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NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
March 7, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Thomas Baker, Chairman
- Elmer Armstrong
- Vern Cleveland
- Wilbur Howarth
- Michael Kramer
- Clyde Ramoth
- Robert Schaeffer
- Enoch Shiedt
- Raymond Woods

Regional Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson-
Scarborough

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/7/2024)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, everyone.
The time is now 1:52. Would anyone like to give an invocation to start off the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting?

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Aarigaa. Taikuu, Verne. It is now 1:53. I, Chair Thomas Baker, will call this meeting to order. Lisa, would you please do a roll call so we can establish a quorum.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon, Council. I'll do a roll call.

Bobby Schaeffer.

(No comments)

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thomas Baker.

MR. BAKER: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen Pattee.

(No comments)

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tristen was excused. He had to be at work.

Michael Kramer.

MR. KRAMER: Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Enoch Shiedt, Attamuk.

MR. SHIEDT: Shiedt. Here.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Shiedt.

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1 Wilbur Howarth.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Clyde

6 Ramoth.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer

11 Armstrong.

12

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: Here.

14

15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Verne

16 Cleveland.

17

18 MR. CLEVELAND: Here.

19

20 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Raymond

21 Woods.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So we have
26 five here and five absent, so we don't have a quorum
27 yet.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So seeing as we do not
30 have a quorum we will go ahead and start with
31 non-action items, starting with number 4, meeting
32 announcements. Lisa, would you please make any
33 announcements we might have.

34

35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good
36 afternoon again, everybody. This is the Northwest
37 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. We're
38 meeting here in the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage on
39 March 5th, 2024 -- 6th. Let's start again. March 7th.
40 We've been here a long time. It feels like we've been
41 here a long time. March 7th, 2024.

42

43 We're going to get started here. There
44 are blue forms for those of you in the room you can
45 fill out if you want to talk to the Council. Just
46 please fill those out and bring them up to me or
47 another staff. If you're calling online, then you can
48 just officially address the Chair if you're on the
49 line. Raise your hand on Teams with a star, five and
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1 that will get our attention and then we can call on
2 you. Try to mute your phone with a star, six and to
3 unmute will be star, six.

4

5 I just want to say again for those --
6 just remind folks that there will be time for some
7 tribal and public comments on these non-agenda items,
8 but because our meeting is only for about four hours
9 today we're going to keep that at the end and try to
10 get through our action items. The Chair will announce
11 during the meeting when that can be addressed.

12

13 Remember the Council meetings are
14 conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order as
15 outlined in Roberts Rules of Order. So all
16 participants are expected to be courteous and
17 respectful and all interactions as a matter of meeting
18 etiquette. Thank you.

19

20 Also I wanted to welcome everybody
21 here. Welcome back Attamuk Shiedt on our Council. He
22 was off for a year, but we're happy to have you back.
23 Also we have Clyde Ramoth, but Clyde isn't here, so
24 we'll welcome him back when he comes back. That's all.
25 Thank you, Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.
28 Number five, welcome and introductions. Welcome,
29 everyone. Thank you for taking the time to come down to
30 Room 5 at the Dena'ina Center second floor to join us
31 for our Regional Advisory Council meeting. I look
32 forward to an expedient day where we get a lot done.
33 Thankful for the opportunity so far with the larger
34 group.

35

36 We are not able to adopt the agenda.
37 We're not able to elect officers, review or approve
38 previous meeting minutes. So we will skip down to
39 Council reports at this time. As other members come in
40 they won't be able to give their reports. So we will
41 start with Attamuk if you would like to give a Council
42 member report on subsistence in your view in the last
43 year.

44

45 MR. SHIEDT: Do we have all day? Our
46 season -- I'll start with berries. Our salmonberries
47 were pretty plentiful, but our blueberries had no time
48 to hardly grow. When we go across to Sisualik the ice
49 condition wasn't very good, but we're learning how to
50

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1 live with our ice conditions. The majority of us from
2 Noatak and Kotzebue get our oogruk. We got enough seal
3 and we're getting more and more beluga every year.

4
5 The salmon was limited, but as a
6 commercial fisherman I used to fish until three years
7 ago. I gave my permit to my boy. And he asked me, and
8 a lot of people ask me since I started fishing when I
9 was 18, how the season is going to be. I said due to
10 global warming I guarantee you they're going to be
11 late. That's why last summer they closed it early, but
12 a lot of silvers and big 6-year-old chums came in late.
13 There were a lot of salmon that came in late.

14
15 Our arctic char, trout, we call them
16 trout, go to Noatak earlier than before. We used to
17 get them late, but they're coming earlier than before.
18 I go hunt caribou. They were getting caribou end of
19 August at Noatak. They were migrating. They said not
20 much, but a few people got lucky. Some people didn't.

21
22 I went up the river. The first night I
23 camped on my GPS location I was 200 miles from
24 Kotzebue. I went up and we saw some. There were so
25 many bears disturbing and we could hear them across the
26 river. When they started coming down, they would start
27 hollering, growling and we could hear them. The
28 caribou would go back up and go either north or south.

29
30 Most of our caribou, as they migrated
31 when I was there, were heading back up north. So I
32 went up with my boat all that way to the second rapids.
33 That's way up there. That's about another 100 miles
34 from where I camp. I saw a lot of caribou, but I saw
35 the tail of them in the mountain up there and I could
36 see them but there was more coming. I got my caribou.
37 Don't get me wrong.

38
39 But I tell you what, they were going up
40 north. Planes were going up toward Barrow even when I
41 was up there. Even at my camp at Aggie. We saw a lot
42 of planes. What disturbed me was one plane and I
43 couldn't read his tail. He was only about 300 feet
44 above the river and he was just following the river. I
45 mean he was digging every bed and we were watching him.

46
47
48 He made a turnaround when he saw our
49 boat, but there was other boats there from Noatak.
50

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1 They pulled out their rifles. Boy, you should have
2 seen that plane take off up in the air. I told them
3 were you going to shoot them? He said, no, we were
4 just trying to get their tail numbers. That way they
5 could report, you know, what they were doing.

6

7 The caribou, when they first come, they
8 weren't very fat, but when I went late in September,
9 mid September, they were real fat. The one I get. I
10 mean I know which ones to shoot. I've harvested a lot
11 of caribou in my time. I got my three, my boy got his
12 three, but on the VHS somebody hollered get us some
13 too. So we get eight more.

14

15 There was two boats from the Noatak,
16 but they end up one boat coming later and I said, okay,
17 you could have the rest, three from my boy, three from
18 me, because my boy has his own place. We get ours and
19 they get theirs.

20

21 When I look at their caribou, one of
22 them I was sorry why I give to him. It was Ross
23 Stocker's old reindeer herd with his tag. Not
24 Douglas's blue tag, but Ross Stocker's tag. A steer.
25 Holy cow, that was a fat one all the way through the
26 neck. I said do you want to trade? He looked at me,
27 no. I don't blame him. He said I'm going to give it
28 to my grandma. I said good then. That's our grandma
29 anyhow.

30

31 Our caribou are plentiful. They come
32 in late. I think the global warming is affecting us
33 big time. We don't want to admit it as natives that
34 for our caribou and others our global warming affect us
35 because us natives are in-season people. When the
36 geese are coming, we start craving for fresh geese.
37 The same thing with the bears, the salmon. All the way
38 through a cycle. We're in-cycle people. We live year
39 by year.

40

41 I tell you what. There was lots. I
42 put away salmon, more than enough for the winter, but I
43 didn't put away that much trout like before because
44 they cut the season short. There was so much high
45 water last summer that when I went up to Noatak on my
46 GPS, one night alone, when we went to bed till noon,
47 the river got five feet. That's how much water was at
48 the Noatak River. My son asked me, Dad, are we going
49 to run out of gas. I said, yeah, but the current go
50

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1 downriver towards Kotzebue.

2

3

4 When we were drifting there was so much
5 water we were drifting 18 knots downriver. That's how
6 fast the current was. It changed through the erosion
7 even way upriver. Even those canyons with those
8 10-foot boulders, they're no longer there. There's one
9 place where we used to cross the river through the
10 other side going down the river. I looked at it going
11 up and I just come down straight because we usually hit
12 them before. That's how I knew they were there. I hit
13 them before.

13

14

15 I went there with my boy. I didn't hit
16 them and I didn't see those boulders there. It's
17 amazing what the river could do. Probably the ice
18 condition was thick. But the canyons, the big canyons,
19 they're no longer there. There's hardly any. The big
20 boulders are still there, but the ones right above it,
21 right around the bend, I tell you that river changing
22 so much, but it's beautiful country.

22

23

24 I stayed up there and you can't ask for
25 better scenery. In the evening when I'm going to bed,
26 I would go out there with my tea and I would sit in my
27 chair and I would wait until it get dark and my son
28 asked what are you doing. Just looking at the country
29 and enjoying it. He said you'll see it tomorrow. I
30 said, son, in the morning it's going to be different
31 because it's going to be a different day. What I see
32 now is going to be yesterday in the morning.

32

33

34 I said you can't ask me to change the
35 way I live and I'm proud of my country. I love being
36 what I am and that country, he raised me, he feed me.
37 Mother Nature feed me and I appreciate it. Thank you.
38 Everybody know I'm a native guy. Everybody know it in
39 Kotzebue. So I'm proud of who I am and what I am.

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.

43

44

Verne.

45

46

47 MR. CLEVELAND: Verne Cleveland,
48 Noorvik. I went out last fall twice. You could hear a
49 pin drop. There was nobody there. No boats, no
50 nothing. When I go up there usually there's 30, 40

50

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1 boats on the river. I went up there twice. Nothing.
2 No boats. Nobody around. Just quiet. I just sit
3 there, my wife and I. It was quiet. Just like this,
4 quiet. No boats running around. No animals. No
5 nothing.

6
7 I knew we weren't going to get zip
8 because if there was caribou people would be there.
9 I'm the chairman of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
10 Working Group, you know. I could easily call one of
11 them guys and say, hey, where are the caribou at, but
12 not me. I like being outdoors and hunt. Not ask
13 someone and say where the caribou are at. I go out and
14 do my own hunting. I don't ask nobody questions or
15 anything.

16
17 But I saw two caribou and they were
18 going north. One bull and one -- I just left them
19 alone. As soon as they went around a bend there was a
20 boat and they told me how come you didn't get those
21 caribou. I said there was just two of them. I just
22 left them alone. One male and one female and I just
23 let them go. Go back up. One guy told me, Verne,
24 you're nuts, you know. Hey, we're looking for caribou.
25 I said, well, a male and a female. Maybe there will be
26 more next year.

27
28 What I thought I should have gotten one
29 at least, but it didn't happen. I came home with
30 nothing. A hundred gallons of gas all gone at \$7 a
31 gallon. I just enjoyed camping. That's it. It rained
32 so much the water was very high and we had some big
33 time erosions on some hills. You could see a landslide
34 came down from hills and trees are on the beach. I
35 took pictures of them. There was three, four
36 landslides.

37
38 I told Larry because it was near his
39 camp. Near Westlake there was a landslide all the way
40 to the river. He was going to go check it out at
41 freeze-up the next couple days. I don't think he ever
42 made it up there.

43
44 I guarantee the caribou are getting
45 later and later every year. Like Attamuk said, global
46 warming. It would happen. I mean it's going to
47 happen. Kotzebue Chukchi Sea is 20 percent warmer than
48 what it was 20 years ago. In 20 years from now it's
49 going to be like Homer. That was a prediction by a
50

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1 prophet named Maniilaq that it was going to happen and
2 it will happen.

3

4

5 If we keep going the way we are right
6 now with making all these rules of four caribou or
7 whatever. I didn't make the rule. I just take the yeas
8 and nays as the chairman. There's 20 people in the
9 group and they voted in four per year and that came
10 from all different from the whole state representing 20
11 -- there's 20 people from different villages.

11

12

13 We work hard at it. When the caribou
14 don't show, we don't get no meat. They came in late.
15 Right after the ice break up -- after the ice freeze up
16 here comes the caribou. Bulls, big bulls. But, you
17 know what, they're all in the rut. Which I tell those
18 younger guys, hey, don't shoot them bulls. They're in
19 rut. What do you mean? I said go over there and try
20 and smell that thing. It smell like caribou. I said,
21 yeah, bring it home, see what they say, your mom and
22 dad will say.

22

23

24 Sure enough, his dad was saying, hey,
25 we can't eat this meat. You know, this younger hunter
26 he realized after we told him what he was doing. He
27 said he was sorry, but a mistake is a mistake. So I
28 told him to get younger bulls. Leave them big bulls
29 alone. Let them go by because they're in a rut.
30 Nobody told him, I guess. Nobody said anything about
31 rut and stuff like that because they're young kids, 14
32 years old.

32

33

34 I guarantee you this fall when the
35 caribou came in I was at work. It was snowing like
36 crazy. I'm the airport guy and I've got to clean the
37 airport for planes, medevac planes to come in. By the
38 time I get done the caribou were miles behind and there
39 was hardly any snow and there's creeks open. I tried
40 going up there three times. I couldn't make it because
41 of not much snow and couldn't travel on tundra.

41

42

43 A lot of guys got hurt from hunting
44 caribou. Broken bones. Get into creeks. It's flat
45 but all of a sudden you hit one of those -- one guy
46 lucked out. He's about my age. Twice he tried and he
47 never learned the first time, but the second time I
48 think he learned when they medevaced him out. This is
49 the situation we're going through. Kind of global
50 warming. We've got no -- we can't stop global warming.

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I guarantee you we will some day get the caribou back. We have to manage our caribou the right way to feed our people. Matter of fact I just cut -- somebody gave me two caribou. I cut them all up. Steaks, stew, vacuum seal, throw in my freezer. A couple days later my freezer was empty. Somebody stole all my meat. Everything. Cleaned me out.

They say, hey, Verne, you're a hunter, but they shouldn't steal. All vacuum sealed. I was mad, but I wasn't pissed off. If I was pissed off, something would have happened, but I just let it go. I told my wife just let it go. Maybe it will come back. I haven't seen nothing yet.

We're in a world of hurt both ways. Battle the weather. I guarantee the caribou will come back some day eventually.

Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity. Have a good day.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Verne.

Elmer, would you like to go next?

MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I work all spring to October night shift, but I'll do some reporting from one of my boys. He went out when the geese were starting to come. They went to Schultz Bay. That's the bay where it leads to Buckland River. They were successful in getting snow geese, specklebelly. I think he had a lot of fun because that's the first time he went out with his friends to go hunt the geese when they came in.

I know I put them away, but I sure scold them too because it's a lot of plucking. Even his mom scold him. If you're going to go duck hunting, geese hunting, I want those geese -- when you guys come back I want them plucked. But we did put away geese. Like maybe a couple weeks ago my wife pulled some out, so I made her goose soup.

I didn't put my net out under the ice

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1 for whitefish because I went to AFN, but when I went
2 home the ice sure got thick. So I decided not to put
3 my net out. There was a lot of nets too though. I
4 mean when they put the net out you could see across the
5 river there was still open spots.

6
7 I go help one of the locals. He was
8 getting ready to set his net and I think it was
9 probably three inches. You could still see open spots
10 along the river. I think when you check your net every
11 day if you get lots, you know, they're swimming upriver
12 in big numbers. If you don't get much, then you know
13 you're kind of catching the tail end because the
14 numbers are going down.

15
16 There was maybe five nets, maybe seven.
17 But we were gifted some whitefish, which is good. My
18 wife likes to have them frozen or I'll have to bake.
19 Somehow she designated me to be chef. So I make her
20 caribou soup, I bake the fish. Even though I was
21 working I told her go put the salmon net out so we
22 could get some. So we were able to have some salmon,
23 which we put away.

24
25 The caribou were really late. I mean
26 we -- I heard a person say they caught some way down
27 the drainage, Kobuk drainage, but there wasn't very
28 many. I think it was like November when it froze
29 pretty good and then it snowed and then the caribou
30 they just started showing up even right by the airport.
31 So people were really happy.

32
33 I seen younger generation going out and
34 catching caribou. I know my boy went out too. I sent
35 him out, but I think the electronic gauge where the gas
36 was lying on the snowmachine because he called me. So
37 I had to get gas and go bring him gas. He said it'd
38 keep turning off and I say what's the gauge say. He
39 say half a tank, but still I started thinking. I had
40 to think back. I think when I put the snowmachine away
41 I took the gas out. So I sent him out on fumes.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. ARMSTRONG: But he was like seven
46 miles. Of course I had to find a crossing. We have a
47 bridge that you could use with four-wheelers, so I was
48 able to cross the creek and give him gas. I have a
49 six-wheeler so I put all the caribou on the
50

0012

1 six-wheeler. It was good to see him want that caribou
2 on his own. He say I'm going to go hunt. I didn't
3 have to tell him.

