

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA

April 1, 2020

9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair  
Esther S. Hugo  
Martha Itta  
Wanda T. Kippi  
Steve Oomittuk  
Edward Rexford  
Peter Williams

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 4/01/2019)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. It's kind of difficult to -- I'm kind of new to this and I feel like I'm in complete isolation here, but it's all right. It's needed. That's what it calls for. Maybe I'll go ahead and start off with an invocation. I'll do that if that suits everybody.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'm going to call the meeting to order. It's 9:35 here in my office and I would like to have roll call by the Secretary. That's Wanda. If you could do roll call.

MS. KIPPI: Can you hear me? Good morning.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you, Gordon. I'll start off with you I suppose, Gordon Brower, Utqiagvik.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm here. Good morning, everyone. We'll acknowledge those that haven't dialed in when they do dial in.

MS. KIPPI: Okay. Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk here.

Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

(No response)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: He'll join us later. I think he's got something to deal with.

MS. KIPPI: Okay. Edward Rexford, Sr., Kaktovik.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll acknowledge Edward when he becomes available.

1 MS. KIPPI: All right. Martha Itta,  
2 Nuiqsut.  
3  
4 MS. ITTA: Here. Good morning,  
5 everyone.  
6  
7 MS. KIPPI: Okay. William Hopson,  
8 Utqiagvik.  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Wanda. This  
11 is Eva. William is going to be absent. An excused  
12 absence for medical.  
13  
14 Thank you.  
15  
16 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Peter Williams,  
17 Anaktuvuk Pass.  
18  
19 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Wanda. This  
20 is Eva. I have been corresponding with Peter Williams  
21 and just confirmed with him again last night for  
22 participation today. I will try to get through to him  
23 and make sure he can join us on teleconference. So far  
24 he hasn't connected yet.  
25  
26 Thank you.  
27  
28 MS. KIPPI: So there's three of us,  
29 one, two, three. Do we have a quorum?  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
32 This is Eva. Currently the Council membership is with  
33 seven seats filled. We have three vacancies. So a  
34 quorum of seven would be four participants. So we  
35 don't have quorum, but we can still proceed with the  
36 meeting for all the informational sharing and exchange  
37 and likely we'll have quorum a little later this  
38 morning when the others are able to join us.  
39  
40 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair  
41 and Eva.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me type this for  
44 a second. I'm sending a message to one of my friends  
45 at Anaktuvuk to go wake up Peter. He might be  
46 sleeping.  
47  
48 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair. I might have to  
49 ask if we're going to resume after 1:00 o'clock I would  
50

1 like to be excused because I'm the only one home right  
2 now. You know, all the students are staying home and  
3 they're sending schoolwork and I need to help my  
4 grandson with his schoolwork during this time in the  
5 afternoons.

6  
7 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair, we need to have a  
8 full quorum to proceed.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it's  
11 important that we have a quorum to do things because  
12 there's action items at play here. Even to address the  
13 agenda we would need to have a quorum to address the  
14 agenda. I did send a message to some folks in  
15 Anaktuvuk to try to get one more Council member on.  
16 I'm not sure if they're going to answer.

17  
18 Ms. Coordinator, maybe I need to have a  
19 little bit of direction from you if we don't have a  
20 quorum at this time.

21  
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 This is Eva. So the Council can proceed with sharing  
24 of information. So we do have a fair amount of updates  
25 and information that can be shared. Council Member  
26 reports and agency reports as well.

27  
28 The Council wouldn't be able to take  
29 formal actions where it requires a motion and a vote on  
30 things, but it's still an opportunity for Council  
31 members who are able to be present to still share and  
32 get information. We've often done that before where  
33 weather prevents people from being able to connect and  
34 still proceed with all the information sharing. And  
35 take care of action items that do require a quorum and  
36 I anticipate we'll have quorum a little later this  
37 morning.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll  
40 acknowledge the need for Wanda. As you know, all the  
41 school kids are sent home and parents have become  
42 teachers at home too. So it's important to recognize  
43 that difficulty as well. That's going to limit some of  
44 the participants. We'll acknowledge Wanda when her  
45 need arises to take care of that.

46  
47 With that we'll go ahead and do the  
48 welcome and introductions. Maybe we'll start with  
49 those online. We're all online, I guess. Maybe we'll  
50

1 start with the agencies.  
2  
3 MS. KIPPI: I just wanted to say thank  
4 you, Mr. Chair.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa. You're  
7 welcome.  
8  
9 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett  
10 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game up in  
11 Utqiagvik.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.  
14  
15 MR. PERSON: This is Brian Person with  
16 North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management  
17 in Barrow. Good morning.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.  
20  
21 MS. HYER: This is Karen Hyer with the  
22 Office of Subsistence Management. Good morning,  
23 Gordon.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Karen.  
26  
27 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is  
28 Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with Office of  
29 Subsistence Management.  
30  
31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. This is.....  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that again?  
34 Hannah?  
35  
36 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, Gordon. Good  
37 morning. It's Hannah Voorhees with OSM.  
38  
39 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. This is Tom Kron  
40 with OSM calling in.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Tom.  
43  
44 DR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
45 Joshua Ream with National Park Service.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Joshua.  
48  
49 MR. BERENDZEN: Good morning, Mr.  
50

1 Chair. This is Steve Berendzen, Arctic Refuge, calling  
2 in.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Steve.

5

6 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
7 This is Carol Damberg from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service Anchorage Office. I'm the Interagency Staff  
9 Committee member for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning, Gordon.  
14 This is Vince Mathews with Arctic/Kanutu/Yukon Flats  
15 calling in from Fairbanks.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Vince.

18

19 MR. WIESE: Good morning. This is Will  
20 Wiese, Arctic Wildlife Refuge calling in from Kaktovik.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that again?

23

24 MR. WIESE: Will Wiese, Arctic Refuge.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

27

28 MS. JONES: Good morning. This is  
29 Shelly Jones calling in from the Bureau of Land  
30 Management.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Shelly.

33

34 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark  
35 Burch from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Mark.  
38 Somebody cut off.

39

40 DR. CHEN: Hello, Mr. Chair and Council  
41 members. This is Glenn Chen from the Bureau of Indian  
42 Affairs.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Glenn.

45

46 MR. JOLLY: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is  
47 Kyle Jolly. I'm a wildlife biologist with the National  
48 Park Service, Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
49 Preserve.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Gates of  
2 the Arctic. All right. That seems to be the gist of  
3 the welcome. I kind of feel out of place just talking  
4 to a phone, you know. I'm used to seeing Eva and  
5 everybody else in front, I think.

6  
7 We'll acknowledge all those others that  
8 join as we proceed. I'm not sure we can do item 5,  
9 review and adoption of the agenda because I think you  
10 need a quorum to do that. I might stand to be  
11 corrected, but I think that requires a quorum to be  
12 able to do that.

13  
14 Election of officers. I'm going to  
15 table that. We're not in person and we're missing  
16 substantial representation and we don't have a quorum  
17 right now. That's something that I think we need to be  
18 present and also the full board to be able to  
19 reorganize. Right?

20  
21 MS. KIPPI: I agree, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll table that. So  
24 everybody is in their current positions as is, as you  
25 were.

26  
27 Review and approval of previous  
28 minutes. That's a quorum item. I'll table that for  
29 now until we get a quorum to act on some of these. So  
30 we'll do the minutes later.

31  
32 I think we can go to reports and  
33 Council member reports. I think that's not an action  
34 item. It's just what we're normally doing. So I'm  
35 going to just start off as a Council member.

36  
37 Last fall I didn't get to my cabin to  
38 do the normal fishing, but I had a lot of other family  
39 members that were fishing. It was another year of slow  
40 freeze-up. The prior year I did fish a little bit. I  
41 think I made like 25 or 40 sacks. The majority of  
42 those became aged, what we called aaqqaq. It's like a  
43 stinkfish. A lot of people don't really go for that.  
44 A lot of elders. It's pretty good. Still edible and  
45 good.

46  
47 Normally that doesn't happen. Normally  
48 you can store your fish, your subsistence-caught. The  
49 way I normally do that is I fish at my cabin, they  
50

1 freeze and I store them in sacks and put them in a  
2 warehouse and then wait until later part of -- middle  
3 of November just before Thanksgiving to start hauling  
4 them to Barrow and making them available to the church  
5 and then for Christmas.

6  
7 About 80 percent of all my fish were  
8 stinkfish. Something that's very different. Maybe  
9 this coming year will be different hopefully this year  
10 as we've had some really cold weather starting in  
11 November and December. The prime fishing for me is  
12 around third week in September till about the second  
13 week in October. Family did get some fish, but they  
14 had to haul and couldn't leave it at their areas.  
15 Anything they left was aged.

16  
17 Other than that caribou is pretty much  
18 abundant around our area and people are still getting  
19 caribou right now. My son got some pretty good healthy  
20 ones in the fall.

21  
22 Concerns with fall whaling still  
23 linger. We're hoping that this spring will be a catch  
24 up to whaling. I think with the coronavirus stuff  
25 going around it's been very alarming for all the  
26 communities and the Planning Commission has expressed  
27 extreme concern about travelers, either snowmachine  
28 travelers or coming into communities to prevent the  
29 sickness from reaching their communities and Planning  
30 Commission had expressed that community residents stay  
31 in their respective villages to limit exposure and the  
32 movement of the sickness that's going around.

33  
34 The other part of that was we suspended  
35 from the North Slope Borough caravan activities for the  
36 winter access trails as a weekly potential movement of  
37 people that might come in from Fairbanks or Anchorage  
38 and down that way and coming to our villages and making  
39 sure everybody is screened before coming up, I guess.

40  
41 That's kind of making a lot of people  
42 on edge, but there are active subsistence going on and  
43 I think to me that's extreme distancing because you're  
44 way out there and we still need to get food.

45  
46 I'll leave it at that. I tend to talk  
47 too much anyway. So that was my Council member report  
48 as a Council member. I'm going to go to Kaktovik if  
49 you're on.

50



1 (No response)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We haven't  
4 heard from Kaktovik yet, so we'll go to Anaktuvuk Pass.

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. This is  
7 Peter Williams calling from Anaktuvuk. Can you guys  
8 hear me out there?

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, good morning,  
11 Peter. All right.

12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Thanks very much. I'm  
14 very happy to be back on the board again, advisory.  
15 It's been a while. We've been having a lot of issues  
16 around here, plus there's a lot of fishing going on  
17 recently and in the past. Covid-19, so a lot of people  
18 are locked down here at home. They're doing a lot of  
19 hunting around, a lot of caribous around nearby.  
20 People are going fishing now. I haven't heard much  
21 about getting fish, but a lot of people going out.  
22 Nice weather here, warm and cold.

23

24 Other than that we're still hanging in  
25 there. I'm very happy to be on here. Thank you very  
26 much for putting me back on the list. I don't have  
27 much to say other than I really appreciate this. Thank  
28 you very much. I'll keep listening here.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Peter.  
33 Quyanaqpak. I would say that we've established quorum  
34 now with Mr. Peter Williams from Anaktuvuk Pass. So we  
35 have four members online.

36

37 With that I will go to Nuiqsut.

38

39 MS. ITTA: Good morning, everyone.  
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair. For our area fishing has been  
41 good since we started. I've heard a few concerns of  
42 sick fish, but not as many as before. Fewer than  
43 before though. They're catching fewer fish, but they  
44 are getting a good amount of fish that they need.  
45 Right now they're fishing for tittaaliq and I'm hearing  
46 that's going pretty good with the few people that are  
47 able to go out fishing at this time.

48

49 As far as the caribou, people are

50

1 catching caribou. We do have hunters during this  
2 pandemic hunting for caribou and we're storing them in  
3 our city freezers for community needs. So our caribou  
4 is doing good right now. I haven't heard of any  
5 caribou being sick this far.

6  
7 As for wolverine and amagug hunting, we  
8 have one hunter that's being successful right now that  
9 was successful over the weekend. So that is doing  
10 good.

11  
12 The only concern that I heard was fewer  
13 fish and some sick fish getting caught. Before the  
14 pandemic came around a lot of traffic, but that died  
15 down at this time.

16  
17 The subsistence hunters having to  
18 travel further away as construction furthers down into  
19 our subsistence area. So the need for assistance for  
20 like gas and such are the concerns that I'm hearing for  
21 Nuiqsut.

22  
23 As you may know, everybody is  
24 quarantined for the past three weeks now.  
25 Communication has been good. Our office is closed, so  
26 I haven't really gotten really any calls lately about  
27 any concerns within the past two or three weeks. As  
28 far as my report goes, it goes just a few concerns, but  
29 I'm seeing people are fishing out there right now  
30 catching the tittaaliqs.

31  
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.  
35 Aarigaa, good to hear from Nuiqsut. With that I'm  
36 going to go to Atqasuk.

37  
38 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning.

41  
42 MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda Kippi calling  
43 in from Atqasuk for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 For Atqasuk I haven't really heard anything from the  
45 community, but there's been caribou around. I've been  
46 seeing them here and there. I haven't heard of anybody  
47 catching any. Maybe one or two I might have heard  
48 about, but I'm not sure.

49  
50

1 I haven't heard of anybody catching any  
2 wolves or wolverines, even foxes. I haven't even heard  
3 of foxes around in the town lately, which is awkward.  
4 There are usually a lot of foxes coming in. You'd hear  
5 a few coming into town or near town, but I haven't  
6 heard any for a while.

7  
8 There hasn't been much going on over  
9 this way in our community, so I haven't really much to  
10 report at this time. I'm going to just leave it at  
11 that unless I have any questions.

12  
13 I remember for Nuiqsut, Martha, when  
14 the hunter posted the pictures that there was amaguqs.  
15 Those amaguqs had I think caught caribou, three or four  
16 of them, so I saw a few pictures of caribous that were  
17 eaten by amaguqs. I just wanted to add that in.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Wanda. That is  
22 correct. Thank you for reminding me. I'm not on  
23 Facebook anymore, so thank you for that information. I  
24 remember somebody mentioned that.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MS. KIPPI: All right. Aarigaa, good  
29 to hear you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda,  
32 from Atqasuk. We'll see about Point Hope, if Point  
33 Hope has joined us. Steve Oomittuk.

34  
35 (No response)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll acknowledge  
38 Steve when he comes in. I'm going to try William  
39 Hopson.

40  
41 (No response)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He was excused. So  
44 that would conclude the Council member's report.

45  
46 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead. Who  
49 was that?

50

1 MR. REXFORD: This is Eddie from  
2 Kaktovik. I just tuned in.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, aarigaa. Good  
5 morning, Eddie. I'm going to let you make your report.  
6 We are on Council member's reports of their respective  
7 area.

8  
9 MR. REXFORD: Okay. Quyanaq. Good  
10 morning, everybody. We've got nice weather here in  
11 Kaktovik today. Folks have been catching caribous when  
12 they go out. Right now we're having the Rolligons  
13 finally show up from Deadhorse to start bringing the  
14 school modules and equipment because they finally got  
15 an okay from Fish and Wildlife to do that kind of  
16 stuff. It's been a long time coming, but they're  
17 finally starting. I hear there's like 50 Rolligons,  
18 loads of equipment they need to bring.

19  
20 Other than that got a nice sunny day  
21 and thinking of going up to Schrader Lake and do some  
22 ice fishing and maybe try to harvest a moose. The  
23 community is permitted to harvest.

24  
25 Quyanaq. That's all I have for now.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa. Quyanaq,  
28 Eddie. Eva, if you could advise where we are now. We  
29 went through the Council members reports and the  
30 Chair's report.

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Gordon.  
33 Council members. Welcome to Peter and Eddie as well.  
34 Thank you for joining us this morning. Thanks to  
35 everyone. Hope all are well with your families. I  
36 realize people are juggling multiple things. Lots  
37 going on for your communities. So thanks for calling  
38 in.

39  
40 Mr. Chair. Now that we have a quorum  
41 we could go back to review and adopt the agenda so all  
42 our Council members and folks have a chance to see  
43 what's coming up on the agenda. We can go back through  
44 and take care of those action items of the agenda and  
45 meeting minutes.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. What's  
50

1 the wish of the Council? We should be back on item 5  
2 now since we have a quorum.

3  
4 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. I make a motion  
5 to approve the agenda.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
8 the floor from Martha from Nuiqsut to approve the  
9 agenda.

10  
11 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair. Second the  
12 motion.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a second from  
15 Wanda, Atqasuk. Any discussion, amendments, additions.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 MS. KIPPI: Call for question.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
22 called for. All those for adopting the agenda as is  
23 signify by saying aye.

24  
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
28 nay.

29  
30 (No opposing votes)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. We have  
33 an agenda as adopted. Item 6 election of officers was  
34 tabled just to reference that. Item 7 review and  
35 approve previous minutes.

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If  
38 I may just interject here because everyone is on  
39 teleconference and we want to make sure we have an  
40 accurate record so everyone knows who's speaking. If  
41 you could, even when you're putting a motion on the  
42 floor or seconding a motion, if you could just please  
43 state your name so that we have that accurately on the  
44 record. Unfortunately we're not all together and can't  
45 see you.

46  
47 Thanks so much.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very

50

1 good. We're on approval of the minutes. Those minutes  
2 are from when we were at the Qalgi Community Center in  
3 Point Hope October 23 and 24, 2019 for your  
4 consideration.

5  
6 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair. This is Wanda.  
7 Do we need a motion to approve?

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, ma'am.

10  
11 MS. KIPPI: Okay, Mr. Chair. A motion  
12 to approve the minutes of October 23 through 24, 2019.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
15 the floor from Wanda to approve the minutes of October  
16 23 and 24, 2019.

17  
18 MR. REXFORD: I'll second. Eddie.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Kaktovik,  
21 Eddie Rexford. Any discussion.

22  
23 MS. KIPPI: Discussion, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that?

26  
27 MS. KIPPI: Discussion from Wanda,  
28 please.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead.  
31 You have the floor there, Wanda.

32  
33 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. A correction on  
34 my comment on Page 5 where they wrote it down they  
35 netted two broad whitefish. It's not netting. It was  
36 niksiksuqing because it was only -- I was taking about  
37 only two, I think. And then down in the paragraph  
38 where it says grayling with nets, it was probably  
39 niksiksuqing I was about. So I don't think -- I think  
40 that needs to be changed. That's all I see so far.

41  
42 I give it back to you, Mr. Chair.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So noted, Wanda.  
47 Further discussion.

48  
49 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. Martha, Nuiqsut.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Martha.

2  
3 MS. ITTA: On Page 6 under my comment  
4 it says the beginning of the paragraph, Martha Itta of  
5 Nuiqsut reported that winter is coming -- and then the  
6 paragraph underneath it says residents of Anaktuvuk  
7 Pass asked Ms. Itta to represent them. That is  
8 misquoted. During the meeting I stated that a resident  
9 asked me to stress to the Council that a representation  
10 from Anaktuvuk Pass is urgently needed was my  
11 statement, not that residents asked me to represent  
12 them. A member asked me to stress to the Council the  
13 urgency of a representation from Anaktuvuk.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good catch and I  
18 distinctly remember that part, that you had conveyed  
19 the concern that Anaktuvuk Pass wanted a representative  
20 from Anaktuvuk Pass and you were just conveying that  
21 message for AKP.

22  
23 You got that there, Eva?

24  
25 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
26 Chair. Thank you very much, Martha, for that question.  
27 I will make those changes to the minutes to finalize  
28 them. You as well, Wanda. Thank you for those  
29 corrections. I'll probably call with some help with  
30 spelling so I can get it accurate for you.

31  
32 Thank you so much.

33  
34 MR. SCHAEFER: Point Hope.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, all right.  
37 Point Hope. Is that Steve?

38  
39 MR. SCHAEFER: No, this is Jack  
40 Schaefer, Native Village of Point Hope.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, all right, Jack.  
43 Welcome.

44  
45 MR. SCHAEFER: I just wanted to say  
46 that some of the portions of the minutes that were  
47 inaudibles, where the microphone couldn't pick up what  
48 we were saying, I don't think I was moving around when  
49 I was talking. I find it difficult to understand the  
50

1 inability of the microphone. Was it something that was  
2 sensitive that kept it from picking up or do I really  
3 move around when I talk?  
4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Schaefer, was  
6 that a question to Eva?  
7

8 MR. SCHAEFER: It's a statement. I  
9 looked at the minutes that were sent to me -- I mean  
10 that were there on the website, the draft, and there  
11 were some inaudible sections in there where myself -- I  
12 think there were a couple times that it was inaudible.  
13 I think there was maybe once or twice for Steve  
14 Oomittuk. There were a couple others that were  
15 inaudible also. I don't know if that's the right term.  
16 I can't see them right now. I'm just basing it on  
17 memory.  
18

19 MS. PATTON: Hello, Jack. This is Eva.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jack. I'm  
22 going to ask Madame Coordinator to respond.  
23

24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jack, for that.  
25 I really appreciate your review of the transcript. We  
26 did have some challenges with the clarity of the  
27 reception of our mics and recording system at the  
28 meeting at Point Hope, so there were some times where  
29 the transmission wasn't very clear. So that's why you  
30 see in the transcripts where it says inaudible. That's  
31 when the recording got a little warbled or something or  
32 there was some static.  
33

34 So that was the only challenge was just  
35 some technical challenges at the city hall there with  
36 some of the connections. We certainly all heard you  
37 loud and clear at the Council meeting and appreciate  
38 everybody's thorough look at both the transcripts and  
39 the minutes for accuracy.  
40

41 Thank you for that feedback.  
42

43 I turn it back over to you, Mr. Chair.  
44

45 Thank you.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just reading my  
48 section a little bit more to make sure. It's alarming  
49 and concerning when there may have been very important  
50



1 dialogue and then potentially just be omitted because  
2 of technical difficulties. It's just alarming to me.  
3 Little dialogues I think are important.  
4

5 On this portion where rain filled his  
6 cellar, this is on my portion, about the second  
7 paragraph, about warming temperatures causing the ice  
8 cellars to cave in. These cellars are over 100 years  
9 old and now just a 3-4 degree increase in temperature  
10 is ruining them. Rain filled his cellar just this past  
11 week and his muktuk and quak turned to mush and was  
12 spoiled. For the first time in his life he had to throw  
13 out muktuk.  
14

15 I think what we did is in September we  
16 had to get our meat out before it went bad and put it  
17 in walk-in freezers. I think that was the intent of  
18 what I was trying to say. It seems like it's  
19 paraphrased and sounds different.  
20

21 Any other comments on the minutes since  
22 we're under discussion.  
23

24 MR. SCHAEFER: Point Hope. Tried to  
25 call in using Aztec phone and I couldn't call, so I'm  
26 using a GCI phone. Is there other people that are  
27 using Aztec phones and are they working okay? My Aztec  
28 phone is not working. I couldn't call in. I had to  
29 use a GCI phone to call in. Just for information.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
32

33 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.  
36

37 MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda. I use Aztec  
38 and I'm calling in with Aztec, so Atqasuk is good.  
39

40 Thank you.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other comments on  
43 the minutes.  
44

45 (No comments)  
46

47 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair. Call for  
48 question.  
49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The  
2 question has been called for on the minutes of October  
3 23 and 24, 2019 from the Qalgi Community Center in  
4 Point Hope. With that, all those in favor of adopting  
5 the minutes of October 23 and 24 signify by saying aye.

6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed  
10 same sign.

11  
12 (No opposing votes)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,  
15 the minutes have passed with some minor edits.

16  
17 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 I'll make those edits and reconfirm with all of you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So we  
21 went through Council member reports. I think I've done  
22 my report. Item 9, public and tribal comments on  
23 non-agenda items is going to be available each morning  
24 that we're on. So I'm going to extend that. If there  
25 are any public or tribal comments on non-agenda items,  
26 it would be available right now.

27  
28 We'll move on to item 10.....

29  
30 MR. SCHAEFER: Point Hope.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope.

33  
34 MR. SCHAEFER: There didn't seem to be  
35 much caribou and no polar bear. I guess nobody catch a  
36 polar bear. Very little bit caribou. It's kind of  
37 odd. Anyway. Point Hope.

38  
39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Jack.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know in Barrow  
42 there's been a fair bit of polar bears being caught  
43 here. Of course, they were running around town quite a  
44 bit. But they're good eating. People eat them all up.

45  
46 With that I'm going to go to item 10,  
47 new business. Item (a) Office of Subsistence  
48 Management Fisheries Program update.

49  
50

1 MS. HYER: Hello, Mr. Chairman and  
2 Council members. This is Karen Hyer and I am going to  
3 present first an update on our fisheries regulatory  
4 cycle and then just an update on our Fisheries Resource  
5 Monitoring Program. So I'll go ahead and start with  
6 the regulatory cycle. Both are very short updates.  
7

8 The Federal Subsistence Board is  
9 accepting proposals this spring to change Federal  
10 regulations for the subsistence take of fish and  
11 shellfish on Federal public lands and waters for the  
12 2021-23 regulatory cycle. You can find a flyer in your  
13 book that describes how to submit a regulatory  
14 proposal.  
15

16 The Board will consider proposals to  
17 change Federal fish and shellfish season, harvest  
18 limits and methods of harvest and customary and  
19 traditional use determination until April 20th.  
20

21 There are a number of ways that you can  
22 submit proposals. If you have a fisheries proposal  
23 that you would like to submit as a Council or as an  
24 individual, we can discuss that right now. You can  
25 also submit proposals to OSM through our Council  
26 Coordinator by hand or by mail and we can assist in  
27 drafting a proposal if you would like. There is also  
28 an online process outlined more clearly in your book.  
29

30 These proposals will be analyzed and  
31 presented to the Councils during the fall meeting cycle  
32 this year for Council recommendations. Proposal  
33 analyses and Council recommendations will be presented  
34 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their action at  
35 the January 2021 fisheries regulatory cycle meeting.  
36

37 This concludes the fisheries regulatory  
38 cycle update. Are there any questions or any possible  
39 proposals or ideas of proposals that you would like to  
40 discuss?  
41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for  
45 Karen on the fisheries program update.  
46

47 MR. REXFORD: This is Edward in  
48 Kaktovik.  
49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Edward.

2

3 MR. REXFORD: This last summer we had  
4 all kinds of salmon from all over, I guess. I don't  
5 know. We'd like to know where they're coming from. A  
6 lot of displacement of arctic char and whitefish.  
7 We're catching mostly salmon. Do you see a possibility  
8 of doing a study in our area?

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. HYER: Okay, great. Mr. Chairman.  
13 I just want to -- before I launch into the Fisheries  
14 Resource Monitoring Program I just want to follow up on  
15 that comment. We are working with Council members, so  
16 those kind of ideas for future research proposals are  
17 really important and I think we will circle back around  
18 after the meeting and get more detailed information of  
19 what's happening up that way so we can possibly shape a  
20 PIN. This is not the first time that we've heard of an  
21 interest in recognizing and trying to figure out what's  
22 happening with the salmon and the local fish because  
23 things are changing in the environment.

24

25 Anyway, with that I will go ahead and  
26 update you on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
27 Program. We're currently in the final phase of the  
28 2020 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal  
29 Subsistence Board met on January 28th and made  
30 recommendations about funding the research plan.

31

32 Once the Office of Subsistence  
33 Management received its final budget and with the  
34 Regional Director's approval, we started developing  
35 funding agreements for those proposals. Currently  
36 there are no research proposals in your area for this  
37 coming 2020 season. So it's really important for the  
38 next 2022 cycle to develop some PINs and hopefully we  
39 can get some new projects in your region.

40

41 With the 2020 cycle finalized, and  
42 that's the cycle for this summer, we need to work with  
43 the Council to develop the priority research needs for  
44 the 2022 Monitoring Program. I just want to remind the  
45 Council that the priority information needs are really  
46 the point of influence for the Council and is what  
47 really helps shape the research.

48

49 So it's a good time to think about what

50

1 you're seeing in your communities and how you'd like  
2 the research to be shaped and what you think the most  
3 important priorities are. We will be reaching out to  
4 individuals and groups to help us develop those  
5 priority information needs.

6  
7 Right now I just want to let the  
8 Council know they can either volunteer now or let us  
9 know things right now that we'll continue to work on to  
10 develop these PINs or they can reach out to us at a  
11 later date. We will work on data collection and  
12 development of the priority information needs until  
13 this fall and then this fall we'll meet as a group as a  
14 Council and then we'll discuss the information needs  
15 and finalize them.

16  
17 So if anybody has anything to add, I'm  
18 open to comments at this point.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Karen, being that Mr.  
21 Rexford had a concern about salmon in his area, I'm not  
22 sure that would be something that you could add to  
23 those proposals or not. I'll let you answer that real  
24 quick and then we'll go to Point Hope.

25  
26 MS. HYER: The answer to that is yes,  
27 absolutely. We'll reach back out -- Eva, I and Hannah  
28 will reach back out and get more details. It's very  
29 important to hear those things and, yes, that is  
30 something we'd add.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank  
33 you, Karen. Eddie, it sounds like they're going to  
34 look at that.

35  
36 MR. REXFORD: All right. Thank you.

37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Point Hope.

41  
42 MR. SCHAEFER: I was just kind of  
43 leaning in that way. I just wondered how, you know,  
44 when someone makes a request for some help if it just  
45 stops there. Because, you know, we're not  
46 grant writers. We don't know how to put proposals  
47 together. We could kind of copy one if we run across  
48 one on the internet.

49  
50

1 I was wondering what that process is.  
2 How do you help? It seems kind of odd that we don't  
3 have anything and now we're looking at 2022. So there  
4 was nothing for 2020 even though there was something  
5 that was said in October.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Karen, if you could  
8 respond.

9  
10 MS. HYER: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Council  
11 members. There were PINs put out for your region and  
12 you have continuing projects in your region. It's just  
13 in 2020 there were no new projects. We put out the  
14 PINs and the PINs helped guide the researchers. Again,  
15 the northern region is your RAC, Northwest Arctic and  
16 Seward Peninsula. The investigators submit the  
17 proposals and the successful proposals for this last  
18 cycle actually were in the Seward Peninsula and  
19 Northwest Arctic.

20  
21 So I just wanted to clarify that. Now  
22 is the time to develop the information needs and give  
23 us feedback because that feedback plays directly into  
24 the development of our priority research needs. It is  
25 the Council's opportunity to influence the next call  
26 for proposals, which will be 2022.

27  
28 Now is the time to let me know if  
29 you're seeing anything or you have any interests. Also  
30 if there's nothing that comes to mind right now, we  
31 have all summer to develop this so you can contact me  
32 or Eva. We will certainly be circling around to all of  
33 you for input too. It's an ongoing process at the  
34 moment.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a basic  
37 question and I know we've talked about issues and  
38 concerns for proposals for Fisheries Monitoring  
39 Program. Let's say for example the fish mold issues  
40 and other things like that. When you do the update to  
41 the Council and we express the concerns based on  
42 feedback from community residents and subsistence  
43 hunters and fishermen that are using these resources  
44 and know that there's some changes occurring that maybe  
45 OSM should take heed and help to identify and structure  
46 an examination or study or something like that, is that  
47 something that needs to be born from the respective  
48 local community to write that up or is that sufficient  
49 to where when we express these concerns -- like more  
50

1 than one occasion I've expressed that our big lake  
2 right outside of Utqiagvik, the Tusikvouk, which is  
3 about 18 miles from Barrow, but it's like a 10 mile  
4 long lake, was experiencing very low, low catch rates  
5 and concerns of abundance.

6  
7 I'm just wondering is that something  
8 you are responsible for in these proposals and write  
9 that up or do you need a biologist or somebody that  
10 would put a proposal together or do we just put these  
11 recommendations in as you should study this and that's  
12 all that's required for us to do.

13  
14 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
15 members. For developing the priority information needs  
16 to guide the research, a statement like you should  
17 study this is what we're looking for. In addition to  
18 that, we also go back over the transcripts and past  
19 discussions and pull out what seem to be the issues and  
20 follow up on those too. It's kind of an ongoing  
21 discussion with the Regional Advisory Council .

22  
23 Once we have our priority information  
24 needs which come directly from the Council and the  
25 Council is just saying this is what we're seeing in our  
26 region and this is what we want to study. Then those  
27 go out, then investigators, which are biologist, social  
28 scientist and geologist and researchers then submit  
29 proposals for funding.

30  
31 That part we can encourage  
32 investigators and we can reach out to investigators,  
33 but we don't actually do the proposals, write the  
34 proposals or do the work. It's a competitive grant  
35 process. So that's where we just simply try to get the  
36 work out and encourage people to apply for the funding  
37 and then they go through a competitive process to get  
38 the funding.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's  
41 noteworthy to discuss some of these things because it's  
42 folks that are concerned about their fish and know the  
43 details about providing that kind of information and  
44 those that might want a partnership, like a tribe. I  
45 think a tribe is able to go after those funds and put  
46 in a proposal just as well and conduct a tribal-based  
47 research and then hire their biologist or something to  
48 do something like that. Is that correct?

49  
50

1 MS. HYER: Yeah, Gordon, those are some  
2 of our strongest proposals, which are partnerships. So  
3 if you want to study a certain -- like we're talking  
4 about wanting to see more salmon in an area and see  
5 where trout -- so this is an example. So you would  
6 figure out what area that is, what tribe is there and  
7 if the tribe is really interested in it, we could help  
8 make connections with investigators who would have the  
9 expertise to study that.

10

11 A partnership between a tribe and a  
12 biologist is a really strong -- or an agency that has  
13 biologists, is a really strong partnership and we see  
14 those proposals being very successful throughout the  
15 state because the tribe provides the local concepts or  
16 the local perspective and the local knowledge and then  
17 the investigator can provide some of the more  
18 scientific rigor and they make a very strong team  
19 together.

20

21 We have a capacity-building component  
22 in our proposals, so investigators need to seek out  
23 those partnerships. But if they could be initiated by  
24 the tribe, that would be even better.

25

26 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. Martha.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,  
29 Martha. Nuiqsut.

30

31 MS. ITTA: Thank you, guys. I wasn't  
32 too sure when this was going to come up, but I do have  
33 questions in regards to my request at the October  
34 meeting in regards to the Fish Monitoring Program and  
35 I'm trying to fully understand where we are at now at  
36 this point since October since I made this request.  
37 The way I understood is that I would be able to receive  
38 support to be able to work on a proposal to the Council  
39 and I thought it was going to be presented at this  
40 meeting. Correct me if I misunderstood or if I'm  
41 wrong.

42

43 At the October meeting that's what I  
44 understood, that I was going to be able to get  
45 assistance and, you know, there is support out there to  
46 make sure that my request and my needs are heard to the  
47 Council and it was going to be brought to the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board.

49

50



1 Thank you.

2

3 So my question is where are we at this  
4 point of my request and the proposal on the regulations  
5 to be able to address the concerns for my community in  
6 regards to the Fish Monitoring Program?

7

8 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
9 members. Martha, are you talking about wanting to  
10 address the Federal Subsistence Board through your  
11 annual report about the toxicology issue or are you  
12 talking about developing a priority information need?

13

14 MS. ITTA: My understanding was that I  
15 would be able to get support to do a proposal to the  
16 Council and then with the Council's support it would be  
17 elevated to the Federal Subsistence Board to change the  
18 regulations or however that process is.

19

20 But my request was to change the  
21 regulations in the funding process to be able for our  
22 tribe to receive funding to do such monitoring that  
23 doesn't limit -- you know, that doesn't just go like to  
24 mold, but for like real fishing monitoring such as  
25 toxicology and contaminants. That extent of fish  
26 monitoring.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MS. HYER: Thanks, Martha. I'm going  
31 to let Eva answer that one. I think that's within the  
32 concept of the Annual Report. Right, Eva?

33

34 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
35 Council. Yes, this is Eva. That's correct. There's  
36 two processes going on. One is developing those  
37 priority information needs. As we have discussed with  
38 you, Martha, at the Council meeting in the fall, the  
39 challenge that currently the FRMP, the Monitoring  
40 Program, doesn't currently fund contaminants or  
41 toxicology research directly.

42

43 So your ask was to the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board to change that. That will be coming  
45 up in the Annual Report. So we're going to review the  
46 draft report and please do include your feedback in  
47 discussion. I know Karen and Hannah and I had talked  
48 with you on Friday and we want to make sure that the  
49 Annual Report and the Council's request to the Board

50

1 reflects exactly what you would like to relay.

2

3

4 So that will be coming up after we  
5 continue with the FRMP discussion. So that will come  
6 up next and we'll walk through the language that's in  
7 the report right now. I'll read it out loud for  
8 everybody since we're doing this all by teleconference.  
9 Get your feedback and the Council's feedback on any  
10 edits and changes.

11

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After the meeting I'll be following up with you to make sure that that report to the Board is as exactly as you'd like it before it gets finalized and sent to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Thank you.

MS. ITTA: Thank you, Eva, for the clarification.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions for Karen for the Fisheries Program information update.

MR. REXFORD: This is Eddie.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

MR. REXFORD: I just thought of something. I know we have Dungeness and snow crab out there. It will be good to know how far out. Is it possible to do some kind of test to see how many different crab species we have? Just a thought just in case we want to start doing subsistence harvesting of crab if they're available. Just a thought.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That seems like we would lead to item (b), which is call for Federal fish and shellfish proposals, but I'm going to check with Karen on that question.

MS. HYER: Yeah, if there's a need for a regulatory or change to regulation. I do not have a reg book in front of me unfortunately, so I am not 100 percent sure where our jurisdiction stops for shellfish in the north.

Eva, do you have a reg book in front of you?

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is Gordon. I  
2 think, you know, we can go out there and subsist on  
3 these things as we -- you know, we've seen a big king  
4 crab come ashore over here in front of town just  
5 walking around. Somebody pulled it out and take it  
6 home and eat it. Every spring whaling for many years  
7 when I was a kid we put crab pots out and always got  
8 these crabs. I think it's something we've done. I  
9 just don't know the abundance and types there are.  
10 Some of them look like little king crabs. Some people  
11 say they're spider crabs.

12  
13 MS. HYER: Right, Gordon. My question  
14 to Eva was I'm not sure if our Federal regulations  
15 apply to that or if that's a different organization's  
16 regulation that would govern the harvest of crab.  
17 Unfortunately I don't have a reg book with me when we  
18 got sent home.

19  
20 Eva, do you have one with you?  
21

22 MS. PATTON: Yes, but I think the  
23 question coming from Eddie -- this is Eva. I think  
24 Eddie's question was related to the research  
25 opportunity for what types of seafood is there. I  
26 would have to defer back to you, Karen. I know there's  
27 limitations for how far into the nearshore environment  
28 that the FRMP will cover research.

29  
30 MS. HYER: Yeah, Eddie asked about  
31 research and Gordon asked about regulations and they're  
32 both tied to our jurisdiction. I don't know the answer  
33 to where our jurisdiction stops. I certainly can look  
34 into that and get back to everybody. I just don't have  
35 that material right in front of me.

36  
37 MS. DAGGETT: Karen, this is Carmen  
38 with Fish and Game. Through the Chair.

39  
40 MS. HYER: I think, Carmen, you  
41 probably have it in front of you.

42  
43 MS. DAGGETT: If I may, Mr. Chair. I  
44 have a reg book here and I'm digging through it trying  
45 to find the referenced jurisdiction and area and I can  
46 follow up once I find the specifics of that, but I do  
47 have the reg book here for the current timeframe.

48  
49 MS. HYER: So Mr. Chair and Council  
50

1 members. It has to do with we manage saltwaters in  
2 certain areas and in certain areas we do not. They  
3 come either under the jurisdiction of NOAA, NPFMC or  
4 the State or some other agency. Certainly if it's  
5 within our jurisdiction we can do both Fisheries  
6 Resource Monitoring Programs on it and we are  
7 responsible for any regulatory issues with it. If it's  
8 not under our jurisdiction, then those requests would  
9 have to go to the agency whose jurisdiction it is  
10 under.

11

12 That's my question. Because when I  
13 left the office I did not grab reg books and we've been  
14 at home, so I do not know who has jurisdiction.

15

16 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. This is  
17 Hannah Voorhees with Office of Subsistence Management.  
18 I do have sections on applicability and scope of  
19 provisions of Title VIII of ANILCA for taking of fish  
20 and shellfish on Federal public lands and waters.

21

22 For Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and  
23 National Petroleum Reserve, which might be relevant, I  
24 don't know if it would be appropriate or desirable to  
25 read those over the line for this meeting, but  
26 generally it would be FRMP, Fisheries Resource  
27 Monitoring Program, there would have to be a Federal  
28 nexus. That's one of the criteria that are evaluated  
29 when we get a proposal.

30

31 I would caution, but I think any  
32 proposal having to do with kind of offshore subsistence  
33 practices probably does not neatly fit into Federal  
34 nexus, but I'm a relatively new analyst and  
35 anthropologist with the program, so I would defer to  
36 someone else who may have corrections on that matter,  
37 but that's my understanding.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
42 for the shellfish stuff.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I'll continue to  
47 put my pots out there when I want to. Thank you,  
48 Karen, on the update. That goes down to item (b) call  
49 for Federal fish and shellfish proposals.

50

1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair. Council members.  
2 I actually had flipped that and I had talked about the  
3 regulatory cycle before the FRMP and I apologize for  
4 that. I just did that because that's the way it's  
5 listed on my notes.  
6

7 When I had asked about any changes to  
8 fish proposals, that's what I was talking about. So if  
9 there are any regulatory proposals you would like to  
10 see changed, there's a window of opportunity to do that  
11 and that window closes April 20th. I can help you  
12 develop any proposed changes or Hannah can help you  
13 develop any proposed changes. Those are changes to our  
14 Federal regulations for fisheries harvest.  
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So item  
17 (c) Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
18

19 MS. HYER: Right. That's what we just  
20 finished talking about. I was talking about the  
21 priority information needs and looking forward where we  
22 want to guide the research. That's an ongoing  
23 discussion with members of the Council and then we will  
24 meet again this fall and we'll finalize the list. You  
25 have given me some good ideas to start working on and  
26 we will continue with outreach to the Council.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Item (d)  
29 review and approval of FY2019 Annual Report  
30 supplemental.  
31

32 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.  
33 Council members. This is Eva. I think how we'll  
34 approach this since we're all on teleconference is I  
35 will read through the draft fiscal year 2019 Annual  
36 Report. So these were subjects that were discussed by  
37 the Council at your fall meeting and the process is we  
38 bring that draft back to the Council now at this winter  
39 meeting so the Council has an opportunity to review and  
40 make any edits or additions that you would like to see  
41 in the annual report before it gets finalized.  
42

43 So as much of that discussion as we can  
44 have on the record here and then I'll be following up  
45 with each of you to ensure that the wording in the  
46 annual report is as you would like it prior to it being  
47 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. It is in  
48 the form of a letter, so the Council Chair, Gordon,  
49 your approval and signature is also part of the process  
50

1 before it gets submitted to the Board.

2

3 I'll start with each object one at a  
4 time and read through it and ask for the Council  
5 feedback on any edits and additions you would like to  
6 see.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where can I find that  
9 in the book, what page?

10

11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It  
12 was a supplemental insertion with the materials and had  
13 emailed that out to folks again in case you didn't have  
14 it because it wasn't bound in the book. It was still  
15 being worked on at the time with Council members at the  
16 time the book was produced. We don't have the print  
17 version. Had emailed that again to folks just  
18 yesterday so you'd have all the latest supplemental  
19 materials again.

20

21 I will read that verbatim as it is in  
22 the draft so that everybody here on teleconference can  
23 follow along and let me know if you have edits or  
24 additions or changes you would like to make.  
25 So this is a letter that will be submitted to the  
26 Federal Subsistence Board Chair Anthony Christianson.

27

28 The North Slope Subsistence Regional  
29 Advisory Council appreciates the opportunity to submit  
30 its FY2019 annual report to the Federal Subsistence  
31 Board under the provisions of Section 805 of the Alaska  
32 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At  
33 its public meeting held in Point Hope on October 23 and  
34 24, 2019, the Council identified concerns and  
35 recommendations for this report. This is the time now  
36 at the 2020 winter meeting that the Council will review  
37 and approve it.

38

39 The Council wishes to share information  
40 and raise a number of concerns dealing with the  
41 implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA, the Fisheries  
42 Resource Monitoring Program, critical subsistence  
43 research priorities and the continuation of subsistence  
44 uses in the North Slope Region when faced with a  
45 changing environment.

46

47 The first topic that the Council had  
48 identified was environmental change impacts to healthy  
49 subsistence resources and management strategies to

50

1 address food security. The Council had extensive  
2 discussion about the importance of caribou, sheep,  
3 moose, fish and other subsistence resources for  
4 communities across the North Slope Region and expressed  
5 concern about climate change and development impacts on  
6 these critical resources.

7  
8 The Council is very concerned about  
9 these ongoing and increasing impacts to communities'  
10 subsistence resources and subsistence way of life.  
11 Many fish and wildlife populations across the North  
12 Slope are experiencing a decline or exhibiting signs of  
13 stress such as increased fish mold, seabird die-off and  
14 sick seals.

15  
16 A new extremely concerning change took  
17 place this past fall when no bowhead whales were  
18 sighted off the coast of Utqiagvik and the community  
19 was not able to harvest any whale. Whales feed an  
20 entire community across the North Slope are shared and  
21 traded widely for other subsistence foods and are  
22 essential to the culture and traditions of the Inupiat  
23 people.

24  
25 The Council is very concerned that  
26 either changes in the marine environment or disturbance  
27 from industrial activities have caused the bowhead  
28 whale to change its migratory path or caused the  
29 decline to the population. Whatever the cause, absence  
30 of the usual fall whale harvest has left the community  
31 in dire circumstances.

32  
33 Utqiagvik and other communities across  
34 the region literally missed tons of healthy subsistence  
35 food. The Council recognizes that marine mammals are  
36 outside the Board's jurisdiction. However, the Council  
37 wants to engage the Board to work on subsistence  
38 management strategies and avenues to ensure that  
39 communities will have enough of other subsistence  
40 resources to sustain them in these times.

41  
42 The absence of whales has created a  
43 much greater need for other foods such as fish, moose,  
44 sheep and caribou that are managed by the Federal  
45 Subsistence Management Program. Opportunity to  
46 increase harvest on these other subsistence resources  
47 will be imperative.

48  
49 So that was the first subject for the  
50

1 Council's report to the Board and I'd like to check in  
2 with the Council if there's any edits or additions or  
3 further information you would like to add to that.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
6 the Council.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Eva,  
11 is this an action item?

12  
13 MS. PATTON: Yes, it is. What we're  
14 seeking is feedback from the Council if there's any  
15 edits or changes that you would like to make once we  
16 get through the whole annual report. Then we'll have a  
17 motion from the Council to adopt the annual report with  
18 some modification. Again there's still opportunity  
19 I'll be following up with each of you to ensure that  
20 those edits that you want to see are as you'd like them  
21 in the report prior to it being submitted to the Board.

22  
23 So right now open discussion as we go  
24 through each of the topics that the Council had  
25 identified. Once we get to the end and all of the  
26 feedback has been discussed, then it would be a motion  
27 from the Council to adopt the Annual Report with  
28 amendments.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, this is Gordon.  
31 Are those similar things I've been providing feedback  
32 on that I kind of felt were not fully addressed in  
33 there?

34  
35 MS. PATTON: Yes. So we'll get through  
36 the topics that are in the Annual Report and we'll walk  
37 through the edits for those and then I'll get through  
38 your request for additional information that we had  
39 discussed and corresponded over email. We'll get to  
40 that at the end of the report so we make sure those  
41 additions that you'd like to see are included as well.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All  
44 right. So having heard that are you soliciting for  
45 feedback from the Council members at this time?

46  
47 MS. PATTON: If we could walk through  
48 the draft report, the subjects that are in the draft  
49 right now, one at a time and get feedback so that we  
50



1 can incorporate any edits that you would like. If  
2 there are none with the topic one, I can go on to the  
3 topics two and three that are in the report right now  
4 and then we'll get to adding additional subjects.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds good to me.  
7 I'm trying to find your email here.

8

9 MS. PATTON: If there's no edits at  
10 this time for that first subject, I can go down to  
11 subject number two and I'll read that again verbatim so  
12 we can get feedback. Karen, Hannah and I did have a  
13 discussion with Martha Itta of Nuiqsut on Friday to  
14 make sure that we're getting your concerns addressed  
15 regarding the FRMP and the request to the Federal  
16 Subsistence Board. So we'll incorporate your feedback  
17 into this and any additional recommendations you would  
18 have for this. I'll read that subject in the Annual  
19 Report.

20

21 This was a subsistence fisheries  
22 research priorities critical to North Slope  
23 communities, subject two in the Council's Annual  
24 Report. The Council seeks to work with the Federal  
25 Subsistence Management Program Fisheries Resource  
26 Monitoring Program, known as the FRMP, to address  
27 critical subsistence fisheries research needs in the  
28 North Slope Region.

29

30 The Council is extremely concerned  
31 about environmental change and contaminants impact on  
32 subsistence fisheries across the North Slope region.  
33 In particular, the Colville River and tributaries are  
34 essential to the community of Nuiqsut for subsistence  
35 harvest of broad whitefish, humpback whitefish, arctic  
36 cisco, burbot and grayling.

37

38 This river has experienced warming  
39 waters and industrial contaminants that have polluted  
40 water for many years. The community is hurting from  
41 the negative effects on their fish. People are going  
42 hungry and yet are afraid to eat their traditional  
43 subsistence fish due to concerns about contamination.

44

45 The community has struggled to attract  
46 research on fish habitats, water quality and  
47 contaminants testing of subsistence-caught fish.  
48 Council members have expressed frustration with the  
49 challenge to have these studies funded through the FRMP

50

1 program.

2

3 While the Council recognizes that the  
4 FRMP will not fund contaminant studies directly, in  
5 reality contaminants have an impact on access to  
6 healthy subsistence foods and have caused traditional  
7 subsistence harvest practices to change and success to  
8 decline.

9

10 The FRMP is supposed to support  
11 continuation of subsistence uses, but the prevalence of  
12 fish mold and contaminants have drastically impacted  
13 the communities' ability to continue using these  
14 important subsistence resources.

15

16 The Council and the community of  
17 Nuiqsut are very interested in engaging directly with  
18 the Federal Subsistence Management Program and  
19 collaborating with researchers through the FRMP process  
20 to find an avenue forward to address this issue. And  
21 in discussions with Martha to clarify too, so we're  
22 trying to find a pathway forward right now for the  
23 community as the FRMP exists.

24

25 I know, Martha, you wanted a direct ask  
26 to the Federal Subsistence Board to include  
27 contaminants monitoring and environmental monitoring as  
28 one of the research priorities that would be allowed.  
29 So we will put that specific ask to the Board and in  
30 the report as well.

31

32 So any further feedback on that  
33 subject, especially from you, Martha, is helpful for  
34 the Council.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Eva. I  
39 appreciate it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other feedback on  
42 that section.

43

44 MS. KIPPI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.  
45 This is Wanda. There's none from me, thank you, at  
46 this time.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva, and  
4 continue.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
7 Council. Thanks again to Martha for excellent feedback  
8 and conversations. We will continue to work with you,  
9 Martha, and make sure this is as you would like it and  
10 we get the message to the Board.

11

12 MS. ITTA: Thank you.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Council. This  
15 is Eva. Continuing on to the third subject that was  
16 included in the draft Annual Report. Council  
17 appointments and need for representation from all North  
18 Slope Region communities.

19

20 In the past few years the Council has  
21 grown increasingly concerned regarding multiple vacant  
22 seats on the Council and lack of appointments to fill  
23 these seats. Several long-serving Council members have  
24 not been reappointed and new applicants have not been  
25 appointed.

26

27 To exacerbate the situation some  
28 Council members sadly recently passed away or moved out  
29 of region and no alternates were appointed to these  
30 seats. This has left a real gap on the Council with  
31 several vacancies over the past several years, with  
32 three to four vacancies occurring in the last few  
33 years.

34

35 Many North Slope Region communities are  
36 not currently represented. In particular, it is  
37 important to ensure that Anaktuvuk Pass has  
38 representation on the Council to address that  
39 community's unique subsistence needs and challenges due  
40 to their inland mountainous location and reliance on  
41 caribou.

42

43 Indeed all eight communities across the  
44 North Slope Region are unique in their subsistence  
45 knowledge and way of life and need to be represented on  
46 the Council for the Council to be fully effective in  
47 its duties.

48

49 The Council wishes to convey to the

50

1 Board the importance of having representation from each  
2 of the communities and request adequate appointments to  
3 achieve balanced membership. The Council would also  
4 like to reiterate the importance of holding Council  
5 meetings in each of the eight villages in the North  
6 Slope Region in order to work with each community and  
7 respond to their subsistence issues directly, as well  
8 as increasing engagement to attract new applicants to  
9 serve on the Council.

10

11 That concludes the subject number three  
12 for the Council. If you have any edits or feedback or  
13 changes you would like to make.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any edits or feedback  
18 from the Council.

19

20 MS. ITTA: Nothing from Nuiqsut.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Council. Just  
25 an update for the Council too, we will -- at the end of  
26 the meeting unfortunately, but we'll have updates from  
27 OSM regarding the Secretarial appointments process. So  
28 a little information and insight as to why appointments  
29 haven't been made in the last few years. That will be  
30 coming at the end of the meeting under OSM reports. So  
31 a little more information there for the Council.

32

33 So those were the three subjects that  
34 were in the original draft Annual Report. In  
35 conversation with Gordon, we have a request to include  
36 Council discussion on the Unit 26A moose and community  
37 area of influence.

38

39 If you recall at the fall meeting, the  
40 Council had made a recommendation to the State Board of  
41 Game regarding management of Unit 26A moose and drafted  
42 a letter to the Board of Game, which was delivered in  
43 person to that meeting. We can include that letter or  
44 the information in that letter and recommendation in  
45 the Annual Report as well and further discussion on the  
46 concerns for a community area of influence.

47

48 Gordon, do you want me to read that  
49 letter? Again, that was a letter addressed from the

50

1 Council to State Board of Game, but all correspondence  
2 from the Council is also cc'd to the Federal  
3 Subsistence Board. So they did receive those comments  
4 as well and we can include them in the annual report.  
5

6 What would be your wish, Mr. Chair?  
7 Would you like me to read that?  
8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,  
10 this is Gordon, the Council Chair. My concerns are --  
11 I know we made those comments to the State Board of  
12 Game as a Federal Advisory Council to the Federal  
13 Subsistence Board and we have that prerogative as an  
14 existing Council to comment on ACs, those advisory  
15 committees for the states, especially when they're  
16 overlaying regulations that might impact Federal public  
17 lands for which we have rural subsistence priority  
18 under ANILCA.  
19

20 It's important to differentiate how  
21 they phrase things and not unduly change the scheme of  
22 how the Federal land is regulated. It should be the  
23 same, but the language, if it were the same, because  
24 the State manages for all residents, is I think  
25 something kind of misunderstood and very scary to have  
26 the State Board of Game add language in their  
27 regulatory book in overlaying the Federal public lands.  
28 It just merely becomes advertisement.  
29

30 One of the concerns was about the moose  
31 in West 156 area. You start advertising through the  
32 State regs an antlerless season and that advertisement  
33 in Unit 26A and that West 156 going statewide where  
34 hunters from Anchorage, Fairbanks, any other part of  
35 the state under the State regs, will assume that  
36 they're guided by that regulation when it really should  
37 be a Tier.  
38

39 If it was going to mirror what the  
40 Federal government regulation says, you'll give a  
41 preference to the rural resident, then it needs to  
42 really be a Tier hunt and not the same language because  
43 the State regs -- and, by the way, not even supported  
44 by studies that population estimates and basic  
45 allocations for rural subsistence needs.  
46

47 What they're always saying in the State  
48 regs was the term for -- I forgot the acronym too, but  
49 it's about the harvestable surplus that they use in the  
50

1 State. Amount necessary for subsistence is first  
2 determined and then if there is a surplus of that, then  
3 -- I don't see the State having said all of those in  
4 announcing West 156 in the Federal land. And making a  
5 proposal to open it up for moose for antlerless is  
6 merely advertising to the entire state, hey, there's a  
7 few moose right here and gobble them all up.

8  
9 There needs to be a differentiation in  
10 some workshop about how State regs work and how Federal  
11 regs are required to have probably the sustained yield  
12 principal and have a rural subsistence priority.

13  
14 Those are my concerns and I think that  
15 level of concern including the enactment by ordinance  
16 of village comprehensive plans the area of influence  
17 for each community is described as the area immediately  
18 outside of the village district, like the municipal  
19 village district, the city government, immediately  
20 outside of those, which the village depends on for  
21 traditional and subsistence resources to support the  
22 village and should have some more protection measures  
23 to allow for those villages within the village area of  
24 influence and not allow arguments to ensue over the  
25 village food security system that depends on that area  
26 of influence.

27  
28 I can talk for so long on these things  
29 and probably get lost in the train of the dialogue, but  
30 those were the things I think -- not just the comments  
31 that were developed about that proposal to the State  
32 Board of Game, but why these concerns -- the way it's  
33 being expressed exists because those two regulatory  
34 systems are different.

35  
36 On top of that now you have a local  
37 enactment of ordinances that are required by the State  
38 statutes to be developed and also required by Municipal  
39 Code of the North Slope Borough to be developed and  
40 enacted by ordinance of the Assembly.

41  
42 So I think those at a minimum should be  
43 recognized by the Federal Subsistence Board and be a  
44 source of dialogue how we can do better. I apologize  
45 for saying so much.

46  
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 Thank you, Gordon. This is Eva. So I do have your  
49 comments here today. Also we'll revisit the  
50

1 transcripts from the fall meeting and make sure that we  
2 have incorporated all of the discussion in there.  
3 We'll draft this up as an additional topic to the  
4 Federal Subsistence Board in your report. Then I'll be  
5 following up with you to ensure that we have that  
6 language as you would like to see it.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I appreciate that  
9 feedback. We need to look at all things in areas and  
10 recognize some of the things that are new developments,  
11 like village comprehensive plans, and start to  
12 indoctrinate the land managers because they're enacted  
13 by ordinance unless there is complete disregard to  
14 local governments and working together under these set  
15 of guidelines.

16  
17 It doesn't mean we're pushing things to  
18 the side for others to participate. It just means  
19 develop a way to work within these. It might be time  
20 area closures involved, like the need for the ability  
21 for a village that is highly dependant on a resource to  
22 go for those resources to be uninterrupted for a period  
23 of time and open it up for some activities that allow  
24 for all others besides the village to do their sport  
25 hunt or their personal use hunt.

26  
27 You know, there's a saying that goes  
28 on. When you deflect these resources from where  
29 they're normally found, they're normally found, that is  
30 the same as depleting that resource because it's not  
31 normally found in that area now and it's devoid of  
32 those resources.

33  
34 It's the same as depleting that  
35 resource and, therefore, Tier levels or more caution  
36 should be taken because those resources are not where  
37 they're normally found again. Those are the types of  
38 ordinances and things we need to work together on.

39  
40 I'll stop there. I'll probably start  
41 saying there has to be a preponderance of the evidence  
42 and that's what it says in Title 19 that a village is  
43 dependant on that resource and a lot of evidence  
44 suggesting a lot of that.

45  
46 Just like the bowhead whale. We  
47 actually stop vessel traffic so that subsistence  
48 activities can be met because we know that vessel  
49 traffic deflects bowhead whales. It's the same concept  
50

1 and those are the same policies within the North Slope  
2 Borough to try to protect subsistence and it's  
3 important stuff to recognize.

4  
5 All right. I won't say anymore on that  
6 part. Sometimes I get a little too passionate about it  
7 maybe.

8  
9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
10 Council. Maybe before we make a motion to adopt the  
11 annual report with the amendments I just want to reach  
12 out to the Council members and see if there's any  
13 further additions or edits anyone would like to see in  
14 your Annual Report to the Board. Thanks.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other concerns  
19 from the Council members on the Annual Report.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe some guidance,  
24 Eva. Are we going to have a revised later, like  
25 tomorrow or something like that, to consider and then  
26 we can table this for action like tomorrow or  
27 something?

28  
29 MS. PATTON: Yes. I'm not sure how the  
30 agenda is going to go here this afternoon. Maybe what  
31 would be helpful since we do have quorum and we have  
32 the Council that participated in this discussion now,  
33 if the Council would like to make a motion to support  
34 with the amendments and we can try to follow up on that  
35 tomorrow. Again if there's any further thoughts that  
36 the Council would like to add, we can always do that as  
37 well.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: At this time you're  
42 seeking a motion to approve with the amendments that  
43 we've been talking about with that language and then go  
44 through it tomorrow.

45  
46 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. That would  
47 be helpful. Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
50



1 the Council. FY2019 Annual Report supplemental.

2

3 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. I make a motion  
4 to accept the 2019 Annual Report.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
7 the floor for the FY2019 Annual Report with the  
8 supplemental and the amendments from Martha at Nuiqsut.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl Peter  
11 Williams.

12

13 MS. KIPPI: Question. Wanda.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
16 called for. All those in favor of approving the FY2019  
17 Annual Report supplemental with the amendments signify  
18 by saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed  
23 same sign.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. We  
28 have approved the FY2019 Annual Report supplemental  
29 with amendments. Eva will put that together and most  
30 likely read it again, right?

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
33 Council. This is Eva. Yeah, so I will try to draft up  
34 the addition that the Council had discussed and bring  
35 that addition back to you tomorrow if we're still  
36 meeting tomorrow.

37

38 If by chance the agenda moves along and  
39 we happen to conclude early prior to getting an  
40 opportunity to do that, we do have that discussion on  
41 the record and the process would be that I would draft  
42 that up and bring that back to each of you on the  
43 Council individually for your review prior to  
44 finalizing it.

45

46 So there's still an opportunity for the  
47 Council to review the final report before approving it.  
48 The key thing was to have this discussion on the  
49 record, what edits you would like to see and additions.

50

1 Hopefully we'll be able to follow up with that  
2 tomorrow, but I'll be following up with the Council  
3 either way to edit the report and you'd like to see it  
4 before it's finalized.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank  
9 you, Eva. We'll go down to Item 11, agency reports.  
10 Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance.  
11 That's just an advisory there. We'll start with tribal  
12 governments. Is there any tribal government that would  
13 like to provide a report.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We'll go down  
18 the list. Native organizations.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll go down the  
23 list. Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

24

25 MS. OKADA: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
26 Council members. This is Marcy Okada with Gates of the  
27 Arctic.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Marcy.

30

31 MS. OKADA: I submitted a letter to the  
32 Council requesting that Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass  
33 be reappointed to our Gates of the Arctic National Park  
34 Subsistence Resource Commission. I'm not sure if you  
35 have the letter in front of you.

36

37 Esther would like to continue to serve  
38 on our Resource Commission and she currently serves on  
39 the North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee,  
40 which qualifies her for our SRC. She was North Slope  
41 RAC appointed, so it's the North Slope RAC that has to  
42 continue to reappoint her to the SRC.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A little bit of  
45 discussion on that, Marcy. What is the requirement from  
46 our RAC on the appointment? That it be a member of the  
47 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council or a member of  
48 any advisory council or RAC?

49

50

1 MS. OKADA: That's correct. She could  
2 either serve on the North Slope RAC or the North Slope  
3 Fish and Game Management Committee, as she already  
4 does. Even though she does not serve on the RAC she  
5 still qualifies to be on the SRC because of her service  
6 on the North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee.  
7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy. I  
9 just wanted to make sure we got that clear that the  
10 language allows for a representative that is on some  
11 kind of advisory council dealing with subsistence  
12 resources.  
13

14 MS. OKADA: That's correct.  
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Marcy, is this an  
17 action item that we need to take now?  
18

19 MS. OKADA: Please. If the RAC could  
20 go ahead and support this action, that would be great.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
23 the Council? The Gates of the Arctic would like to  
24 have Esther Hugo continue to be on the Subsistence  
25 Resource Council for Gates of the Arctic representing  
26 Anaktuvuk Pass. She's currently a member, I believe,  
27 of the North Slope Borough Advisory Committee,  
28 Subsistence Advisory Committee.  
29

30 MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. I move to have  
31 Esther represent Anaktuvuk Pass on the advisory panel  
32 for Gates of the Arctic. Nuiqsut.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
35 the floor to have Esther Hugo represent AKP on the  
36 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Advisory Council.  
37

38 MS. KIPPI: Second that. Wanda from  
39 Atqasuk.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Wanda  
42 from Atqasuk. Any discussion.  
43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Discussion.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Peter.  
47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: I just wanted to say  
49 that Esther has something (indiscernible) because when  
50

1 I talked to her she said she had a lot on her table and  
2 she let Taqulik know about this. So maybe later on in  
3 the meeting. So thank you very much. I hope she gets  
4 on there with you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Under discussion.  
7 Peter, are you suggesting that maybe Esther wants to  
8 relax and have somebody take up the torch?

9  
10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, but she told me  
11 that she wouldn't mind speaking up on behalf and she  
12 has to attend more meetings, but she says she had too  
13 much on her table and that's why I stepped in.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having heard that, it  
16 would be important to have continuity. I know in the  
17 past we always have selected the Anaktuvuk Pass RAC  
18 member and selected them to be on the Subsistence  
19 Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic because  
20 they're right there.

21  
22 So what's the wish of the Council? It  
23 sounds like there might be some differing of opinion  
24 between the current RAC member in AKP versus Marcy  
25 Okada from Gates of the Arctic. I know Esther is on  
26 IHLC commission, I know she's on the Planning  
27 Commission and it sounds like she's on the North Slope  
28 Borough Subsistence Advisory Committee. I'm just  
29 putting that out there.

30  
31 I think it might be important to  
32 recognize that Peter is a representative from AKP on  
33 the RAC and we have always normally picked the RAC  
34 member from AKP to represent AKP from the RAC.

35  
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you for answering  
37 me.

38  
39 MS. KIPPI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.  
40 Wanda.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Wanda.

43  
44 MS. KIPPI: Since Peter Williams is  
45 representing Anaktuvuk Pass, is it possible if he wants  
46 to take that position if I may ask?

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Peter, that's a  
2 question to you.

3  
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Can I talk with Esther  
5 first what's happening?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Maybe by  
8 tomorrow. Marcy, can we act on that after Mr. Williams  
9 has consulted with Ms. Hugo?

10  
11 MS. OKADA: This is Marcy Okada for the  
12 record. If Mr. Williams would like to have a  
13 conversation with Esther, we can go ahead and wait on  
14 the appointment to see what transpires.

15  
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. This is Eva.  
17 I just wanted to touch base. A question for Marcy  
18 Okada. Just so the Council is clear about this  
19 appointment. Marcy, can you clarify? My understanding  
20 is the AC -- there is an appointment that comes from  
21 the AC to serve on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
22 Resource Commission and that's what this letter is  
23 requesting. I think an indication of support from the  
24 Council for that appointment.

25  
26 Is there also still room on the SRC for  
27 the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
28 to appoint Peter Earl Williams as a RAC appointment to  
29 serve on the SRC. Is there still room for that now  
30 that we do have an Anaktuvuk Pass representative on the  
31 Council?

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A good point.

36  
37 MS. OKADA: To address Eva's question.  
38 This is Marcy Okada. We currently have two seats for  
39 Anaktuvuk Pass on our Subsistence Resource Commission,  
40 one of which Esther Hugo is currently the RAC  
41 appointment and the other seat is a Department of  
42 Interior Secretary appointment, which is also filled.  
43 So at this point we're looking to fill the RAC  
44 appointment seat to our SRC.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's a good  
47 clarification. It is the RAC appointment that we're  
48 looking to fill. In this case the recommendation is to  
49 fill it with an AC representative from the North Slope  
50

1 Borough.

2

3

MS. OKADA: That's correct.

4

5

6

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I'm going to yield to the Council to have Earl consult with Esther as soon as he can as we maybe table this either until later today or for tomorrow sometime to get the RAC appointment to the SRC.

10

11

12

MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair.

13

14

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that Martha?

15

16

17

18

MS. ITTA: Yeah, Martha here. I'd like to go back to my motion to table the appointment for Anaktuvuk until Peter can speak with Esther.

19

20

21

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor to table the appointment to the SRC from the RAC.

22

23

MS. KIPPI: Second.

24

25

26

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded. Discussion. This is just until Earl, Peter Williams, has consulted with Esther Hugo, who is the current RAC appointee but is no longer on the RAC. Can I get a question on the second.

30

31

MS. KIPPI: Question. Wanda.

32

33

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a question on the floor to table the RAC appointment to the SRC until Mr. Williams is able to consult with Esther Hugo. All those signify by saying aye.

37

38

IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40

41

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed same sign.

42

43

(No opposing votes)

44

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll go through that exercise later after some consultation happens. Marcy, you can continue.

48

49

50

MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Marcy Okada. I'll just provide a quick update for

1 Gates of the Arctic. Speaking of our Subsistence  
2 Resource Commission, we had a meeting on November 13  
3 and 14 in Fairbanks of last year. The SRC received  
4 updates on all four arctic caribou herds; the Western  
5 Arctic, Teshekpuk, Central Arctic and Porcupine Herds.  
6 In addition to this the SRC was provided updates on the  
7 Ambler Mining Road and various wildlife population  
8 survey results.

9  
10 They took action on Federal subsistence  
11 2020-2022 wildlife proposals and also Board of Game  
12 Western Arctic and Interior Eastern Arctic Region  
13 proposals.

14  
15 The next SRC meeting was scheduled for  
16 April 15th and 16th in the Upper Kobuk River community  
17 of Shungnak, but it will now be held as a one-day  
18 teleconference on April 15th.

19  
20 Additionally, there was an SRC chairs  
21 workshop held in Anchorage in late January and the  
22 workshop provided the chairs of each SRC the  
23 opportunity to share information and to hear  
24 presentations on issues related to National Park  
25 Service Subsistence Management Program.

26  
27 I just have some quick updates on  
28 Western Arctic Caribou Herd projects that National Park  
29 Service is working on. Biologists from the Park  
30 Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game have  
31 been deploying collars for decades on Western Arctic  
32 Herd as they swim across the Kobuk River. Over the  
33 past two years very few caribou cross the river and  
34 this limited the number of collars that were deployed.

35  
36  
37 Biologists went out again for a week in  
38 the fall of 2019 and were able to deploy 43 GPS  
39 collars. Biologists waited until October to begin the  
40 project due to the latest ever fall migration as noted  
41 by the first GPS collared female to cross the Kobuk  
42 River. Currently the timing of the migration is being  
43 studied and they're using this collar information to  
44 track the distribution movement, migration and survival  
45 of caribou.

46  
47 Our biologists are also working on a  
48 project that focused on statistically analyzing the  
49 seasonal aspects of caribou survival by using data  
50

1 locations where GPS satellite collars have stopped  
2 moving. That's a project where they're looking to see  
3 where is caribou mortality occurring and what time of  
4 year is it mostly occurring.  
5

6 Thirdly, our biologists are observing  
7 the highest rates of non-migration for the Western  
8 Arctic Herd in recent years and so they're working to  
9 understand whether those that migrate are somehow  
10 different than those that don't migrate.  
11

12 For approximately one week in mid-March  
13 Park Service biologists will be conducting a  
14 non-invasive fecal sampling project in the northern and  
15 southern portions of the herd's range. Biologists will  
16 fly to recent feeding craters where caribou were and  
17 they'll collect fresh fecal samples and then they will  
18 analyze these samples for pregnancy rates, stress  
19 hormones and diet.  
20

21 Lastly, Park Service biologists have  
22 teamed up with the University of Cincinnati to initiate  
23 a study on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd using  
24 dropped antlers in order to understand how long this  
25 herd has been using its calving grounds. This is done  
26 by extensively surveying areas that are good at  
27 preserving antlers and then radiocarbon dating the  
28 antlers.  
29

30 Areas in the southern portion of the  
31 calving area along the Utukok and Colville Rivers were  
32 surveyed. A fair number of antlers were found and  
33 they're currently being dated this winter. Further  
34 surveys will be conducted this summer.  
35

36 I'd also like to provide a quick update  
37 on the Ambler Mining District Road. The comment period  
38 for the draft Environmental and Economic Analysis  
39 closed on October 29th and the final EEA is expected to  
40 be completed in March. Now today is April 1st. As far  
41 as I know the final EEA is going to be coming out  
42 sometime in April.  
43

44 Are there any questions on what I've  
45 just shared?  
46

47 MR. JOLLY: Mr. Chairman, can I  
48 interrupt?  
49  
50



1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you could  
2 recognize yourself. I'm not sure who it is. Vince?

3  
4 MR. JOLLY: Oh, I'm sorry, Mr.  
5 Chairman. It's Kyle Jolly. I'm a wildlife biologist  
6 with the National Park Service. I just wanted to give  
7 an update on that project we were going to go out and  
8 collect the fecal or poop samples. That's looking like  
9 it's not going to happen due to travel restrictions.  
10 That was supposed to be going on right now, but it  
11 looks like that project will probably be cancelled for  
12 this year.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What if you use local  
15 providers like local hunters or reaching out to the  
16 community to assist you in collecting your samples?

17  
18 MR. JOLLY: That would be great if  
19 anyone is willing to go out and collect samples for us.  
20 All we need is a bag of pellets from individual animals  
21 and we just need the GPS location and the date it was  
22 collected. We would be happy to do that and work with  
23 Council to figure out how to make that work rather than  
24 us going out and flying out to do that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It sounds like a  
27 little compensation or a little bit of gas. They'll be  
28 subsisting anyway, you know. So be open to those kind  
29 of ideas without having the outright need to cancel  
30 something. It might provide a little bit of economic  
31 opportunity with the same resources. Just saying.

32  
33 MR. JOLLY: Yeah, thank you for the  
34 suggestion. We'll see what we can do. Things have  
35 just changed so rapidly. It will be hard for us to  
36 pull it off this year, but it's definitely a good  
37 suggestion and we'll keep it in mind and we'll see what  
38 we can do as things start to clarify themselves.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

41  
42 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
43 introduce our new sheep biologist Will Deacy and he'll  
44 be providing an update on the Dall sheep survey that  
45 occurred in Gates of the Arctic.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Will.

48  
49 MR. DEACY: All right. Thank you, Mr.

50

1 Chairman and Council members. As Marcy said, I'm Will  
2 Deacy, new biologist for the National Park Service. I  
3 just wanted to quickly give you all an update about the  
4 sheep populations in the Northern Gates of the Arctic  
5 Park and Preserve.

6  
7 I think Eva sent you materials. It's a  
8 colorful sheet that says Dall sheep 2019 survey  
9 summary. You can follow along if you'd like and then  
10 also my contact information is at the bottom if there's  
11 any questions I don't answer today.

12  
13 This last summer Park Service  
14 biologists surveyed the area surrounding AKP and then  
15 also the Itkillik Preserve in northeastern Gates of the  
16 Arctic. Both of these places have been surveyed every  
17 year since 2014.

18  
19 I'd say the most important takeaway  
20 from the survey is that the populations in both of  
21 those areas are stable compared to the last few years,  
22 but they're still bound quite a bit from when you  
23 compare it to before 2013. So in both areas it seems  
24 like the population is down about 50 percent compared  
25 to before 2013.

26  
27 We also quantify the ratio of lambs to  
28 ewe-like sheep just because this is the best way that  
29 we can predict whether or not a population is going to  
30 increase or has potential to increase in the future.  
31 In both of these areas that ratio is high, higher than  
32 average, meaning that there should be good potential  
33 for the population to increase in the future, but so  
34 far we haven't seen much of an increase. Hopefully in  
35 coming years this will translate to increase of adult  
36 sheep.

37  
38 Our plan for this summer is to do a  
39 survey of the entire Gates of the Arctic Park and  
40 Preserve. Just like Kyle was talking about, a lot of  
41 this work is in flux. We're going to do everything we  
42 can to get that done. Hopefully the next time I  
43 present to you I'll have information about the entire  
44 Park.

45  
46 I'm just going to leave it there and  
47 I'm happy to answer any questions that the Council has.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for  
50

1 Will.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would just mention  
6 the same thing. Things that you can work with the  
7 community that lives right there and some of these  
8 local hunters they're like biologists in my view  
9 because they're capable of traveling to all reaches of  
10 the Park probably. If you can find a way to address  
11 your needs through working with the community when you  
12 can.

13

14

Any questions for Will.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Marcy,  
proceed.

20

21

22

MS. OKADA: That's it for our Gates of  
the Arctic update. If folks have any further  
23 questions. Thank you for your time.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank  
you, Marcy. We'll act on your thing when Peter makes  
time. What's the wish of the Council. It's up on the  
noon hour. Do you want to take a break? Do you want to  
go to lunch? Or do you guys want to push on?

31

32

33

MS. ITTA: Mr. Chair. I call for a  
lunch break. Nuiqsut.

34

35

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Until what time?

36

37

MS. ITTA: Until 1:00.

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. One hour  
lunch. We'll reconvene.....

41

42

MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

43

44

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda. I won't be  
calling back in unless you guys can give me a call if  
you need me. I'll be busy this afternoon with my  
grandson with his schoolwork.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If we need you to  
2 vote on something that requires a quorum, we'll call  
3 you.  
4

5 MS. KIPPI: Okay. That sounds good.  
6 I'll resume tomorrow morning at 9:00.  
7

8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.  
11

12 MS. PATTON: We're actually moving  
13 through the agenda fairly quickly, so the remainder on  
14 the agenda is agency reports and we have a few more  
15 agency reports which I'm thinking at this time will  
16 probably conclude by the end of the day today.  
17

18 MS. KIPPI: Okay. That sounds good.  
19

20 MS. PATTON: We will certainly keep you  
21 posted, Wanda. Thank you so much for calling in and  
22 all your good feedback. Wish you all the best with  
23 your young ones there.  
24

25 MS. KIPPI: All right. Thank you all.  
26 You guys have a good afternoon.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're  
29 going to recess for lunch until 1:00 o'clock and we'll  
30 dial back in.  
31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Point Hope, Steve Oomittuk just texted and he'll join  
34 us after lunch as well. Have a good lunch everyone.  
35

36 (Off record)  
37

38 (On record)  
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are we ready to  
41 proceed?  
42

43 MS. PATTON: Hello, Mr. Chair. Maybe  
44 while I'm trying to connect with Eddie Rexford we do  
45 have Council Member Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope who  
46 has joined us. We could provide him an opportunity to  
47 give his Council member report.  
48

49 Thank you.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, very good. All  
2 right, Steve from Point Hope. While we're waiting on  
3 Eddie we'll let you provide a report of your region as  
4 a Council member.

5  
6 MR. OOMITTUK: Good afternoon everybody  
7 and Mr. Chair. Sorry I couldn't make it this morning,  
8 but I will be here this afternoon and tomorrow morning.

9  
10 From the Native Village of Point Hope  
11 it seems like we're getting back on track to where --  
12 you know, our prevailing winds are still from the south  
13 and southeast. We've had some pretty strong winds  
14 throughout the summer, fall and winter. It seems like  
15 the winds -- the prevailing winds have stayed from the  
16 south and southeast. We got some good winds from the  
17 north.

18  
19 The ice froze up pretty early because  
20 we celebrate the born of the ice and it happened right  
21 before Thanksgiving, which is kind of late. Right  
22 after that the cold weather hit in and just stayed with  
23 us from 10 below to 30 below without letting up  
24 anything and the winds.

25  
26 Our ice is pretty thick this year. We  
27 haven't seen ice this thick in years. The pressure  
28 ridges that were formed we haven't seen them so high as  
29 they are today in years. Especially on the north side  
30 right close to the beach the ridges have got to be over  
31 100 feet high in some places and close to the shore.

32  
33 We had some pretty strong winds from  
34 the north. A lot of our winds from throughout the  
35 winter were from the south, like I said, and very high.  
36 Our hunting season depends on the wind to a lot of  
37 people. They look at the mountains, it's a good day to  
38 go inland. If it looks a little cloudy, they say, oh,  
39 I'm not going to go seal hunting today. I don't think  
40 it's going to be good weather in the mountains.

41  
42 The same thing with our ocean. Our  
43 ocean is -- we had so much south wind the leads they  
44 closed. A lot of our seals are on the south side, you  
45 know. The leads, you know, back in the old days they  
46 found their breeding hauls. They haven't hunted like  
47 that in so many years. They're so used to hunting in  
48 open leads nowadays.

49  
50

1 We haven't seen much polar bears at all  
2 throughout December, January, February or March.  
3 Normally we have polar bear patrol. The year before we  
4 had four polar bears caught within the perimeter of  
5 Point Hope. This year no tracks. Hardly any polar  
6 bears. They're catching seals. Open leads they can  
7 find water here and there.

8  
9 You can tell these winter ducks that  
10 are around that stay year round that don't normally fly  
11 south. This year they start off with a big flock and  
12 as January comes the flock tends to diminish because of  
13 the cold weather and not able to find open waters for  
14 them to feed in. A lot of them die off slowly. We had  
15 a pretty cold winter. You don't see them flying. We  
16 didn't see much ducks flying around, the winter ducks  
17 that stick around the whole winter.

18  
19 We had south winds the last few days.  
20 I saw some ducks coming back. The south winds the  
21 ducks are flying and spring is here, everybody is  
22 breaking trail. We might get two days of nice weather,  
23 then we go right back to strong winds for a couple days  
24 and then back to good weather and back to wind. It's  
25 unpredictable.

26  
27 We need a good strong north wind to go  
28 out whaling. We had a good strong wind about a week  
29 ago, but not strong enough to make a lead out there. I  
30 don't know how it is over towards Nome. Some people  
31 have access to internet and they can see where the  
32 leads are open nowadays and track those. The people of  
33 Point Hope usually subsist from the Point on. A lot of  
34 the people go to the Point to hunt seals and they meet  
35 up with the polar bears there.

36  
37 Hardly any tomcods this year. They  
38 were very hard to find. The ice was so thick.  
39 Normally we find tomcods, iqalugaq. We usually get  
40 them in later part of January, early February. It  
41 could be middle part of January until February. We  
42 catch three-four hundred in one day with hooks. Catch  
43 10-12 of them at a time. They're a delicacy too. They  
44 couldn't find where they were. Digging through the ice  
45 was pretty thick in some places. Some were washed up  
46 this fall.

47  
48 Normally we get our tomcods in January  
49 until first part of February. While we're hunting  
50

1 tomcods, if the seals are not available -- maybe the  
2 young and the ladies or elderly they fish for tomcods  
3 in the old days all the time and the men are out  
4 hunting seals, but if it's a bad day for seal hunting,  
5 they will join in and fish for tomcods.  
6

7 Normally we see polar bears around that  
8 time because it's the coldest time of the year. Polar  
9 bears are looking for seals themselves, you know. This  
10 year I haven't heard of anybody seeing, sighting polar  
11 bears or catching polar bears. Actually there were  
12 quite a few of them that were caught last year.  
13

14 The caribou were in abundance the fall  
15 time and throughout the winter. They moved further  
16 east. Like I said the cold weather, the winds going  
17 from the south and southeast. Other than that it seems  
18 like it's been a good year, but not as abundant as  
19 normal. It just seems like the prevailing winds is  
20 still from the south and southeast, but mostly east and  
21 north winds and east winds and northwest winds.  
22

23 You know, the northwest winds in the  
24 fall time that really erode our north side, which we  
25 didn't even see strong winds from the north, the  
26 northwest winds. There was no -- which normally we  
27 know when the winds are shifting and what time of the  
28 year because we live this cycle of life.  
29

30 We do see changes in some areas,  
31 especially in migrations. It seems like things are a  
32 month early. Some could be a month late. It's all  
33 mixed up nowadays. We can't predict it like we were  
34 able to, you know.  
35

36 We haven't seen any rain this year.  
37 The last few years it was raining in January and  
38 February. It never got above zero at all throughout  
39 the majority of the winter.  
40

41 But spring is in the air. The sun is  
42 up. People are getting around, are getting excited  
43 about whaling. All this isolation with Covid-19 the  
44 majority of the people are staying home, but being a  
45 whaling society that's always been around us, even  
46 though we're told to -- it's in the blood, I guess, the  
47 people that have subsisted on whaling all their lives  
48 and it's the center of everything to us.  
49

50

1 Spring is a time of preparing and  
2 getting ready. As much as we're told to stay isolated  
3 and keep -- people are staying away, but they're still  
4 going out, they're making trails. We've got to  
5 continue our life the way we were always taught. We're  
6 so isolated. People are stopping traffic coming into  
7 our village. People that come from other villages have  
8 to be in isolation that come to subsist for whaling  
9 from other villages in our area. Kivalina and the NANA  
10 region. There's a lot of people that do come up.

11  
12 It's a very difficult time and issue  
13 especially when now with whaling. It's about sharing.  
14 We've never felt anything like this and having to tell  
15 people, no, you can't come in. If you do come in, you  
16 have to be quarantined. Especially in other villages  
17 and they're watching that.

18  
19 It's very difficult for a lot of our  
20 whaling captains to say to people that -- you know,  
21 especially these people that have been whaling with  
22 them for years and years, time after time, coming and  
23 getting their share, people from the inland. It's  
24 difficult. You could feel it.

25  
26 Like they said in the past, you know,  
27 even though there's mandates and laws about so many  
28 people together, but this is an issue that comes within  
29 themself and within the people that always depended on  
30 the whale to survive. It brought people together for  
31 thousands of year.

32  
33 Being in isolation is so difficult for  
34 some people, but if we're going to survive. Some  
35 people take it to big measures, but then there's other  
36 people that say I'm going to go hunting, I'm going to  
37 do this, I'm going to continue my way of life. If my  
38 time goes, I go.

39  
40 We haven't heard of anything in the  
41 community yet, but just hearing things like in Prudhoe  
42 Bay their subsistence way of life is going in a  
43 standstill sometimes. It's very difficult especially  
44 when the majority of the people rely on subsistence  
45 food to put on the table to feed their families. But  
46 other than that they say they're going to continue to  
47 be who we are.

48  
49 With the fish, I know we had a meeting  
50



1 in Barrow in October, fall time. Other than that it's  
2 good to see the sunshine coming back up. We're looking  
3 forward to a new season and hopefully this virus that's  
4 going around is healed.

5  
6 Isolation is one issue, like I said,  
7 but it's very difficult for some people, you know, but  
8 then other people it's -- like I said it's a way of  
9 life that they're going to continue living until their  
10 last breath.

11  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 I'm sorry I missed the morning meeting.  
15 You can forward me here what everybody else had to say  
16 in everybody else's report. Other than that everything  
17 seems to be going on schedule other than hardly any  
18 polar bears. We have polar bear patrol, but no polar  
19 bears within the perimeter especially when it was --  
20 you know, when it's so cold out there. It's 30-40  
21 below with the winds going in excess of 50-60 miles an  
22 hour.

23  
24 It would always seem -- you know, we  
25 might not see them, but the next day we always find  
26 tracks where a polar bear happened to come around town.  
27 You could see where they laid down for a while right in  
28 the middle of town. There was one one year was  
29 sleeping in the middle of town practically in a storm.  
30 It was there for three, four days, but nobody was  
31 around. It's kind of strange.

32  
33 We know the population in the western  
34 -- you know, they said there's always been a decrease  
35 and I think this year I don't know if we noticed it  
36 more or they're just not coming this way or they're  
37 staying further to the west or what, but it's very  
38 strange to not hear of any polar bears in the  
39 neighborhood of Point Hope especially through our cold  
40 winters in December, January, February and March.  
41 Usually the mother and cubs come out later part of  
42 March up in the mountains. We usually see a mother and  
43 cubs coming out later part of March or middle part, but  
44 haven't heard of anything.

45  
46 Thank you. Stay safe. Watch out for  
47 those April foolers.

48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 Can everybody hear me?

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hi, Steve. Yeah, we  
4 can hear you. (In Inupiaq).

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Taikuu.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, where were we  
9 when we left off?

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. Good to  
12 hear from you and Point Hope. Next up on the agenda,  
13 we were under item 11 on the agenda. We just heard  
14 from Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve  
15 before we broke from lunch. So Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is next on the  
17 agenda.

18

19 Maybe we could just check and see if  
20 Eddie Rexford was able to join us online.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eddie, you on?  
23 Kaktovik.

24

25 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I'm on.

26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. I forgot to  
32 ask one question about item 6 election of officers.  
33 Curious who.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We tabled that.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Do we have a full  
38 board that's here or is it a majority of it?

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, if you could do  
41 the gamut of where we are with our Council membership  
42 in relationship to appointments. After that I'm going  
43 to ask Earl if he had an opportunity to discuss with  
44 Esther before we move off of the Gates of the Arctic  
45 stuff.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 This is Eva. Yeah, I think that would be a good idea  
49 to take care of that today one way or the other so we

50

1 don't end up with a vacancy on the SRC. So we can come  
2 back to Earl.

3  
4 Steve, to answer your question, in the  
5 morning we did table election of officers. We didn't  
6 have a quorum at the time. We have seven of ten  
7 Council member seats currently filled, so we did have  
8 one new appointment to the Council, Peter Earl Williams  
9 from Anaktuvuk Pass. We're really happy to welcome  
10 Earl and have representation for Anaktuvuk Pass again  
11 on the Council.

12  
13 We will get an OSM report towards the  
14 end of the meeting that will provide a little bit of an  
15 update on the Secretarial appointment process. There  
16 is currently a Presidential Executive Order seeking to  
17 reduce membership size on regional advisory councils  
18 across the United States as a cost-saving measure.  
19 Unfortunately all the vacant seats weren't filled with  
20 new appointments. So our current membership is seven  
21 on the Council. Four people would make quorum.

22  
23 We do have quorum now, so at the  
24 Council's wish we could hold election of officers over  
25 teleconference. Our current Chair is Gordon Brower,  
26 Vice Chair is Steve Oomittuk and Secretary Wanda Kippi.

27  
28 Maybe I'll just put a note out there  
29 too. For folks on teleconference there's banging and  
30 some typing going on in the background. If you could  
31 mute your phones if you're not speaking or addressing  
32 the Council. You can hit \*6 or hit the mute on your  
33 cell phones. That would be helpful. Thanks.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I hope  
36 that was helpful, