But as the agencies, we are certainly open to
35 having it in different places or that kind of thing,
36 but we kind of left it to the working group to make the
37 decision on where they want to hold their meetings but
38 we're certainly hearing that and in support of, yeah,
39 getting more input from different places.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Elmer.

42

43 MR. ARMSTRONG: So this is Elmer
44 Armstrong. Did Unit 26 give any proposals to closing
45 Unit 26 to non-residents?

46

47 MR. WIESE: Great question, Elmer.
48 Through the Chair. At the working group, unfortunately
49 a couple of the Unit 26 members of the working group
50

0049

1 were not present so they were not present for the votes
2 on that. To my knowledge I -- to my knowledge there
3 haven't been any specific proposals put in for Unit 26
4 limits on caribou outside of what the working group
5 itself is putting together to submit to the Board of
6 Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. I know that
7 proposal has not been submitted yet but the working
8 group will submit one that will speak to all of the
9 units in which Western Arctic Caribou are in which
10 includes at least 26A, or at least portions of Unit
11 26A.

12
13 Alex, do you have any updated
14 information on 26?

15
16 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, through the Chair,
17 this is Alex Hansen. So at the meeting, the working
18 group meeting, as Will mentioned, you know, none of
19 those proposals were really brought out from the folks
20 on the North Slope. There have been recently a North
21 Slope RAC, a North Slope AC meeting and they're
22 drafting some proposals now. But specific to the point
23 that you're asking there is a request or a proposal out
24 there to expand the CUA, around the Anaktuvuk Pass area
25 to limit aircraft traffic in that area so trying to
26 create more closure area for aircraft hunters. So
27 beyond that I'm not aware of anything as far as
28 closures on the North Slope.

29
30 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right. The question
31 was was there any directives given to study lichen to
32 see if that would -- to see if there was still some
33 caribou up there in the winter and we have some up
34 Shungnak area, upper Kobuk and some in the Selawik Lake
35 area just to have a better understanding on why they're
36 kind of spread out or maybe if some migrated to another
37 area.

38
39 MR. HANSEN: Through the Chair. There
40 were no directives to study this, there was a
41 presentation that Kyle shared and he's on the phone and
42 he's welcome to jump in but there was a map shared by
43 an individual who's doing some research named Matt
44 Mecander and it looked at the lichen, basically growths
45 or decline throughout the region and we saw significant
46 decline in lichen cover, you know, down where the
47 caribou have been occupying the landscape for 20, 30
48 years, and we're seeing increases in lichen cover in
49 the range -- you know in the Brooks Range and on the
50

0050

1 North Slope in some places. I'd have to get a hold of
2 that map to show you specifically but there's certainly
3 some changes in lichen cover as, you know, you spoke
4 to, Mr. Howarth, that when the caribou occupy landscape
5 for 30 years they're going to consume a lot of resource
6 and they have to -- that's fairly well understood.

7

8 Does that address your question?

9

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I wanted to know
11 if you guys do any -- or any other agency, fly around
12 in the winter just to have an idea, some caribou up
13 river, some down here, I'm pretty sure they really
14 spread out this year rather than being in certain big
15 groups.

16

17 MR. HANSEN: And I can address that
18 later in my presentation or I can address it now,
19 either way.

20

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: I could wait for your
22 presentation, thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bob, you need to say
25 your name for the record.

26

27 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, my name's Bob
28 Schaeffer. I attended a couple of (indiscernible -
29 away from microphone) really important, especially if
30 (indiscernible - away from microphone).

31

32 Sitting there observing, a lot of
33 questions, a lot of good answers, I think Fish and Game
34 did a good job and trying to (indiscernible) that they
35 made and -- but when it came down to the public
36 comment, there was a sportsman and he lives in Seattle,
37 and they were talking about the bag limit and limiting
38 non-resident hunting because at the time it was at a
39 decline, not very much, but it was still at a decline
40 and that was 2010 or somewhere -- I can't remember the
41 exact date, but what got me was one of the transporters
42 that was out of Seattle (indiscernible - away from
43 microphone) got pretty mad at what the gist of the
44 meeting was and said, this is my herd, I'm an American
45 citizen, this is my herd and everybody in the room was
46 sort of (makes a sound) but the thinking of a lot of
47 the folks there and I finally got up and said, well,
48 you know, I consider the caribou as what happened with
49 the buffalo, you know, the 40 million buffalo and then

50

0051

1 50 years later it was down to a thousand, and I said if
2 we continue managing this herd like it was the buffalo
3 back in the 1800s you're looking at something very
4 similar, the buffalo syndrome I called it, and I --
5 because I -- for whatever we've had this herd for
6 ourselves, we never take more than we need and it's
7 sustained us for hundreds of years, you know, and then
8 all of a sudden the people of the world started going
9 faster than they even know so I think back in the 1950s
10 when we were hunting them the world population was
11 probably 3 million people and now it's a lot.

12
13 The people in our villages, when I was
14 growing up back in the '50s there was probably 300
15 people in this town, you know, and now you're looking
16 at 2,000.

17
18 So it's happening all over. Yes, the
19 caribou herd has always been there and yet you have
20 more people hunting, not only local, you have --
21 they've pretty much disapated -- or decimated all of
22 the herds in the Interior and wherever else there's
23 caribou herds, all of a sudden they eyeball the Western
24 Arctic Caribou Herd and started coming up here by the
25 hundreds because there's an opportunity and they want
26 it.

27
28 But one of the things that got me was,
29 you know, who was making decisions, the people up here,
30 at one point we suggested five per day and I thought
31 that was -- we don't really need that because I was
32 concerned that it was just too much. Then on the other
33 hand what we had was a complete shift of what the
34 caribou were doing. It's been like that for a long
35 time. I can remember when they used to come down back
36 in the '70s and they always filled up the entire
37 (indiscernible) here for the winter, they go further
38 back in the mountains in that area and then all of a
39 sudden they quit and they start moving in more south
40 over towards northern Seward Peninsula and some of them
41 -- these herds went all the way to Nome, and then the
42 people in Nome were hunting all of a sudden in the
43 first time that they can remember, you know and it
44 stayed like that for awhile. And what's happening I
45 think is that they're looking for grazing and, you
46 know, when you get hungry you go find food, right, you
47 don't go to the same spot because you ate it last year,
48 that's what I'm seeing what's happening.

49
50

0052

1 Because I just talked with Alex -- that
2 -- nice to meet you, I've never met you before, but
3 it's one of those things when I asked where the heck
4 are the caribou and I didn't see anything come down,
5 still looking for caribou in the villages and they're
6 not here and he told me about -- you know, what
7 happened, was, by gosh, 80 percent of them didn't
8 migrate down, and 20 percent of them migrated partially
9 south, you know, they ended up coming over late in
10 September, early in October, it was still boatable up
11 the Kobuk so that's where some of the people went to
12 try to get a few that were crossing at the Onion
13 Portage area. So things are happening to the -- to the
14 caribou that we're not understanding, but they
15 understand it and you stay, you go, and you migrate to
16 a certain area and you've done that and you've wintered
17 there and that you stay there, you know, they're going
18 to eat up 90 percent of the food so what they do,
19 common sense, you know, they're not dumb, they don't
20 follow the normal path, they go look for where food is.
21 And we've been seeing this now for -- at least I've
22 been seeing it now for 60 years as an elder, you know,
23 the changes, you know, maybe where they go and why all
24 of a sudden they quit going to the Seward Peninsula
25 because they went.....

26
27 (Paper rustling - not talking near a
28 microphone)

29
30 MR. SCHAEFFER: because that's
31 when they're fattest during the winter, because that's
32 where they wintered, had good food and all of a sudden
33 they just quit going there because -- they went there
34 for how many years in a row and then -- what I'm
35 basically saying is everybody's looking at a piecemeal,
36 they're not understanding what the caribou are doing,
37 when all of a sudden 80 percent of them don't show up
38 and are scattered all the way from the North Slope from
39 Wainwright to the Haul Road, they're mixed up with the
40 Teshekpuk Herd, you can't tell the difference, you
41 know, and so what do you count or how do you count?
42 Maybe that's why the numbers are low. I'm not sure if
43 they mingled and did not come down at all and just
44 stayed because they found good grazing over where the
45 Teshekpuk Herd was, you know. But the point is I think
46 I've tried -- I try to look at the accuracy of the
47 counts but when I start -- I knew that was kind of the
48 best conversation -- the best thing I ever did was call
49 Alex and say, what the hell happened to the caribou,
50

0053

1 where the hell are there. So it opened my eyes and
2 gave me a new fresh -- what the caribou are doing
3 because I sort of kept up with it over the last 60
4 years as to what the caribou were doing. But, you
5 know, if you're hungry you go look for food, we do the
6 same thing. It's one of those things that I think you
7 got to look at, traumatic changes, especially when you
8 consider the negative effects of what the global
9 warming is doing. We're seeing -- we're lucky the last
10 two years we had LaNina and it got cold, the summers
11 weren't that super hot, things were different but the
12 storms were increasing, you know, over the years and
13 now we're going to have an ElNino show up, it'll
14 probably going to heat up again. But even though we
15 had kind of a cold summer we still had massive amounts
16 of erosion because of so much rain -- every two years
17 it's going to rain the whole summer, the Kobuk River
18 was high the whole summer and in Kiana.....

19
20 (Paper rustling - not talking near a
21 microphone)

22
23 MR. SCHAEFFER:in Kiana, that
24 area was under water the whole summer. People were
25 parking their boats in the willow on the edge of the
26 bank because it was so -- but if that happens, not only
27 does it affect, you know, what's happening with the
28 caribou, I can imagine what's happening up there in the
29 North Slope, but it also affected all the local
30 resource, the salmon, where the hell are they going to
31 spawn. Are the salmon's got to come back. And
32 obviously the last couple years the Kobuk River run was
33 really really low.

34
35 So those -- what I'm -- what I'm saying
36 is that they have so many things going against them but
37 when I -- the actual count is -- the actual count, what
38 is it now 155 to 154, close, okay, we still have a
39 decline but on the other hand are they moving some
40 place else because of hunting pressure, because of
41 other -- maybe food, maybe they are with the Teshekpuk
42 Herd because they found grazing sites, who knows.

43
44 But I think it's -- I don't know --
45 maybe I'm rambling on but I'm trying to get a complete
46 picture of what the herd is doing and it related to
47 some of the recommendations that you said -- you -- you
48 said, or you said, about the Western Arctic Caribou
49 Herd. You know, interesting discussions of the two
50

0054

1 meetings I had, I think things are changing right now
2 to where people are making recommendations as to what
3 we should do to try to increase the number.

4
5 Of course, you know, two years ago when
6 we recommended closure on Federal lands, Fish and
7 Wildlife Service got 1,600 letters of opposition to the
8 recommendation. We should (indiscernible - not by a
9 microphone) not do anything with it until last year,
10 but the numbers did drop drastically. So I think there
11 -- not only, are the players involved in this, we live
12 it. (Indiscernible - not by a microphone)

13
14 Millions of dollars lobbying fund,
15 fisheries groups, that (indiscernible) so it becomes a
16 part of a political game and that's where -- they have
17 a lot of influence and that's where I think a lot of
18 the influence comes from is, big money, and us poor
19 guys, the local fellow that rely on this resource have
20 to try to get what we need to survive because we've
21 always had it yet there are other forces out there that
22 are more powerful.

23
24 I thought I'd bring that out about the
25 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, I could see
26 where they're coming from with their recommendations.
27 We have to do something to try to preserve this herd
28 even if it means a lot less than what we were getting
29 before. Eliminate -- limit to hunting -- hunting of
30 the cows is the only way because they're the ones who --
31 that can bring this herd back. It's one of the things
32 that we have to sacrifice. I don't know, I forget was
33 it in the '80s when they -- you know there was a huge
34 decline and the Fish and Game just went out and -- the
35 Board of Game said, no, one caribou per person per
36 year. I think we're past that. Because emergency
37 closures -- I remember that time -- people were yelling
38 and screaming and, yet, on the other hand nobody had to
39 comply -- but their concern, of course, was just such a
40 drastic decline at the time. And then of course it
41 changed as people got more involved, people -- local
42 people were finally involved at the table when it came
43 to making recommendations on -- on -- on take of
44 caribou.

45
46 I'll stop here but it's a real
47 sensitive issue to me.

48
49 (Indiscernible - not by a microphone)

50

0055

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So thank you for that
2 Bob. Will, does the working group have a single
3 breakdown of the actions taken at the last meeting, I
4 know there was some social media posts here and kind of
5 a brief summary there, but is there any one document
6 that has the recommendations and what that
7 recommendation is pushing for, and if there is some
8 kind of document I think that might be a good thing to
9 send to Lisa for her to forward on to the rest of us so
10 that we have a more comprehensive understanding of what
11 the working group decided on and is pushing for in this
12 next year.

13
14 MR. WIESE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Right now there isn't a document and part of that is
16 the meeting minutes need to be approved. But I can
17 work with the Coordinator for the working group and see
18 what we can get put together and approved by the
19 working group to put out. That's kind of unfortunate,
20 but that's kind of how it works, is I don't want to put
21 out official without the working group itself approving
22 it, so we'll get something to this group that
23 summarizes what I just told you. Yeah, that's why I
24 didn't provide you a paper copy because I don't speak
25 for the working group, I speak to what the agencies
26 sort of observed at the working group and what's public
27 record but not with a document.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Brittany, if you want
30 to come up to the microphone.

31
32 MS. SWEENEY: This is Brittany Sweeny
33 with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm involved more
34 on the website and communication side for the working
35 group but I just wanted to note that a draft working
36 group meeting summary from this past meeting is
37 available on the working group's website so I can make
38 that available to Lisa to share with you. It's not
39 finalized until the group approves it at the 2023
40 meeting but that is -- there is a summary available
41 there and anybody who wants to look at that document in
42 full I can help get you the web link but it was just
43 recently posted on there.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: That would be great,
46 thank you. Mike.

47
48 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I know that we had,
49 both Thomas and I sit on the Fish and Game Advisory
50

0056

1 Council here in Kotzebue. I know that we had been
2 addressing a proposal for -- to bring the caribou
3 harvest from five per day to three bulls with one cow
4 per year, has any other State AC groups or was the
5 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group in support of
6 that proposal? And what -- was it ever brought up at
7 North Slope's meeting, Norton Sound's meeting, the
8 other, you know, areas that have their own RACs or
9 advisory councils, I mean was our proposal that we put
10 in approved by them or with changes or amendments?

11

12 MR. WIESE: So through the Chair, this
13 is Will again. To my understanding and knowledge the
14 working group looked at the AC proposal from this
15 region and basically adopted the same proposal. They
16 didn't vote to support that AC's proposal, they voted
17 to submit a proposal that essentially says the same
18 thing and not just to the Board of Game but also to the
19 Federal Subsistence Board so the State and Federal regs
20 would line up so that's kind of where that was at.

21

22 Alex can probably speak to the other
23 advisory committees.

24

25 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, through the Chair.
26 Norton Sound met, they had some other stuff going on
27 with muskox issues and other things so they deferred
28 that discussion until later so they're planning on
29 talking about that in the future. And I was just on
30 the North Slope RAC and AC calls the last week or two
31 and that discussion took place there as well, they have
32 different proposals in mind for 26A but that discussion
33 did take place up there. As far as the local ACs,
34 Georgie Phillips, who is our AC Coordinator, Board
35 Support Staff, is working on getting other local ACs
36 meetings going but nothing has happened as of this
37 point.

38

39 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or
42 comments on the follow up for the working group
43 meeting.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Tristen, did you have
48 anything, since you're on the phone.

49

50

0057

1 MR. PATTEE: No. No, I don't.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay.

4

5 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chair, this is Kyle
6 Joly.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: One second Kyle we
9 have Hannah Loon who is about to say something. If
10 you could slide that over by Hannah.

11

12 MS. LOON: (Indiscernible) when will
13 this four caribou per year be (indiscernible -
14 shuffling).....

15

16 REPORTER: So Hannah. Hannah, this is
17 Tina, I'm going to need you to repeat that because I
18 think they might have been moving the mic and I didn't
19 hear you. Thank you.

20

21 MS. LOON: My question to Mr. Wiese and
22 Mr. Hansen is, when will the four caribou per year and
23 one cow, within that four, four, one cow per year, when
24 will that be effective? So that the communities will
25 be aware.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, Hannah, just to
30 clarify, it's not official yet, it's a proposal that's
31 been made, but one of these two gentlemen could
32 probably tell you when it will be reviewed by the
33 Boards.

34

35 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, on the State side,
36 through the Chair. These proposals are due May 1st,
37 this coming May, until then we will look at those, we
38 will analyze them and that Board meeting won't actually
39 be until January 2024, that'll be here in Kotzebue, the
40 Board of Game meeting in January. So the Board will
41 act upon those proposals in January, if they opt or
42 decide to make those changes they won't be effective
43 until July 1 of '25, I guess it would be.

44

45 MR. WIESE: No, '24.

46

47 MS. LOON: Is that Board of Game?

48

49 MR. HANSEN: Board of Game. So we have

50

0058

1 one more season with no changes.

2

3 MS. LOON: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 MR. HANSEN: And then on the Federal
6 side, do you have any thoughts there?

7

8 MR. WIESE: I don't know exactly what
9 the timeline is, perhaps if Lisa Grediagin is on the
10 phone perhaps she can speak to the timeline.

11

12 EMILY: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If you would like to
15 come up and state your name for the record.

16

17 EMILY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is
18 Emily Creek (ph) with the National Park Service for the
19 record. The Federal proposal call just opened last
20 Monday, it will be open until April 12th, the meeting
21 will be, I believe, in January as well for the Federal
22 Subsistence Board and also July for the -- so similar
23 timeline as the State.

24

25 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. This is
26 Hannah Voorhees.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

29

30 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. Just a
31 correction, the Board meeting will be in April 2024.
32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: The Board of Game
35 meeting in Kotzebue in April of '24?

36

37 DR. VOORHEES: That's the Federal
38 Subsistence Board meeting to review proposals.

39

40 MR. WIESE: Through the Chair. I think
41 that the answer is these proposals have a long ways to
42 go, the RACs will have a chance to see them, vote on
43 them, put their own proposals in if they want, and
44 basically no changes to this cycle would happen to the
45 summer or fall of -- a year and a half almost from now.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other final
48 questions or comments. We're creeping up on lunchtime.

49

50

0059

1 Raymond.

2

3

4 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair. Just as a
5 comment to -- just listening to Bobby Schaeffer talking
6 about the migration diverting and where they might be
7 and then just listening to what the caribou herd
8 people, committee was planning to do, and make some
9 changes, so with the numbers that we have right now on
10 the caribou, we are way below more than -- I'll say
11 like about a decade ago, maybe a decade and a half ago
12 450,000, now we're down to 150. We don't want to hit
13 rock bottom with the caribou herd. If we lose that, if
14 we go beyond what we have now we don't even know if we
15 can get our caribou back, but listening to Bobby
16 Schaeffer's report and what he said, hopefully they
17 diverted somewhere else, but we don't know, so we're
18 making all these changes and we're going to wait
19 another year and a half before we actually put it into
20 effect, what we're going to do with the new regulations
21 that's coming out.

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So to that there is

0060

1 multiple things we can do. We can put in proposals
2 that will go into this longer cycle, like what they're
3 talking about. We can also do basically an emergency
4 proposal, a special action, so the original closure
5 from a couple years ago to not allowing non-qualified
6 subsistence users -- federally subsistence users on the
7 Federal lands, that was through a special action from
8 this group and we do have a spot on the agenda to talk
9 about it, and if we would like to do a special action
10 today, we can talk about that after lunch as well as
11 the longer, big picture proposals.

12

13 MR. WOODS: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Did you have something
16 Mike.

17

18 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I was wondering
19 about if there was a possibility we could put an
20 emergency order in to reduce the bag limit from five
21 per day to an emergency of three bulls and one cow per
22 year, is there a possibility, Lisa, we could put that
23 in as an emergency order, or do we have to do it as a
24 special action?

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So just to clarify
27 when I say an emergency action, I mean a special
28 action. Just to go with how Raymond was putting it,
29 but.....

30

31 MR. KRAMER: yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER:we could do that
34 if it -- if that's what the Council wishes when we get
35 to that part of the agenda.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. Because back in the
38 past, you know, we -- you know, I mentioned many, many
39 times when was the last sheep count study done on the
40 DeLongs and Bairds and they said, oh, yeah, there's
41 still a harvestable amount now, you know, for years I
42 told them to do a count and close the sheep hunting
43 and, you know, the Federal agencies didn't even bother
44 to listen, what's the purpose of us being an advisory
45 council when nobody listens. You know this Federal
46 agency stabbed us in the back and now I don't think
47 we're going to be able to hunt sheep anymore. Just
48 like Bobby said, you know, and Raymond said, if we
49 react too late it's already gone. If we react early
50

0061

1 they'll still be here in the future.

2

3

4 So as it stands now, you know, I show a
5 lot of concern for sheep because I used to hunt sheep,
6 that's why I showed concern with Marcy Okada's reports,
7 you know, on the sheep population in the Bairds, Brooks
8 Range, DeLongs, Schwatkas, you know, you name it. I'm
9 also an alternate on the dall sheep working group
10 within the State but I haven't heard from them in
11 years, you know, something needs to be done now instead
12 of us trying to figure out what to do and it crashes
13 and it takes a nose dive like Raymond says, it's either
14 act now or forever lose them.

14

15 You know I don't want to see this whole
16 thing again by -- you know, being stabbed in the back
17 by not allowing us to take prior action before a
18 disaster occurs.

19

20 That's all I have for right now. Once
21 I get -- I don't have any sticky notes or anything to
22 write some of my thoughts down but that's all I have
23 for now.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Will.

28

29 MR. WIESE: Through the Chair, this is
30 Will again. Just to bring this back to the working
31 group and their discussion, they were really concerned
32 too about the timing. And they voted to put this
33 proposal in and there was a lot of discussion about can
34 we do something now, should we do something now, can we
35 petition the Board of Game to have an emergency --
36 things like that, that did not get done, passed through
37 that working group, they decided not to kind of go that
38 route. And I'll say there was also discussion about
39 this need for immediate action, there was also concerns
40 brought up by people about the need to think of the
41 long term, and people are going to be greatly affected
42 by this and how do we -- you know, how would we
43 implement something in an emergency action right now,
44 so those discussions were certainly had by the working
45 group. And I think it's good to hear that you all are
46 having the same discussions and thinking the same
47 thing.

48

49 That's all I had, thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anything else from you
2 Alex.

3
4 MR. HANSEN: I guess, just briefly,
5 through the Chair. Speaking to Member Kramer's
6 comment. I certainly encourage you to do whatever you
7 feel like you should do as a group to put in an
8 emergency petition or something. I guess kind of
9 speaking to what Will talked about, there was
10 discussion about that at the working group and whether
11 we should come down and try to put in an emergency
12 action. I think it's very important for the local
13 people to be on the same page and be on board with that
14 and I was very pleased to see the AC come forward with
15 this recommendation when you guys were there at the
16 meeting the first part of December, and that came from
17 the people, this is not something we were pushing. And
18 my concern is that we don't want to come top down like
19 what happened in 1977 when it was one caribou per year
20 because I don't want it to come from the agencies that
21 we're all of a sudden just shutting everything down.
22 And if it comes from the local users and people are in
23 agreement with that I think we'll have better
24 participation. My biggest concern is, right now, we
25 can all understand that caribou are not distributed in
26 locations that are accessible to everybody so right now
27 our harvest is down simply because access is limited.
28 However, last spring we saw a lot of caribou in upper
29 Kobuk and if the message gets out that we need to
30 reduce harvest, it needs to go to everybody, right, so
31 there were opportunities last spring, last winter for a
32 lot of harvest in the upper Kobuk and so from that
33 perspective I think it's important to get that message
34 out, whether it comes as a special action for extended
35 discussion for -- when you have a lot of access we need
36 to -- because it affects everybody. I'm sort of
37 rambling here but we can talk about it more during my
38 presentation.

39
40 So I support it, I'm just maybe a
41 little cautious that it doesn't look like it's top down
42 for the users as Ms. Loon spoke about, in the villages.

43
44 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, the only reason why
45 I have a big concern of it is because, you know, we
46 talked about trying to preserve the sheep and shut down
47 the sheep season and nobody never listened and now we
48 could probably never hunt sheep. I probably won't even
49 ever be able to take my youngest boy out dall sheep
50

0063

1 hunting because the numbers are too low. You know we
2 want our caribou herd. It's so vital to our survival
3 here. It's just like -- it's very important that these
4 caribou remain here and they continue to thrive and
5 grow, you know, because that's one of the reasons why
6 I'd like to find out more about these wolf packs and
7 bears, you know, these sows have -- like 100 sows
8 collared and every so many years, you know, they keep
9 track of their young to see, you know, what kind of a
10 population they're having. I know they did some kind
11 of a population study on bears through their poop, that
12 don't tell me nothing other than where they laid their
13 last dump, you know, that doesn't bring anything to my
14 mind about population, or DNA, but, you know, there's
15 got to be studies out there that need to start
16 happening regarding these predators because they're
17 taking down our caribou herd.

18
19 I mean it's getting tough to survive
20 here, you know, because you go to the store, you know,
21 the last how many days we've had a blizzard AC shelves
22 are pretty much empty because everybody's been hitting
23 the stores hard. We need to take immediate action to
24 protect this herd because it's a very, very vital part
25 of our subsistence resources along with moose, you
26 know, and sheep. I mean we've got to take care of
27 them.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. Any
30 final comments for this portion of the agenda.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank
35 you, gentlemen. We'll go ahead and end there for the
36 morning and go ahead and take lunch and reconvene at
37 1:15 and we'll start with new business. So, again,
38 taking lunch now, we'll come back at 1:15. I'm going
39 to go ahead and mute the phone. Thank you everyone for
40 your participation.

41
42 REPORTER: Thanks, Mike.

43
44 (Off record)

45
46 (On record)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hi, is everyone on the
49 phone back online.

50

0064

1 REPORTER: We are here in Anchorage.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
5 Tina. So the local time is now 1:21 and we'll go ahead
6 and reconvene. We'll start with Item 12, new business.
7 First on that is -- well, I don't know if Christie
8 Osburn is back in the room -- I know she's not in the
9 room.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we know if she's
14 going to be right back or -- I did not see her return
15 from lunch.

16

17 (Off record comments regarding
18 returning from lunch - away from microphone)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there's no
21 objections we'll go ahead and go to the next item which
22 is Item B, lower Kobuk moose survival study. Joelle
23 Hepler are you ready to do that now.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Joelle Hepler.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, if Joelle is not
32 here, do we have Tom Plank on the line.

33

34 MR. PLANK: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair, I'm
35 online.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hi, Tom, would you
38 mind going over Item C, the wildlife closure reviews.

39

40 MR. PLANK: Of course. So before I go
41 over the closure review itself I'm just going to do a
42 small little overview of the process for closure
43 reviews.

44

45 So thank you, Mr. Chair, and members of
46 the Council. My name is Tom Plank and I'm a Wildlife
47 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

48

49 In August 2020 the Board approved a
50 revised closure policy which stipulated all closures

0065

1 will be reviewed every four years. The policy also
2 specified that closures, similar to regulatory
3 proposals, will be presented to the Councils for a
4 recommendation and then to the Board for a final
5 decision. However, regulatory actions on closure
6 reviews are limited to retaining, rescinding or
7 modifying the closure. Actions such as changing
8 seasons, harvest limits or delegated authority to in-
9 season managers are outside the scope of closure
10 reviews. To this end closure review analysis are being
11 presented to the Councils now during the call for
12 wildlife proposals to inform their decisions on whether
13 or not to submit a proposal addressing that closures
14 that would be outside the scope of the closure review.

15
16 This is not an action item. It is just
17 informational. However, if Councils do decide to
18 submit a proposal to address the closure, a motion and
19 vote is needed. The Councils will make a formal
20 recommendation on the closure reviews during their fall
21 2023 meetings and the Federal Subsistence Board will
22 take their action on these closure reviews in April
23 2024.

24
25 So before I proceed to the next
26 analysis, are there any questions on the closure review
27 process?

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Does not appear so,
30 you can continue Tom.

31
32 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
33 members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name
34 is Tom Plank, and I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the
35 Office of Subsistence Management. And I will be
36 presenting a summary of the analysis for closure review
37 WCR24-19 which begins on Page 27 of your meeting books.

38
39 Wildlife Closure Review 24-19 reviews
40 the closure to muskox hunting by non-Federally-
41 qualified users in Unit 23, south of Kotzebue Sound and
42 west of and including Buckland River drainage. The
43 closure area is depicted in Figure 1 on Page 28.

44
45 Muskox were reintroduced to the Seward
46 Peninsula in 1970 and then by 1995 the muskox
47 population had grown significantly to warrant a limited
48 hunt and the Board established a muskox hunt on the
49 Seward Peninsula, including Unit 23, south of Kotzebue
50

1 Sound and west of and including Buckland River
2 drainage, hereafter, referred to as Unit 23 southwest.
3 The initial closure in 1995 was part of the
4 establishment of the Federal muskox season which was
5 meant to provide a subsistence priority. The hunt was
6 opened to Federally-qualified subsistence users but
7 remained closed to non-Federally-qualified users. The
8 State established a Tier II muskox season in 1998 and
9 in 2022 a temporary special action was adopted to
10 change the Federal muskox permit from a registration
11 permit to a drawing permit and to change the in-season
12 manager from the National Park Service to BLM to allow
13 for a more effective hunt management.

14
15 Since introduction the Seward Peninsula
16 muskox population increased steadily peaking at 2,900
17 muskox in 2010. the population decreased between 2010
18 and 2012 but since has remained stable at about 2,000
19 muskox. The Seward Peninsula population was estimated
20 at 2,071 in 2021. In Unit 23 southwest, specifically,
21 overall population has been increasing since 2015 with
22 the 2021 estimate being 302 muskox.

23
24 Mature bulls protect calves against
25 predators which increases recruitment and causes
26 selective harvest of mature males to substantially
27 impact population growth. Therefore, while ratios of
28 20 mature bulls per 100 cows is considered a minimum,
29 ratios of 50 to 70 mature bull per 100 cows are
30 preferred. Between 2002 and 2017 mature bulls per 100
31 cows ratio in Unit 23 southwest range from 19 to 33 and
32 was only 22 mature bulls per 100 cows in 2022.
33 Composition surveys indicate stable to declining mature
34 bulls to cow ratios and increase in short yearlings to
35 cow ratios. Composite surveys show similar results in
36 Peninsula wide ratios with stable to declining bull to
37 cow ratio and increasing short yearling to cow ratio.
38 Quotas for individual hunt areas such as Unit 23
39 southwest are calculated as 10 percent of the estimate
40 number of mature bulls in the area.

41
42 Reported Federal muskox harvest has
43 been relatively low across the Seward Peninsula
44 averaging about 4.4 muskox annually between 2001 and
45 2021. Federal harvest for the same timeframe has
46 averaged 10 percent of the total muskox harvest. In
47 Unit 23 southwest Federal muskox harvest has averaged
48 one muskox per year between 1995 and 2021. Reported
49 State harvest has averaged five muskox per year since
50

0067

1 1998 and State harvest has accounted for 82 percent of
2 overall harvest in Unit 23 southwest. However, since
3 2012 over half of the reported State harvest has
4 occurred by residents of Noorvik and Kotzebue.

5

6 The OSM recommendation is to maintain
7 status quo. The harvestable surplus of muskoxen in
8 Unit 23 southwest is very low and cannot sustain any
9 increase in the harvest. Continuing the current
10 closure is necessary to conserve muskox while providing
11 subsistence opportunity and rural priority.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
14 Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom.

17

18 Elmer.

19

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Elmer
21 Armstrong. I wanted to see if there was language in
22 there to protect their camp when muskox are in the
23 area, to protect their dog team.

24

25 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair. It kind
26 of broke up a little bit, I didn't hear, could you
27 repeat the question?

28

29 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I wanted to see
30 if there was language in there to protect camp users
31 when muskox are in the area to protect their dog team?

32

33 MR. PLANK: Thank you. I do not know
34 that but I can look into it and find that information
35 and get that to you.

36

37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or
40 comments for.....

41

42 MR. SCHAEFFER: I've got one. I think
43 what Elmer's referring to -- this is Bob -- Bob
44 Schaeffer. What Elmer is referring to, is all.....

45

46 REPORTER: Hang on, Bobby. Hang on
47 just one minute, please, this is Tina. I'm going to
48 need Bobby to be closer to a microphone. Thank you.

49

50

0068

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: How is that Tina.

2

3 REPORTER: Go ahead and talk, Bobby.

4

5 MR. SCHAEFFER: Can you hear me now?

6

7 REPORTER: Yes.

8

9 MR. SCHAEFFER: What Elmer is referring
10 to is pretty much a yearly problem where muskoxen roam
11 the beaches over by Sisualik, across the bay from
12 Kotzebue and they harass the campers that are over
13 there, not on purpose of course, they just -- because
14 it's a good feeding area for them and it becomes a
15 danger simply because, you know, you get too close --
16 when a fourwheeler gets too close sometimes they get
17 their attention. They also have dog teams -- one dog
18 team over there, I think, I'm not sure if there's any
19 more than that, but they harass the dogs in that area.
20 They also have had villages complain that -- like
21 Deering, where the muskox pretty much goes to the
22 airport area and camps out there for the summer and
23 they're constantly having to chase them out so that
24 they can get a safe landing of the aircrafts that come
25 in twice daily into Deering.

26

27 So what's the normal protocol for
28 somebody or some village or tribe calls you and asks
29 for help and then removing the muskox from those areas?

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: By all means if anyone
32 in the room has an answer just come up to the
33 microphone.

34

35 MS. OSBURN: Through the Chair. This
36 is Christie Osburn with the Alaska Department of Fish
37 and Game. And typically if there's any dog teams or
38 camps, if there's issues there.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If you could speak up
41 a little -- not for them, for us.

42

43 MS. OSBURN: If there's issues there
44 the same DLP process can be used, defense of life and
45 property. So if a dog team is endangered there's a
46 process for that. So people are allowed to dispatch
47 the animal. At that point they call our office, our
48 Fish and Game office, or Trooper Cantine, and then we --
49 there are some requirements. So you're required to
50

0069

1 salvage the hide and the meat for things like muskox.
2 There is no -- there's no penalty as long as there was
3 legitimate cause to dispatch the animal then it's taken
4 care of by the State after that.

5

6 For the circumstances around Deering
7 we've worked with DOT down there, they are approved to
8 non-lethally chase muskox off the runway.

9

10 We encourage folks to get a hold of us,
11 though, if they have an issue. Give us a call, if we
12 can, we'll try and make it down there and see what we
13 can do.

14

15 Typically with muskox if you -- if you
16 can put gentle pressure on them often you can encourage
17 them to move off. I know that's not always the case,
18 but that's something that has worked lots in Nome with
19 problem muskox down there. And sometimes just loud
20 noises and a real aggressive affront will get a more
21 aggressive response from them. So kind of just a
22 constant pressure seems to have more use but.....

23

24 MR. SCHAEFFER: I know they're pretty
25 persistent. They chase them off and they'll come back.
26 I remember a couple of years ago I helped -- that was
27 probably when I was back with the Borough -- a couple
28 of years -- more than that now, but, anyway, we
29 authorized a bridge right in that narrow spot to keep
30 them from going into a populated area where the Noatak
31 people come down. They camp out over in Sisualik and
32 there's probably 30 houses right there where they come
33 and do their hunting out in the ocean but we put a
34 bridge across that narrow spot which kept them from
35 coming -- meandering over towards Sisualik where all
36 the people are. That worked but I'm not sure if -- do
37 they do that every year now, because the Borough used
38 to.....

39

40 MR. KRAMER: I'm not sure. I know
41 there was a problem with land owners disagreeing with
42 that fence either being on their property but, you
43 know, it's all about life safety, you know. And
44 condolences and regards to that Trooper that lost his
45 life to a muskox, you know, they're just as big of a
46 threat as a grizzly bear or a polar bear and any
47 necessary action to protect people's lives, dogs,
48 livestock, whatever it is, use whatever is necessary to
49 protect your stuff, you know, the -- condolences to the

50

0070

1 family in Wales. That could have been prevented with
2 that polar bear being taken out the first time that it
3 was called in, that could have been prevented. Here,
4 that's not going to happen anymore. It can't happen.
5 We're not going to learn after the fact. People are
6 getting attacked by these critters because either
7 they're over populated or they're just populated in
8 areas where they've never really been in, for years,
9 like in Sisualik like Bobby said.

10

11 But, yeah, something needs to happen.
12 They need to start being able to push these animals
13 away from where people, kids, children play, you know,
14 who played there for the last 20, 30 years and now they
15 can't because -- you know, they can't even go pick
16 berries because the thought of getting mauled by a
17 muskox. They're messing up people's crosses across
18 there in Sisualik, their gravesites.

19

20 Yeah, that's all I have for right now.
21 I think I have a lot of things to say, but I'll get
22 them.

23

24 MR. SCHAEFFER: That herd that winters
25 over in Krusenstern and the mountains, they don't move
26 much because of snow, they don't like snow, so they try
27 to stay out of windblown areas. I know where all the
28 birds are back there. But I think -- but also in the
29 springtime, they go to Sisualik and then the entire
30 area until they get to -- (indiscernible) I believe
31 that's open. But once the creek closes that gives them
32 freedom to.....

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted - dogs barking)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if everyone on the
38 phone could mute, we're getting some background noise
39 here.

40

41 MS. OSBURN: Through the Chair. I know
42 that Park Service and -- Park Service and Fish and Game
43 kind of addressed -- or tried to address this a few
44 years ago and as you mentioned a lot of it is it's kind
45 of a mixed land ownership over there and so one of the
46 great ways to keep muskox out would be a fence is
47 probably the most effective. But trying to get all
48 parties involved, on board with that program, has been
49 a bit of a challenge and we don't have the Staff for
50

0071

1 it. To some degree it needs to be a bit of a local
2 movement. I've reached out to the city to see if we
3 could be a partnership in installing fences around some
4 of the grave sites since muskox just do love to rub up
5 against those crosses. And so that -- I haven't gotten
6 much feedback from the city as far as being able to
7 find funds to provide materials for fencing and making
8 it a local project.

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: But with muskox,
14 really, the best way to alleviate conflict is fences.
15 They love spending time in Sisualik just like people do
16 here, for the same reason, it's a wonderful place to be
17 in the summer. There's good food, there's
18 (indiscernible) predators there and so unfortunately
19 even short-term displacement they'll come back as long
20 as there's good reason to come back they will so
21 fencing is really the best option for muskox.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any more
24 questions or comments for Tom Plank on this wildlife
25 closure review.

26
27 REPORTER: This is Tina, the court
28 reporter. I don't have a question for Tom, but who was
29 just talking, was that Martha?

30
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: That was Christie
32 Osburn.

33
34 REPORTER: Okay, my apologies. Okay,
35 Christie, thank you.

36
37 Now, questions for Tom anybody.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And whoever has the
40 dog barking please mute your phone.

41
42 Tom, did you have anything more.

43
44 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
45 did not have anything more to add to this. And as
46 ADF&G alluded to, the issue that the Council member
47 asked me about the muskox and dog team is a DLP issue
48 and has nothing to do with the closure review in
49 Federal regulations.

50

0072

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. So if
4 there's nothing else, no more questions or comments for
5 this one, we can move on.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We'll actually go back
10 and Christie, you can come back up, we'll go back to
11 Item A, which is the moose, dall sheep and other
12 wildlife updates for GMU 23. Christie Osburn the floor
13 is yours again.

14

15 MS. OSBURN: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And just to remind
18 you, just speak up for those in the room so we can hear
19 you.

20

21 MS. OSBURN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 Council members.

23

24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

26

27 REPORTER: Okay, hang on, Christie
28 before you start. So if everybody online could take a
29 second, I mean other than these two rooms, take a
30 second, check your phone and please put yourself on
31 mute, because we're getting background noise that's not
32 in either one of these rooms. You know there's dogs
33 barking, things like that. So it's star, six, which is
34 the asterisk and a six, or the mute button. We'd
35 appreciate it so we can hear the reports.

36

37 Go ahead, Christie.

38

39 MS. OSBURN: All right, thank you.
40 Again, for the record this is Christie Osburn. I'm the
41 Unit 23 Biologist for Fish and Game. I know you guys
42 have a fairly busy agenda today so I'll try and keep it
43 pretty quick. I'm going to go over the meeting
44 material, it should be Page 20 in your books and for
45 those following online, Page 20 should be species and
46 survey updates.

47

48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

50

0073

1 MR. KRAMER: There's no page numbers.

2

3 MS. OSBURN: Isn't it Page 20. So most
4 of the information is going to be the same as what I
5 presented at your fall meeting. So what's on Page 20
6 -- or it should be Page 21, is going to be very similar
7 to what you had in the fall. So I'll just give you an
8 update for what we did most recently which would have
9 been our moose -- fall moose composition survey.

10

11 And this year we're going to be serving
12 the lower Noatak for moose. We did our fall
13 composition survey back in November and that should be
14 that first bullet point for you. So we observed 451
15 moose and found 64 bulls to 100 cows, 20 calves to 100
16 cows, and 12 calves to 100 adults. This area was last
17 surveyed in 2017 and so all of the ratios that we saw
18 this year are up from that last survey in 2017. We'll
19 follow the fall composition survey up with an abundance
20 survey and that will start April -- the second week in
21 April. So our abundance survey, we'll have several
22 small planes in the air so a couple of SuperCubs. And
23 this area will cover essentially from the
24 (indiscernible) downstream on the Noatak drainage as
25 well as the drainage of the Wulik and the Kivalina. So
26 stay tuned for the results of that abundance estimate.
27 But like I said we'll be starting about the second week
28 of April, hopefully, weather allowing the second week
29 of April. So we should have some fliers and radio
30 messages going out about that in the next few weeks.

31

32 There will also be a muskox survey
33 coming up. That's done in conjunction with the Park
34 Service. That will look at muskox abundance and
35 composition in what we refer to as the Cape Krusenstern
36 core area so that will run from the lower part of the
37 Noatak all the way up through around Cape Lisburne and
38 20 or so miles in from the coast so. That area is
39 surveyed typically on an annual basis and should be
40 starting mid-March. So, again, that'll be a few small
41 planes in the air and will be an abundance estimate.

42

43 All of the other information is the
44 same that you saw at your fall meeting so unless
45 there's questions on those I'll move on to some sheep
46 survey work that we're hoping to work.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0074

1 MS. OSBURN: No questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Carry on.

4

5 MS. OSBURN: Okay. So the other
6 project that we've come up -- we're going to have come
7 up this year is a dall sheep study we'll be starting.
8 We're hoping to start this fall. We're going to be
9 putting out collars on animals in both the Baird
10 Mountains and the DeLongs. We're hoping to get roughly
11 40 collars out between those two areas and this will
12 primarily be to track mortality, mortality and lambing
13 rates. We were able to complete a sheep survey this
14 last July and we have some continued, just low, low
15 levels of sheep. This study is looking to see if we
16 can determine what mortality is occurring, at what rate
17 and what the cause is and then see if our reproductive
18 output is what we would like to see. And that will be
19 a two year project. The first year will start, as I
20 said, hopefully this October, and we'll put collars out
21 this year and next year and so we should have some
22 information to share by the spring meeting assuming
23 that we are able to do our collaring in the fall.

24

25 If there were any other questions on
26 the sheep study.

27

28 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Raymond Woods.

31

32 MR. WOODS: Yes, you said the DeLong,
33 how far up north are you going?

34

35 MS. OSBURN: We'll probably target
36 between most likely the farthest east will be Trail
37 Creek and then we'll go as far as.....

38

39 MR. WOODS: I don't know what Trail
40 Creek is?

41

42 MR. KRAMER: Right off the Kougarock.

43

44 MS. OSBURN: Upper. Upper Kougarock.

45

46 MR. WOODS: So where.....

47

48 MS. OSBURN: Kalutivig.

49

50

0075

1 MR. WOODS: Okay. The island -- the
2 reason why I ask, Mr. Chairman, is the DeLongs kind of
3 go over the headwaters of the Noatak, like Midas Creek,
4 Kougarock Creek that drains from the south to the
5 Noatak, those areas. Those are the areas that are open
6 right now for subsistence. I just wanted to know what
7 the population is doing, is it either growing or still
8 the same, that's the question, Mr. Chair.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. OSBURN: Yeah. Through the Chair.
13 Current -- currently there's no sheep season open in
14 Unit 23 on the Federal or the State side.

15

16 MR. WOODS: When did they close it?

17

18 MS. OSBURN: There's some in the
19 Schwatka's, limited hunting opportunity in the
20 Schwatkas.

21

22 MR. KRAMER: Gates of the Arctic?

23

24 MS. OSBURN: Yeah.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for those on the
30 phone, Christie is referring to a map here, physically.

31

32 REPORTER: And, Thomas, who's asking
33 the questions back here, I could hear Mike and somebody
34 else, who was the main questioner back there?

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: This one was Raymond
37 Woods.

38

39 REPORTER: Okay, that's what I was
40 thinking but just doublechecking, thanks.

41

42 (Talking regarding map - not by a
43 microphone)

44

45 MR. WOODS: What I'm asking is this
46 still open for subsistence?

47

48 MS. OSBURN: I -- with the.....

49

50

0076

1 MR. WOODS: According to the SRC it was
2 open back when we had a meeting.....

3
4 (Talking away from microphones)

5
6 MS. OSBURN: Yeah, and I don't know who
7 would know.....

8
9 MS. SWEENEY: Marcy Okada would be the
10 person who would know that area if she's on the phone.

11
12 REPORTER: So hang on please. So, you
13 know, we've got a general conversation going there and
14 I get that because you're all in the same room, but I'm
15 going to need one person at a time to talk and let me
16 know who's talking. So I think Christie was talking
17 and I heard Brittany.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So at this time I'm
20 going to ask that somebody delineate the sheep, where
21 it's open, where it's not, so that information can be
22 provided to Mr. Woods so that he can see the
23 regulations and the map and everything. But for the
24 moment if someone would like to take that on, that
25 would be good, and then we can continue forward
26 specific to this survey.

27
28 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

31
32 MS. OKADA: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
33 Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and
34 Preserve. And I could just clarify real quickly.

35
36 So the Schwatka Mountains which are
37 located within Gates of the Arctic National Park, that
38 would be the most eastern side of Unit 23, they are --
39 the Schwatka Mountains are still open for subsistence
40 hunting of sheep. And this would just be for resident
41 zone communities of Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, of which
42 Raymond was referring to.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Marcy. any
45 further questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: The floor is yours
50

0077

1 Christie.

2

3 MS. OSBURN: All right, thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. And to clarify, that would all -- that is only
5 through the Federal side. So there is no open season
6 on the State side.

7

8 And I'm happy to answer any other
9 questions or concerns about sheep that you might like
10 to see answered or addressed.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bob.

13

14 MR. SCHAEFFER: Well, sheep meat back
15 in the '50s and '60s there was a lot of sheep. Aggi
16 had a lot of sheep. There were sheep across here
17 (Indiscernible) and on a couple of mountains going
18 towards Kiana. There were sheep all through the upper
19 Noatak, the canyons, so there was sheep all over the
20 place. So it was really important and a protein
21 source. But, you know, I think -- I know that's all
22 gone. Like you mentioned.

23

24 I think what happened was most of --
25 because the weather changed.....

26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)

29

30 MR. SCHAEFFER: Somebody had mentioned
31 that they ran into a valley where they were crossing
32 one mountain to the next and got caught in that real
33 soft snow and then that -- perished -- you know, I
34 think there were quite a few that they counted in that
35 valley so I was kind of wondering about -- about the
36 upper -- the Kobuk and the Noatak and it seems like
37 it's confined to one area, where sheep -- not like
38 there used to be sheep years ago. So it's kind of a
39 delicate species as well.

40

41 You know it's one of those where you
42 can justify a closure, but then on the other hand we
43 had weather, like the past three or four days, you
44 know, a tremendous amount of snow that affect the moose
45 and now it's going to affect the sheep. I know we
46 talked about predation before about caribou, but it's --
47 you know, wolf predation on sheep is just as severe as
48 -- as it is with moose. We get a lot of snow and if a
49 pack of wolves find a moose the moose is gone, they
50

0078

1 have no way of protecting themselves. They can't run
2 in the soft snow so they're pretty much lunch.
3

4 So I guess the question I would have
5 then, you know, is -- my question would be where is the
6 bulk of the population of the moose now -- or the sheep
7 now?
8

9 MS. OSBURN: Member Schaeffer through
10 the Chair. There's somewhat distinct populations, it
11 seems like there's not a lot of movement between -- and
12 that's another reason we're hoping to get collars out
13 is to see how much movement there is and if these are
14 really distinct populations. It used to be that the
15 Baird Mountains kind of there north of Kiana, northeast
16 of Kiana had a substantial population. The DeLongs at
17 one point had sheep in the thousands, estimated. At
18 this point the Baird Mountains is below -- the last
19 estimate was below 200 animals there. In the Central
20 DeLongs we found one -- I want to say 159 this last
21 survey. And the types of survey we do is we go out and
22 we just fly -- so it's a minimum count. The Park
23 Service used to do surveys and still does to some
24 degree, a survey that provides an estimate. So they go
25 out and see a number of sheep and from that make an
26 estimate for overall abundance. We go out and the
27 numbers presented here are truly just the number of
28 sheep that we saw. So we know that there are at least
29 159 sheep that we saw in July in the DeLongs, which is
30 far, far, far cry from what it used to be. I would say
31 that the DeLongs, between the Central and the Western
32 DeLongs hold most of the sheep population in Unit 23 now.
33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions.
35

36 Mike.
37

38 MR. KRAMER: What -- I mean when you
39 guys did your guys' counts, did you see what the
40 majority horn size of the rams -- is there any full-
41 curl rams, or were they all 7/8ths or -- because I
42 know before they shut it down they said there was still
43 a harvestable amount of rams to be taken but, you know,
44 I wanted it shut down because the more you save the
45 more -- you know, just to meet that certain ram to ewe
46 ratio, and lamb ratio also, but they saw it as
47 otherwise and that's where we got stabbed in the back
48 because they didn't follow or listen to us as we were
49 making suggestions to shut it down.
50

1 I know I had spoke to a Fish and
2 Wildlife officer that was up here prior, maybe five or
3 six years ago, who said that, right up there in the
4 Aggi on that one -- that first -- where the Aggi turns
5 into the mountain, the Bairds -- yeah, the Bairds and
6 then starts cutting back towards the Ely and then cuts
7 back again, there's that one rock right there, he said
8 that there was 21 sheep on that one rock face. And he
9 had noticed these in January and by the time end of
10 March came around there was only two left because
11 wolves picked off all the other ones. There was like
12 dead sheep just littering around that mountain where
13 the wolves just picked them off as they kept trying to
14 go down and find other places to get food. But he
15 thought that was pretty crazy how, you know, 21 sheep
16 can all of a sudden get knocked down to two in one fell
17 swoop of a pack of wolves. That's why I wanted to try
18 and see if there's a possibility of we could start
19 doing wolf pack, you know, wolf pack size, census, wolf
20 pack locations, you know, to see which ones are really
21 affecting our sheep, caribou, moose, it would be very
22 nice to know region-wide, you know, what's our largest
23 pack, where is our largest pack, you know, do they
24 consist mostly of black wolves, grey wolves, brown,
25 whatever it may be, but, you know, those wolves have
26 been able to pick those sheep off like nothing. I
27 wouldn't be surprised if they're doing it as we speak
28 with all this new snow and icing from the last warm
29 spell we had. I know it's going to have a big time
30 effect.

31
32 Because I'm one of the sheep hunters
33 that used to hunt up there in the Bairds back in the
34 day. And, man, those DeLongs, I never hunted such
35 steep mountains before. That was fun and a very
36 different experience climbing that high and, you know,
37 such a vertical, but the DeLongs are much more rolling
38 hills and something I'm used -- but it would be good to
39 make sure that we really keep an eye on these sheep on
40 a yearly basis.

41
42 That's why I like asking Marcy, you
43 know, how the sheep are doing in the Gates of the
44 Arctic in case they start to migrate over this way.
45 It's just my concern. I've been a past sheep hunter
46 and I've always had the passion to find out how they're
47 doing, you know, how their numbers are doing.

48
49 Thank you.
50

0080

1 MS. OSBURN: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Questions for
4 Christie.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, was
9 there anything else.

10

11 MS. OSBURN: Mr. Chair, that is all I
12 had for you as far as what surveys we've done and what
13 is upcoming.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Christie.

16

17 MS. OSBURN: Thank you for your time.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Joelle Hepler, are you
20 available yet.

21

22 MS. HEPLER: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair.
23 I'm so sorry I was not here earlier, I was a little bit
24 late getting back to my computer.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No problem. So if
27 you're prepared we can go ahead with Item B, the lower
28 Kobuk moose survival study on Page 22 in the spiral
29 notebook.

30

31 MS. HEPLER: Yep. Great. Thank you,
32 Mr. Chair and Board members. My name is Joelle Hepler.
33 I'm the new moose researcher for Region 5. I'm
34 replacing Warren Hanson, currently based in the
35 Fairbanks office. And I'm here to talk to you about my
36 upcoming moose survival project that's going to be on
37 the lower Kobuk River as this is an extension of
38 Warren's previous work in the area.

39

40 First a little bit of background.

41

42 The lower Kobuk moose population was
43 first established in the 1950s from natural immigration
44 from Interior Alaska. This moose population quickly
45 became an important subsistence resource for the region
46 and remains today as the most important location for
47 moose harvest in GMU 23 encompassing, on average, 48
48 percent of the reported Unit 23 harvest.

49

50

0081

1 The population peaked in the late 1980s
2 and then declined in the early '90s due to two
3 consecutive harsh winters make up of deep snow, icing
4 events and then low temperatures. The spring season
5 following these winters resulted in flooding and ice
6 scouring that is thought to have decimated the moose
7 calf cohorts for those years. The population remained
8 at low density and began declining at a rate of 12
9 percent annually between 2006 and 2017 -- to 2017. And
10 I just want to add a note that was made aware to me
11 after I already got you guys this presentation -- after
12 speaking with Christie Osburn about the most recent
13 moose counts there, it seems that the population is
14 stable at the current moment.

15
16 So just want to go over real quick
17 what's been done already. A three year study of moose
18 on the Kobuk River recently ended. We evaluated
19 nutrition and calf mortality to better understand why
20 this moose population had been declined in recent
21 years. During the timeframe of the study, which was
22 2017 to 2021 we have concluded that the nutritional
23 condition of this moose population is fairly good. We
24 have based this off of a browse removal rate which was
25 measured in 2017 as 19 percent. We would become
26 concerned if the browse removal rate was greater than
27 35 percent. Twinning rates measured each year between
28 2017 and 2020 average 43.5 percent. We would be
29 concerned if twinning rates were below 20 percent. Our
30 average calf capture rates were 43.6 pounds. The
31 calves are zero to four days old. An average calf
32 weight of less than 40 pounds might be an indicator of
33 nutritional stress. The mortality rate of calves that
34 we measured averaged 71 percent. This mortality rate
35 is similar to other calf mortality rate studies across
36 Alaska with similar moose densities to the lower Kobuk.
37 This calf mortality rate might explain why this moose
38 population has not experienced growth in recent years
39 but does not fully explain why this population has been
40 in decline.

41
42 Which leads me to the next part of this
43 project to investigate what adult mortality rates are
44 in the lower Kobuk and whether they are driving the
45 observed decline or low density in moose abundance. We
46 propose to capture, weigh and collar up to 60 short-
47 yearling moose annually for three years in the lower
48 Kobuk study area. This sampled of collared male and
49 female moose will provide a robust sample of moose to
50

0082

1 measure annual survival of each cohort for up to seven
2 years. This measurement of survival will enable us to
3 continue where we left off in the previous study and
4 identifies mortality in older age classes is the cause
5 of the population decline that we had measured since
6 2006. Additionally, we will conduct another browse
7 survey to confirm that nutritional limitation is not a
8 factor in this population.

9
10 To do this we plan to start captures in
11 spring of this year, actually in just a few weeks,
12 hopefully by the end of the month. To conduct these
13 captures animals will be located by a small fixed wing
14 plane and darted from a helicopter. We use a
15 mobilization drug to safely handle the animal and
16 attach a collar. The collar will be labeled to not
17 consume the animal until approximately one month after
18 the animal has been captured. The drug completely
19 clears from the body within a month of capture. In
20 fact the study conducted on caribou in Alaska showed
21 that the drugs were out of the animal's system within
22 21 days of darting.

23
24 So that's pretty much our plan.

25
26 I put together some fliers that are
27 hopefully being distributed out to communities around
28 where we will be capturing which will be the lower
29 Kobuk area, including the Squirrel River drainage, so
30 I'm hoping that we'll be out there towards the end of
31 the month doing this work and I just want you all to be
32 aware of what's going on and I'd be more than happy to
33 take any questions and try to answer them.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions for
36 Joelle on the surveys.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bob.

41
42 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes. You collared a
43 bunch of calves, right, the last couple of years?

44
45 MS. HEPLER: Correct. Yeah, there was
46 a calf study done where they captured and collared
47 newborn calves.

48
49 MR. SCHAEFFER: What was the conclusion
50

0083

1 of your -- of the study done the last couple years?

2

3 MS. HEPLER: Yeah, so that was all the
4 information I presented earlier in this -- in this
5 presentation. My third slide, what has been done so
6 far, that was.....

7

8 MR. SCHAEFFER: Calf survival?

9

10 MS. HEPLER: Yeah, so the.....

11

12 MR. SCHAEFFER: We're not seeing it,
13 what was it?

14

15 MS. HEPLER: The calf mortality rate
16 averaged 71 percent for the three years of the study.
17 So these were calves that were collared from zero to
18 four days old and they followed them for the first year
19 of their life or until they died.

20

21 MR. SCHAEFFER: What -- what animals
22 killed most of the calves then?

23

24 MS. HEPLER: From what I can tell from
25 his previous work there was definitely a lot of bears
26 that had killed a lot of them. I don't have all the
27 specifics of his study in front of me right now but
28 bear did play a large part in the calf mortality. But
29 the calf mortality didn't seem to be a biggest enough
30 red flag to be causing the population to have been
31 declining and now, once, again, the population appears
32 to be stable where it is from Christie's most recent
33 surveys.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions
36 Bob.

37

38 MR. SCHAEFFER: No.

39

40 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Wilbur.

43

44 MR. HOWARTH: This is Wilbur Howarth
45 from Noorvik. This past summer, and it's usually right
46 around July is when we get a lot of bears down in the
47 delta area where all the camps are and they're tearing
48 up camps and they're going through a lot of these
49 calves, we have lots of bears in the lower Kobuk. And

50

0084

1 every July is when the people go out and pick upiks and
2 stuff down there, bears are chasing them, just going
3 after the boat, come splashing right in the water. We
4 have so much bears down there in July. And the folks
5 back home in Noorvik when they're -- when their houses
6 get torned up or their cabin, they go and they look for
7 the bear until they find it and then they'll -- so July
8 is a real terrible time for moose in the lower Kobuk.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
13 Any other questions for Joelle.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, thank
18 you, Joelle. And we look forward to hearing more about
19 these studies once they take place.

20

21 MS. HEPLER: Great, thank you so much,
22 Mr. Chair, and the Board. I appreciate you giving me
23 some time today to talk about this.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. And with
26 that we'll move to Item B, which is the Western Arctic
27 Caribou Herd update. Alex Hansen, the floor is yours.

28

29 This will be on Page 44 of the spiral
30 bound book.

31

32 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
33 through the Chair, members of the public -- or sorry,
34 of the Council. This is Alex Hansen for the record,
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in Kotzebue.

36

37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted)

39

40 MR. HANSEN: So if you found the
41 presentation there, we'll start with, it says, the WACH
42 abundance, Western Arctic Herd abundance. This is
43 nothing new, I've presented this for the last RAC
44 meeting and the last Western Arctic photo census for
45 2022 was 164,000, it was down from 188,000 in 2021.

46

47 So basically what we've seen is a
48 decline over the past 20-plus years. So 2003 was the
49 last -- or was the peak of the Western Arctic Caribou

50

0085

1 Herd, about 490,000 animals, so we've seen kind of a
2 steady decline since that time period so approximately
3 20 years. With a few up swings and confusion but
4 general decline.

5

6 So if you look on the next slide there
7 with the graph you can see the population peaks around
8 2003 and it's coming back down here to 164,000. So
9 that's for reference.

10

11 So aside from population estimates
12 we're looking at a number of metrics. I've shared this
13 multiple times before but one of the things we do is we
14 look at calving rates or parturition rates and we're
15 seeing that parturition rates have come down a little
16 bit in the past few years, so 2022 -- well, 2020
17 through 2022 parturition has been 66 percent and our
18 long-term average is 70 percent. Not a huge departure
19 from the norm or the average but down a little bit. We
20 did see a period of time, 2016 through 2019 roughly
21 where we had pretty high calving rates and we dipped
22 down a little bit and this is a survey that we do
23 annually.

24

25 Next survey is recruitment. This is,
26 again, another annual survey called a short-yearling
27 recruitment or basically what it is a measure of the
28 number of calves who survive through the winter and we
29 do this -- present this as a ratio so if it's 17 calves
30 to 100 adults has been our long-term average and that's
31 what we've still been seeing the past two years.
32 Again, we experienced kind of a boom for a short period
33 of time around 2016 for a few years where that was a
34 little bit higher, up to 22, 23, 21, so back to average
35 now. This is a survey that will be coming up here in
36 April and possibly going into May and we'll look at
37 that again.

38

39 No major concerns there but we'll keep
40 looking at it.

41

42 Our biggest concern with the Western
43 Arctic Herd in the past several years has been adult
44 female survival. As we've discussed already today, cow
45 survival is key to this population. And we track that
46 through collars. We have collars out in the Western
47 Arctic Herd -- or all the herds basically, we're able
48 to get a glimpse of what the survival rates are. And
49 so our adult female survival has been down. Long-term
50

0086

1 average has been 81 percent over the course of our
2 data. And most recently it's been about 71 percent.
3 So if we want to see growth within this population we
4 want -- the survival should be above 80 percent or
5 thereabouts, you know, that's kind of stability. When
6 we start going into high 80s, 90s then we can see
7 growth and we haven't seen that for awhile. It peaked
8 a little bit. Like I said we had kind of an up swing
9 around 2016 and we had good survival for a couple years
10 but now it's come back down again.

11
12 I will say that this year our survival
13 has been a little bit better but just recently, the
14 past few weeks we're starting to see some of these
15 collars die off. So through the summer and fall our
16 survival is pretty darn good this year. Of the 36, I
17 believe, collars that we put out last year I believe
18 only one died and that was harvested in Buckland so
19 pretty good to see that change.

20
21 Obviously that's just one year and we
22 still have some winter to get through.

23
24 The next survey is our bull to cow
25 ratio. And this is something we look at in the fall --
26 am I moving too fast there -- okay, perfect thank you.

27
28 So this is something we don't look at
29 every year. I was hoping to do this last fall but just
30 logistics with the caribou and the weather it was not
31 possible. The caribou were scattered too far, you
32 know, and we didn't have the weather to pull it off.
33 So the last survey was done in 2021. That was 47 bulls
34 to 100 cows. And our recommendation from the Western
35 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is to maintain a bull
36 to cow ratio of 30 bulls to 100 cows. No real concerns
37 there but it's something we need to keep tabs on
38 because we could certainly put ourselves in a position
39 where we overharvested bulls and create more trouble
40 for the population.

41
42 I hope to do that survey this coming
43 fall assuming the weather cooperates.

44
45 And I'll kind of just gloss over this a
46 little bit because we talked about the working group.
47 But we selected -- or I should say the working group
48 selected preservative declining again this year so
49 maintain status quo. That is looking at a population
50

0087

1 between 130 and 200,000 individuals. And it also, you
2 know, takes into account low cow survival and more or
3 less average recruitment.

4

5 And that gives us a recommendation of
6 harvest between six and 10,000 caribou for this year.

7

8 So we'll talk a little bit about that
9 and I'll talk a little bit about the recommendation
10 that came from the AC or this proposal for four caribou
11 per year. And I would just like to reiterate, you
12 know, that this was a proposal both from the AC and
13 from the working group that came from those bodies, you
14 know, it's not something that the State is pushing or
15 the Feds are pushing, it's something that came from the
16 users of the herd. And I think it's very important to
17 understand that, you know, we can't change everything.
18 We can't change the weather patterns, we can't change,
19 you know, warming trends, we certainly can't change
20 those things, but the one thing that we can potentially
21 affect is harvest levels, and especially if we look at
22 reduction in harvest with those cows and that's one of
23 the only things that we can do.

24

25 So with that I would just kind of jump
26 into some numbers. This is a little bit loose but from
27 this recommendation from the working group, the harvest
28 is set at about 4.8 percent of the harvest should give
29 us a harvestable surplus based on 164,000 of about
30 7,800 caribou. So our long-term understanding of
31 harvest in the Western Arctic is that harvest is around
32 10 -- or 12,000 caribou per year. Now, I can think we
33 can all agree that we're not seeing those harvest
34 levels right now. You know we heard member reports
35 early on in this meeting that people are not getting
36 caribou. So simply because of distribution, our
37 harvest has gone down significantly but we don't know
38 what that harvest level is because we just don't have
39 good harvest information.

40

41 So moving on from there to the next
42 slide, I'll talk a little bit about harvest -- we're
43 probably going to jump over this, Will covered this
44 pretty good. But the next one was management level and
45 these are the recommendations from the working group.
46 So if anybody has questions we can address that but
47 those are the recommendations, nothing set in stone --
48 we're going to jump past that.

49

50

0088

1 So just to kind of tie things back to
2 our discussion at the working group.

3
4 Will mentioned ANS, so the ANS is the
5 amount necessary for subsistence, so that is between 8
6 and 12,000, and the interesting thing about that is
7 it's combined between the Teshekpuk and the Western
8 Arctic. So basically it says that in subsistence law
9 we need to have 8 to 12,000 caribou available for
10 harvest for Federal Subsistence Board users. Now,
11 because we're combined with the Teshekpuk we're
12 basically held out of that concern, right. So if, for
13 instance, there was a move to split those ANS' then we
14 might find ourselves in a situation where Western
15 Arctic was, in fact, not meeting ANS and that might
16 lead to some interesting things like Tier II, which is
17 something hopefully we can avoid in the Western Arctic
18 because that would be a lot more logistical challenges,
19 you know, placed on the agencies and it certainly would
20 make it a lot harder for, you know, consumers or users,
21 hunters to participate in that harvest.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Real quick, Alex.

24
25 MR. HANSEN: Yep.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For some of the newer
28 members of the Council could you briefly go over what
29 Tier II is?

30
31 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
32 I think certainly folks have experienced applying for
33 muskox. So muskox is in our Tier II system, and
34 basically November, December timeframe you have to
35 either fill out a paper application or an online
36 application and it takes into account where you live,
37 what the cost of your groceries are, how much time and
38 experience you have on that particular population, and
39 species, and it goes into a draw. So all of that is
40 weighted and based on that information and the
41 available number of the resource, the permits are
42 allocated. So it would be very cumbersome and it would
43 be pretty challenging for us to administer that with
44 the caribou population. Currently it works okay for
45 muskox but, you know, we're issuing six or seven
46 permits through that Tier II system, very small, but it
47 would be kind of a really big lift if we move to Tier
48 II for the Western Arctic.

49
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0089

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, thank you. Did
2 you have a question.

3

4 MR. KRAMER: I don't know what the
5 other RACs came up with. I know that me and him are on
6 the same AC at Fish and Game and we came up with three
7 bulls, one cow, or four bulls per year. And it appears
8 that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group did --
9 either -- did they support what we put in or did they
10 support with amendment?

11

12 MR. HANSEN: So maybe I'll bring that
13 discussion.....

14

15 MR. KRAMER: Sorry, this is Member
16 Kramer.

17

18 MR. HANSEN: Yes, through the Chair to
19 Member Kramer. Basically what happened was, you know,
20 there was a recognition that we needed to talk about
21 reduction, or specifically cow harvest. And we kind of
22 brought it to their attention that the AC had this
23 proposal out there and pulled up that draft proposal
24 and shared it with that group, you were there Thomas,
25 is that how you remember it happening.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

28

29 MR. HANSEN: So basically we said this
30 thing has already been written, please look at this and
31 see what you think about it and they liked it and they
32 went with it but the thing that they did is they
33 expanded it to the entire range of the Western Arctic
34 Herd where the AC proposal specifically was 23, GMU 23.
35 So I think -- I mean you, as the AC members basically
36 paved the way for the discussion and as Will pointed
37 out it was a unanimous vote to move forward with that.

38

39 Does that answer your question?

40

41 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I was just kind of
42 curious as to whether North Slope or Norton Sound or
43 the other game management units that harvest from
44 Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd, whether they were
45 looking at taking cuts as we are. You know, it's in
46 other words either mimic or stay on the same page
47 because if we're taking cuts they should take cuts and
48 if they're not taking cuts why are we taking cuts of
49 harvest for, you know. It's either we should all be on
50

0090

1 the same page or, you know, we're just going to go
2 ahead and watch this caribou herd falter.

3

4 MR. HANSEN: So through the Chair. On
5 that point Member Kramer, there -- this proposal,
6 actually the one that you guys presented at the AC is
7 going to go to the Western Interior -- so it will
8 actually be presented at that Board of Game meeting as
9 well simply because -- well, not the one that you
10 presented because it was 23 only -- but the working
11 group one will have to be addressed by that Board of
12 Game because it affects 24, 21 -- well, the subunits of
13 that area so. That will have to be addressed there.
14 22 is also part of the Board of Game so it'll be
15 addressed at that level. It's my understanding from
16 Georgie Phillips, I spoke with her briefly over
17 lunchtime that the Norton Sound didn't want to discuss
18 any changes, they were happy with where they were.
19 Perhaps that will change. One thing to consider is
20 they don't really have access to caribou right now
21 anyways so it's kind of a moot point but if the caribou
22 were to spend some time on the Seward Peninsula then it
23 does become a concern. 26A, from my understanding
24 they're drafting a proposal and it's in a draft format,
25 I don't have the specifics of that but they're looking
26 at presenting some different changes in 26A but not to
27 the extent that we're looking at through these
28 proposals here. I know there are some serious concerns
29 on the North Slope out of 26A that they don't feel like
30 cutting back to four per year is acceptable or
31 necessary and to some extent I would agree with them
32 because they're still hunting from two other herds, the
33 Central Arctic and the Teshekpuk, a lot of those
34 communities, and those populations are still doing
35 well. So no major concerns there. But we do see quite
36 a bit of hunting of the Western Arctic in some years
37 from the village of Wainwright, they harvest a lot of
38 animals and Point Hope -- however Point Hope is in 23,
39 but I believe that the North Slope Borough has concerns
40 over reduction so is that all clear.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah.

43

44 MS. LOON: Thank you, Alex. Hannah
45 Loon.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And, Alex, you'll have
48 to slide that over.

49

50

0091

1 MR. HANSEN: It's going to get weird
2 here.

3
4 MS. LOON: Tina, can you hear me?
5

6 REPORTER: Yes, I can Hannah.
7

8 MS. LOON: Okay. My question, thank
9 you for your report. We are in the preservative
10 declining yellow. And awhile ago you stated this
11 Western Arctic residents here in Game Unit 23 can
12 harvest up to 10,000 or 12,000?
13

14 MR. HANSEN: So just to clarify. So
15 basically what we looked at is long term harvest
16 estimates and it's a guess really. It's a model that
17 we look at and we don't use it anymore because it's
18 just not working, but 12,000 is what our understanding
19 of annual harvest had been for a long time, since the
20 '90s.
21

22 MS. LOON: On my experience with not
23 having caribou in Selawik every fall, like they
24 normally go in there, I would support that number but
25 you are having issues with gathering data.
26

27 MR. HANSEN: Uh-huh.
28

29 MS. LOON: And how would it be with the
30 numbers, how would it be if you worked -- or the State
31 work with the tribal offices and used numbers to
32 collect data on a yearly basis, on an annual basis and
33 ask mid-winter and then -- what do you -- I know you're
34 having challenges in collecting data from communities
35 and I get caribou permits every year but I don't -- I
36 don't get caribou like people did.
37

38 Thank you.
39

40 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. Through the
41 Chair to Member Loon. So absolutely agree with you. I
42 think that that information does exist within those
43 communities and there's a larger discussion that we're
44 working on putting together with tribal communities,
45 with NANA, with KIC, with everybody that we can within
46 the region as we've been directed to do so by the
47 working group to come up with a better harvest
48 estimate. We have our permit, our 907 permit, we
49 probably collect about 10 percent of the harvest
50

0092

1 through that permit and that's our job, as a State, to
2 push the permit, right, but we can agree that it's not
3 working as we would like it to. We're still obligated
4 to keep pushing that permit and hopefully people get on
5 board with that but I think there's other ways to get
6 at that data. I believe it was -- well, I think on one
7 of these meetings not so long ago I think it was
8 yourself that provided some information from Noorvik,
9 what the harvest was there, was it you Elmer?

10

11 MR. HOWARTH: Wilbur.

12

13 MR. HANSEN: Wilbur. Sorry. Elmer.
14 Wilbur. My apologies. So Wilbur provided some data
15 and I think that the communities can do that, they have
16 that information, and if we work with them I think we
17 can pull that together. Do you think that's something
18 you can get from Noorvik -- and I think most
19 communities feel that way, that they can do that. We
20 were -- Christie and I took a visit to.....

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24

25 MR. HANSEN:they feel like they
26 can get that data. And I think if we work together we
27 can pull it together. The challenge that we have is,
28 you know, we have so many things going on and there's
29 four of us in our office and so the easiest thing for
30 us to do is to get a permit, report the information and
31 we'll put it in.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MR. HANSEN: If we work with everybody,
37 including Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service and
38 the tribes and cities and everybody I think we can get
39 that information together.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike.

42

43 MR. KRAMER: I know that your data, you
44 know, is in high demand and the other high demand item
45 that's in the villages is fuel, you know, why can't we,
46 you know, all the Native villages put in a pot to offer
47 drums of stove oil, drums of gas, because a lot of
48 people say the price of gas, hey, man at the end of the
49 -- when you're -- the day that you're supposed to turn
50

0093

1 in all harvest tickets, you know, they go ahead and put
2 everybody's name inside of a -- or a ticket or whatever
3 and pull it out, so and so you won a drum of gas from
4 this community, do it in each community, that was
5 you're showing, you know, equal, whether NANA can pitch
6 in, KIC, anybody, Maniilaq, you know, if they could
7 pitch in to try to help us along here and they will
8 provide something that will benefit the people in the
9 villages. And I'm pretty sure a drum of stove oil in
10 some of these villages are pretty high, you know, just
11 with somebody turning in that data, that's very
12 important to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, you know,
13 that's one way to reward people. Even, you know, every
14 so often offer a free hunting license, you know, for
15 one person in each community that way you're rewarding
16 people for turning in their harvest tickets, because
17 caribou is such a vital subsistence resource in this
18 region and we cannot go without it. Because once it
19 crashes, it crashes, we go along with it. You know
20 we're forced to buy beef and what's next, moose, we'll
21 get hit hard.

22
23 I think something that should be able
24 to help along with, you know, getting data within the
25 communities and the villages would be to come up with a
26 -- some type of way to reward the people for turning in
27 their harvest tickets. If NANA, KIC, any of the
28 corporations within the region can pitch in, you know,
29 that would be very valuable to someone in the village,
30 man, I just won a drum of stove oil, yes, saved me four
31 or five or \$600, because I turned in my harvest ticket.
32 That would be very beneficial to you as the data
33 collector and the people out harvesting.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. SCHAEFFER: I've got a question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bobby.

40
41 MR. SCHAEFFER: This year has been sort
42 of a blessing in disguise because 80 percent of the
43 caribou didn't migrate down and the ones that did
44 migrate down, a small percentage -- a small percentage
45 of hunters hunting them. (Indiscernible - away from
46 microphone)

47
48 The other 80 percent are
49 (indiscernible) in the mountains up in the Atigun Pass
50

0094

1 where they're -- so basically what I'm trying to say
2 is one year (indiscernible) one year worth of data is
3 different than (indiscernible) where they're going to
4 go. I was shocked that 80 percent didn't come down.
5 Because normally they migrate. We count on their
6 migration. So everybody's waiting (indiscernible -
7 breaking up and away from microphone). In the last
8 four or five years they've changed their habits
9 tremendously, their migration, and there's predation in
10 there. But on the other hand we're still experiencing
11 a declining herd. I kept thinking about calf
12 mortality, you know, for the area up there because, you
13 know, predation, wolves, they know where to go and when
14 to go. The bears are the most (indiscernible) they
15 know almost to the day when they happen to be there so
16 the predation must be pretty high. We're not getting
17 caribou and then the last couple of years, predation
18 (indiscernible - cutting out, away from microphone)
19 plus some other things that are very high.

20

21 REPORTER: Okay, Thomas, and Bobby, I'm
22 sorry to interrupt but you're starting to cut out more
23 than you're talking for us to pick up.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So in the interest of
28 time, Alex, was there any newer information from the
29 fall meeting that you were going to be presenting or is
30 it just kind of rehashing what was presented the last
31 time?

32

33 MR. HANSEN: No, so no new information
34 from the fall meeting other than the proposal that we
35 talked about and just a continued plea for harvest
36 information. So whatever we can do, you know, whether
37 it's raffles or whatever. We'll have that discussion
38 as agency Staff and others within the region to try to
39 come up with good ideas to get better harvest
40 information.

41

42 So with that we can jump to the end and
43 if anybody has any more questions I'm happy to address
44 them but I did want to speak on one point that Bobby
45 mentioned early on in the discussion.

46

47 Just to be clear, right now the caribou
48 are kind of mixed up around Anaktuvuk Pass, Central
49 Arctic, Teshekpuk, Western Arctic but when we shoot the

50

0095

1 censuses they're in separate places. So we define
2 caribou herds by calving grounds. So they go to the
3 calving grounds and then they go to post-calving
4 aggregations or, you know, insect relief areas. So
5 when we shot the Western Arctic census on the 9th and
6 the 10th of July, that's the same day that we went and
7 shot the Teshekpuk caribou population. So what we're
8 seeing is we're catching distinct populations of herds
9 at the same time. So we're not seeing, necessarily,
10 you know, Western Arctic Caribou go in a different herd
11 and then losing them to those different herds.

12
13 I just wanted to bring that point up
14 that we're pretty careful about that. Teshekpuk was
15 shot about 61, 62,000 this summer. Actually the same
16 day as our second day of the photo shoot for the
17 Western Arctic so in this -- this time period, winter
18 and spring they're mixed up but then they go to their
19 separate and distinct calving grounds and we're not
20 seeing a loss of collars. We have marked individuals
21 that we're not losing necessarily. Sometimes the
22 Western Arctic or bigger herds will suck in animals
23 from smaller herds for a bit, they may or may not go
24 back but we don't generally see that loss from the
25 Western Arctic.

26
27 And Raymond, I think you were asking
28 about when they entered the upper Kobuk. And as was
29 pointed out earlier on in this discussion, you know,
30 there was some harvest at Onion Portage about at freeze
31 up, there was ice flowing, people were getting caribou.
32 You mentioned running up there to get your boy out of
33 there. We saw that as well. And then kind of going
34 into October, November there was a little bit of
35 movement but not a ton of movement. So there -- in the
36 upper Kobuk, kind of in the Selawik Hills is basically
37 what we have down here south of the Kobuk River, 80
38 percent of the population is still in the mountains or
39 on the North Slope, so Wainwright, Anaktuvuk Pass,
40 upper Noatak right now.

41
42 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think Mike had one
45 and then Ray.

46
47 MR. KRAMER: That group of caribou
48 that's always in Ambler.....

49
50

0096

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted - phones ringing)

3
4 MR. KRAMER:and Huslia Hot
5 Springs, so the many years I trapped up there with my
6 father in law, Willard, I've always seen a group in
7 that area. There's always been a group there, I don't
8 know if the number's fluctuated but I know at times
9 when I went up there or they go to the Huslia hot
10 springs or the Selawik hot springs, one of them, but
11 I'd always run into caribou there. There was always a
12 group -- several groups, big groups always wintered
13 there and I asked my father in law, Willard, about it
14 and he said they've always been there. He said when
15 they come across, that little group separates
16 themselves from the rest of the Western Arctic Caribou
17 Herd that goes down towards Buckland, Selawik and that
18 area but there's always been a group that's always
19 stayed within that area and that's what they're seeing
20 up there in Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk, is that one
21 group. They must be moving around because they're
22 usually in between Ambler and those hot springs. Some
23 were in there on the flats and some were behind the
24 mountains opposite of the sand dunes, you know, I'm
25 trying to remember which hills those are, Kiana Hills.

26
27 MR. HOWARTH: One mountain.....

28
29 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, but they've always
30 kind of -- there's always been kind of a group back in
31 there that I've always seen. Once a year I used to
32 always like to go to those hot springs and, you know,
33 enjoy the hot water. But, yeah, on my way back I've
34 gotten one or two for years, you know, because a lot of
35 times you never saw very many here. But there's
36 always been kind of a group that hangs out in that area
37 that I've seen.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Raymond.

40
41 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
42 was a really good report. I liked the report when
43 everybody gets together with it and talks about it.
44 But I wanted to bring up like what these guys are
45 talking about what the caribou did. For the last years
46 in Shungnak (indiscernible) herd comes back to
47 Shungnak. One (indiscernible) I phoned my niece and I
48 said where's the caribou and she said, Uncle if I was
49 to pick up a rock and throw it (indiscernible) I'll hit
50

0097

1 a caribou and then there's (indiscernible), so
2 traditional -- there's traditional ways of the caribou
3 is you don't shoot them or any hunting within the city
4 limits or a mile away, we let the caribou migrate right
5 into the village. And so anyway the caribou seems to
6 know that they're not going to be bothered around this
7 one certain village. I mean Kobuk and Ambler are there
8 but they still -- but then there's Shungnak and it's
9 like domestic animal, like they were trained to do that
10 but traditionally we don't shoot near Shungnak when
11 they're near Shungnak.

12
13 I think most of the years it's kind of
14 -- the caribou kind of, you know, stay around Shungnak
15 because right now there's caribou right there about
16 300, 400 yards. So -- but the other villages they
17 didn't know this, they said, well, sportshunters take
18 them out, okay, thesportshunters, the first thing they--
19 when they see caribou around Kotzebue or Selawik or
20 Buckland, sportshunters went out, okay, but they had
21 (indiscernible) and that's one thing that will keep the
22 caribou away.

23
24 But anyway, everybody's got their own
25 way of hunting and everybody's got their own way of
26 disciplined how to hunt, it takes a village or
27 (indiscernible) or something.....

28
29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted - talking)

31
32 MR. WOODS:shoot any caribou near
33 the village. We're fortunate enough that young people
34 are obeying that rule and that's the reason why they
35 come back right now, if you look on the side of the
36 airplane you'll see caribou. For awhile I thought, oh,
37 we're (indiscernible) no it isn't, they're coming back.
38 So I just wanted to bring that up.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions or
43 comments for Alex.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anything else from you
48 Alex.

49
50

0098

1 MR. HANSEN: No, I think I'm good.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Elmer.

4
5 MR. ARMSTRONG: So a few caribou that
6 were.....

7
8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10
11 MR. ARMSTRONG:in the drainage
12 (indiscernible).....

13
14 REPORTER: So I can't hear Elmer, if he
15 can repeat his question or statement.

16
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. On the few
18 caribou that were in the lower Kobuk drainage, did any
19 of them have collars?

20
21 MR. HANSEN: Lower Kobuk, no collars in
22 the lower Kobuk drainage right now.

23
24 MR. ARMSTRONG: I mean like this
25 fall.....

26
27 MR. HANSEN: No, so.....

28
29 MR. ARMSTRONG:not this fall but
30 last fall.

31
32 MR. HANSEN:the past fall, no, we
33 didn't see any come through with collars. There was
34 one that came through the Omar in September, hit
35 Selawik Lake, swam across Selawik Lake about that mile,
36 that short narrow strip there around September. I was
37 curious so I went and looked at them and there were
38 like eight of them. So that was an anomaly.
39 Everything else came through later, like October
40 timeframe, with collars.

41
42 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you,.

43
44 MR. HANSEN: Yep. And just briefly if
45 anybody wants to ever chat or have good ideas feel free
46 to call me at the office or stop by and we can engage
47 in caribou conversations so appreciate your time, thank
48 you.

49
50

0099

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Alex.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: I got a question. When
4 would be the right time to put the special action
5 request in?

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: In about 10 minutes.

8

9 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We'll come back from a
12 break.

13

14 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So it's now 2:45. The
17 next thing on the agenda is Item E, which is the call
18 for Federal wildlife proposals. This is usually a big
19 one and takes a lot of time so we'll go ahead and take
20 a 10 minute break and reconvene at 2:55. And I'm going
21 to mute the phone here in the room now.

22

23 REPORTER: Thank you, Thomas.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 REPORTER: Thomas, this is Tina, are
30 you ready for Tom Plank?

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, everyone in the
33 room is ready if Tina is ready for us to go back on
34 record.

35

36 REPORTER: Yes, yes, I am. Okay, we're
37 on record, go ahead, Thomas.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tina. So
40 if Tom Plank is ready we'll go forward with the call
41 for Federal wildlife proposals.

42

43 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Members of the Council. And for the record my name is
45 Tom Plank and I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office
46 of Subsistence Management. And now is the call for
47 wildlife proposals and the Council's opportunity to
48 submit proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife
49 harvest regulations. An informational flier on how to
50

0100

1 submit a proposal to change Federal subsistence
2 regulations can be found on Page 53 and on supplemental
3 Tab 3 of your meeting books.

4
5 Proposals need to include the
6 regulations you wish to change; the specific changes
7 you are proposing; an explanation of why the regulation
8 change should be made; and any additional information
9 that may help in evaluating the proposed change.

10

11 The window to submit proposals opened
12 on February 27th and will close April 12th. The
13 Council can vote to submit a proposal during this
14 meeting and your Council Coordinator will then
15 officially submit it. Also the opportunity for
16 Councils to submit proposals is available during this
17 entire meeting and if a Council member thinks of a
18 proposal later or in response to another agenda item,
19 they're welcome to suggest submitting a proposal then.
20 And, of course, anyone can submit a proposal as an
21 individual before the submission window closes.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
24 Council.

25

26 I'm happy to answer any questions about
27 the proposal process and will standby while the Council
28 discusses possible proposals to submit.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. So
31 one thing that we've had some discussions about on and
32 off the record today are special actions such as WSA21-
33 01 that this group has put forward in the past versus
34 regular changes to the Federal regulations through one
35 of these proposals. Would you be able to clarify that
36 if at this time we could put together something for a
37 special action that would hopefully take effect this
38 coming season, this 2023 fall versus the longer process
39 of a regular proposal where it would go before the
40 Board and then go into review and most likely wouldn't
41 have any action or approval or wouldn't go into effect
42 until say 2024.

43

44 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
45 for WSA21-01, that one is still in effect for this
46 coming fall but then after this fall it would no longer
47 be in effect, was that what your question was about?

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So not specific to
50

0101

1 that one, but just confirming that during this item on
2 the agenda we could, if a member of the Council put one
3 forward and we agreed on it, do a separate special
4 action on whatever it might be, whether it's basically
5 extending the efforts of 21-01 or something else,
6 whether it be bear harvest limits, this, that, the
7 other.

8
9 MR. PLANK: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Yes, this would be the time you could do either of
11 those. A special action, of course, would be one that
12 would be taking place before the April 2024 meeting,
13 and then a regular wildlife proposal would be one for
14 actual Federal regulation change, versus temporary
15 actions.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom. So at
18 this time do any members of the RAC have any proposals
19 that they would like to make or discuss?

20
21 Member Kramer.

22
23 MR. KRAMER: You were waiting for me to
24 raise my hand. This is Member Kramer. I know that on
25 the State AC here in Kotzebue we put in a proposal to
26 change the daily five caribou harvest limits on State
27 lands. I would like to put in a special action request
28 to mimic the State's proposal for either three bulls,
29 one cow, or four bulls per year -- regulatory year.
30 The special action request will be put in place until
31 the further action of a regulatory change can be put in
32 place to be able to show that we, as subsistence users
33 here in Game Management Unit 23 are taking cuts into
34 the caribou herd, our harvest limits.

35
36 The main purpose for this is to be able
37 to protect our caribou herd. To be able to allow
38 people still to harvest caribou per household. I know
39 a lot of people have limited their ownselves but out
40 there there is what we call, super hunters, where you
41 get five hunters and they go out and hunt for 10
42 families.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 MR. KRAMER: This would also be able to
48 protect them in a way because they are providing for
49 multiple families. I would like to see this special
50

0102

1 action request get submitted immediately and to a later
2 date, the proposed regulation to three bulls plus one
3 cow per year and/or four bulls per regulatory year
4 would be put into place into regulation.

5

6 Is it the recommendation of my Council
7 members that this should go through?

8

9 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

10

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: Yes.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: I'm hearing a lot of yes'.
14 Pattee, what's your thought on this?

15

16 MR. PATTEE: Yes. Yes, I agree as
17 well.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Okay, thank you. I just
20 wanted to make sure that I am submitting this clear
21 enough for it to be put into a special action request,
22 and was there anything else I needed to add to this,
23 mediator -- I can't remember his name off the.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Tom.

26

27 MR. KRAMER: Tom Plank.

28

29 MR. PLANK: Thank you. Through the
30 Chair, this is Tom Plank with OSM. I just want to
31 clarify that you're proposing two proposals right now.
32 One is a special action in Unit 23 for either three
33 bulls, one cow, or four bulls per year, and then you're
34 also proposing a regulatory wildlife proposal, same
35 language; is that correct?

36

37 MR. KRAMER: Yes. And I just wanted to
38 make sure that I had the support of all the Council
39 members here for that proposal -- or special action
40 request and proposal.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Mike, with that, is
43 there any questions, is everyone clear on what Mike is
44 hoping to do with these two proposals?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: This would take us
49 from being able to -- in this unit to five caribou a

50

0103

1 day, every day of the year, to one hunter can get up to
2 four caribou, one of which can be a cow.

3

4 MR. KRAMER: And/or five bulls.

5

6 MS. SWEENEY: And when you're ready for
7 discussion, outside of the Council, I do have a
8 question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Brittany.
11 So any questions, thoughts.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: Any additional comments
14 from the Council.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Raymond.

17

18 MR. WOODS: Raymond Woods, Shungnak. I
19 support Mike Kramer's proposal. In order for us to
20 protect, like I said earlier, our caribou herd we have
21 to start somewhere, to sacrifice ourselves, where our
22 families will just shoot what they need. And then I
23 think that's a good number that he's proposing with and
24 I'll agree with that and I support it.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. KRAMER: Any discussion.

29

30 MR. SCHAEFFER: I got something.

31

32 MR. KRAMER: Bobby.

33

34 MR. SCHAEFFER: The only way we're
35 going to protect this herd is to eliminate the killing
36 of cows, they're the ones that reproduce. And I
37 (indiscernible).....

38

39 REPORTER: Okay, hang on, hang on
40 Bobby. I'm sorry, this is Tina. I'm going to need
41 Bobby closer to a mic because it cuts out more than
42 we're hearing.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. SCHAEFFER: I thought I had a loud
47 voice.

48

49 REPORTER: You do but we're a long ways

50

0104

1 a way.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

REPORTER: Go ahead.

6

7

MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, well, if we're going to protect this herd I think we're willing to make sacrifices, we all have to make sacrifices. By killing cows is -- that way you have -- if you have 7,000 people in the region and then come in the spring that's the only time we shoot cows is during the winter and the spring because they're the fattest, the bulls are still skinny and they'll stay skinny for -- until they reach the North Slope and start fattening up in the summertime. Some of them get pretty nice in the spring but very few. But I -- what are we going to sacrifice. I can see getting four bulls, you know, because we try to get them in the falltime, and I -- I kind of hesitate when you talk about shooting -- shooting a female especially in the spring when they're pregnant with either one or two calves. That's just a bad time to hunt them. If they're coming -- they're migrating through and there's the only real good meat that there is, you can't beat it -- sometimes but I -- I just hesitate to -- to.....

27

28

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, Bob, if I may. The reason for that language of having one cow in the mix is in the event that someone shot what they thought was a young bull but it turns out to be a cow so it's not so much that the language of looking to target cows, it's just to avoid people getting.....

MR. SCHAEFFER: But the language is targeting cows. The proposal is.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: But it's going to criminalize someone who makes that mistake of a young bull that turns out to be a cow. That was the original intent of the Kotzebue Sound AC. So that's where that wording comes from allowing up to one cow.

MR. KRAMER: We could also add an amendment to that one cow that the harvest for that one cow can be either December 31st or January 31st because at that time their embryo is not that big, you know, their calf is not that big. I know a few years ago we had it to where we cut off all cow hunting from January

0105

1 1st until whenever, that's why it's open up for
2 discussion, you know, for your guys' thoughts.

3

4

5 The reason why I -- we had put that one
6 cow in there like Mr. Baker said, was that in case I
7 accidentally shot a cow I'm not breaking the law.
8 We're not doing this to make our people who are filling
9 their freezers criminals, we're doing it for the
10 protection of people trying to protect their freezers
11 in a safe and legal way.

11

12

13 You know the whole reason for our
14 decline in cows was because the last 10 years the major
15 bulls that used to travel between Kotzebue, Kiana,
16 Ambler, you know, up in that area towards Noorvik, we
17 used to always have our -- we used to always get a lot
18 of bulls. The bulls aren't migrating through there,
19 people aren't wasting the gas to go up there to harvest
20 bulls because there ain't none crossing the river as in
21 the past. And when they do come through here, they
22 come through Kotzebue, and, or the, you know, these
23 hills across the Bairds and into Noorvik and so on and
24 then we harvested the cows, we hammered the cows
25 because we're not getting the bulls in the falltime
26 like we used to. So we're hammering the cows. That's
27 why the bull to cow ratio is so off.

27

28

29 That's one of the reasons why we added
30 that cow in there was just in case someone had shot a
31 cow. That's why there's an either/or. Either four
32 bulls or three bulls and one cow. You could do either
33 of those two. If you're successful at getting four
34 bulls, you're successful at getting four bulls, but if
35 you accidentally get a cow and you got three bulls
36 you're still legal. That was one of the reasons why we
37 put that proposal in was to protect the people for not
38 making themselves criminals by breaking the law because
39 they're trying to put food on the table and food in the
40 freezer.

40

41

42 We wanted to also do this to prove that
43 we are taking cuts also, to the Federal Subsistence
44 Board, to the Board of Game, for the necessary and
45 continuation of the subsistence resource, our caribou.
46 Our caribou are our main subsistence resource within
47 this game management unit and we are trying to protect
48 them.

48

49

50 On the other hand we don't know what

50

0106

1 predators are taking. So with this proposal we're
2 taking cuts from five per day to what I have stated
3 earlier.

4

5 Is there any other discussion between
6 us Council members or suggestions or amendments you
7 think we should put forth before submitting this
8 special action request, because now is the time to do
9 so.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah.

12

13 MS. LOON: I like the idea of -- can
14 you hear me Tina?

15

16 REPORTER: I can.

17

18 MS. LOON: Thank you. I like the idea
19 of putting one cow in there because they're common in
20 December. They don't have antlers and their, around
21 here, is kind of white, we call it -- that's a female.
22 So it's good you have one cow in there to protect the
23 hunter.

24

25 I am in agreement with this special
26 action.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Raymond.

31

32 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Raymond Woods, Shungnak. I just wanted to kind of
34 reinforce why we shoot bulls in the fall and why we
35 shoot females in the winter. In the fall, during the
36 prime time of the migration like August before rutting
37 season, that's when the bulls are beefed up, they're
38 ready to -- they're good meat. If a family can harvest
39 four that'll bring them through the winter, that's per
40 family.

41

42 Now, the female's a different story.
43 The females after they've -- after the mating season in
44 October they start gaining fat right in November,
45 November, December, all the way to January, up to now,
46 and that's where the locals, they know what to go hunt --
47 when hunters go hunt they know what -- what's the
48 good meat out there. The bulls ain't no good for the
49 rest of the year. Their meat is just bare, lean,
50

0107

1 nobody will want to shoot a bull even when you -- only
2 people who knows how to cook a bull making it into
3 soup, they took the bones -- they cook the bones with
4 it, and the (indiscernible) and everything in it to
5 make it -- to make the caribou more -- now days our
6 people don't do that. To them, nowadays, our people
7 look at a caribou, they shoot a caribou and bring it
8 home and what happens, they bring home a skinny
9 caribou. They don't know that timeframe of when to
10 harvest a fat good eating caribou.

11

12 And so the three bulls and one calf --
13 if -- if we're going to do that, even -- I don't know
14 if we could put a timeframe in it or not where we could
15 cut off the female because you don't want to shoot them
16 now because right now the -- they're pregnant right
17 now. Then right about now until April they start
18 losing weight and then the female ain't no good after --
19 but -- they're pregnant -- no matter what season you
20 shoot them, you're not going to shoot a female during
21 June, July and August because you got the bull. So
22 there's -- what I'm saying is there's no time season --
23 if we're going to put it in record, how are we going to
24 make a proposal -- it's going to be real hard --
25 difficult to make that choice. Our hunters, where we
26 inherited hunting for caribou from our ancestors, from
27 our annas and tatas, they know when to shoot the
28 caribou, okay. Nowadays our people doesn't so we got
29 to clarify that in a timeframe, how we do that.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions.
34 Discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So Brittany has
39 something and then Mr. Dallemolle. So Brittany if you
40 want to come up and put your name on the record.

41

42 MS. SWEENY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
43 members of the Council. This is Brittany Sweeny
44 speaking (In Native). I work for Fish and Wildlife
45 Service here in Kotzebue.

46

47 As many of you know I'm in the outreach
48 program so often I have the job of communicating with
49 people about what's happening with animals and trying

50

0108

1 to make regulations understandable. So I think most of
2 you know that one of the complicated things that we
3 have is this dual management with the State and
4 Federal. So now you are proposing to move things
5 pretty quickly on the Federal side with the timeline to
6 put this special action, which I really respect your
7 desire to conserve the caribou and, you know, protect
8 them for the future. I'm just curious -- wanted to
9 bring up for the Council's consideration whether a
10 similar timeline would be possible on the State side,
11 and I know that's the next agenda item that you have,
12 but I just wanted to mention that if those two systems
13 get out of synch, it can add another layer of
14 complexity for hunters on the ground trying to know
15 which land you're on, which system. And I don't think
16 that, alone, should limit the Council's consideration
17 but I just wanted to bring that up for your discussion,
18 especially like as you move into the State call for
19 proposals.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. KRAMER: That is why I wanted this
24 special action to mimic what we had put in -- the
25 proposal that we had put in on the State side. That
26 way we're all on the same page, there's no differences,
27 you know, and taking a cut from five per day to four
28 per year, it's a big sacrifice. If there's one cow --
29 that's one cow -- now I could take four cows with five
30 a day. There's no regulation on it. Until we could
31 put this special action request in there, that's when
32 we're protecting cows. So that's one cow compared to
33 five cows per day.

34

35 So we need to look at the big picture
36 here and say, well, let's go with this four per year,
37 one could be a cow, and/or five -- four bulls per year.
38 It is so much better than as it stands right now in our
39 regulations, five per day. Anybody could go out there
40 and get five cows per day right now when they already
41 have embryos, when they already have babies in them.
42 So with this one cow per year we are taking a major cut
43 with this five per day. And that's one of the reasons
44 why we had put this in on the Kotzebue AC meeting. We
45 did look over it very good. We all had good discussion
46 over it. We all had concerns. Some had concerns that,
47 hey, we shouldn't be taking cows. Well, if you look at
48 it today we could take five cows tomorrow and five cows
49 the next day, and five cows the next day so one cow per
50

0109

1 year, that's actually a pretty big cut. That's one of
2 the reasons why I wanted to put this special action
3 request in that would at least allow us to be able to
4 harvest one cow. Because if I go out and I knock down
5 four caribou today and one of them's a cow, I'm going
6 to get cited for taking that cow, but with this special
7 action request in there, to put in this protection
8 immediately as a special action request, and for
9 further down the road we would also submit a proposal
10 that would mimic this special action request until that
11 proposal can become written in stone in the book,
12 regulation book. That's one of the reasons why we
13 looked at placing this one in there.

14
15 Is there any further discussions on
16 this one.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Joe.

19
20 MR. KRAMER: Any concern.

21
22 MR. DALLEMOLLE: Joe Dallemolle, the
23 District Ranger for the National Park Service in
24 Kotzebue.

25
26 I just wanted to throw this out there,
27 especially if folks are listening on the radio, too, I
28 hadn't heard it quite discussed are the designated
29 hunter program. The State calls it a proxy hunt. And
30 just to kind of dissuade any fears that families going
31 out there under your proposal would then be unable to
32 harvest on behalf of others, or get more than that
33 four, the Federal regulations allow for what's called a
34 designated hunter and that means that, you know,
35 following these regulations hunt on somebody else's
36 behalf and harvest for somebody else. So in such a
37 case, if you follow those regulations you would likely
38 be able to then harvest for other families and go above
39 that quota for a total in the year.

40
41 I just wanted to throw that out, I
42 don't know if there's anything more really to discuss,
43 in reading -- reading the regulation book, like that's
44 allowable. It seems fairly straightforward, a few
45 things would have to be followed as far as reporting
46 and making that official, but unless anybody else from
47 the agencies know otherwise it sounds like that would
48 be completely fine under here.

49
50

0110

1 MR. KRAMER: Yes, because we looked
2 under that and we kind of named them as super hunters
3 because a lot of families will -- five families will
4 pull together gas and grub and whatever necessary for
5 three boats to go out and hunt for six or seven
6 families; that's why we call them super hunters,
7 because they're providing for a lot of people that
8 can't, you know, can't afford the gas, can't afford the
9 boats, or don't have a boat, or an elder, that's one of
10 the reasons why we kind of labeled them as super
11 hunters but we need to ensure that they have this
12 paperwork provided to them if they are going to do
13 that. And, see, that's one of the things -- there's
14 that block in between Kotzebue and the villages,
15 because they aren't notified -- like let's just say,
16 Hannah, she gets her hunting license, or she has a
17 lifetime hunting license, well, I want my cousin -- her
18 nephew Sid to hunt her caribou, she should -- they
19 should be able to get that paperwork when she files for
20 her hunting license -- or for her caribou ticket, that,
21 hey, here's the proxy paperwork, she wants Sid to go
22 get her four caribou, he can get you your four caribou,
23 that way it's legal.

24
25 But the overall picture within this
26 special action request is to prove and show that we are
27 willing and able to take cuts.....

28
29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31
32 MR. KRAMER:as it stands right
33 now.....

34
35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37
38 MR. KRAMER: What? Who's that?

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It's somebody else on
41 another call. So anyway any further questions,
42 comments from any of the agency Staff. Christie, do
43 you have something.

44
45 MS. OSBURN: Hello, through the Chair,
46 this is Christie Osburn again with Fish and Game. I
47 just wanted to clarify on Dallemolle's point there.
48 The Federal -- or the designated hunter program works
49 under the Federal system so that would work on Federal
50

0111

1 land, and this is where it gets a little complicated
2 like Brittany alluded to, on State lands, we don't --
3 we've got a similar system, we've got a proxy hunting
4 system but you have to -- there's requirements that you
5 have to meet to hunt for somebody else under that. So
6 that would be if you're over 65 you can have a
7 designated hunter; if you're physically disabled with a
8 -- complete with a doctor's note, so it's a little bit
9 more limiting than the Federal designated hunter
10 program. So the designated hunter program under the
11 Federal system is a little bit more loose but it only
12 applies on Federal lands.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Christie.
17 Any other agency comments, questions from the Council.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So what we have before
22 us at the moment are two separate proposals. One for a
23 special action for the 2023 season and then to put in
24 to actually change the regulations permanently -- I
25 hate to say permanently, but to change the regulations
26 in the book long-term, to match these that might both.
27 If we have no questions or comments, Tom Plank, is it
28 appropriate to start moving forward and do a roll call
29 vote for one and then the other since they're separate.

30

31 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, yes,
32 sir.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We need a motion to
35 approve the special action request to change the
36 harvest limit on Federal lands to what has been
37 proposed -- anyone like to make that motion.

38

39 MR. KRAMER: I, Member Kramer, make
40 that motion to change the subsistence harvest limits
41 from five per day to four per year, one may be a cow
42 and/or four bulls.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So motion made by
45 Mike, do we have a second.

46

47 MR. WOODS: I second it. Raymond.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Raymond.

50

0112

1 Lisa, can we please have a roll call vote for the
2 special action vote.

3

4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Mr.
5 Chair. Members -- members -- Council. We're going to
6 do a roll call vote on what Mike Kramer just stated --
7 do I need to restate that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For clarity sake,
10 please.

11

12 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Hopefully I
13 got it right. He made a motion to change the harvest
14 of caribou.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Make sure she
17 says.....

18

19 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH:from
20 five today [sic] to four per year with four bulls and
21 one cow [sic] and a special action request and.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the number is up to
24 four caribou a year, one of which can be a cow. So
25 that could be four bulls or it could be three bulls and
26 one cow.

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you
29 for the clarification. Is everybody clear on that and
30 understand what we're voting on.

31

32 COUNCIL: Yes.

33

34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, good,
35 thanks. Okay, we're going to do a roll call vote.

36

37 Hannah Loon.

38

39 MS. LOON: Yes.

40

41 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael
42 Kramer.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

45

46 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen
47 Pattee.

48

49 MR. PATTEE: Yes.

50

0113

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thomas
2 Baker.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

5
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Wilbur
7 Howarth.

8
9 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

10
11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Bobby
12 Schaeffer.

13
14 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

15
16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer
17 Armstrong.

18
19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

20
21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Raymond
22 Woods.

23
24 MR. WOODS: Yes.

25
26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And did we
27 ever get Calvin Moto or Elmer Armstrong on the line, if
28 either of you are available, please speak up.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Vern Cleveland, not
31 Elmer.

32
33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'm sorry,
34 Vern Cleveland or Calvin Moto.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
39 Anyway, it was a unanimous 8 for with two Council
40 members absent. Thank you. So the motion passed.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So there is that
43 special action request for the 2023 hunting season and
44 then Mike, I'm assuming you would like to make a motion
45 for the regular regulation change saying the same
46 thing; is that correct?

47
48 MR. KRAMER: Yes. Yeah, regulation
49 proposal would be the same.

50

0114

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if you can make
2 that motion.

3

4 MR. KRAMER: I make that motion for the
5 submission of a proposal for -- to change the caribou
6 harvest on Federal lands from five per day to four per
7 year, one may be a cow, so that's three bulls, one cow,
8 or four bulls per year. And that would be a submission
9 of a proposal for a regulatory change.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So there's a motion on
12 the floor, do we have a second, and then we'll have
13 some discussion.

14

15 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, I second that.
16 Wilbur Howarth.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Wilbur.
19 So we have a motion and a second for discussion. Alex,
20 would you like to come up.

21

22 MR. HANSEN: Yes, through the Chair,
23 Alex Hansen, Fish and Game. Just for clarification, is
24 this for Unit 23 only, or are you -- just so for the
25 record we understand where this is going.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Don't look at me, it's
28 your.....

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. KRAMER: 23 only.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. HANSEN: That's all I had to say.

37

38 MR. KRAMER: 23 only.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before you walk away
41 Alex.

42

43 MR. HANSEN: Yes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: The AC's proposal was
46 just for 23, correct?

47

48 MR. HANSEN: That is correct. The AC's
49 proposal was for 23. The working group proposal is for
50

0115

1 the range of the herd to include 26A, parts of 22, 21
2 -- actually all of 22, 21 and 24.

3

4 MR. KRAMER: So is that all State land
5 or is that Federal, any of that Federal?

6

7 MR. HANSEN: That would be the State
8 proposal, and actually the working group has put in a
9 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board as well so it
10 will cover both sides.

11

12 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

13

14 MR. SCHAEFFER: I got a question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bob.

17

18 MR. SCHAEFFER: The timing of it is not
19 going to change nothing. Next year could be another
20 bad year but we're still allowed to take five -- five a
21 day, you know, that doesn't change nothing until the
22 Board of Game meets and with the regulatory process
23 that might take a year and a half, right.

24

25 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, so through the Board
26 of Game process, which is aside from what this
27 discussion is about, it would be July of '24 before
28 that regulation went into effect.

29

30 MR. SCHAEFFER: Unless there is another
31 emergency, I don't know, order that the Board of Game
32 could issue to change?

33

34 MR. HANSEN: That's.....

35

36 MR. SCHAEFFER: They did it before.

37

38 MR. HANSEN: No, that's an excellent
39 question. And, briefly, we have what's called an ACR,
40 agenda change request through the Board of Game, and
41 that proposal would have had to have gone in by
42 November 1st and so then another Board would take that
43 up, what they call, out of cycle, and so we don't have
44 that option because that has already passed us by. I
45 believe there's like, you know, real dire straits
46 emergency where we could use regulatory authority to
47 change something, but I don't think this case warrants
48 it. And I'm not saying it's not important but what I
49 don't want to see is I don't want top down from some
50

0116

1 dude from down south, right. This needs to come from
2 you guys, like you're doing, Mike, and I really
3 appreciate that.

4

5 So I think by what Mike's doing here
6 with these special action, you know, you know that
7 start soon, assuming it goes through, that'll affect
8 our next regulatory year and then that sets the stage
9 for a permanent change. So I think -- I mean we really
10 just have the discussion within the communities to
11 ratchet back harvest, and I wish we could just flip a
12 switch and say, shut it down now, but I don't think we
13 can and I don't think it would gain any traction if I'm
14 saying it, right, it has to come from you guys. I
15 think that's an important part.

16

17 MR. KRAMER: The main reason why I'm
18 pushing for this proposal to go through is majority of
19 Game Management Unit 23 is Federal lands. We don't
20 have much State lands, other than local corporation
21 lands. Most of our hunting areas are in Federal lands.
22 So with us taking this immediate action you're
23 protecting a lot of Federal lands, which we have a lot
24 of Federal lands in Game Management Unit 23. The State
25 has just a small section other than what not and
26 whatever, but with this proposal going through it would
27 cover a majority of Game Management Unit 23 and we'd be
28 taking a big footprint until the State's proposal can
29 go through and then we would finish taking up the rest
30 of Game Management Unit 23 with the proposal going
31 through the Board of Game.

32

33 MR. SCHAEFFER: I could see the user
34 group, Federal lands, but it doesn't change the
35 apportionment, that's where I'm confused, is that,
36 we're recommending to Board of Game, four caribou, that
37 decision isn't until a year and a half, to go through
38 the regulatory -- the State regulatory process, and on
39 the Federal side of it there's no way we can shorten it
40 right because we have to work off the State
41 regulations, right.

42

43 MR. HANSEN: Well, what this special
44 action request, when would that go in, who could answer
45 that?

46

47 MR. KRAMER: That would be.....

48

49 MR. SCHAEFFER: When is that

50

0117

1 request.....

2

3 MR. KRAMER:at the next meeting,
4 right. The next.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Somebody Federal want
7 to come speak to this please.

8

9 MR. HANSEN: Hannah Voorhees, can you
10 answer that question, special action request, when
11 would that go into effect?

12

13 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. So it would
14 depend on a few factors. There's no exact set
15 timeline. There would need to be a public hearing,
16 time for analysis, and convening of a Board meeting.
17 But if any of my colleagues want to weigh in on, you
18 know, the average time that might take I am all ears.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: This is Council Member
21 Kramer. When's the next Federal Subsistence Board
22 meeting?

23

24 DR. VOORHEES: For a -- excuse me,
25 through the Chair. Just to add, so for a special
26 action, that would not need -- that wouldn't -- there
27 would be a special scheduled Board meeting to consider
28 that so it wouldn't depend on the regular cycle. The
29 standard proposal would not go into effect until July
30 2024.

31

32 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, that's 'the purpose
33 of us having this special action request in place, to
34 be able to show that we're taking cuts until the
35 regulatory proposal can go through and be put into the
36 regulation book. So that is the sole purpose of the
37 special action request, is to show to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board that we are taking cuts and we are
39 making cuts to protect the caribou herd and to protect
40 the interests of the local subsistence users within
41 Game Management Unit 23.

42

43 MR. SCHAEFFER: Who has the ultimate
44 authority of establishing, you know.....

45

46 MR. HANSEN: Through the State side it
47 would be the Board of Game and, you know, direction
48 from the AC and then on the Federal side it would be
49 from the RACs to the.....

50

0118

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: The Subsistence Board
2 overrides the State regulations on the management up
3 here.

4
5 MR. HANSEN: No.

6
7 MR. SCHAEFFER: That's -- if we're
8 making a recommendation who does it go to, it has to go
9 to the regulator out.....

10
11 MR. HANSEN: Either side, right.

12
13 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, who manages the
14 caribou.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So to clarify, Bob,
17 right now we're talking about just Federal proposals
18 and then we have to do separate ones next going towards
19 the State side.

20
21 MR. SCHAEFFER: I -- I understand that.
22 But I was kind of wondering about the authority of the
23 Federal government to manage that herd.

24
25 MR. WIESE: Yeah, this is Will Wiese
26 with Selawik Wildlife Refuge. Yeah, it's confusing,
27 it's a dual management system so Federal government
28 control is only on Federal public lands and there's a
29 lot of history that goes into why this is, but
30 basically we have a subsistence and we have this RAC
31 and because of the way the State manages subsistence,
32 they can't give preference the way we can give
33 preference to subsistence, the Federal government. And
34 so it's created this clunky system of dual management
35 where we can make regulations on Federal lands that
36 only apply to Federal lands, and then we have all the
37 regulations from the State side that apply to State,
38 private and Federal lands and so, yeah, I don't know if
39 that clarifies things or makes it more confusing. But
40 basically the -- yeah, on the Federal side we can
41 restrict things more, essentially, than what the State
42 does. So in this process, as Thomas said, we're -- as
43 agencies we want to work together, we want things to
44 actually be the same across all lands because it
45 doesn't do anybody any good if we have a patchwork of
46 on this piece of ground I can do this, on this piece of
47 ground I can do that, and so we're trying to get there.
48 In this process, though, you do two separate proposals,
49 you do a proposal for Federal proposals and then you do
50

0119

1 proposals for the State and then ideally those are the
2 same so when the new books come out in '25 -- or '24,
3 that's what we're talking here, that they would come
4 out and both books would say the same -- same limit for
5 everywhere.

6

7 Does that help at all?

8

9 MR. SCHAEFFER: I'm still confused
10 because you have two regulatory authorities, the
11 Federal government, which we are a part of in
12 discussion, we make recommendations, but we don't -- we
13 could participate in the State regulatory process by
14 making our own suggested changes in State law, or State
15 regulations.

16

17 The problem I see is that we're trying
18 to save this herd, right, we're trying to do all we
19 can, trying to do our part, to sacrifice that we've got
20 now, we have to limit this for everybody and then on
21 the other hand we -- we -- the State regulatory process
22 we have a year and a half before we get to change it.
23 I'm not sure what -- what -- I'm not sure of the
24 emergency changes -- the emergency regulations, they've
25 got authority -- I know they did it before when they
26 gave us one caribou a year, it came from the State
27 Board of Game. So my thing is now that we have new
28 players, the Federal government, are you -- can you
29 regulate caribou? Are you obligated to -- or is there
30 a separate arrangement that the State has, if the State
31 wants to regulate -- because there was a big discussion
32 during the time when we're talking about co-management
33 of caribou back in the '80s. And it had to be a joint
34 effort between the State and the Federal government as
35 to -- at the time they agreed to it, everybody.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: That's one of the reasons
38 why we're putting this proposal in. Is because we want
39 to mimic what the State has. I don't want to go out
40 there and go boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, all right, I
41 shot five caribou on State -- oh, wait, am I on Federal
42 lands. We don't want that kind of confusion, we either
43 want it to be intermingle and aligned, mimicked, the
44 proposal on State or do you want to have it oddballed
45 and then we start getting people confused out there.
46 That is the reason why I put this special action
47 request in to mimic to the State so that we're on the
48 same page. That we're on the same page.

49

50

0120

1 Most of the lands here in Game
2 Management Unit 23 are Federal. There's not very much
3 State lands within this game management unit. And with
4 us being able to put this proposal in, it not only
5 shows that we are taking a cut, we are also looking out
6 for that subsistence resource compared to five cows per
7 day, five bulls per day, whatever it means, that it is
8 now, it's regulation -- this will make a change at the
9 next Federal Subsistence meeting when they convene or
10 if they convene just for this special action request.
11 Because there was always conflict -- the only person
12 that is still here from back then is me and Hannah,
13 everybody else here is all new. Maybe Pattee was
14 there. We had that special action request in to close
15 all Federal lands to non-Federally-qualified
16 subsistence users. We had to have that special action
17 request in for two years and we also submitted that
18 proposal for regulatory change. That is the whole
19 purpose of a special action request is to take
20 appropriate fast action on showing that, hey, we're
21 taking a cut, we're protecting our subsistence
22 resource, yes, we're still filling our freezers and,
23 yes, we are not making our local subsistence users
24 criminals by breaking the law. That is one of the main
25 purposes for us to submit this special action request
26 and then have a submission for regulatory change. That
27 is one of the reasons why we had to resubmit that
28 special action request to close all Federal lands to
29 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users two years in
30 a row until that regulatory change can go into effect.
31 Because at that time it used to be 15 per day, now
32 we're at five per day and we still are at five per day--
33 with this special action request going through it
34 shows that we are taking a cut. We are taking a hit.
35 The Federal Subsistence Board will most likely approve
36 this special action request and they will most likely
37 show that we are taking a sacrifice but we are also
38 protecting this main subsistence resource for Game
39 Management Unit 23.

40

41 MR. SCHAEFFER: I -- I understand that.
42 I -- I -- I like it, I like that idea. I'm just
43 concerned about the jurisdiction. I mean change won't
44 happen until the regulatory -- regulatory change at the
45 State, it's going to take a year and a half of that
46 process. And so in the meantime if I want to go get
47 five a day I could go and do that, right, so that's --
48 the regulation -- so -- and this includes NANA lands,
49 parklands, this -- this (indiscernible).....

50

0121

1 REPORTER: So, Bobby, excuse me, this
2 is Tina. So Bobby you're cutting out a lot and I need
3 you to be closer to a mic please.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So this is Thomas.
6 And to your point, Bob, that is the struggle that is
7 the reality of these proposals, is we want it to be
8 right now.....

9
10 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: but due to the
13 cycle that's.....

14
15 MR. SCHAEFFER: That's what I'm saying.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Right. Right. So I
18 think ultimately when we do get to putting in for a
19 State -- making a recommendation for a State side
20 proposal, and the people from the State side, whatever
21 it may be, we definitely can go down that route of
22 trying to figure out, which doesn't sound like we can
23 do similar to this special action that would be just
24 for this season to cover us to a year and a half from
25 now, because that's the ice rink that we have to dance
26 in.

27
28 MR. SCHAEFFER: (Indiscernible). I
29 don't want to confuse the issue, I just had some
30 questions, that's all, that I -- that -- that there's a
31 loophole in -- I wasn't sure about it.

32
33 MR. KRAMER: That was one of the
34 problems we had, any time the State proposals get put
35 in and the Federal was that our meetings always
36 followed the State so we could look at what kind of
37 proposals they wanted to put in so we could mimic them
38 to where it's not different, it's equal all across,
39 both Federal lands and State lands, that way you're all
40 on the same page, nobody gets in trouble, nobody's a
41 criminal because we're able to allow us to -- and the
42 special action request is to cover until it puts on
43 paper on the regulations so.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah.

46
47 MS. LOON: Taikuu, Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can you move that
50

0122

1 thing over.

2

3

MS. LOON: Can you hear me Tina.

4

5

REPORTER: Yes.

6

7

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Hannah.

8

9

MS. LOON: Taikuu, Bobby, for your concerns. I have that kind of -- how soon can we put this forth into the dual government regulation and what can we, in the local communities, caribou -- affected their social lifestyles, availability of caribou -- right now what can we do to educate the -- all communities, to the young people so that the caribou population is not in critical risk, how can we inform our communities to be very -- program our mind to right now for the purpose of saving the population, and we, in small communities, Kotzebue, do to start educating our people.

20

21

22

Taikuu.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

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31

32

REPORTER: Yes, you do.

33

34

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36

37

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MR. HANSEN: Through the Chair. I guess I can't say, you know, what the Board will do, we have no idea. I mean Tier II could be on the table,

0123

1 but I think taking this step certainly shows that we're
2 willing to change things around here. You know,
3 sacrifice, is the word that's been used. And so I
4 think that the Board can see that and see that, you
5 know, local people want to reduce harvest and help this
6 population and that might be a good way to just avoid
7 Tier II altogether.

8

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer.
12 And, thank you, Alex. Will.

13

14 MR. WIESE: This is Will Wiese again.
15 I just want to clarify, this proposal under discussion
16 is for the Federal side, Federal Subsistence Board and
17 the Tier II part, that's the State only part that will
18 come up as the next agenda item and that could be a
19 similar conversation.

20

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: But at least it's
22 showing the State that we're taking cuts?

23

24 MR. HANSEN: Yes.

25

26 MR. ARMSTRONG: To try to save the herd
27 while preventing going to Tier II.

28

29 MR. HANSEN: Correct. And Christie and
30 I will be up next, I think, and we'll go through all
31 that.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It might be tomorrow,
36 but, yeah.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any further questions,
41 discussions for the regulatory proposal to change the
42 regulations.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So this would be
47 changing what's in the book for the Federal side and
48 then we'd go through some more proposals that people
49 have and then we could move on to the State side

50

0124

1 proposals.

2

3 So if there's no further discussion
4 let's please do a roll call vote and, Lisa, could you
5 please read out the proposal so we're clear on what
6 we're voting on.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, thank
11 you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. I'll do a
12 roll call vote for -- so I'm trying to remember what
13 that was -- so it was for a regulatory change proposal
14 for the Federal regulations in the upcoming cycle for
15 2024 to '26 with the language that would make permanent
16 what your special action request, that you just voted
17 on, would be to -- to provide a regulatory change on
18 Federal lands in Unit 23 to reduce bag limits to four
19 caribou per hunter per year and no more than one which
20 may be a cow.

21

22 Is that correct?

23

24 MR. KRAMER: Yes, or four bulls.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, so it can be up
27 to four caribou a year which could either comprise of
28 four bulls or three bulls and one cow.

29

30 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, thank
31 you for the clarification. We want to make sure we're
32 voting on the right thing, okay, we'll do a roll call
33 vote.

34

35 We'll start with Michael Kramer.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

38

39 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Wilbur
40 Howarth.

41

42 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

43

44 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Bobby
45 Schaeffer.

46

47 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

48

49 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer

50

0125

1 Armstrong.

2

3

MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

4

5

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Raymond

6

Woods.

7

8

MR. WOODS: Yes.

9

10

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen

11

Pattee.

12

13

MR. PATTEE: Yes.

14

15

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Hannah

16

Loon.

17

18

MS. LOON: Yes.

19

20

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thomas

21

Baker.

22

23

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

24

25

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.

26

Okay, it passed unanimously -- the motion passed
unanimously.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. I
don't know about everybody else but I'd like a five
minute break.

30

31

32

(Laughter)

33

34

35

REPORTER: Yeah, that sounds awesome

36

Thomas, thank you.

37

38

CHAIRMAN BAKER: We'll go ahead and

39

come back at 4:05 and I'll mute the phone here now.

40

41

(Off record)

42

43

(On record)

44

45

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we're still on Item
E, the call for Federal wildlife proposals. Do we have
any other proposals for the Federal side that we would
like to make today.

46

47

48

49

50

0126

1 Mr. Kramer.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion to put a
6 proposal -- special action request for no closed season
7 on grizzly bears on Federal lands.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can someone from the
10 Federal side read the regulation out just so that we're
11 clear for what grizzly bears looks like right now.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: I mean other than sows
14 with cubs.

15

16 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
17 is Tom Plank with.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And it looks like Mr.
20 Dallemolle is coming.....

21

22 MR. PLANK: Oops, sorry.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mr. Plank.

25

26 MR. PLANK: So for Unit 23, are you
27 talking brown bear or black bear?

28

29 MR. KRAMER: Brown bear.

30

31 MR. PLANK: So for brown bear, Unit 23
32 is two bears by State subsistence regulation permit
33 from July 1st to June 30th. So it's essentially open
34 year-round.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So that proposal is
37 approved.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. KRAMER: Hum, what's next -- no.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other proposals.

46

47 MR. KRAMER: I have to rescind that
48 special action, right?

49

50

0127

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: You didn't make a
2 motion.

3

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So since that proposal that Chair -- that Member Kramer just brought up is already in effect in the regulations we can move on. I'm not sure who from OSM might be able to speak to the North Slope's RAC's recent action request that they had put in regarding Unit 23, is anyone able to come up to the microphone for that one?

DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, this is Hannah Voorhees. And that proposal.....

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

DR. VOORHEES:was to close Unit 23 to non-Federally-qualified users hunting for caribou and I believe it was put in by -- oh, excuse me -- for the months of August, September and October, and I believe that was submitted by the representative from Point Hope.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: And was that for one hunting season, several years?

DR. VOORHEES: It was a standard proposal so it would go into permanent regulation.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So what the North Slope's RAC's proposal would just be to close hunting on Federal lands in Unit 23 to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users just -- forever, correct?

DR. VOORHEES: During those particular months, that's correct.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the reason I bring that up is that it's been brought up that the special action that we have brought up in the past for closing Federal lands to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users in Game Unit 23 is still going to be an action this coming fall. Does anyone want to make a motion to kind of go along with what the North Slope RAC has also put forward to our own regarding that situation. How do we feel, just since it -- it was from the North Slope RAC put forward by someone from Point Hope regarding the game unit we all live in and we are -- as has been said in the middle of all this, so how does

0128

1 the Northwest Arctic RAC feel about this proposal and
2 possibly making another one for when WSA21-01 finishes?

3

4 Mike.

5

6 MR. KRAMER: Didn't we already submit a
7 regulatory proposal on that one?

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We talked about it at
10 our last meeting but we couldn't submit anything
11 because it wasn't open so we can submit a proposal now
12 and we all agreed that we would like to bring this up
13 at this meeting we're sitting in now, but now proposal
14 is in place for once this coming hunting season ends.

15

16 MR. KRAMER: So there's a special
17 action request that.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No, what the North
20 Slope RAC did is a regular proposal forever, it's in
21 the book, no non-Federally-qualified subsistence users
22 on Federal lands in this game unit because we've done a
23 special action, that proposal that they put forward is
24 to carry on what we have started effectively.

25

26 I believe it would be good for us, if
27 we supported it as a Council, to say this is our
28 proposal, we want the same thing because that's what we
29 have been -- the direction we've been going as
30 communities and as the Northwest Arctic RAC, but how do
31 the rest of you feel?

32

33 MR. SCHAEFFER: I -- I think it would
34 -- this is Bob. I think whatever, the same direction
35 we're in -- they're moving -- I -- I like it, I think
36 we should support it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for us to support
39 it the strongest thing would be to have someone make a
40 motion and we put our own proposal saying the same
41 thing. So how do we feel as a Council, would anyone
42 like to make that motion, just since this has always
43 been the hot topic of caribou and usage and everything
44 in this game unit.

45

46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted)

48

49 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. I make that

50

0129

1 motion to support Unit -- that Unit, what, 23.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Make the motion for
4 Unit 23.

5

6 MR. HOWARTH: To support.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: To make our own or to
9 support what they said.

10

11 MR. HOWARTH: To support what they
12 said.

13

14 REPORTER: Okay, Thomas, are you going
15 to repeat all that because I didn't quite hear who I
16 think making the motion, was it Wilbur?

17

18 MR. HOWARTH: I'm sorry, Wilbur
19 Howarth. Noorvik.

20

21 REPORTER: Thank you, Wilbur.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So to be clear you're
27 making a motion to make our own proposal which is just
28 going along with what the North Slope has already
29 proposed for this game unit?

30

31 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hannah Voorhees, do
34 you have the wording of that proposal so that we can
35 hear it again for this proposal that has been
36 suggested?

37

38 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. I do not
39 have the exact wording of that in front of me but just
40 to repeat for you, the proposal was to close Federal
41 public lands in Unit 23 to non-Federally-qualified
42 users hunting for caribou for the months of August,
43 September and October. And if you would like any more
44 comparison with how that lines up with the current
45 closure that's in place I'm happy to speak more to it,
46 thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please, Hannah,
49 would you speak a little to that.

50

0130

1 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. So the
2 current closure that is in place through a special
3 action is for portions of Federal public lands in Unit
4 23 and a small portion of land in Unit 26A, and if
5 given a moment I can pull up the exact language if
6 needed.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, while you pull
11 that up, Hannah, Elmer did you have something.

12
13 MR. ARMSTRONG: No, I just wanted to
14 ask when we put out that last action for the unit they
15 put out their language, no -- when I read it to -- we
16 have flood water, high water mark, and then when the
17 caribou start coming the water goes down so the
18 loophole I think was there from the low water mark to
19 the high water mark, they could hunt on that but it
20 might be on a sandbar and it could be however long the
21 water mark is, do you see what I'm saying. To me that
22 was the loophole.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So that is a loophole,
25 Elmer, but the issue is that that falls under the State
26 side. So for Federal lands this is what this proposal
27 would be covering, but we would have to do a separate
28 proposal to try and prevent someone from hunting below
29 the high water mark on the State side.

30
31 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Trooper Cantine.
34 One moment please, Hannah.

35
36 TROOPER CANTINE: Through the Chair,
37 this is Trooper Cantine with the Wildlife Troopers.
38 Just to clarify. So what the delineator is, what we
39 call the mean high water mark, so it's not the water is
40 really high this year and the water's really low next
41 year and it's a moving target, it's kind of the
42 average, so the general rule, if it looks like trees
43 grow there it's probably above the mean high water
44 mark, if it doesn't, it looks like it's generally under
45 water at least part of the year, it's probably going to
46 be below mean high water mark. But as Mr. Chair
47 mentioned that's State waterway and so it's not part of
48 the purview of the Federal action. So it sounds like
49 you're pretty well tracking on that.

50

0131

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Trooper
4 Cantine. Was that Hannah Voorhees.

5

6 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, thank you, Mr.
7 Chair. I have that language for you now.

8

9 The current closure is for Noatak
10 National Preserve, including the Nigu River portion of
11 the Preserve in Unit 26A and BLM managed lands between
12 the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers in Unit 23 to caribou
13 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from August
14 1st to September 30th. And that will end with the
15 2023/2024 regulatory year.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any questions,
20 comments from members of the Council.

21

22 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Mike.

25

26 MR. KRAMER: This is Council Member
27 Kramer. I'm trying to think back, I know that -- what
28 is the current one we have on there, is that a
29 regulatory change or a special action.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It's a special action.
32 So if we wanted it to go past this fall we would, right
33 now, have to do a regulatory change proposal.

34

35 MR. KRAMER: But will it be in place by
36 next fall?

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It could be. Because
39 of the nature of the special action that we have right
40 now, that will be in place this fall, and if we get the
41 ball rolling and it's approved -- someone stop me -- by
42 next fall of 2024, if it's approved it will be in
43 effect.

44

45 MR. KRAMER: It will be in regulation.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, as regulation,
48 permanently moving forward.

49

50

0132

1 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I make a motion
2 to.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So I feel what would
5 be easiest for this motion because of the language of
6 it, is to go with the language from the North Slope
7 RAC's proposal that they've already submitted.

8
9 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I wish we had that
12 written out so that someone could just read it but.....

13
14 MR. KRAMER: I mean we already have a
15 current special action request -- or request in place,
16 why can't we just go ahead and make a motion to.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the issue is, our
19 special action is only some Federal lands, which is
20 most of it, this proposal that the North Slope RAC has
21 done is all Federal lands.....

22
23 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER:in the unit.

26
27 MR. KRAMER: I'm trying to think.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 MR. KRAMER: Help me guys, my mind's
32 going crazy already.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if we want to move
35 forward we can make a motion to.....

36
37 MR. KRAMER: To support.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Make a motion using
40 the same language as the North Slope RAC's proposal
41 regarding this issue and then once it's written, it's
42 in that language, that Northwest Arctic RAC would like
43 to X, Y, Z, all Federal lands in Game Unit 23.

44
45 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So say that.

48
49 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

50

0133

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Or someone could say
4 that if they were to make a motion.

5

6 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion to support
7 North Slope's proposal for the closure of all Federal
8 lands to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users as a
9 proposal to the regulatory.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Federal regulations.

12

13 MR. KRAMER:Federal regulations,
14 I mean.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Elmer.

17

18 MR. ARMSTRONG: We need to make our
19 own.....

20

21 MR. KRAMER: Oh, to make our own.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, Tina, if you
24 didn't hear that, Elmer is proposing to make an -- to
25 change the wording of Mike's motion that he just made,
26 correct?

27

28 MR. ARMSTRONG: So the motion.....

29

30 REPORTER: Okay, hang on. So Thomas, I
31 did get Mike's motion, but was there a second because I
32 didn't hear it if there was, before this amendment.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Correct.

35

36 REPORTER: Okay. So we need a second
37 before we can move to an amendment.

38

39 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

42

43 MR. HOWARTH: I'll second that motion.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. So we have a
46 motion by Mike and seconded by Wilbur, retroactively,
47 Elmer would like to make an amendment to the motion
48 changing the language from supporting the North Slope
49 RAC's proposal to making our own proposal with the

50

0134

1 language of the North Slope RAC's proposal.

2

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

4

5 REPORTER: Okay, I got it.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So.....

8

9 MR. KRAMER: I think a.....

10

11 REPORTER: And I need a second to that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes. So is there a
14 second to the amendment.

15

16 MS. LOON: Second.

17

18 MR. KRAMER: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Hannah.
21 So we'll make that amendment, and now is there any
22 further discussion or questions or would we like to
23 take a roll call vote for this proposal once it's read
24 out.

25

26 REPORTER: Okay, so you're going to
27 vote on the amendment first, so do you want to put some
28 justification on or just vote on the amendment, and
29 then vote on the main motion?

30

31 MR. ARMSTRONG: Vote on the amendment
32 and then go back to the.....

33

34 MR. KRAMER: The main motion.

35

36 MR. ARMSTRONG:the main motion.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we'll -- if you
39 didn't hear Elmer, it was to vote on the amendment and
40 then go back to the main motion.

41

42 REPORTER: Okay. So that can just be a
43 voice vote.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So all those in favor
46 to supporting the amendment to the motion, please say
47 aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

0135

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And those opposed,
2 same sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none, so with
7 that is there any further discussion on this proposal.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can we please get a
12 roll call vote, Lisa, after you read out the proposal
13 for clarity sake.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Chair,
18 I'm going to have Hannah Voorhees read the language
19 first, is that okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

22
23 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. So what I
24 have is really just an early draft form because this
25 hasn't gone through a finalization process for the
26 North Slope RAC yet. But what I have, again, is
27 basically what I said but I also have a short
28 justification.

29
30 So the language reads:

31
32 That they would like a closure to non-
33 Federally-qualified users for the harvesting of caribou
34 on Federal lands of Unit 23 for the months of August,
35 September and October and the justification is that the
36 Western Arctic Caribou Herd population is in decline
37 and we need to stop the harvesting by non-resident and
38 sporthunters.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So can we please get a
43 roll call vote, Lisa.

44
45 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, roll
46 call vote. Michael Kramer.

47
48 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

49
50

0136

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Wilbur
2 Howarth.

3
4 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.
5

6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer
7 Armstrong.

8
9 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.
10

11 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Raymond
12 Woods.

13
14 MR. WOODS: Yes.
15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Bobby
17 Schaeffer.

18
19 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.
20

21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen
22 Pattee.

23
24 MR. PATTEE: Yes.
25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Hannah
27 Loon.

28
29 MS. LOON: Yes.
30

31 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And Thomas
32 Baker.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.
35

36 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. It
37 passed eight -- unanimous -- so the motion passed,
38 thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. So
41 with that passing, do we have any more Federal wildlife
42 proposals that we would like to put forward today.

43
44 (No comments)
45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there are not, Mr.
47 Tom Plank, did you have anything else for this portion
48 of the agenda?

49
50

0137

1 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do
2 not have any more on this. Just a reminder that any
3 point during this meeting that any Council is more than
4 welcome to submit additional proposals, as well as a
5 reminder that individuals can submit proposals until
6 the end date on it.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Plank.
11 So with that we will move on to Item F, the State of
12 Alaska, Board of Game wildlife proposals for Arctic and
13 Western region with Alex and Christie.

14
15 MS. OSBURN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
16 members. This is Christie Osburn with the Alaska
17 Department of Fish and Game and Alex Hansen. We just
18 wanted to go through a similar process you just did
19 with the Board of Game. So there is a call for
20 proposals. We'll be meeting in Kotzebue in January of
21 2024. The proposal deadline for the Board of Game is
22 Monday, May 1st, 2023, so proposals have to be received
23 by May 1st of 2023.

24
25 Similar to what you've done with the
26 FSB we would essentially have you draft up any
27 proposals that you wanted and work with Georgie
28 Phillips with our Kotzebue office to make sure that
29 we've got the appropriate regulation that you would
30 want to include or address and then it would be
31 submitted. It will be brought back -- it'll be
32 reviewed by the State, it'll be published in the
33 proposal book, the public would have a chance to
34 comment on that and it would be brought before the
35 Board in 2024. Any proposals submitted now would go
36 into effect for the July 1, 2024 regulatory year. So
37 effective July 1, 2024 date.

38
39 Anything Alex.

40
41 MR. HANSEN: Yeah, just to muddy the
42 waters, you're obviously -- your group, individuals
43 have the opportunity to put proposals forth in the
44 State side as well so you're more than welcome to
45 propose something as a RAC body or individuals can
46 propose stuff as well. It doesn't all have to come
47 through the AC on the State side.

48
49 MS. OSBURN: Right now we have one
50

0138

1 proposal that came through the -- a member of the
2 public to go to a year-round brown bear resident
3 season. Currently on the State side it is closed for
4 May and June. So that's -- we differ from the Federal
5 system currently but a proposal has been put in place
6 by a member of the public to go to a no closed season
7 for brown bear in Unit 23.

8

9 So far that's the only public proposal
10 that I'm aware of that's come through.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bob.

13

14 MR. SCHAEFFER: The action that we took
15 on the Federal -- are we, as a group, a proposal to the
16 State recommending that they comply with whatever our
17 recommendation is, is that part of that process?

18

19 MS. OSBURN: Yeah, through the Chair.
20 Member Schaeffer. Yep, if you want to propose -- put
21 in the same proposal to the Board of Game that you are
22 putting in to the Federal Subsistence Board you can do
23 so.

24

25 MR. HANSEN: And just briefly, the way
26 that they're going to deal with that at the Board of
27 Game is if there's multiple proposals -- now there's
28 two on the books for the Board of Game cycle, right,
29 for the four per year, one coming from the AC, one from
30 the working group, and we'll look at one and the other
31 -- since it's identical, or if there's differences,
32 then we'll address those differences, but if all the
33 proposals are identical they'll really only talk about
34 one. But I think -- I believe there's an opportunity
35 for consultation to the RAC to address these as well.
36 But the surest way is to put in a proposal, a stand-
37 alone proposal and submit it to the Board of Game as
38 well.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, we
41 discussed it earlier, with the language about the bag
42 limit, the harvest limit for caribou on the Federal
43 side, if there's interest, would anyone would like to
44 make the proposal to match that on the State side.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 MR. KRAMER: There's always been one
49 for the State, right?

50

0139

1 MR. HANSEN: Yeah. You know it throws
2 a little more support behind it. Will it change
3 things, I don't know, it probably won't but I can't say
4 for sure. I can't speak for the Board of Game.

5
6 MS. OSBURN: Sorry, for clarification,
7 was that on the bear or caribou that you were.....

8
9 MR. KRAMER: Caribou. I mean can we
10 just support what we had submitted, or can we submit
11 exactly the same thing?

12
13 MR. HANSEN: You can do either, I
14 think.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So what we could do as
17 a Council is the same proposal that we put on the
18 Federal side, use the same language for the State side.

19
20 MR. KRAMER: Because we are already
21 mimicking what the State put in and now we're redoing
22 it again.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So it's not -- so it's
25 not what the State has done, it's what the working
26 group and the AC have done, which shows that there's
27 more support from the broader community technically, by
28 having more groups saying we want this, we want this
29 change to be made. So -- but there are two entities
30 that have put that language in a proposal to the State
31 Board of Game already.

32
33 So at this time we can just leave it,
34 not make a proposal saying the same thing as we've
35 already said for the Federal side, or someone can make
36 the motion, or we can put in a different proposal, like
37 with the bear issue that -- now we know that on the
38 State side there are two months closed for the grizzly
39 bear hunting.

40
41 So what is the wish of the Council.

42
43 MR. KRAMER: Well, the main reason why
44 we submitted the same thing that -- that the State AC,
45 we submitted for Kotzebue, by all means we should just
46 go ahead and mimic what they put in and what we put in
47 as a special action request to the State. In other
48 words we're saying, yes, here's what we put in for a
49 special action request and this is what we would like
50

0140

1 to submit to the State Board of Game as regulation.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah.

4

5 MR. KRAMER: Should I make a motion.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If you want to.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. KRAMER: I'm like come on guys make
12 a motion, I'm not the only one.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. KRAMER: Or when we need a motion
17 just go like this to Mike.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion to follow
22 suit so that Federal and State will both intermingle
23 and be on the same page for caribou, four per year, one
24 can be a cow and/or four bulls per year from five per
25 day. It would be a proposal for the State Board of
26 Game from the Kotzebue Northwest Arctic RAC.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So a motion has been
29 made, is there a second.

30

31 MS. LOON: Second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Hannah.
34 To make it a little simpler would we like, for the
35 record, to just use the language from the Federal
36 proposal so it's not rewriting it.

37

38 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there's no
41 further discussion, can we go ahead and get a roll call
42 vote on this proposal to the Board of Game.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Lisa.

47

48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, we're
49 ready for a roll call vote.

50

0141

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Hannah

4 Loon.

5

6 MS. LOON: Yes.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen

9 Pattee.

10

11 MR. PATTEE: Yes.

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael

14 Kramer.

15

16 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer

19 Armstrong.

20

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Raymond

24 Woods.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Are you

29 there Raymond Woods.

30

31 MR. WOODS: Yes.

32

33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Bobby

34 Schaeffer.

35

36 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

37

38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Wilbur

39 Howarth.

40

41 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And Thomas

44 Baker.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

47

48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Mr.

49 Chair, it passed unanimously.

50

0142

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: The motion
4 to the State.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other proposals
7 that we would like to put forward on the State side.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is there any interest
12 in making a proposal towards the brown bear hunting
13 season.

14

15 Anyone.

16

17 Since it's been brought up today.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Brown bear season on
20 Federal land is pretty much open all year already,
21 right?

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And on the State side
24 it's closed May and June.

25

26 So if we wanted to make them the same
27 and just have it open year-round we could make that
28 proposal for the State side.

29

30 MR. HANSEN: It would probably lend
31 some support because this other one is a private
32 individual, and coming from a body like yourself it
33 might have a little more weight.

34

35 REPORTER: So was that Alex talking?

36

37 MR. HANSEN: Sorry. For the record
38 this is Alex. And I was just mentioning that.....

39

40 REPORTER: Thank you.

41

42 MR. HANSEN:the proposal that we
43 have -- okay, we're good.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So would anyone like
48 to make a motion for a year-round open season
49 effectively and match the language for brown bear.

50

0143

1 MS. LOON: I, Hannah, make a motion to
2 have an open season on brown bear on Federal land.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: State.

5
6 MS. LOON:State land year-round.

7
8 MR. KRAMER: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So a motion made by
11 Hannah, seconded by Mike. If there's no further
12 discussion we'll go ahead and do a roll call vote.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Lisa.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Please.

21
22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. The
23 -- the proposal is to open brown bear hunting on State
24 land year-round. Roll call?

25
26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

27
28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
29 Hannah Loon.

30
31 MS. LOON: Yes.

32
33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen
34 Pattee.

35
36 MR. PATTEE: Yes.

37
38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael
39 Kramer.

40
41 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

42
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Wilbur
44 Howarth.

45
46 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

47
48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Bobby
49 Schaeffer.

50

0144

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer
4 Armstrong.

5

6 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

7

8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Vern
9 Cleveland.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Oh, he's
14 not here, okay. Raymond Woods.

15

16 MR. WOODS: Yes.

17

18 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Every once
19 in -- Raymond.....

20

21 MR. WOODS: Yes.

22

23 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH:Woods.
24 I'm sorry, Raymond, I didn't hear you, did you vote?

25

26 MR. WOODS: Yes.

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, thank
29 you. Mr. Chair, it passed unanimously. Thank you.

30

31 REPORTER: What about the Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I vote yes.

34

35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Oh, Thomas
36 Baker. Sorry about that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. Do
39 we have any other State side proposals that we'd like
40 to make today, with the understanding that we can, at
41 any time during this meeting make any proposals for
42 either Federal or State, is there anything else we'd
43 like to put in at this time.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none. Is
48 there anything else you had for State proposals.

49

50

0145

1 MS. OSBURN: Through the Chair. This
2 deadline is May 1st so you still have time. As stated,
3 you can either do it as an individual, as a group, so
4 -- and for anyone listening in, the same proposal
5 deadline applies, May 1st. If you need assistance
6 please feel free to call our office. Georgie Phillips
7 is our Board support and she could be your point of
8 contact for any proposals you might want to put in.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Well, thank you Alex.
11 Thank you, Christie. Thank you everyone for the
12 proposals.

13

14 Next on the agenda is the 2021 Council
15 charter review. I feel like we've all had a long day
16 so tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m., I'd like to propose
17 we take up with Item G under new business.

18

19 Does anyone have any objections to
20 taking a break for the evening and coming back at 9:00
21 tomorrow.

22

23 (No objections)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there's no
26 objections was it confirmed that we can just come back
27 here, Brittany, tomorrow?

28

29 MS. SWEENEY: Lisa was checking and make
30 sure with her, but as far as I know that was available.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. So, Lisa, is it
33 going to be all right for us to use this space again
34 tomorrow here.....

35

36 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, I'm
37 trying to confirm.....

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER:in Kotzebue?

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH:that
44 with the hotel but I am almost certain it is. I will
45 update everybody here by -- by email and let you know
46 so we can get the word out. But plan -- I would plan
47 on it, yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.

50

0146

1 Thank you everyone for your participation today. We'll
2 go ahead and convene for today and meet back hopefully
3 here tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

4

5

(Off record)

6

7

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

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

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 7th day
15 of March 2023;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th
27 day of April 2023.

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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26