4
5 But, you know, I have all boys, so I
6 show them how to dress it, I show them how to prepare
7 the meat to be put away. Me and my wife we never do
8 much. It was good. I know I was gifted maybe two
9 caribou. We put all the meat away. I still have two
10 more under the tarp that I need to put away. It was so
11 good to have caribou. Even though I worked I told my
12 wife and the boys to go out moose hunting, but they
13 didn't catch any.

14
15 But we were lucky to -- because I got
16 like three freezers. It's got caribou, maybe gifted
17 moose, whitefish, sheefish, salmon that I put away. My
18 wife went out a few times to go pick salmonberry and
19 berries, blueberries.

20
21 That's all I have.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that
26 report, Elmer.

27
28 Wilbur, would you like to give a
29 Council member report.

30
31 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Elmer and I live in the same village. I was hoping he
33 brought up he shouldn't make holes in the ice with an
34 auger. Because I always tuuk my holes with a tuuk,
35 manmade tuuk to set net under the ice. I went out -- or
36 Elmer went out and started his auger and it just went
37 right through my boot. It tore my foot up. I had to
38 go straight to the clinic. I said we don't make holes
39 in the ice to set net, we use tuuk and he say auger is
40 faster. But he's younger than me and that's my cousin.
41 But we do a lot of things.

42
43 Anyway, reports and stuff like this for
44 the caribou. I grew up myself reindeer herding. I
45 grew up as a young boy walking with the reindeers and
46 they're just bumping my shoulder. They always follow
47 us all over the place. If we go pick berries, the
48 reindeer will be -- the whole herd of thousands of
49 reindeer will follow us. We pick berries.

50

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1 What I'm supposed to be doing is
2 watching out for the bears and stuff. Once the
3 reindeer start running I have to run too because I
4 don't know what's behind the reindeer. So I grew up
5 with reindeer and I've been doing that until 1979 I
6 think was the last time. I was an adult and reindeer
7 herding for NANA when they had a herd of reindeer.
8 NANA got horses from island, so I didn't have to walk
9 that much anymore because I was sitting on a horse and
10 moving with the reindeer. So I grew up as a reindeer
11 herder.

12
13 Caribou and the reindeer eat the same
14 food year round. In wintertime it was hard because --
15 it was not hard for them, but reindeer and caribou they
16 live on grass too. I mean they can eat grasses. I
17 mean some of these grasses are -- they might be
18 different, but the plants and the food during the
19 seasons they feed on something else besides lichen.

20
21 I found out -- as a reindeer herder and
22 working with Fish and Game we found out that lichen --
23 it takes eight years for them to grow. So if you have
24 thousands of caribou migrating in one pattern, the next
25 year they're going to be over here because they ate out
26 that whole place. So the next year they're going to
27 move further, further, further. Then eight years, 10
28 years later they'll be right back.

29
30 That's what I learned and I try to tell
31 my son, I said -- or my kids when we're out berry
32 picking or something. I say, look, wow, we're going to
33 have caribou this year because the lichen is all
34 growing and the caribou are going to come right through
35 here and it usually happens all the time. Just the
36 knowledge of their feeding grounds, which I really
37 respect for all, not only caribou. I learn the moose,
38 their habitat, what they feed on.

39
40 We have a lot of moose in the lower
41 delta of the Lower Kobuk and we have a lot of moose.
42 This past two years maybe we had so much high water
43 during the fall, so much rain, lots of high water. Our
44 rivers were wider than ever. I mean my goodness we had
45 so much water. The moose were really hard to find
46 because they were way up in the timber area lines.

47
48 As working groups on caribou we still
49 have to find out and know what they're doing. I know
50

0014

1 they're not going to be around in the same area for
2 years because they'll eat out the place. What I
3 learned as a subsistence hunter I teach my kids what
4 the caribou eats, what they live on and stuff. I'll
5 say, oh, no, they're not going to be here this year.
6 We have to go a long ways.

7

8 Sure enough, we have to go a long ways
9 because they're not going to come back because all the
10 food they travel through for a couple years migrate
11 right through Noorvik. We had caribou one year that
12 was running up our road right in the village because
13 they cross right across the river before all the food
14 was gone what they feed on. We still see them come by.

15

16 In '85 I went up to port site and we
17 built an air strip there and that was before the Red
18 Dog Mine in '89 started up. So we built that airstrip
19 there at the port and then building the road. I was
20 working 15 weeks on and one week off as a heavy
21 equipment operator. I was running dozers and
22 equipment. There was lots of bears, lots of grizzlies.
23 I mean just right out of camp there was grizzly bears.
24 There was moose. There was fish in the river.

25

26 While we were building the road I was
27 -- one of the guys that I worked with,
28 environmentalists and Fish and Game, because we're
29 going to build bridges across these creeks and they're
30 big. Some of them are real big. We had grayling, we
31 had trout, we had all kinds of fish coming up those
32 rivers and we were building these.

33

34 So I worked with them, with the Fish
35 and Game and stuff, and we cleared it and they're still
36 there. It didn't bother or harm them at all. The way
37 we worked with environmentalists, Fish and Game, we
38 built those bridges the right way so it doesn't harm
39 the fish coming up the rivers.

40

41 As of now NANA they got me -- it's our
42 corporation. They got me on the Subsistence Board.
43 There's five of us from the NANA region that meets with
44 five from the Doyon region. So we get together because
45 they're going to build that road. It's nonstop now.
46 They're going on and they're going to build that road
47 from the Doyon Highway to Ambler.

48

49 I have no problems of them building it,

50

0015

1 but what we do as subsistence advisors for our NANA
2 region is we take them to our region and show them this
3 kind of bridges and stuff you need to build so the fish
4 could keep going and you won't have no problems.

5

6 Then they said, well, we're going to
7 build these trucks and stuff made out of steel and
8 they'll put the copper inside and the steel doors
9 locked and they're going to haul them, but who knows
10 what could happen. So we set up in our restricted
11 areas, if you could see it on the map.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Can we keep it to the
14 subsistence for this meeting, please.

15

16 MR. HOWARTH: Oh, okay. So anyways
17 they asked me is it going to affect the caribou
18 migration and I said, no, it shouldn't. It shouldn't
19 at all. When the caribou migrations start coming from
20 the north in the fall time, we up there on that 52-mile
21 road what we built, we stop all traffic. They're
22 supposed to stop two miles when they see caribou. They
23 stop and let them pass. And they'll pass. They'll
24 just go right over the road. It's been okay.

25

26 So encouragement and roads and
27 buildings and our caribou migration they're just on a
28 rebound because we lost a lot of caribou in the past.
29 There was 200-something thousand that died in the
30 river. Because of global warming now we don't know
31 what's going to happen. Maybe we won't see caribou
32 anymore. They're going to stay up in the mountains.
33 That's where they've been for months and months. We
34 don't see them until December or something like that.
35 We have to pay attention of the climate change and the
36 caribou.

37

38 The whitefish and salmon was good. We
39 have two rivers that comes in our area, but some of
40 them some years they'll go into one river and pass
41 right through. So I'll drive up and go sit on the
42 other river. It's not only due to climate change.
43 What's happening right now because of the high water we
44 have in the rivers is, if you guys know, that Russia,
45 the whole continent, is moving toward Alaska. It's
46 underneath the ocean and it's causing that.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay, Wilbur. Could
49 you wrap up?

50

0016

1 MR. HOWARTH: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 MR. HOWARTH: All right. Thank you.

6

7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Excuse me,
8 Mr. Chair. I just want to remind everybody -- these
9 reports are really interesting. We just have like a
10 very short time for our meeting today. We have some
11 action items to get through. We want to hear your
12 reports, but let's try to keep them a little more
13 brief.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Clyde, this is your
18 first meeting as a member of the Northwest Arctic
19 Regional Advisory Council and this is an opportunity
20 for you to give a report on subsistence activities in
21 and around your community of Selawik. If you'd like to
22 give your report at this time, the floor is yours.

23

24 MR. RAMOTH: Thank you, Thomas. By the
25 way, I'm his uncle. So with our fish and caribou and
26 moose the numbers have been declining, but I had a
27 100-foot net, I had a 50-foot net under the ice. I
28 catch fish today and tomorrow when I get home or in a
29 few days anyway.

30

31 But the numbers of caribou with
32 predation, with the amount of wolves that are not
33 harvested or caught or whatever regulations we deal
34 with, it's kind of been difficult because -- I got very
35 lucky. Four of my nephews caught four caribou for me
36 and my mom. My mom is 86. The oldest in my village is
37 98 and I always bring him fish or caribou.

38

39 It's always a concern with the climate
40 change. We could talk about years of studies, but I
41 think nowadays with the warmer temperatures I think we
42 need to, as advisory, talk to the Board about possible
43 changing regulations like two weeks in advance because
44 of warmer temperatures. There's a lot of discussion.
45 I could talk TEK, traditional ecological knowledge. I
46 could speak my Inupiaq language. (In Inupiaq).

47

48 Okay, that's all I got.

49

50

0017

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
4 Clyde.

5

6 Mike, would you like to give your
7 report.

8

9 MR. KRAMER: This year I didn't really
10 get out much. I'm single parenting a little
11 three-year-old boy. I did get across over to Sisualik.
12 My brother had his use camp -- I inherited some land
13 over there and my brother had his use camp and we got
14 to go pick berries and cranberries and take the kids
15 out. They got their chances to go hunt ducks. It was
16 good to get out.

17

18 We had a beluga net set. My brother
19 got one. I was still waiting for my anchors. I didn't
20 get to go out caribou hunting because I'm stuck with a
21 three-year-old boy and I don't think I want to put him
22 on a journey that long up the Noatak River. So I
23 pretty much stayed home, but I provided a lot of fuel
24 and guns and whatever I can for my boys to go get me a
25 caribou. They did. They got me a caribou. Eventually
26 when they came through town they got me another
27 caribou.

28

29 I got to put away a few salmon. I've
30 still got a couple more packages of them. I've been
31 living pretty lightly the last year. I can't wait
32 until he gets older and I start taking him out more and
33 teaching him everything.

34

35 I did hear a lot of concerns when the
36 caribou came through kotzebue. A lot of concerns.
37 I'll probably talk about that later. I didn't get to
38 -- I had an RM880. I turned it in early. I didn't even
39 go out anywhere. Turned in my RC907. My son got me a
40 caribou. My other son got me a caribou, so I was
41 pretty much set.

42

43 Other than that I didn't really get out
44 much. I just have to travel down here every four weeks
45 for medical infusions. Other than that I've just been
46 pretty much staying at home and just listening to what
47 other people enjoyed and seeing a lot of people going
48 out fishing and hunting.

49

50

0018

1 The Upper Noatak they had pretty good
2 success up there this fall. A lot of guys went up and
3 got caribou. The river was fairly high for quite a
4 while. They made it all the way up there. Pretty good
5 country. I wish I could go. Maybe this fall I'll be
6 able to take my son Marcus.

7

8 Yeah, my boys had fun. First time
9 they've ever been up there. First time they've ever
10 seen the Upper Noatak. They only have ever known the
11 Upper Kobuk and Onion Portage because I have a cabin in
12 the Kobuk River. Other than that I've still got one
13 caribou that's standing on its legs frozen waiting for
14 me to skin. The reason why it's like that is because
15 the day I got the caribou that night my son got second
16 degree burns on his arms and his chest and he got
17 medevaced out.

18

19 From the time I brought him into the ER
20 was like half an hour and we were already up in a
21 medevac plane on the way to Anchorage because they
22 couldn't deal with something like that here in
23 Kotzebue. I'm lucky we did because not even a half an
24 hour after we departed a blizzard set in. It would
25 have been a pretty painful time for him to be stuck in
26 Kotzebue.

27

28 He's healing well. He's doing good. I
29 can't wait -- you know, I got him a couple little
30 number zero long-spring traps. He's been kind of
31 weakening the springs up some. So he's starting to
32 play with them. I got him some duck calls. I have to
33 take those away from him sometimes. Three o'clock in
34 the morning and he's all of a sudden start calling
35 ducks. That kind of drives you crazy. I had to start
36 hiding them. I started putting pins on the ceiling so
37 he can't get them.

38

39 Other than that I just pretty much
40 stayed home and been Covid free. Just enjoying raising
41 that little boy. It seems like I'm taking early
42 learning too, you know. I have to participate or he
43 won't do anything. Other than that it's been pretty
44 good.

45

46 That's all I have.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0019

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. So
2 with that we don't have any other members present. If
3 they do join us, then they'll be able to provide their
4 report at that time. I'll go ahead and give my Chair's
5 report and I'll keep it fairly brief.

6
7 We've covered a lot of the conditions
8 regarding caribou, salmon, moose in the last year
9 through other reports. I would just like to say thank
10 you everyone for coming down for the All-RAC meeting
11 this week and all the good participation. We'll try to
12 cover a lot in the short time we have left, so I'll
13 keep it at that.

14
15 Now that we do have a quorum we will go
16 back up the agenda to the review and adoption of the
17 agenda. I would like to recommend that we add
18 nominating a representative for the Joint Letter
19 Working Group after item number 6, which is the review
20 and adoption of the agenda, as well as adding in a
21 service award presentation after that.

22
23 MR. RAMOTH: I so move, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Clyde to add
26 those to the agenda. Do we have a second.

27
28 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Attamuk.
31 All those in favor please say aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we will
38 amend and adopt the agenda as amended hearing no
39 objection. We will move to nominating a representative
40 from the Council for the Joint Letter Working Group.
41 Would anyone like to make a nomination at this time?
42 Lisa, do you have an announcement?

43
44 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes. Mr.
45 Chair and Council Members. Yesterday during our
46 training session and all the Councils were talking
47 about some joint letters. We just want to know if
48 that's something that you would also want to add to the
49 agenda to talk about any of those letters if you were
50

0020

1 interested in supporting any of those.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: What is the wish of
6 the Council. Would anyone like to add that on for
7 discussion.

8

9 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move.

10

11 MR. SHIEDT: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. So we
14 will, with no objection, go ahead and add that after
15 the service awards. With that, would anyone like to
16 nominate someone to represent the Council in the
17 working group for drafting the joint letter discussed
18 this morning?

19

20 MR. RAMOTH: Clyde Ramoth. I nominate
21 Verne Cleveland.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Clyde nominates Verne.
24 Attamuk, were you saying something?

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I was going to
27 nominate you, but I got interrupted. Now you hear me.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Attamuk Shiedt has
30 nominated myself, Thomas Baker. First, Verne, do you
31 accept the nomination?

32

33 MR. CLEVELAND: I am the chair of the
34 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. I don't
35 know if I could represent two entities with the Arctic
36 Caribou Herd. The RAC -- if not, I can do it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So do you decline the
39 nomination?

40

41 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, sir. I decline
42 the nomination. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Verne. Do
45 we have any other nominations?

46

47 MR. RAMOTH: Well, I'll make a
48 nomination to close the nominations.

49

50

0021

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Close nominations.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Second.

4

5 MR. RAMOTH: Ask for unanimous consent.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seeing no objection,
8 I've been nominated and I suppose I accept to be the
9 representative to the Joint Letter Working Group.
10 Thank you, everyone.

11

12 At this time we will move on to the
13 next item, which is the Service Award presentation.

14

15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I didn't
16 announce this when I started, but in the supplemental
17 materials, which is the white book, that is the most
18 current agenda. It hasn't changed a lot, but it's the
19 one you should be looking at. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Katya.

22

23 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
24 we would like to recognize the Council Member Verne
25 Cleveland, Sr. of Noorvik for his faithful service on
26 the Council for a period of 10 years. I wrote a little
27 bio and then we'll present the award.

28

29 Verne Cleveland of Noorvik was
30 appointed to the Northwest Arctic Council in 2011.
31 Over the years he has remained a steadfast advocate for
32 subsistence rights and opportunities in his region. As
33 Inupiaq, Member Cleveland embodies the tradition of
34 subsistence hunting and fishing, playing a pivotal role
35 as a provider within his community. He's an active
36 leader and serves as mayor of Noorvik, a tribal council
37 member of the Noorvik Native Community and chair of the
38 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, which he has
39 been a member since its inception in 2010.

40

41 Member Cleveland consistently amplifies
42 the voice of his community, fervently advocating for
43 subsistence rights and striving to ensure the
44 sustainability of resources for all communities in the
45 Northwest Arctic Region.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 (Applause)

50

0022

1 MS. WESSELS: The award is being
2 presented by a member of the Federal Subsistence Board,
3 Sarah Creachbaum. She's the Regional Director for the
4 National Park Service in Alaska.

5
6 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you. Just for
7 the people. Not for me. I'm just for the people
8 subsistence-wise. I'll still be here fighting for our
9 subsistence, for our people that are in need. Thank
10 you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that.
13 So we will move to the next item on the agenda which
14 appears to be the election of officers. Lisa, would
15 you like to start us off.

16
17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'm going
18 to be doing election for the Chair and I'll open up the
19 floor for that and then whoever gets elected Chair will
20 then take over for the Vice Chair and the Secretary.
21 The Council Charter has you elect new officers once a
22 year and this is usually done this time of year.

23
24 Do I have any nominations for Chair?

25
26 MR. RAMOTH: I'll nominate Thomas Baker
27 for Chair. Clyde Ramoth.

28
29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: We do not
30 have to second anything, okay. Thomas Baker for Chair
31 was nominated. Yes?

32
33 MR. KRAMER: I will nominate Attamuk
34 Shiedt.

35
36 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Attamuk
37 Shiedt was nominated for Chair. Attamuk, do you accept
38 the nomination?

39
40 MR. SHIEDT: I'm going to decline due
41 to my health. So I'll decline. Thank you.

42
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay, thank
44 you. Thomas, do you decline or do you accept?

45
46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I accept, but I just
47 wanted to bring to your attention Wilbur has his hand
48 up.

49
50

0023

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
2 Wilbur.

3
4 MR. HOWARTH: I'd like to nominate
5 Michael Kramer.

6
7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. We
8 have Michael Kramer nominated.

9
10 MR. SHIEDT: Nominations now be closed.

11
12 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

13
14 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Just to
15 make sure there are no more nominations that has been
16 closed. So we have two candidates that were nominated,
17 Thomas Baker and Michael Kramer. Thomas Baker was
18 nominated first, so what we're going to do is go around
19 and we're going to do a vote and you vote yes or no.
20 We'll start with Thomas. You say yes or no and then we
21 will go with Michael Kramer.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, to clarify, you're
24 going to go around the room and if you say yes first
25 it's a vote for me and then the second time around it
26 will be for Mike and a yes at that time will be a vote
27 for Mike, correct?

28
29 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes.
30 Katya, is that what you recommend?

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

33
34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.

35
36 MR. HOWARTH: Ma'am and Mr. Chair, we
37 have papers. Could we vote with a paper writing for
38 Chair? Is that possible or are we going to go with the
39 yes and no?

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Because it's a public
42 meeting we have to vote in the open not on the paper.

43
44 MR. HOWARTH: Okay. Thank you.

45
46 MR. SHIEDT: Excuse me. Before we vote
47 -- I'm not trying to put you down, Tom, but how busy
48 are you going to be at Juneau? Let's put it that way.
49 Will you have time if they have any questions in the
50

0024

1 middle of the season when you're going to be at Juneau?
2 You know, you're doing good, but I need to know.
3 Sometimes you might not be able to help the Federal on
4 the time that is needed. You hear what I'm saying? I
5 know as a Chairman before it take a lot of time to be a
6 Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah, I think that I
9 took time from the Legislature to be here and I'd like
10 to think that I'll be able to do everything I can to
11 still perform the duties if elected. And I don't think
12 we can continue because we've been joined by
13 Mr. Schaeffer.

14
15 MR. CLEVELAND: What I think is I think
16 if we elect a Chair there will be a Vice-Chair and the
17 Vice-Chair will have to step up. That's all I can say.
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: To your question,
21 Attamuk, I think that if elected Chair again I will be
22 able to perform the duties. Like we all are here for
23 is for the subsistence rights of our people. So I
24 think I can still do it.

25
26 MS. WESSELS: I also recommend that we
27 do another roll call for the record so we know on the
28 record who is in the room.

29
30 MR. CLEVELAND: I think in the real
31 world we put it in writing and piece of paper and vote.

32
33 MR. SHIEDT: No, the way the Federal is
34 we have to do it publicly. We have to do it open. I
35 hate to say that, but that's the truth. We have to do
36 it openly. You can't do it on paper, as much as I love
37 to see it on paper all in one color, but still we have
38 to do it publicly through the Federal -- the way the
39 Federal wants us to do it.

40
41 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. I'm
42 going to do a roll call again since we have more
43 members that have showed up just to make it clear for
44 the record. Bobby Schaeffer, are you here? Turn your
45 mic on. You can't just share the mic, I'm sorry.

46
47 MR. SCHAEFFER: What's that?

48
49 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Bobby

50

0025

1 Schaeffer, just say here.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: Hi, I'm here. Present.

4

5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Michael
6 Kramer.

7

8 MR. KRAMER: I'm here.

9

10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Enoch
11 Shiedt.

12

13 MR. SHIEDT: I'm here.

14

15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Wilbur
16 Howarth.

17

18 MR. HOWARTH: Here.

19

20 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Clyde
21 Ramoth.

22

23 MR. RAMOTH: Present.

24

25 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Elmer
26 Armstrong.

27

28 MR. ARMSTRONG: Present.

29

30 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Verne
31 Cleveland.

32

33 MR. CLEVELAND: Here.

34

35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thomas
36 Baker.

37

38 MR. BAKER: Here.

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: We know
41 Tristen Pattee is not here. He was working excused.
42 Raymond Woods.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Raymond is
47 not here. Okay, thank you. So we do have a quorum. We
48 have eight members here.

49

50

0026

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, if I may just for
2 clarification. So Bob right now we're on election of
3 officers. Per the process we're going to go around the
4 room. Myself and Mike were nominated for Chair. The
5 process will be that Lisa will call our names with my
6 name first. If you say yes, it's a vote for me. The
7 second time around will be for Mike. So in that round
8 a vote yes will be for Mike for Chair. We were just
9 having the discussion that we'd rather do on paper so
10 it's kind of more clear, but the Federal process is a
11 voice vote.

12
13 Yes, Bob.

14
15 MR. SCHAEFFER: I think the fair way
16 has always been do it on paper. That way a person can
17 vote his conscience. That's my recommendation. That
18 way there won't be no bad feelings. Something like
19 this I think is critical.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob.
22 Katya, do you have something you'd like to say since
23 you stood up?

24
25 MS. WESSELS: We've never done it like
26 that, but I think we can allow it this time because it
27 seems like that maybe some people will feel more
28 comfortable doing it by paper. Just write the names.
29 There's two people who have been nominated, Thomas
30 Baker and Michael Kramer.

31
32 So I think just go around the room and
33 then if Lisa reads into the record the result of the
34 vote I think that will fulfill our obligation. I think
35 that will allow people to make the decision without
36 being conscious about what others will think. It can
37 be the same color paper and that will count the votes.
38 You can just fold the papers and hand them to Lisa once
39 you're done.

40
41 MR. RAMOTH: And we'll need two people
42 to.....

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Two people to count?
45 Okay, got it. For a second I was thinking that you
46 were saying that you'll write two people in.

47
48 (Pause)

49
50

0027

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: This is a
2 learning process for me, sorry. So we have Mike Kramer
3 received three votes and Mr. Baker received five, so,
4 Mr. Baker, you are our new Chair. Thank you. Passing
5 the gavel back to you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Verne, did you have a
8 question?

9
10 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes. What was the
11 numbers on that? How was it, 2 to 3, 4 to 3?

12
13 MS. WESSELS: It was 3 to 5. Michael
14 Kramer received three votes and Chair Baker received
15 five votes.

16
17 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

18
19 MS. WESSELS: I'm going to destroy the
20 voting ballots.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. So next on
23 the list is Vice Chair. Do we have any nominations for
24 the Vice Chair position?

25
26 MR. SHIEDT: I nominate.....

27
28 MR. ARMSTRONG: Nominate Mike Kramer.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we have a
31 nomination for Mike. Do we have any other nominations?

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: I ask for unanimous
34 consent on the Vice Chair. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I heard a unanimous
37 consent.

38
39 MR. ARMSTRONG: Close nominations.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Did you just say close
42 nominations? So if there's no objection we will close
43 nominations. I guess I should ask Mike do you accept.

44
45 MR. KRAMER: I accept.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, Mike,
48 congratulations. You are Vice Chair. Next, Secretary.
49 Do we have any nominations for Secretary?

50

0028

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I nominate
2 Clyde Ramoth.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Clyde, do you accept
5 the nomination for Secretary?

6
7 MR. RAMOTH: First time. I'll accept.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Clyde has accepted.
10 Do we have any other nominations for Secretary?

11
12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I make a
13 motion to close nominations with unanimous consent.

14
15 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that it looks
18 like we will go ahead and close nominations.

19
20 (Off record discussion)

21
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For the record, since
23 Katya is not at a mic, she said that per the -- she
24 didn't say it, but I'm assuming that per the bylaws we
25 can't have an alternate position since we have these
26 three officers. She is shaking her head yes in the
27 affirmative. So with that our officers are myself as
28 Chair, Mike as Vice-Chair and Clyde as Secretary.

29
30 Congratulations, everyone. We will
31 move on to item number 8, review and approve previous
32 meeting minutes. Were there any recommended edits,
33 anything that we'd like to change in the minutes? If
34 not, would anyone like to make a motion to approve the
35 previous meeting minutes?

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Verne. Do we
40 have a second to approve previous meeting minutes.

41
42 MR. ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Elmer. All
43 those in favor please say aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: You can say you
48 abstain.

49
50

0029

1 MR. RAMOTH: For the record I'll
2 abstain.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For the purposes of
5 not having been on the Council at the time. All those
6 opposed same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that we will go
11 ahead and approve the previous meeting minutes and move
12 on to item number 10, action items. Item 10(a) is
13 review and approve FY2023 Annual Report, which should
14 be Page 22 of our books. Lisa.

15
16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Mr. Chair
17 and Council Members. So at our fall meeting we came up
18 with topics for our Annual Report. Within ANILCA it
19 established the Annual Reports as a means to bring
20 regional subsistence uses and needs to the attention of
21 the Secretaries, which were delegated to the Federal
22 Subsistence Board. Section 805(c) deference allows
23 matters raised in the Annual Report to be considered.
24 The Annual Report serves as an avenue for Councils to
25 address directors of relevant agencies who have
26 authority to implement recommended actions.

27
28 If you'd like I will kind of give a
29 summary of your Annual Report topics. The Council can
30 just vote the way they are or anything you need amended
31 on it. We're not allowed to add any additional topics
32 at this meeting. If you have additional topics, we can
33 add it to the next Annual Report this fall.

34
35 Topic number one was addressing hunter
36 placement impact on caribou migration. I'm going to
37 just kind of summarize it a little bit, but I can read
38 the whole thing if you would like. You've all received
39 copies of this before and it has been in your books,
40 but if you do have questions or comments let me know.

41
42 There was concerns about transport
43 services disrupting caribou migration routes and
44 attracting predators. The Council suggests
45 establishing local observer programs and educational
46 initiatives for transporters and for non-local hunters.
47 Does that sound like what we had talked about?

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Questions, comments or
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1 are we happy with that language in the Annual Report?

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(Council nods affirmatively)

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that you can move on. You can just go ahead and just knock each one of them out. If there are any questions, we'll address it at that time.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Item number two was local observation and monitoring of climate change. Emphasis on engaging local communities and climate change monitoring and collaboration with resource management agencies for a more effective strategy.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: For the record I'd just like to note that Mr. Raymond Woods has joined us. You can continue.

MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Item number three is support for local hunters. Advocacy for increasing support for local hunters facing challenges like dwindling caribou populations and rising expenses. Recommendations include streamlining permit acquisition processes and providing grants for fuel and ammunition.

Item No. 4 was concerns over the rising beaver populations. There's an alarm about the increasing presence of beavers causing flooding and hindering fish migrations. The Council wants support for studies integrating traditional knowledge and advocating for programs to clear beaver dams.

Item No. 5 was increasing muskox presence. There's worries about muskox herds damaging infrastructure and safety concerns around the villages. Calling for agency assistance and repelling muskox and managing populations through increased hunting opportunities.

Item No. 6 is concern over increasing predator populations. Highlighting the rise in bear and wolf populations affecting caribou and advocating for continued research including dietary surveys of wolves.

Item No. 7 is bycatch and resource depletion in the Bering Sea. Concerns over factory

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1 trawlers depleting marine resources and causing
2 significant bycatch particularly of salmon that's
3 crucial for subsistence and its impact on the ecosystem
4 and local communities.

5

6 So that concludes your seven concerns.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 If you have any questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Just so you're on the
13 same page, Raymond, we are under item number 10 on the
14 agenda, which is going to be on Page 22. It's our
15 FY2023 Annual Report. So if there is any questions
16 from the Council, any comments. If there are no
17 comments or questions, then I would entertain a motion
18 to approve the Annual Report.

19

20 MR. RAMOTH: I so move, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Clyde. Do we
23 have a second.

24

25 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Verne.
28 All those in favor 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: Hearing none. Our
38 FY2023 Annual Report is approved. We will move to item
39 10(b), which is deferred wildlife proposals, which we
40 covered this morning. So who would like to speak to
41 the Council? Go ahead, Lisa, with this morning's
42 wildlife actions.

43

44 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So, yes,
45 this morning you guys -- I'm actually going to need
46 some help from Staff because my computer isn't reading
47 what you guys voted on. Essentially your proposal was
48 to reduce the bag limit for taking of caribou in Units
49 21D and the remainder of 22, 23, 24B and the remainder
50

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1 of 24C, 24D and 26A to the four caribou per year, only
2 one of which may be a cow.

3

4

5 The Board amended the proposal with
6 RC-01. So essentially you guys took up with the Board
7 of Game that they proposed in their amendments. So
8 this is what I'm reading. If I could get help from
9 Staff, I could maybe read this more effectively.

9

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So the Board amended the proposal,
which is in the record locator 021, presented to the
Board at the time as substitute language, which makes
it applicable to the northwestern portion of Unit 23
and the southwestern portion of Unit 26A. It changes
the resident bag limit to 15 caribou per year by
registration permit only and only one of which may be a
cow and resident season dates of July 1st to June 30th.

If I could have Staff confirm that was
what you guys voted on, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you.

MS. WESSELS: I'm trying to verify it
for you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: While we do that would
someone like to get our photographer so we can get our
Council picture taken.

(Taking Council picture)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: One of you has to go
to a mic.

DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. My
understanding of what your decision was earlier today
was to support WP24-28/29 as modified by the Board of
Game. Now the Board of Game did not modify your
proposal directly, but they modified an identical
proposal to exclude the eastern portion of Unit 26A
from the harvest limit reductions and to change the
harvest limit to 15 caribou per year, only one of which
may be a cow in Units 22, 23 and the western portion of
Unit 26A. Also including Units 21D and Unit 24.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So at this time do we
take action or we've already taken action, so we just
need to say in the record. Someone come up here and

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1 say what we need to do, not just nod at me.

2

3

4 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. This is
5 Hannah Voorhees. You took action at your joint meeting
6 earlier today. You do not need to take action again.

6

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, for the record,
9 what needs to be said so that for the purposes of our
10 meeting it's clear what action was taken.

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MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair. Katya Wessels
for the record. So the Council discussed Proposal
WP24-28/29 at an earlier quadrilateral Council meeting
between Northwest Arctic, North Slope, Seward Peninsula
and Western Interior. In that meeting the Council
voted on a motion that was just read into the record by
Dr. Voorhees and the Council unanimously voted to
support that motion. So the motion passed.

There's nothing additional that needs
to be done in this meeting because I just stated on the
record that the Council had a vote on those proposals,
provided their recommendation. Your justification is
on the record as well because you extensively
deliberated those proposals on record during this
earlier quadrilateral meeting this morning.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

Attamuk.

MR. SHIEDT: Excuse me, but I thought
this morning was not recorded agenda this morning
because we were not on -- we weren't recorded this
morning. So now it's being recorded. I thought we
have to approve this. Correct me if I'm wrong, but
this morning was not recorded.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you for this
statement, Mr. Shiedt. You were recorded this morning.
We had a court reporter there in the room behind you.
The meeting got recorded by the court reporter. As
well we also have a video recording of that meeting
that also has sound.

MR. SHIEDT: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other questions
2 regarding this topic.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Katya and
7 Dr. Voorhees for that clarification. So with that I
8 believe we can move on to item C, which is the call for
9 Federal fish and shellfish regulatory proposals. Who
10 from OSM fisheries would like to start us off?

11
12 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
13 Council Members. I'm going to talk about the upcoming
14 call for fisheries proposals and you can find the
15 information about how to submit the proposal on Page
16 101. For the record my name is Karen Hyer. I'm with
17 Dr. Hannah Voorhees. She's my anthropological
18 counterpart and I'm a fisheries biologist with OSM.

19
20 So this isn't an action item, but the
21 Federal Subsistence Board will soon be accepting
22 proposals to change Federal regulations for subsistence
23 take of fish on Federal public waters for the period of
24 2025-2027. The Board will consider proposals to change
25 Federal fish seasons, harvest limits, methods and means
26 and customary and traditional use determination.

27
28 Again, the window of opportunity isn't
29 open now, but it will be open soon. If the Council
30 would like to submit a proposal, now is the time to
31 work together to do that at this meeting. Then we
32 would draft something that would be submitted when the
33 window is open.

34
35 There's also an opportunity for
36 individuals to submit proposals once the window is open
37 and the instructions are right here in the book. But
38 this is the time since the Council is together if
39 there's something they want to do as a Council.

40
41 That concludes my update. Are there
42 any questions or is there anything you would like to
43 put forward?

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike, go ahead.

46
47 MR. KRAMER: Mike Kramer. I know that
48 the last couple weeks out in front of Kotzebue there's
49 been a lot of people out there sheefishing. I kind of
50

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1 just wanted to check because a lot of people were
2 tagged with no fishing license and they're out there
3 subsistence fishing for sheefish, for food. I just
4 would like a clarification whether we have to have a
5 fishing license for subsistence or for -- I know we
6 have to have a sport license.

7
8 But I mean is it required on the
9 subsistence side for subsistence fishing for like
10 sheefish through the ice or is there something that
11 separates between using a niksik, as we call them, the
12 ones that we make, or a fishing rod? I know that we do
13 both, but I just wanted it to be clarified because I
14 think several people were ticketed out there out in
15 front of Kotzebue because they were fishing for
16 sheefish for subsistence purposes and they were given a
17 ticket for not having a fishing license.

18
19 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council
20 Members. Were they fishing or sportfishing regulations
21 do you think?

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if I might add to
24 it. I believe this would be under State jurisdiction
25 because of how close it is to shore. To my knowledge
26 -- I mean in the summer if you're fishing with a rod
27 and reel standing on Front Street, you're not required
28 to have a fishing license as that's been tried before
29 where someone was given a ticket and then it was
30 overturned because of subsistence. I think this would
31 be a question for Fish and Game rather than OSM
32 fisheries, but we can try to relay that to somebody.

33
34 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I just wanted some
35 clarification.

36
37 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council
38 Members. Also if you have questions about fisheries you
39 can always go by the refuge there that Bill Carter is
40 the fish biologist and he'd be happy to help you with
41 the regulations if you have specific questions about
42 State or Federal. I've often called up there with
43 questions and they're up to speed.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that. I
46 will say that before this meeting started a member of
47 the Western Interior RAC provided us a copy -- or
48 provided me a copy and asked that we speak about it and
49 I asked if he'd send somebody over to speak to their
50

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1 proposal. Effectively this is regarding commercial
2 fishing regulations on the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian
3 Islands and Chignik finfish side. I don't know if
4 you've received a copy or if you ladies would be able
5 to speak to it.

6

7 MS. HYER: I have not, but could we
8 look at that very quickly.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

11

12 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
13 Members. So this is for the Board of Fisheries, so
14 this would be the State. Did the Regional Advisory
15 Council want our support?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I apologize.

18

19 MS. HYER: Yeah. Do you know what
20 their request was to you?

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: To also consider
23 sending this in. I can't speak to the specifics of
24 this proposal, but it would basically be amending what
25 is allowed in terms of the length and depth of seining
26 nets out in the Aleutians that affect chum salmon
27 return up the Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers since no one from
28 that side has come over to talk to us. I just wanted
29 to get it on record that we talked about it, but I
30 think we'll need somebody to actually be able to speak
31 to this one.

32

33 Yes, go ahead, Karen.

34

35 (Background conversation)

36

37 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Did you have a
40 question, Bob?

41

42 MR. SCHAEFFER: I thought we discussed
43 something about complimenting some of our neighbors
44 because of salmon decline. I know we talked about the
45 Yukon and the Kuskokwim because they're not getting any
46 salmon anymore.

47

48 I do recall seeing something about
49 helping out those folks if it means stepping out of
50

0037

1 bounds a little bit to try to help out because they're
2 going through a really tough, devastating subsistence
3 crisis. I think it's working our way.

4
5 In the report -- I was listening to all
6 your reports by the way. I pulled my hip and I'm
7 having a tough time getting around, slipping on your --
8 Anchorage's beautiful streets. Anyway, I just feel
9 that we're next in line when it comes to salmon crises.

10
11 The last two years the most everybody
12 mention how high the waters were last fall and the
13 entire summer. When I was talking with Larry he said
14 it was actually crazy. He said it looked like it's
15 going to be that way again because we have so much snow
16 up there. He said it's going to be a long spring for
17 him and for the people of Kiana.

18
19 Anyway, I just thought I'd bring that
20 out because what it does is it washes out all the eggs
21 that the salmon lay when they first come up here in
22 July and in August. Some of those places where the
23 spawning streams are at the Kobuk and the Noatak and
24 they're flooded out.

25
26 So just based on what I know of salmon
27 and I know where they spawn because I'm a fisherman and
28 been fishing for 50 years like a lot of us have, we're
29 always concerned come fall time when the water is
30 getting really super high because it will wash out
31 whatever roe that the salmon laid during the summer.

32
33 So it might be just -- we're getting
34 the summers that Ketchikan gets, used to get. They're
35 getting our sunshine and we're getting all the rain.
36 It gets kind of scary because if I set net trying to
37 catch salmon and no salmon. There's hardly any Kobuk
38 run at all. We usually get their Kobuk run on the
39 beaches going toward the other channels, but we didn't
40 get any salmon this year. Got to go to Kotzebue to get
41 salmon.

42
43 Anyway, I just thought I'd bring that
44 up because I think we talked about it briefly at one
45 point in time trying to support those folks that are
46 trying to do something with the crisis that they're
47 going through with salmon.

48
49 Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob.

2

3 Attamuk.

4

5 MR. SHIEDT: I will support what Robert
6 -- Bobby said. There's so much high water last summer
7 that our four-year and five-year-old chums is probably
8 what I'm scared of and I told my boys as a commercial
9 fishing. I was raised in Noatak and every time we get
10 high water we feel it. Four-year-old and five-year-old
11 salmon. We have to worry about it now because it's
12 going to come at the time when the fours years from now
13 come. A lot of our people are going to say there's no
14 salmon.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.

17

18 Verne, go ahead.

19

20 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, I noticed the
21 salmon in my net this summer was huge. I couldn't
22 believe how huge they were. I put my net in high water
23 just for -- you know, I needed fish. But I put it in
24 the water and I was getting a lot of (in Native), a lot
25 of (in Native).

26

27 The salmon were huge. I never seen
28 salmon that huge in our area. They were abundant. I
29 just had it two days. I got 60 salmon and that was
30 enough. Just two days of fishing. I don't know what
31 they're talking about not getting any fish. I just
32 stayed two days and that was it.

33

34 My neighbor tried to give me all his
35 fish. I told him I had enough. I sent some over to
36 Selawik, frozen fish, because I had too much. Too much
37 fish and I just gave it away, mostly to Clyde. They
38 were frozen, but I gave it to him because my freezer
39 was full of fish and I had a lot of salmon.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Aarigaa.

44

45 Karen, did you come up with something?

46

47 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council
48 Members, yes. So that is a proposal that's going to be
49 submitted to the Board of Fish concerning Area M. I
50

0039

1 apologize. I'm not super familiar with the State
2 process. Normally we could run out and get our State
3 liaison, but we don't have a lot of time here. So what
4 I think we should do is -- I don't know. Were they
5 asking for another proposal to be submitted or for
6 support of that proposal?

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Effectively they were
9 asking for support. If not, us putting in the same
10 thing just to show that there is support from multiple
11 regions of the state.

12
13 MS. HYER: So what I think would be
14 most effective is if we can get your intent on the
15 record. Then we can work on it off the record. If the
16 most effective thing is to submit another proposal,
17 we'll do that. If it's to submit a letter of support,
18 we'll do that. What I really would like from you is
19 just intent right now and then we'll figure out the
20 details and circle back around.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Wilbur.

23
24 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This
25 letter you just received, my thought was that I believe
26 it's support from us, right? Am I correct they want
27 our support? I would say yea to that. So you've got
28 mine.

29
30 MS. HYER: Yes, exactly. We'll just
31 figure out what the best way to do that support is, how
32 to submit that on the record.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So I think,
35 considering that we have some specific information
36 which we're missing on this, but just reading the room
37 there is consensus that we'd like to support our other
38 RACs in the other regions of the state in this time of
39 crisis regarding salmon this proposal to the Board of
40 Fisheries is specifically targeting changes in
41 regulation to allow for better escapement going up the
42 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

43
44 So if it is the will of the Council, we
45 can go ahead and say our intent is to support this
46 proposal and the Western Interior RAC's desire to
47 create a better environment for the salmon going up the
48 Kusko and Yukon Rivers.

49
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1 MR. RAMOTH: I so move and with legal
2 advice. My recommendation.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Clyde. So
5 we have a motion. Is there a second to support the
6 Western Interior RAC's efforts.

7
8 MR. HOWARTH: Second, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So moved by Clyde,
11 seconded by Wilbur. Lisa, did you have a question or
12 comment?

13
14 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, I
15 just wanted for clarification. It's for the Alaska
16 Peninsula Aleutian Islands, so it might -- I don't know
17 if it was Western Interior, but it's that particular
18 region.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the proposal was
21 brought to me by a member of the Western Interior RAC.
22 The rationale behind this proposal addressing that area
23 is that is where a lot of their chum salmon go through
24 and are being caught up by the nets.

25
26 So there is a motion by Clyde to
27 support, second by Wilbur. All those in favor go ahead
28 and 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: So that, for the
38 record, we'd just like to have it known that the
39 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council would like
40 to do what we can to support the Western Interior
41 Regional Advisory Council on these fish matters and
42 salmon crises matters. If there are any proposals or
43 anything that we would like to do for the Federal fish
44 and shellfish regulatory proposals, I'd be happy to
45 hear them at this time. If not, I believe that we can
46 follow up with Ms. Hyer at a later date individually or
47 we, as a Council, can come up with something.

48
49 (No comments)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none. Thank
2 you for this portion. We will be sure -- don't go
3 anywhere. You're still next on the list, I think.

4
5 MS. HYER: I thought there was
6 something in between. Maybe not.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It used to be that way
9 a couple years ago, but I think we've figured out that
10 the dynamic duo of Hyer and Voorhees should just do
11 their action items together. So hearing none we will
12 move on to developing the Priority Information Needs
13 for FRMP. Selection of working group participants.

14
15 MS. HYER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman and Council Members. For you that are new to
17 the Council I just want to give you a quick overview.
18 OSM funds research and management projects that help
19 provide information for managing fisheries and we do
20 this every two years. So we are looking towards the
21 2026 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. So this is a
22 ways out.

23
24 This is the time that we start to work
25 towards that and OSM collects information from the
26 Councils to what they feel is most important. So it's
27 the Council's opportunity to let us know what their
28 priorities are. We call this list of priorities the
29 Priority Information Needs. At your fall Council we'll
30 have the official list of Priority Information Needs.
31 We'll discuss it on the record and then we'll approve
32 it as a Council.

33
34 Before that we like to work with the
35 smaller group or anybody that's interested to have a
36 draft list. So when we go before the Council we can
37 expedite approving this list. So I am looking for
38 volunteers that are interested in helping to start this
39 process and develop this list of what is of importance
40 for research and monitoring in your region. Then we'll
41 work together this spring and summer and into the fall
42 and we'll go forward with a draft list.

43
44 I know that there are a lot of
45 important fisheries issues in your regions, so it's
46 your time to meet with us. We can pull in the Federal
47 and State managers if we want to for more information
48 and develop this list and that list will drive the
49 research of the next four years. It's a four-year
50

0042

1 cycle once the money is given.

2

3 MR. HOWARTH: So, ma'am, Mr. Chair,
4 thank you. So this -- you want just Unit 23 us to set
5 up priority list, like caribou or salmon.

6

7 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
8 Members. This relates to fish and fisheries research.
9 So it would be the important issues in your region for
10 studies on fisheries.

11

12 MR. HOWARTH: Thank you.

13

14 MR. RAMOTH: Designate Mike Kramer for
15 fisheries for our area.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So this one is a
18 volunteer.

19

20 MS. HYER: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before we start.....

23

24 MR. RAMOTH: If he accepts.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before we start
27 putting names out, how many volunteers are you looking
28 for?

29

30 MS. HYER: If I could get the whole
31 Council, that would be perfect.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Would anyone like to
36 volunteer?

37

38 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. If you come
39 to Noorvik, I'll give you a good heads up on fish.
40 That's what I'm practically there for.

41

42 MS. HYER: I think you just
43 volunteered.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It sounds like a
46 volunteer from Mr. Howarth. Do we have any other
47 volunteers by show of hands? Clyde Ramoth, Attamuk
48 Shiedt, Michael Kramer.

49

50

0043

1 MR. WOODS: Upper Kobuk.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Raymond Woods a/k/a
4 Upper Kobuk.

5

6 MR. SHIEDT: I'll do it for Noatak and
7 Kivalina on their char.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone else?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that it looks
14 like we have a pretty good representation of the
15 Northwest Arctic from Kotzebue up both the rivers. All
16 three rivers really. So do you have all the names,
17 Karen?

18

19 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
20 Members. I'm going to go over them again. I have Mr.
21 Howarth, I have Mr. Kramer, I have Mr. Ramoth, I have
22 Mr. Shiedt and I have Mr. Woods. I think that's it.
23 I've got everybody. Thank you so much.

24

25 Mr. Chair, without setting off an
26 alarm, I just wanted to thank Mr. Schaeffer for
27 volunteering last time around and for your work on the
28 PINs with myself and Jarred Stone, who was helping at
29 that time. We have a good list of PINs to work with,
30 so that will be the basis for starting this discussion.

31

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. So if
36 there's nothing else.....

37

38 MS. HYER: There is nothing else.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike.

41

42 MR. KRAMER: Do you guys have any more
43 studies that you guys are planning? I know that we
44 were going to continue keeping sheefish in the loop
45 because of the schluff on the Kobuk or on the Selawik
46 River. I don't know when was the last time -- you
47 know, we don't have a hatchery no more. I don't think
48 they're ever planning on putting another hatchery up
49 there because they said the old one would cost twice as
50

0044

1 much to -- it would be cheaper to just build a whole
2 new system.

3
4 You know, it's been a few years and
5 we've been having very odd warm temperatures up the
6 Kobuk. One year I pulled up into Kiana, my other
7 hometown, and my prop was like a meat grinder. I was
8 just chopping up salmon going up to the shore there.
9 They were all piling up in front of Kiana because the
10 rivers were too warm for them to go up and spawn.

11
12 I was just wondering if you guys were
13 ever going to plan on trying to do some kind of a --
14 how do you say it? You know, study to see how the
15 population or the numbers are doing. I know that they
16 used to have a sonar thing right there up the Noatak
17 just above the canyons.

18
19 It would be good to try and see where
20 we're sitting at with the salmon because I sure would
21 hate to see a big nosedive on our chum salmon. We've
22 been having pretty poor buyers. There was a buyer that
23 wouldn't buy fish from other people, so they were stuck
24 with salmon. They were going to get busted for wanton
25 waste. It's a double-edged sword, man. Something's
26 got to occur.

27
28 But I just wanted to see if you guys
29 were going to do any more studies. I know that we're
30 going to keep char on there and I think we're going to
31 keep sheefish, but it would be good to see if we could
32 put something on salmon for a few years.

33
34 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kramer.
35 A couple things. We do have some sheefish work going
36 on right now. Unfortunately, because our meeting is so
37 condensed the investigators couldn't present, but at
38 the next meeting the investigators will be there to
39 present the ongoing work.

40
41 The second thing is there has been some
42 discussion about salmon, so I'm quite happy that you're
43 one of my volunteers and we can talk about it more, but
44 I have been approached by investigators interested in
45 salmon in your region. We can work on getting some
46 PINs for the next time around because I do believe if
47 the Council was inclined to direct research, that way I
48 do believe there would be people interested in it.

49
50

0045

1 That's all I had, Mr. Chair, Council
2 Members.

3
4 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair and Mike and
5 ma'am. Wilbur Howarth from Noorvik. We have an
6 environmentalist that we did studies on the sheefish
7 and our environmentalist now has a boat and motor and
8 equipment to monitor the waters in each of our drainage
9 what goes into the Kobuk Lake, which is monitoring the
10 warmth of the water. So that started.

11
12 I wanted to get Kiana involved and the
13 Upper Kobuk River people involved. It's called
14 watershed. We do monitoring the temperature of the
15 waters because we know that fish has a big problem with
16 warm and cold. That's why I know about belly of fish
17 and why some of our fish are not really getting up
18 there to where they're supposed to be.

19
20 I've seen different colors of the
21 river. In fact, they went up there and it was so much
22 high water that all the tree leaves and stuff were
23 falling into the river and it just changed the color of
24 our river. People were like what's going on. Those
25 kind of things -- in Noorvik now our environmentalist
26 is working real hard to work with Fish and Game and
27 Park Service so we could do temperature readings on our
28 rivers.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
33 Thank you, Karen and Hannah. We will move on to item
34 E, reappointments with Emily Creek.

35
36 MS. CREEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Members of the Council. My name is Emily Creek. I'm
38 the subsistence coordinator for the Park Service Office
39 in Kotzebue and I'm the coordinator for the Kobuk
40 Valley and Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource
41 Commissions.

42
43 I'm here today because we have some
44 members who were appointed by the RAC. There are nine
45 members to each commission and three are appointed by
46 your body. We have some folks whose appointments have
47 expired and have expressed desire to be reappointed. So
48 I would just need to present those names to you and see
49 if you're interested in reappointing them.

50

0046

1 I'll start with Kobuk Valley. At your
2 last -- I guess two meetings ago you appointed Tristen
3 to the SRC and at this time I have Merle Custer and
4 Rosa Horner who are both up for reappointment. So I'll
5 stop therefor now tolet the Council maketheir decision.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Emily. Any
8 questions, any thoughts or are we good with
9 reappointing Merle Custer of Shungnak and Rosa Horner
10 of Kobuk to the Kobuk Valley SRC?

11
12 MR. RAMOTH: I so move, Chair.

13
14 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So moved by Clyde and
17 seconded by Verne. Raymond, were you going to say
18 something?

19
20 MR. WOODS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think
21 it's kind of a little quick to do a motion before you
22 go through the Council. Because to the ages of these
23 appointees already been stated on the paper right now,
24 I can see that they're both up in age and if we were to
25 do something to research that if there's an age limit,
26 that they cannot get on a boat to go up the river or to
27 do anything. If the Council would, I think, reappoint
28 somebody from up there who's pretty active in going out
29 and following the researchers, that would be fine with
30 me.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
33 Raymond. I don't believe there are any age
34 requirements.

35
36 Attamuk.

37
38 MR. SHIEDT: The way we had -- before
39 when we had our SRC meetings from the villages that's
40 the time we used to pick from the people at the meeting
41 at Kotzebue. Like you say, they're not here. So
42 whoever is the subsistence resource for Northwest
43 Alaska is at the room that's when we should pick them
44 because that's how they picked me. Appointed by the
45 board to represent the Kobuk. They're not here and I
46 think that should be done at Kotzebue, not here.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0047

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.
2 As I recall, I think it was when we were going to
3 appoint Tristen -- it was when we were going to appoint
4 somebody to the SRCs. We wanted to wait until we heard
5 from those people on whether they actually wanted to be
6 reappointed and if there were people interested.

7
8 So I think at this time, since we
9 didn't really have a full discussion and this isn't
10 necessarily something we make a motion on, I would like
11 to see that we get a list of interested parties for
12 both SRCs and whether the people who have lapsed would
13 like to continue serving on the SRC.

14
15 Any objections to that from the
16 Council.

17
18 MR. SHIEDT: Let me check my phone.
19 They just sent me a message that we're going to have a
20 meeting in about two weeks in Kotzebue. So I think
21 that's the time it should be held at Kotzebue to pick.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think with that,
24 since there's a meeting coming up, we can table this.
25 Once we hear through Lisa and Emily about whether folks
26 are interested, then we can -- would we be able to pick
27 this up outside of a meeting or does it have to be at a
28 meeting since it's an action item?

29
30 MS. CREEK: Mr. Chair, if I may. At
31 the last RAC meeting you asked me to get confirmation,
32 so I did ask members who were at the SRC meeting, but
33 I'm happy to do so again to reconfirm. I can provide
34 the minutes so you can see -- it's a little bit tricky
35 with the timing. That would be best if that would be
36 the method to provide you with the minutes.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Katya Wessels for the record. If you don't take an
40 action on the motion at this meeting, I just wanted you
41 to be aware that you will not be able to appoint anyone
42 until the fall meeting. Since you have a motion on the
43 floor, you will have to make another motion to table
44 that motion.

45
46 MR. CLEVELAND: There is a motion on
47 the floor. So we can't keep going or should we retain
48 our motion? Once you make a motion the person will
49 have to pull back it's own motion. The appointees,
50

0048

1 like Mike said, on the RAC if you're appointed you
2 should just keep the incumbents in there. It would be
3 much easier for all of us.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Right now
8 we're just under discussion of the motion before we
9 take any action to table or to move forward. Mike, did
10 you have something?

11

12 MR. KRAMER: You said it had three
13 seats on there?

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: There are three seats
16 that we, as the RAC, appoint, but right now only two on
17 the Kobuk Valley are up.

18

19 MS. CREEK: Through the Chair. Just
20 another important note is that members that the RAC
21 appoints must be either AC or RAC members, so that does
22 make the pool quite a bit smaller than the other seats
23 on the SRC.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Bob.

26

27 MR. SCHAEFFER: I see no problem with
28 approving it now. If we start tabling things, we don't
29 meet for another six months, you know. It's not that
30 critical. I just feel that we should give them all the
31 leeway possible to do their jobs.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Clyde.

34

35 MR. RAMOTH: If that's the motion, I'll
36 second it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It's not a motion I
39 don't think because we're in discussion of the motion
40 that you made. For clarity, just looking at this one,
41 Merle Custer expired in 2022. Would that mean that if
42 we reappoint Merle, it goes around for another three
43 years from the date that we appoint. Okay. And the
44 same for Rosa Horner.

45

46 MS. CREEK: For the record, yes, it's
47 three-year appointments.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Attamuk, did you find

50

0049

1 what you're looking for over there?

2

3

MR. SHIEDT: Sorry. When I deleted my
4 phone by accident. We were going to have a meeting in
5 about two weeks at Kotzebue on this here. The rest of
6 the people from the village the SRCs are going to meet
7 all together all at once. I think that was the time we
8 usually pick them. They're from the east village.
9 We've been doing it for years like that.

10

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead, Verne.

MR. CLEVELAND: Attamuk, is that the
reason the council is selecting these or is it just --
she said to have the Regional Advisory Council select,
right, to appoint these people.

MR. SHIEDT: They used to have people
from Upper Kobuk and Noorvik and Kiana, Buckland and
Deering, Noatak, Kivalina and Kotzebue all at that room
together. Remember that, Kramer? They used to pick
and the Federal Board here used to appoint someone onto
the Board at the time. I'm not trying to change it,
but that's how we used to do it.

MS. WESSELS: The Council, according to
your Charter, and you can look at your Charter, you
appoint the applicants or nominates to the SRC. Those
names are brought to you. I mean you can select it,
like get all applicants at the meeting, but there's a
function of a Council to still appoint.

The two names were brought up to you.
I guess there's discussion that there may be some
others that are more suitable. So you can decide
either appoint those that were proposed to you at this
meeting or delay it until the next meeting if there is
other prospective candidates.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Verne.

MR. CLEVELAND: That's why we're here,
to appoint the people. If you try and appoint, it's
going to take another six months to get another person
in there. If you've got incumbents in there, put them
back in there. I've been in that seat before. I've
been there before many moons ago, but I've been there.
It just really helps out our villages. If we're here
to appoint, we might as well appoint and get it over

0050

1 with right now.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Verne.

6

7

Attamuk.

8

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, what I was really
11 trying to say the Federal Board, us, we used to pick
12 one to attend this and the meeting is March 18th at
13 Kotzebue, and we used to pick one. And I used to
14 serve, but I don't mind if we pick someone else, but it
15 do take time and they used to have it -- they always
16 try to have the meeting right during oogruk time and
17 time for caribou time. I'll tell you that right now.
18 It's SRC. They call it SRC for our region and we're
19 having it on the 18th of March.

19

20

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

21

22

23

24

MR. CLEVELAND: Does the appointees,
Merle and Rosa, know about they're being appointed to
the Board?

25

26

27

28

29

30

MS. CREEK: Yes, they do and they're
both at this time planning to attend the meeting in
about two weeks. Of course, things can change with
weather and such, but hopefully they will both be able
to make it in.

31

32

33

34

MR. CLEVELAND: Then I recommend that
we appoint both individuals to the RAC.

35

36

37

38

MR. RAMOTH: I'll second.

39

40

41

42

MS. WESSELS: You already have a motion
on the floor. You can't have another motion.

43

44

45

46

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Elmer, go ahead,
please.

MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
I'll call for the question.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Would this be a roll
call or all in the favor say aye kind of vote? So all
those in favor of reappointing Merle Custer and Rosa
Horner to the Kobuk Valley SRC please signify by saying

0051

1 aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed same
6 sign.

7

8

(No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that we will go
11 ahead for the record reappoint Merle Custer and Rosa
12 Horner to the Kobuk Valley SRC and move on to the Cape
13 Krusenstern SRC. The floor is yours, Emily.

14

15 MS. CREEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Members of the Council. So I also serve as the
17 coordinator for the Cape Krusenstern SRC and we have
18 three members who were appointed by the RAC who are up
19 for reappointment at this time as well. For clarity
20 sake, I did speak to two of these members at the last
21 meeting in October and the third is actually Attamuk
22 Shiedt, so I needed to ask interest in being
23 reappointed to the Krusenstern SRC before continuing
24 on.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, Attamuk.
27 Do you want to stay on the Cape Krusenstern SRC?

28

29 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, I will, but I usually
30 go with the Board.

31

32 REPORTER: Turn your mic on, please.

33

34 MR. SHIEDT: Yes, I usually go, but the
35 way we used to do it when I was chairman that we used
36 to go through the Board to ask someone or you pick
37 someone to represent for the SRC. It's for the
38 parklands.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Understood. I just
41 wanted to make sure if you would like to stay on.

42

43 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I will. I'm just
44 explaining it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Does
47 anyone else have interest in serving on the SRC?
48 Elmer, go ahead.

49

50

0052

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 I make a motion to reappoint Alex Whiting, Attamuk
3 Shiedt, Enoch Adams for SRC Cape Krusenstern National
4 Monument.

5
6 MR. RAMOTH: I'll second that motion.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Motion made by Elmer
9 to reappoint all three individuals to the Cape
10 Krusenstern National Monument SRC, seconded by Clyde
11 Ramoth. All those in favor please signify by saying
12 aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed same
17 sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that I would
22 just like to say just to make sure that we've now
23 rather than Attamuk being appointed from the AC side he
24 is on the RAC side. We, for the record, have appointed
25 Alex Whiting, Attamuk Shiedt and Enoch Adams to the
26 Cape Krusenstern National Monument SRC. Thank you,
27 Emily. With that I believe that wraps up your portion,
28 so thank you.

29
30 We will move on to item F, which is the
31 Federal Subsistence Board additional public members
32 proposed rule. Who would like to cover that? Will
33 volunteered to talk this morning. He didn't say what
34 about.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Katya, would you like
39 to speak to this one?

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I can. For the
42 record Katya Wessels. So you all were present at the
43 Joint Council session on the first day of the
44 All-Council meeting. At that meeting Raina Thiele
45 presented the proposed rule that was published in the
46 Federal Register, which proposes to -- and these
47 proposed rules in your joint book -- let's see what
48 page it's on.

49
50

0053

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Katya, it's
2 also in their supplemental materials. Tab 3.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Lisa, what page is it on
5 in their supplemental material?

6
7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Tab 3.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So it's on Page 32
10 in the joint book just for the record. So besides
11 adding three additional seats to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board there are other proposals. One of
13 the proposals is increase the number of public Board
14 members. The other proposal is qualification of Chair.
15 Add additional wording to qualification of Chair.

16
17 The other proposal is to establish term
18 limits on how long the Board members can be serving on
19 the Federal Subsistence Board. The other proposal is
20 oversize responsibility and certification requirements.
21 So those are four proposals that are part of this
22 proposed rule. I cannot really speak about them in
23 detail, but right now the comment period is open.

24
25 So the Council, if they desire so, can
26 submit a comment on the proposed rule, but I suggest
27 that Council members read very quickly, take some time,
28 and everyone reads what's in the Federal Register on
29 that proposed rule. It's not that much, about two
30 pages. Then decide if you want or don't want to submit
31 a comment. It's up to the Council.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike.

34
35 MR. KRAMER: This is regarding the
36 three tribal seats?

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Yes, that is part of that
39 proposal in the proposed rule.

40
41 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I guess that was my
42 priority. I consulted with a lot of people and they
43 said that these tribal seats -- there's 228 tribes
44 registered in Alaska. That's a lot of people to go
45 through those nominations. Who's going to have the
46 daunting task of picking, you know, three Council
47 members out of all those people? That's my question.

48
49 My suggestion was that -- every RAC has
50

0054

1 three officers. They're chosen for a reason because of
2 their knowledge and culture, subsistence resources and
3 the ways and the procedures of submitting and also the
4 way that the Federal Subsistence Board acts upon
5 proposals and everything. It's a process. Simply just
6 a process.

7

8 The Federal Subsistence Board would
9 create a council or working group consisting of these
10 three officers from each RAC. So there's 10 RACs.
11 That's 30 people in this one pool. Keep in mind they
12 are from their areas and they are from their regions.
13 So within this pool of 30 people they would be able to
14 get together several times a year or whatever it needs
15 to be to be able to accommodate one two-year term and
16 two three-year terms so that there's always an overlap
17 and they're never left short.

18

19 They would be chosen by these 30
20 individuals and nominated from these 30 individuals and
21 voted on by these 30 individuals to fill those three
22 seats. A lot of people agree because there is such a
23 wealth of knowledge within those top three officers,
24 Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and the Board as a
25 whole. That is one of the reasons why I brought that
26 up because it seems likethat would be such a greatidea.

27

28 The other thing is whoever was going to
29 have that daunting task of picking Council members out
30 of 228 tribes, registered tribes within the state of
31 Alaska. That is a lot of people to go through. That's
32 a lot of paperwork, but this would eliminate a lot of
33 it. They would be chosen by these 30 people. They
34 will consist of officers from each RAC.

35

36 Was there anything else that you guys
37 want to add too that or suggest? It's open to all of
38 us, but that was my suggestion and I know I brought it
39 up at the All-RAC. Is there any additional things you
40 guys wanted to add to that?

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bob, go ahead.

43

44 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I think this is
45 kind of a special thing that the Secretary did to try
46 to accommodate the tribal representation, which has
47 been absent, you know. I felt that was the best thing
48 since apple pie, you know, because the present RAC is
49 stacked against us and we've always felt that it was
50

0055

1 stacked against us simply because we don't have
2 majority vote. I'm talking about the Subsistence
3 Board.

4

5 I just felt that it the playing field
6 and that way there would be a lot more better
7 participation and I like the idea that, you know, of
8 having the tribes select the three. All the tribes in
9 Alaska belong to an association. I know in Kotzebue
10 area each of the tribes in the villages formed Maniilaq
11 Association. The Tanana Chiefs is all the tribes in
12 all 29 villages. They formed the Tanana Chiefs and so
13 forth. It's all the way right down the line.

14

15 So what it does is basically brings it
16 down to 12 associations that could possibly select the
17 three members. I just find it a little difficult to
18 try to get away from tribes because I'm sure if you try
19 to give the responsibility to somebody else someone is
20 going to be kind of pissed.

21

22 But I just thought I'd bring that up.
23 We have time to respond to it. Mike, you could put
24 your proposal in. I never gave it much thought, but I
25 kept thinking about the tribal organizations who have
26 direct link to their tribes that created them, you
27 know. Anyway, I thought I'd bring that out. I'm going
28 to put my proposal in on the comment period and maybe
29 it will stir up some discussion.

30

31 Thanks.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob. One
34 thought with that, Mike, is the consideration of these
35 seats would be tribal members, but the issue I see if
36 we're going by the officers from the RACs is not all
37 RACs are like us where we are all indigenous members
38 and tribal members already. So my issue with that is
39 if their RAC leadership members from different RACs who
40 are not actually tribal members who are then deciding
41 this tribal member gets it or doesn't. That's an issue
42 I see with it.

43

44 Is there any other discussion, any
45 thoughts.

46

47 Yes, Katya.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I just thought that

50

0056

1 maybe that will be helpful. In the proposed rule it
2 says here -- you know, the Secretaries specifically
3 requests public comments on the issues listed below.
4 One. Are Federally recognized tribal governments the
5 only groups that should nominate/recommend public Board
6 members that possess the qualifications identified in
7 the proposed rule?

8

9 Should Alaska Native corporations and
10 other entities also be included as entities to
11 nominate/recommend public Board members? So long as the
12 nominees possess personal knowledge of and direct
13 experience with subsistence uses in rural Alaska,
14 including Alaska Native subsistence users. That's one.

15

16 Two. Would it be preferable for
17 Federally-recognized tribes to nominate/recommend only
18 two of the three new public Board members. That's
19 number two.

20

21 No. 3. How should the Secretaries
22 solicit and receive nominations/recommendations?
23 Should the Secretaries broadly solicit nominations or
24 recommendations from Federally-recognized tribal
25 governments or should the Secretaries identify as a
26 matter of their sole discretion one or more specific
27 Federally-recognized tribal governments?

28

29 Four. Is the proposed quorum of six
30 appropriate with addition of the three new public Board
31 members or should it be increased?

32

33 So that's the four questions they
34 specifically ask the public comments on. In the
35 proposed rule it is identified, Bob, as Page 14011.
36 That's where they're asking it. If you look at the top
37 right corner.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Questions, comments,
40 thoughts, discussion.

41

42 Mike.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: The reason why I wanted
45 those three to come from the RACs is because they're
46 appointed for a reason, you know, and that's to serve
47 their regions and serve their subsistence needs,
48 resources, decisions. That's why I say there's such a
49 wealth of knowledge within those top three positions.

50

0057

1 Probably more than anywhere else in the state or even
2 within these tribes because we are part of these
3 tribes.

4

5 I'm with Kotzebue IRA and some of these
6 other guys are from your Native corp -- how would you
7 say it? IRAs or tribal -- but we are already familiar
8 with the process of the Federal Subsistence Board,
9 Regional Advisory Councils. To get someone in there
10 and then train them on the whole thing, you know, it
11 would take them a while to get used to the process.

12

13 But picking these three seats through
14 what I had said, through the Chairs and the officers,
15 the officers of each RAC, there's such a wealth of
16 knowledge. I don't think you could find more of a
17 wealth of knowledge than that. That's why I propose
18 this to the Federal Subsistence Board or whoever it is
19 that's going to be making the decision-making on
20 choosing these seats.

21

22 That way you have a smaller pool.
23 Putting these people in the positions sooner because we
24 know that the Secretary of Interior is pretty busy.
25 You could see in our RAC-wide books there that there's
26 how many positions vacant in a lot of the other 10
27 RACs. I think we're probably the one that has the
28 most, I believe.

29

30 That's my thought and my theory and I
31 just wanted to run that across everybody. It's up to
32 you guys. I mean if you guys could come up with
33 something better, by all means. Say when. But other
34 than that that's what I'm proposing.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
37 Mike. Any questions, discussion. What is the wish of
38 the Council.

39

40 MR. HOWARTH: So Mr. Chair and ma'am,
41 are we supposed to select or are we going to appoint?
42 You want something from this RAC. You want three?

43

44 MR. KRAMER: Not three.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So right now what
47 we're talking about is the process for how those three
48 people will be selected. We're not nominating any
49 specific people.

50

0058

1 MR. HOWARTH: Okay. Thank you. I
2 wanted to get that clear.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Katya.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I think the Council
7 needs to decide if you're going to submit a comment or
8 not. If you want to submit a comment together as a
9 Council, then you talk on the record and it can be
10 compiled in a written document and you'll review it and
11 then it will be submitted as a comment.

12
13 If the Council doesn't want to submit a
14 comment together as one body, then individual members
15 who have their suggestions they can submit their
16 comments by themselves.

17
18 MR. CLEVELAND: So you want three names
19 from this group, three guys from this group? I would
20 suggest that from this group we get the three youngest
21 and put them in there.

22
23 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Are you talking three
26 members to develop a comment? You need to develop a
27 comment on the record.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, again, we're not
30 picking anybody from us to be on the Board. People
31 keep seeming to want to suggest me be in everything as
32 the youngest person. Bobby, did you have something?

33
34 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, we're just going
35 through the process. This was suggested by the
36 Secretary of the Interior. I think it's really a good
37 thing because that, like I said, it will even the
38 playing field with the Federalies and local folks on
39 the Federal Subsistence Board. I think it's really a
40 good thing, but it's just a matter of -- you could
41 suggest a trial period. They put these proposed
42 regulations out and they'll put them out for so long
43 and we have an opportunity to comment on them.

44
45 Mike suggested something. His
46 suggestion can be submitted as well. You could put
47 together a suggestion as to how these people can be
48 selected. We could look at the entire packet and
49 suggest changes within what they propose. We have an
50

0059

1 opportunity. How many is it, 90 days? 60 days?

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: It says
4 it's -- 60-day public comment period expiring April 26.
5 That's pretty soon. That's like a month.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa.

8

9 Did you have more, Bob?

10

11 MR. SCHAEFFER: I just wanted to
12 mention that we have ample time to discuss this thing.
13 I know we won't meet until April 26th. It's just a
14 matter of, as a person, you have the opportunity to
15 submit whatever you feel is the way of selecting the
16 three really important positions. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
19 Bob. To clarify, you said you have -- the suggestion
20 you made you personally were going to submit or you're
21 considering submitting as your own personal opinion?

22

23 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah. Anybody can do
24 that. I'm just saying that we're trying to make it
25 fair and normally it's through the regional process,
26 you know. All the regions, like I said, are made up of
27 tribal organizations and Native tribes. They can
28 discuss it amongst themselves and then, you know, come
29 up with names. You have to go through the first steps
30 first, submission of suggestions on the regulations as
31 to how they can be selected.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
34 Bob. Any thoughts on that? I think it would be good
35 to take what we have discussed so far and generate that
36 into a comment. Taking Mike's suggestion, Bob's
37 suggestion and the conversation that we've had and
38 using that as a bit of a framework for a comment so
39 that we do -- we are able to voice that there's
40 multiple avenues that people are looking at unless
41 anybody would like to say this is the direction we
42 should go.

43

44 Any thoughts, discussion.

45

46 Lisa.

47

48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'd just
49 like to remind the Council that if you do want to

50

0060

1 submit a comment, you have to vote on that today. It
2 can't come to me after the fact because we can't submit
3 any -- OSM can't submit any kind of comment letters on
4 your behalf unless you vote on it today. So that would
5 be the first step. If you want to submit a comment and
6 then come up and then I need kind of really pretty
7 clear language of what you want said in there so we can
8 get it drafted and then I would send it back to you
9 guys to review it.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So would we be
14 comfortable as a group if we vote on it and then say
15 this is the discussion our RAC had that brought up
16 issues from both sides and this is the merits of having
17 leadership from the RACs do it, these are the merits of
18 having regional associations do it when it comes to
19 selection. Do we want to do that as a group today and
20 compile that language?

21

22 Go ahead, Bob.

23

24 MR. SCHAEFFER: I find it difficult
25 because we're not tribes. None of us are. We're
26 tribal members, but on some of the RACs they've got
27 other representation as well and that would be a
28 problem. But if I was a tribe and that happened, I'd
29 take exception to it and tell you to go fly a kite.
30 This was given to the tribes of Alaska to select the
31 three members. So just a matter of tribes suggesting
32 how they're going to do this and maybe we can
33 compliment them. But it's not our place.

34

35 Individually you can do whatever you
36 want. You can comment on it all you want. But as a
37 group I find it's kind of difficult. We're not a
38 tribal organization. We're not created, you know,
39 under the tribal auspices, so it may be difficult for
40 me to kind of justify my comment if I was -- if it came
41 from this RAC.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
44 Bob.

45

46 You have a question, Clyde?

47

48 MR. RAMOTH: Thank you, Bobby. So
49 through tribal consultation I think we should see the

50

0061

1 interest through letters if they want to get on would
2 be my recommendation.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Wilbur.

5

6 MR. HOWARTH: Yes, that's right, Clyde.
7 I'm chair of our tribe and I'm sitting on here. So I
8 would like lots of info on this to who should be -- who
9 should we represent to get onto that board, which is
10 the Federal Subsistence, the one we're talking about
11 and commenting. Yeah, maybe -- I sure wouldn't know
12 who to really go to to say should we appoint, should we
13 get a piece of paper, put a name in from this RAC?
14 Plus we have the Upper Kobuk, we have Lower Kobuk and
15 Kotzebue on this RAC right now. Maybe we need to
16 discuss this more, but I know you need an answer today.
17 So we've got to do something right now, gentlemen.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur. So
22 with that do we as a Council -- do we want to make a
23 comment? I feel like just based on the discussion in
24 the room there's a lot of other discussions that need
25 to be had. This rule has a lot of implications and
26 it's got some merit to it for empowering tribal voices
27 and tribal citizens and really bringing our voices to a
28 higher level. As Bob said, leveling the playing field
29 on the Federal Subsistence Board level.

30

31 Do we want to make a comment today as a
32 group or would we like to leave it up to individuals to
33 submit their own comments?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing none. Bob.

38

39 MS. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I read the thing.
40 It's really interesting. I have comments about it.
41 Once you read it and you have comments about any
42 portion of it, even a suggestion that just select the
43 three folks. It's up to you.

44

45 After I read it I sent it to the
46 Kotzebue IRA Council and the man in charge read it and
47 the Council has already drafted comments on it.
48 They're doing whatever they want to do with it. The
49 thing is, it's a good thing and it's up to the tribes.

50

0062

1 Nobody else has any authority over it. Just the
2 tribes. But anybody can comment on it. It's part of
3 Federal regulations.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob. I
6 believe the consensus in the room looks like we don't
7 want to submit a comment as a group today. I highly
8 encourage individuals to submit their own comments,
9 whether they be questions, suggestions or otherwise.
10 Sound good, team?

11

12

Mike.

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
Mike. So if, Lisa, you could email that out to
everybody if anyone was interested in submitting
comments we'll have that available.

45

46

47

Bob, did you have something?

48

49

50

MR. SCHAEFFER: No, that's fine.

0063

1 REPORTER: Bob, turn on your mic.

2

3 MR. SCHAEFFER: Oh, I thought it was
4 on. It's a privilege of the tribe. That's why I was
5 so excited about it. It's a tribal initiative. When I
6 first read it I was really tickled about it. It was
7 one of the best things I ever seen coming out of the
8 Department of Interior. I think that all the tribes
9 are going to take this serious and we'll come up with
10 some way of selecting the three members. We've always
11 done that before. It's not a big deal.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob.
16 Clyde.

17

18 MR. RAMOTH: Thank you, Mike. I'd
19 rather -- just like you, I would rather consult with my
20 tribal council members first prior to even thinking
21 about it and go through their background and see what
22 their interests are and why they want to serve. So
23 that's my comment.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Clyde. If
28 there's no further discussion on this topic, we will
29 move on to future meeting dates. If you go to Page 104
30 in your book. We are confirming the fall '24 meeting
31 date and location, which currently looks like we are
32 set for October 28th, 29th in Kotzebue.

33

34 Do we have any objections to that time?
35 I believe when we met last we decided to do it then
36 because it would be after AFN and it wouldn't create
37 any conflicts with other travel. Does that sound good
38 everybody? October 28th, 29th of 2024 for the fall
39 regional meeting.

40

41 Do we need to take a vote on that on
42 the record?

43

44 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Raymond.

47

48 MR. WOODS: Whatever we dated on this
49 calendar, I think we agree with all that for those
50

0064

1 dates. We'll have Lisacheck with the weatherfor travel.

2

3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I already
4 checked. It will be bad.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we do
7 need to vote on it. If someone would like to make a
8 motion to confirm October 28th, 29th, 2024 in Kotzebue.

9

10 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move on October
11 28th, 29th meeting in Kotzebue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Moved by Verne. Do we
14 have a second.

15

16 MR. RAMOTH: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For the record
19 seconded by Clyde. All those in favor please signify
20 by saying aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed same
25 sign.

26

27 (No opposing votes)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we will confirm
30 October 28th, 29th fall 2024 meeting in Kotzebue.
31 Select the winter 2025 meeting date and location. It
32 looks like the window is wide open.

33

34 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So far the
35 only other Councils during this meeting has selected
36 October 29th and 30th. We can have two meetings in one
37 week but not more than that. It does look pretty
38 open.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: We're looking at the
41 winter calendar on Page 105. I know in the past we've
42 tried to do February, so that's before regionals and
43 state. Do we have any preference? It could be later
44 when the weather might be nicer.

45

46 For the record, Mike said we need to
47 make sure it doesn't interfere with the State
48 basketball championships. So would we like to do it in
49 February before regionals and State or do it end of
50

0065

1 March right before the window closes?

2

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: How about 27 and 28.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Of March or February?

6

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: March.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So how does March 27
10 and 28 sound for next winter? Just over a year from
11 now. Any objection to that? It should be after
12 basketball.

13

14 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So that's a
15 Thursday and Friday?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes. We'd like to do
18 that in Kotzebue.

19

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, do we have
21 to decide on this now or can we.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for right now we
24 need to select just to get it on the calendar and then
25 the next time we meet we confirm it.

26

27 MR. ARMSTRONG: Those two dates will be
28 tentative?

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes. So if someone
31 would like to make a motion, we can select those.

32

33 MR. RAMOTH: For the record I'll select
34 those dates.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: A motion was made for
37 March 27, 28, 2025 -- in Kotzebue, correct?

38

39 MR. RAMOTH: Right.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: For the record, in
42 Kotzebue. The motion was made by Clyde. Do we have a
43 second?

44

45 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I make a
46 motion for March 27, March 28th. Thank you.

47

48 MR. RAMOTH: Second.

49

50

0066

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Motion made by Elmer,
2 seconded by Clyde. All those in favor please signify
3 by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed same
8 sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And the last one.

13
14 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chair. Point of
15 order.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

18
19 MR. SCHAEFFER: When you make a motion,
20 you specify exactly what you want to say. You just
21 can't say I move, I move whatever, you know. You have
22 to say -- because it's recorded and whatever you say is
23 usually the legal written statement that you made. So
24 I thought I'd mention that because that's one of the
25 things in all those years with the Board and stuff they
26 specify if you're going to make a motion you specify
27 exactly what you're going to say.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
32 Bob. Our final thing on this portion is selecting the
33 fall 2025 Regional Advisory Council meeting. Would we
34 like to do it a year after this coming fall on October
35 27, 28 of next year in Kotzebue just to make it easy.
36 I'm seeing thumbs up. Does anyone want to make a
37 motion specific to those dates?

38
39 MR. RAMOTH: I so move.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Bobby just told you
44 you've got to be specific.

45
46 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Since we
47 follow the Roberts Rules of Order I think we need
48 another session.

49
50

0067

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. BAKER: Okay, question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So for the record Mr.
6 Clyde Ramoth moved for the fall 2025 Regional Advisory
7 Council meeting to be October 27th, 28th. Do we have a
8 second.

9

10 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seconded by Verne
13 Cleveland. All those in favor please signify by saying
14 aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed same
19 sign.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that we will
24 confirm 27th, 28th October, 2025 for the fall meeting.
25 At this time we are at public and tribal comment on
26 non-agenda items. Do we have any members of the
27 audience who are hoping to speak on a non-agenda item?
28 I did not receive any blue slips, so going once, going
29 twice. Thank you.

30

31 So we will move on to other business.
32 First item A, the 2023 Council Charter changes
33 overview. It looks like we're on Page 107 in our book.

34

35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: For your
36 Council's 2023 Charter it can be found again on Page
37 107 in your Council book, your meeting material book.
38 All of the 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
39 were chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act
40 and under the Act the Council Charter needs to be
41 renewed every two years.

42

43 Under your Council as well as the other
44 Councils reviewed the Charters last year and your
45 Council proposed the following modifications, which
46 were listed under Page 109. Your Council membership
47 balance is the only thing that you did under your
48 Council membership balance and balanced representation.
49 A Council goal is to seat members to equally represent
50

0068

1 the following five Districts: Upper Noatak area (which
2 includes Kivalina and Noatak), Upper Kobuk area
3 (Ambler, Kobuk and Shungnak), the Selawik area which
4 includes Kiana, Noorvik and Selawik, and the Seward
5 Peninsula area which includes Buckland, Deering and
6 Kotzebue. That's the only thing that was added to your
7 book.

8
9 The Federal Subsistence Board -- and I
10 think Katya mentioned it in our meeting on Tuesday that
11 the Federal Subsistence Board reviewed the Charter
12 request for Charter changes during its August '23 work
13 session and recommended to add all Council Charters,
14 the language on a designation of a non-voting young
15 leader seat.

16
17 The Secretaries of the Interior and
18 Agriculture approved the Board's recommendation and
19 modified the language in the first paragraph of the
20 Section 12 under Membership and Designation to the
21 following: The Council is composed of 13
22 representative members and one non-voting young leader
23 member. In this case your Council is 10 members and it
24 would be one non-voting young leader member.

25
26 All representative members must be
27 residents of the region represented by the Council and
28 must be knowledgeable and experienced in matters
29 relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife. In
30 addition to being a resident of the region represented
31 by the Council, the one non-voting young leader member
32 must be between the ages of 18 and 25 and must
33 participate in subsistence activities, be otherwise
34 knowledgeable in matters related to subsistence uses of
35 fish and wildlife or be engaged in a resource
36 management related field of study.

37
38 So that's exciting that they added
39 that. All of the Councils have been requesting that.
40 The process of when that will go through is -- I think
41 it's going to be a while, isn't it, Katya? It will
42 probably be -- when are they going to add the
43 non-voting member to the Charters? It will be a while
44 before they can get them on the Councils? Would you
45 mind addressing that, please.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 For the record, Katya Wessels. As you know, usually
49 the appointments of the Council members are a pretty
50

0069

1 lengthy process. We're working with the Department on
2 trying to figure out a shorter process for appointing
3 the non-voting youth leader members to the Councils.

4
5 I do not have a timeline for that. As
6 I pointed out in the presentation on day one of the
7 All-Council meeting, at this point the only thing that
8 we know that these youth leader members will have to be
9 appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the
10 concurrence with the Secretary of Agriculture. So
11 that's the only thing that we know.

12
13 We are hoping that we will be able to
14 report more to you during the fall meetings.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Go ahead.

19
20 MR. RAMOTH: Just a quick question. So
21 is there a letter of interest for these individual
22 young ones prior to appointing?

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Well, again, you know,
25 usually like when you want to be a Council member you
26 fill out the application or you're nominated maybe by
27 an organization. Because these Charter changes came
28 out at the very end of January we had no time to sit
29 down with the Department of the Interior and figure out
30 the exact steps.

31
32 If it's going to be today we'll be
33 using the same obligations as you or maybe they can
34 just submit a letter of interest. You know, like how
35 the whole process is going to go. Maybe it's the
36 Councils who are going to be selected for this
37 obligation. Maybe we'll go with our regular
38 nominations committees that we have. I don't know.

39
40 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I think we should go
41 through the same process like Bob brought up. It
42 should go through tribes to choose these youth. That
43 way they'll be able to pick someone that will represent
44 well. That way you're eliminating all kinds of
45 different kind of -- you know, having these on picking
46 these people. That way you pick it with those three
47 Federal Subsistence Board and they choose these seats
48 to either serve on our 10 Councils or the Federal
49 Subsistence Board.

50

0070

1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you for the
2 comment, Member Kramer. We'll bring your comment to
3 the Department.

4
5 MR. SCHAEFFER: (Microphone off).
6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Before that, Bob,
8 you're wanting the tribes to nominate the youth leader
9 member. I was reading something and didn't quite catch
10 it. Just confirm that's what you said.

11
12 Go ahead, Bob.

13
14 MR. SCHAEFFER: (Microphone off).
15

16 REPORTER: Mic, please.
17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So right now we are --
19 yes, that's what we were talking about. If you look at
20 Page.....

21
22 MR. SCHAEFFER: I was looking at it. I
23 read it. I want to make a real quick suggestion, you
24 know. The delegation of power, the powers of the
25 Chair, Vice and Secretary are very unclear. I wanted
26 to make sure that they are established within the
27 Charter so there will be no question as to what your
28 powers are as the Chair. It's really important. All
29 that stuff is really important. It's got to be
30 somewhere. It's not just the Chair. You've got a
31 responsibility and I just want to make sure if they're
32 going to sign documents on our behalf and things of
33 that nature that would get you off the hook if you ever
34 got in trouble, see.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Likewise, can that
37 comment be brought to the Department?

38
39 MS. WESSELS: Yes. We're going to get
40 transcripts of this meeting and when you have this
41 discussion we will collect these comments and we will.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any further questions,
44 comments, discussion for the Charter changes overview.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing, seeing none.
49 Thank you, Katya. Next we have the ANCSA (d) (1) land
50

0071

1 withdrawals update with Bruce Seppi.

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MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. May I talk? Bruce is not going to give a formal presentation. I believe he's online and available for any questions. On Page 111 in your book he provided an overview of the update on the project. If you have any questions, he said he'd be happy to answer those.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike, I know you had expressed interest in discussing this. Do you have any questions or comments for Mr. Seppi on the ANCSA (d) (1) lands update?

MR. KRAMER: Is Mr. Seppi on the line?

Radio check.

(No comments)

MR. KRAMER: He must not be there.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, Wilbur.

MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, can I make a motion for a 15-minute break?

CHAIRMAN BAKER: I would object to that because we have like two more minutes of stuff after this and then we're done for the day.

MR. HOWARTH: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: I would withdraw your motion if I were you and we can get finished up.

MR. HOWARTH: Okay. Withdraw. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hit your button. Thank you, Wilbur, for withdrawing your motion. My recommendation is that whatever discussion we have go ahead and let's get that on record. If you could just let us know if Mr. Seppi calls back in or if he was in to begin with, that would be nice. For now, if you have any comments, questions, let's get them on record, Mike.

1 MR. KRAMER: I'm Mike Kramer, Vice
2 Chair. It's a lot of thought on the ANCSA withdrawals
3 involving BLM. I don't know whether they're not
4 wanting to protect their lands from commercial mining
5 and any other thing such as that, but I came up and I
6 talked with a bunch of elders -- not on this group,
7 maybe some of them, but they came up with such a pretty
8 wise idea and I kind of helped them and guided them
9 into kind of making this for me to bring it up in the
10 Council meeting.

11
12 So what it is is if the (d)(1) lands
13 aren't going to be protected from mining commercial
14 services, we know that we have (d)(1) lands in our
15 region and that's the Squirrel River. That's a
16 big-time corridor for Western Arctic Caribou Herd
17 migration. If that stuff is tapped into, then Kiana,
18 Noorvik, wherever else might not get any caribou
19 anymore.

20
21 So my position on this one and what I
22 had taken in from these elders and several other people
23 that have served on this Council before in the past,
24 they said that we should -- the lands in the (d)(1)
25 classification that it would be turned over to the
26 tribes within that region. Do we have tribes?
27 Somebody said we didn't have tribes? Anyways, it would
28 be given to IRAs, tribes, within our region. Not to no
29 corporations because everything will go south if these
30 things get turned over to our corporation.

31
32 This is to ensure the protection of
33 these lands from mining, commercial service like
34 guiding, transporting. I know you have a cabin in
35 there. Yeah, this would protect it from any of these
36 commercial services. If we labeled it as a trust, they
37 said label it as a trust, that way it will be protected
38 from mining, commercial services like guiding,
39 transporting, because that Squirrel River that we have
40 there is very vital to the migration of Northwest
41 Arctic Caribou Herd. Especially if the Ambler Road
42 Project is going to be going in. That's going to
43 funnel them right into that area anyways. If not,
44 they're going to completely go somewhere else.

45
46 So my idea was to protect all (d)(1)
47 lands by handing it over to tribes or IRA councils.
48 There's Kotzebue IRA. I'm not too sure what all is
49 within the villages and NANA region or Management Unit
50

0073

1 24. That way it would be governed by the tribes and
2 the IRAs within those communities.

3
4 They would come up with a council that
5 continually monitor these lands. They would be able to
6 contract security companies to patrol these lands. I
7 wouldn't be surprised it would probably be NANA
8 Purcell. They'd be contracted. They would be able to
9 employ a lot of people from the villages to ensure that
10 these lands stay and remain protected by employees that
11 they hire from within the region.

12
13 I don't know how much NANA Purcell
14 Security has on their plate, but I think involving them
15 in the patrolling and enforcing these lands that no
16 commercial services such as mining, guiding,
17 transporting doesn't exist on these lands. We would
18 like -- what the elders and the other past Council
19 members that I had spoke to regarding this, they said
20 that it should remain a trust.

21
22 Whether it be (d)(1) land trust or
23 tribal lands or whatever they want to name it, but it
24 would be listed as a trust to protect the lands from
25 these items such as mining and guides and transporters.
26 They said one of the reasons is they would like to see
27 the state of Alaska remain the last frontier because if
28 you don't, you're going to start getting all these
29 things in here and it won't be anymore.

30
31 That's all I have for right now.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike.

34
35 Lisa, did you have something?

36
37 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Council, if
38 you're interested, Morgan is here. She attended some
39 of the hearings in Kotzebue. If you had any interest
40 in knowing kind of what was said or anything, but I
41 just wanted to throw that out if you wanted a little
42 more information. Thanks.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Comments, discussion
45 from the Council on the ANCSA (d)(1) land withdrawals
46 update.

47
48 Wilbur.

49
50

1 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. It should be
2 on Page 113 in our book. We had a long discussion on
3 this area what he's talking about with BLM. That is
4 the main part of the whole migration for caribou and
5 that area is so wide open. We had a meeting one time
6 that NANA want -- I mean not NANA, but the State wanted
7 to come in and get more land. BLM come in and they
8 say, no, we're going to talk to the IRAs.

9
10 So I remember speaking with BLM and I'm
11 glad they did go right in to help protect these areas.
12 This area that he just discussed, it's on Page 113, the
13 yellow color. So we as the RAC here we need to work
14 with BLM and more and have them here in the meetings at
15 all times. Otherwise we're going to run out of land.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
20 Further discussion, comments, questions from the
21 Council before we move on.

22
23 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair. Talking about
24 the (d)(1) lands right now and it's on the table right
25 now. I'm very familiar with the (d)(1) land, but what
26 we need to do to support it right now all the
27 allotments that was passed back in 1972 to tribals and
28 their tribes and their villages are in charge of their
29 lands within their village according to the tribal
30 members who's got land back then.

31
32 Now for us to do some security on it we
33 need to take -- we need to get the tribals involved in
34 this before even a RAC starts getting interest in it
35 because they are in charge of lands in there. It would
36 be more stronger, Mike, I think if we would get with
37 the tribes to go ahead and -- if BLM is leaving their
38 lands in our area, in our regions, we need to get with
39 tribal and get them up to speed of what's going on with
40 those (d)(1) lands.

41
42 Going back into security, Mike, NANA
43 Corporation had security and actually I was the
44 supervisor for that with the NANA Security and Verne
45 was involved in it, Clyde was involved in it back then.

46
47 You know, in our region the Borough
48 gave us some money to do security for them when we were
49 security back in the day. I think that still can go in
50

0075

1 to that. Mr. Chair, I'm just suggesting and saying
2 comments on that.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

7

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
Raymond. Any other comments, discussion on this topic.

8

9

Bob.

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It all funneled from the rich folks
down south influencing the BLM and Department of
Interior to do something with this thing because the
land selections -- pretty much the land selections are
already done. So that's what's happening. They're
getting pressure to reclassify it, so they're looking
at mineral development, oil, whatever. Whatever it
takes to make money for not only the State but also for
the Federalies.

It's a real serious thing simply
because of the wheels of (d)(1) classification we're
able to enjoy the protection of no one can go in there
and put money claims and all that other stuff. Once
that protection is gone they're going to see a rat race
of mining companies. Just like they did in Canada.
The glaciers melted and they got thousands of mining
claims. The glaciers are melting so fast because they
know what's underneath.

It's just crazy what's happening, but
the same thing is going to happen up here. You're

1 going to see a mad rush, another rush other than the
2 1900 rush, but it's going to be a rush of finding
3 minerals. That's the scary part of it is that we will
4 lose pretty much all of our subsistence resources that
5 we enjoy within the new (d)(1) lands today. That's why
6 we're fighting it so hard.

7
8 So I thought I'd explain that out. We
9 had a lot of comments during the BLM hearings. If they
10 do show up in your village for some more hearings or if
11 you feel real strongly about reclassifying it other
12 than what the protections that are provided in (d)(1),
13 write a letter to BLM and express your concerns about
14 it. Once it goes, it's gone.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob.

19
20 Mike.

21
22 MR. KRAMER: One other thing that would
23 get opened up too is if the State gets ahold of that
24 land, you'd have a whole bunch of transporters in there
25 having fun, you know. Back in the day when that area
26 was open, they used to have a lot of hunters in there.
27 I can remember 171 candles in the wind in the Squirrel
28 River at one time. That's a lot of hunters, man. A
29 lot of hunters.

30
31 They remember talking to some of these
32 pilots that used to drop these people off in there.
33 Every single campsite trash scattered all over. Trash.
34 This one transporter spent three days in this one area
35 picking up trash. That's not even his job. They're
36 there as a taxicab. There's a difference between
37 transporter and guide, but you can't just pick guides
38 because the transporters will scream discrimination.

39
40 We know that if they get into that
41 Squirrel River there goes our subsistence resources.
42 They're going to go right out the front door. We might
43 as well put our hands up and walk away. That is one of
44 the reasons why I would like these lands to be turned
45 over to the tribes and IRAs, whatever it may be, and
46 they would consist of at least two to three people for
47 each IRA or each community that would govern these
48 lands.

49
50

0077

1 This trust and these lands to protect
2 them. To keep that place nice and quiet. We don't
3 need no more commercial services in there. It was
4 pretty bad back then when they had commercial services
5 landing in there. Airplanes nonstop. Nonstop
6 airplanes. Five Cubs in a row. They weren't even
7 flying, you know.

8
9 They were flying at 500 feet. People
10 couldn't hunt in the rivers, you know. People in Kiana
11 were getting the wounded ones that come through with
12 arrows in them, antlers shot off, ears shot off, broken
13 legs, because of these transporters were being dropped
14 off in these areas.

15
16 So it's all up to you guys what you
17 guys want to do. I want to protect these lands and
18 keep them protected as our ancestors done back in the
19 day. Those are our lands. You guys want to give them
20 up to the State, by all means. I'll step away.

21
22 I don't want to see no exploration. I
23 want those (d)(1) lands to remain protected. I wanted
24 a letter to each and every single RAC who has (d)(1)
25 lands to do the same. Create it and make it into a
26 trust that these tribes or IRAs or whatever type of
27 village tribal organizations they have govern these
28 lands. That way they remain in the trust and they
29 remain pristine for our future generations.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
34 Mike.

35
36 Attamuk.

37
38 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk. Enoch Shiedt.
39 I'm going to support him because -- I'll use Aggie
40 where I have camp as an example. When it was open, I
41 bought a little 14-foot boat and I went up that river
42 and I went to nine camps one year and a year later I
43 went to seven different camps that people, that
44 transporters dropped off hunters.

45
46 One camp alone he was supposed to get
47 -- he had three hunters. He was supposed to get three
48 caribou I thought, but you know how many skins I count?
49 Eight in one and the other one 11. Them two hunters
50

0078

1 alone get that many caribou, eight and eleven. That's
2 18 just in two camps.

3

4

5 I never go and look around in the other
6 camps that's what I saw. I went all the way to the end
7 of Aggie. Me and my boys pull our boat in shallow
8 water and we keep seeing more than one skin in each
9 camp. See what they're doing? They're saying they do
10 this, yet they do something completely different. I
11 didn't see no meat because they were all eaten by
12 bears. There was bones left.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.
14 Any other discussion, questions, comments.

15

16

(No comments)

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I think the last two years we've seen
so much rain, you know. We get a break once every
three days to go do something and the next two days is
storming like a son of a gun again, you know. I try to
haul wood before fall like I normally do. By the time
I cut a tree down that thing was soaked through.
Usually they're dry, but not anymore.

1 I worry about the salmon. I told you
2 that already. So much rain and I worry about the
3 spawning streams and the gravel, the sandbars that they
4 use to spawn. I really feel that's a deficit two years
5 ago. What's going to happen two years from now when
6 the four-year-olds come back. There will probably be
7 no four-year-olds. That's how much water we had up in
8 Noatak. Even up the Kobuk and the Salmon River and all
9 those streams up there that produce salmon. There used
10 to be salmon spawning above Kobuk. You never see that
11 anymore someone told me.

12
13 It's hard to know that global warming
14 is really having an impact on our salmon. I want to
15 keep an eye on it, you know. If you're lucky you got
16 salmon. I didn't get anything on that lake. Normally
17 we get some. We always have some, but there was
18 nothing. We had to cut our commercial fishery off
19 short this year because they couldn't get the
20 escapement goals in both the Noatak and the Kobuk
21 Rivers.

22
23 So it's just one of those things where
24 it's kind of a scary thing to try to predict what's
25 going to happen with our salmon. Not only that,
26 there's other species that we're concerned about when
27 the water gets so high. We're worried about the land
28 and what the land is doing. All the permafrost because
29 there's so much water on top of it melting the
30 permafrost and it's bubbling up.

31
32 All the methane emissions and the
33 carbon emissions. What it's doing to our atmosphere.
34 Gasses that are piling up and warming up the country.
35 You saw that in the news today where Costa Rica and
36 some of those countries are right at the edge of
37 temperatures that are unlivable for the humanoids
38 because it just gets so hot. So things of that nature
39 are telltale signs that we're in trouble. The change
40 in our climate is just dramatic.

41
42 All of us grew up a long time ago. We
43 had always had west winds in the summertime. Never had
44 much rain. Maybe five or six inches a year. It was
45 just commonplace. I always worked and fished around
46 the directions of the wind. Nowadays you can't tell
47 what's going to happen next, you know. You can't use a
48 (in Inupiaq) anymore to determine what direction you're
49 going to go because they go any which way. It's real
50

0080

1 hard to use our old customary ways of doing stuff and
2 try to do it like we used to before climate change took
3 over.

4

5 Our storms are getting fierce. My
6 goodness, you know. Last summer in Kotzebue or this
7 past December the gusts were 67 miles an hour in our
8 town when those storms came through. The whole month
9 of January it was blowing. You could see a blue sky,
10 but it was blowing most of that time.

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Anyway, I just thought I'd bring that
out. I think it's affecting everything that we do as
Inupiaq. All of our subsistence activities that we
have are really being impacted by it. Just imagine how
it's affecting the animals and the fish, you know,
because of high waters and rough seas and how it's
affecting our sea mammals and seals.

If it gets too rough out there the
seals will drown. That's the scary part. When you go
out on the beach and you see dead seals laying on there
because they went through a storm and if they can't
land anywhere they have to sleep and they just get
tired. These are adult seals and we found 10 of them
right by Sadie Creek.

So that's an example of what's
happening. It's a scary situation, but it's something
we have to be mindful about and have to prepare for it,
you know. A lot of the villages when I came up here
two years ago weren't prepared for something like that.
They didn't expect the water to get that high. So we
were lucky we didn't have loss of life, you know, in
some of those communities down in the southwest in the
Bering Strait.

So we have to be mindful of it and
prepare for it. Be prepared for it. That's something
we've never had to do before. But I just thought I'd
mention that. I'll keep looking at it and keep putting
it in my post because I'm an observer for the
University and I try to do it once a week. I observe
the weather and what it's doing. I've been doing it
now for four years. I can compare four years of how
the weather is affecting our environment and our
subsistence resources.

I'm still around doing that kind of

0081

1 stuff. I will be around next year.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
6 Bob.

7

8

Raymond, would you like to give a
9 subsistence report.

10

11

12

13

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17

MR. WOODS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Well, talking about the salmon, actually the salmon did
kind of reach up to the Upper Kobuk River, but where
they spawn inside the sloughs the high water kind of
affected that. So the water did go down before
freezing, but not very much.

18

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We did see some areas where the sloughs
where the salmon spawn, but not very much. They spawn
further inside the sloughs. When the shallow water
comes, when the water level went down, they're up in
the dry right now. But the water went back up again
right before freeze-up and we don't know -- nobody is
doing salmon studies on the Upper Kobuk last fall.

26

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32

The sheefish. We were coming down
right about late September and we started seeing -- it
started to freeze and we got ice on the river. We're
coming down. The sheefish were spawning. They were
coming up on high water. Sheefish were spawning on
high water.

33

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If you've ever seen sheefish spawning,
they'll go up on top of the water and then they'll try
to float and then lay eggs. When they do it properly
up on the (in Inupiaq) all these areas I'm telling you
is spawning areas. Sheefish will go up on their back
fins and slam and those are the males that sperm the
eggs.

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Now last fall they were there between
ice trying to do that. They couldn't quite do that
because they would land on the ice. On ice cakes we
call them. So coming down 13 miles of river from Kobuk
sheefish was spawning all over in between the ice. So,
yes, nature do impact our sheefish and salmon, but we
did get enough sheefish and salmon, enough harvest for
the winter. My family did anyway and a few other
families.

0082

1 Now the caribou. Caribou did come in
2 late, very late. They come in right about end of
3 October, first week of November. That's after
4 freeze-up and snow. They came out (in Inupiaq), they
5 came out Shungnak River. Not Ambler River. Not Onion
6 Portage. Very little Onion Portage where their
7 traditional migration is. They showed up late way
8 upriver by Paw River. Right now they're sitting in
9 between Hot Springs and Shungnak. About 15 miles
10 toward Hot Springs and right in Shungnak area right
11 now.

12
13 Taking off two days ago from Shungnak
14 there was a herd of 200 just sitting right next to the
15 airport. If that herd does not move within the next
16 few weeks towards Selawik, they're going to head back
17 from there.

18
19 Let me take you back why they're there
20 late. All the caribou biologists said that the food
21 that they're migrating on and how they migrated before.
22 Last fall we kind of closed out the outside hunting in
23 the Federal land. I thought, okay, that will take care
24 of the caribou migration. I mean this will help the
25 caribou migrate on their timeline when they usually
26 migrate.

27
28 Transporters out of Kotzebue were
29 transporting all the way up to Colville River, Howard
30 Pass. Diverted the caribou further up towards
31 Interior. Noatak hunters usually hunt at the Cutler
32 River. They went as far as Cutler and Cutler drainage
33 is 10 miles up the river on the Ambler River that
34 drains into Noatak. That's how far hunters went from
35 Noatak. Reason being? The caribou is being diverted
36 at Howard Pass and then they go further up the Noatak.

37
38 If people would -- if we would right
39 now, the way I think, why the caribou are coming so
40 late is because of the outside hunters. Transporters
41 taking them right into their path. Now, since we had
42 closures around our area of Federal land, they're
43 taking them into Colville. People are wondering why is
44 the declining of -- the caribou declining so fast.
45 They are being diverted so far over they're connected
46 with the Central Caribou and with Porcupine Caribou.
47 Why can't the caribou biologists see that?

48
49 I come from a family and I watched my
50

0083

1 dad hunt all my life in my younger days. Also Verne's
2 dad was the same thing. Me and Verne grew up together.
3 They can go outside and look at the weather, look at
4 the sun, the moon, and tell us how the weather is going
5 to be the next few days or it's going to be a good day
6 today or it's going to be cold today. Our mothers can
7 tell by the growing of the plants and the insects
8 around that there's going to be a good salmon spawning.

9
10

11 Where is this now? We started losing
12 our culture many years ago. Some of us in the 1900s
13 when the schools were developed in the villages and
14 established education. Now we each became corporation
15 like in the early '70s. We really lose it because
16 we're depending on how our corporation is going to make
17 money to feed us.

18
19

20 So if we need to continue and preserve
21 animals, we need to do it the cultural way. Start
22 listening to our elders and bringing it to the table.
23 I'm not talking to the entities out there who's trying
24 to help us or to put paperwork and how we should hunt.

24
25

26 You know, when the corporations start
27 in the early '70s an elder was given a piece of paper
28 coming from our own corporation people and said, okay,
29 this is your land now. Your allotment is this land
30 where we survey 160 acres. The old man stand up and he
31 said I am not going to use a piece of paper to how I'm
32 going to hunt. These guys giving me a piece of land
33 where I can hunt all over my region. Knowing that, we
34 did that to the elders. They died with a piece of
35 paper that they got 160 acres that they're going to
36 inherit it back and pass it on to their young ones and
37 go.

37
38

39 So we're facing that. We're living
40 that now. Going back to the fish and how we dip.
41 Luckily we got enough moose last fall to carry on until
42 the caribou came in. Why did we that live on the Kobuk
43 River go through that situation? Because, listen to
44 this, all the transporters that brought all the hunters
45 to Howard Pass. And here we got Noatak the closest
46 village to Howard Pass. These hunters were already
47 hanging their trophies in their rooms down where they
48 came from or taking them to the taxidermist to get them
49 worked on before Noatak even have their first bowl of
50 soup.

50

0084

1 So that's the fact we're living on now
2 and yet we're still listening to the Board of Game.
3 Why did they reject our proposal on not to have
4 outsiders hunt? Why did they do that? There's no
5 reason. Still we're still here fighting for our food
6 to feed our people.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
11 Raymond. That brings me to one of our last things to
12 discuss today. We didn't touch on it already, but we
13 spoke about it at the All-RAC meeting a couple days ago
14 regarding the joint letters for the caribou situation
15 and the bycatch situation.

16

17 As I have been selected as the
18 representative to the working group for the joint
19 letters, I'd just like to see if we have consensus that
20 the Northwest Arctic RAC would like to sign on with the
21 joint letters calling for caribou and bycatch once
22 they're drafted, edited, reviewed and everything.

23

24 Is there any opposition to that?

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: We have
27 copies if you want to look at them.

28

29 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. We should
30 have copies with us. Oh, she has them. The four
31 caribou and one female is a lot of caribou for one year
32 per family. I would say for seven of us living in the
33 house four caribou carries a long ways.

34

35 I guess I -- yeah, I went through this
36 already, but in the case that we passed I believe was
37 15 and one. Fifteen caribou and one is a female. Is
38 that just the Arctic Slope area or is it in our 23
39 unit?

40

41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: That is within the
42 range of the herd, so, yes, it includes Unit 23.

43

44 MR. HOWARTH: My goodness. Thank you,
45 Mr. Chair. That's all I have.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur. So
48 there are three potential joint letters. One of them
49 covers caribou, one of them covers Council member
50

0085

1 compensation when attending meetings, and the third is
2 regarding bycatch. Those copies are being disseminated
3 now.

4

5 MR. RAMOTH: So, Mr. Chair, just for
6 review?

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: At this time, yes, we
9 can briefly review them. For example the caribou
10 letter is just bullet points, not an actual letter.
11 The member compensation is fairly well drafted and the
12 bycatch is fairly well drafted. What I would like to
13 know is if there's any desire to sign on with the joint
14 letters that are already drafted once we have an
15 opportunity to review through the Joint Letter Working
16 Group we discussed this morning to sign off on the
17 caribou letter.

18

19 Any questions or thoughts?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I think we could
24 entertain a motion if someone wants to make it to
25 support the two that are drafted, which would be the
26 compensation and the bycatch letters. Individual
27 motions.

28

29 MR. RAMOTH: Mr. Chair, I'll make a
30 motion to move that.

31

32 MR. HOWARTH: Second, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So, for the record,
35 motion made by Clyde to have the Northwest Arctic
36 Regional Advisory Council sign on to the joint letters
37 regarding Council member compensation as well as
38 bycatch issues, seconded by Wilbur. All those in favor
39 please signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed same
44 sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Let the record reflect
49 that the Northwest Arctic RAC supports those two
50

0086

1 letters. I just would like some clarification, support
2 from the Council, that once we do get an actual letter
3 drafted and it's reviewed by the working group, that if
4 it's what we discussed and it's what we're talking
5 about, that we can sign onto the joint caribou letter.

6
7 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair. For
8 clarification, are you just talking about one letter,
9 the caribou, right now?

10
11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the motion that was
12 just made and voted on was to sign on to bycatch and
13 member compensation. What I'm asking for at this time
14 is if the Council supports, once we go through the
15 process for the caribou joint letter, signing off on
16 it.

17
18 Sound good or we're just tired?

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 What do we want to do, this is our last
23 thing before we close.

24
25 MR. HOWARTH: I would support that, Mr.
26 Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If there's no
29 opposition, when we do work on the joint Council letter
30 on caribou, I will be a part of that process for
31 reviewing and making sure that our voice is heard.

32
33 At this time are there any brief
34 closing comments? We've heard a lot. We've talked a
35 lot today. Does anybody have any last remarks? Elmer.

36
37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 It's my first time attending this All-Council meeting.
39 A lot of good discussions on issues that affect
40 different units and it was good to hear from those
41 affected Councils. Good discussions.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Elmer. Any
46 other closing comments.

47
48 Wilbur.

49
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0087

1 MR. HOWARTH: I'll make this short.
2 Thank you all for coming. Good to see you, Will, and
3 our folks from up north. Real good meeting and
4 discussion. Bob, nice bright young man here, he sure
5 covered a good portion of why I was so interested in
6 working and helping and being with these folks from the
7 University of Fairbanks that do a lot of studies up
8 there.

9
10 Mr. Woods over there, Ray, thank you
11 for getting here. And we have Attamuk, our elder, so
12 we've got to pay close attention to him and behave.
13 Verne, thanks for being here. Council, Mr. Baker,
14 thanks.

15
16 Good meeting.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
19 Any other closing comments.

20
21 Bob.

22
23 MR. SCHAEFFER: I just want to
24 encourage you -- we're going to be involved in a
25 bycatch issue. It's been an issue. Back in 1976 when
26 I was chairman of the AFN Human Resources Committee, we
27 were dealing with the same issue of bycatch at the time
28 because it was affecting all the rivers and streams.
29 They were catching our salmon and discarding them over
30 the edge. That was 1976 and it's happening today.
31 They're getting better numbers because they have people
32 that are watching and recording exactly what they're
33 throwing overboard.

34
35 It's kind of a double standard I
36 thought even at the time when I was involved before.
37 You know, we get a fish and we discard it, but we get
38 apprehended and we have to go to court and you get
39 thrown in jail, they take your car, they take your
40 fishing gear. This has been happening for years.

41
42 What do they get? Absolutely nothing.
43 And they discard millions of pounds of our fish that
44 usually come up the Kuskokwim, Yukon and Nome area as
45 well. Even in the Colville, you know. What do they
46 get? Nothing.

47
48 They kill different species of whales.
49 They kill them and throw them overboard. I saw
50

0088

1 pictures in '76 of them of them going to the first seal
2 that were caught in nets and they were clubbing them
3 with big sticks, you know, and oars. Whatever they can
4 kill them with. Then they just discard them off the
5 side.

6
7 This has been happening for years and
8 years and years, but they got a stronghold. They've
9 got powerful racks or packs where you fund the most
10 powerful senators and representatives in the nation.
11 So we're not exempt from doing this kind of stuff, but
12 they're exempt from the law.

13
14 They call us wanton wasters, right, and
15 we get fined for it and we suffer the consequences.
16 They have multiple wanton waste every day. What do
17 they get? Absolutely nothing. They're immune from the
18 law. Crazy, huh? That's what it is. It's been like
19 that for years.

20
21 But I think we should take a real
22 strong stand and follow what they're doing and trying
23 to combat this thing and I think we should be a
24 participant because it's affecting our salmon as well.

25
26
27 Thank you.

28
29 Have a good day.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob. Any
32 other closing comments.

33
34 Verne.

35
36 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you for a good,
37 long meeting. I suggest that if you get back to your
38 villages what I need or we need is a harvest report.
39 This is a very critical issue. We're not getting none.
40 No harvest reports from our area. So if you get back
41 to your villages, I would suggest that you guys try and
42 get someone to get harvest reports. How many caribou
43 we get in our area, in our region. It's critical. We
44 need it.

45
46 No one is wanting to report caribou.
47 You could bring it to the tribe and just add your count
48 with no names. We just want that count of how many
49 caribou we are getting in our region. We tried, but we
50

0089

1 don't have any money to give you guys anything, but I
2 suggest that caribou are so critically low right now
3 that we need that harvest count from each village.

4
5 Make that a priority if you go home.
6 Make sure you guys bring it up to your tribe that we
7 need this count and make it viral. Let everybody know.
8 We're not going to go out and bust people for anything.
9 We just want that count.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair, for our meeting.
12 Thank you, Ray, Enoch and all you other guys. It was a
13 good -- we got a lot of information from the other
14 RACs.

15

16 Thank you very much.

17

18 Have a good day.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Verne.

21

22 Closing comments, Attamuk.

23

24 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I would like to
25 thank all the board members here. Thank you, Staff,
26 for helping us and putting up with us. The only thing
27 I ask from the Staff, whoever do my per diem could you
28 add an extra zero, please.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. SHIEDT: Because we come and you're
33 all volunteers and you guys write us a check once a
34 year. What's a zero? Nothing anyhow.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Thanks. We need to
39 have a good laugh at the end of the day. You guys did
40 a good job.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.

45

46 Anyone else, closing comments.

47

48 Lisa.

49

50

0090

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I just
2 wanted to say thanks to KOTZ radio again for
3 broadcasting this meeting. Just maybe just to reach
4 out to remind anybody that's interested in serving on
5 the Northwest Arctic Regional Council that the
6 application period is currently open and it closes on
7 the 15th of March. So for any open seats that might
8 come up next year we'd really encourage you to apply.
9 The applications you can find on the Federal
10 Subsistence Management Program website. I also believe
11 the Refuge has them in their office. Correct, Will?

12
13 MR. WIESE: (Nods affirmatively).

14
15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
16 Thank you so much, Chair, Council members, for this
17 wonderful meeting.

18
19 Thanks.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Lisa. If
22 there's no further closing -- Attamuk.

23
24 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, where's our meeting
25 tomorrow? I'm trying to see it on Friday, but I don't
26 see it on this book here. I don't see our Region 8.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So tomorrow we don't
29 have a meeting, but there are other RACs meeting and
30 there's breakout sessions in these different rooms in
31 this hallway. So we don't have a meeting specific.
32 You can pick and choose whether you want to sit in on
33 another RAC. If you want to go to a topic where
34 someone is talking about caribou management or whatever
35 it might be. So just look in your book and see what
36 looks good.

37
38 Any other closing comments?

39
40 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair. If you guys
41 run into Maija Lukin, she has these big, thick books
42 and it says From Hunters to Herders. So she's trying
43 to hand them out because she lives out in the camps
44 like I did. I was a reindeer herder before. So if you
45 run into her, she can offer you a book.

46
47 Oh, you have them too? Oh, yay,
48 they're here.

49
50

0091

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right. Everybody
2 is putting their warm clothes on. Go ahead, Verne. So
3 at this time I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

4
5 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hearing no objection,
8 we will adjourn at 5:49 p.m. Thank you everyone.
9 Appreciate the time and I look forward to our next
10 meeting.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2
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 taken electronically on the 7th day of March
15 2024;

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 23rd
27 day of March 2024.

28
29
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31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26
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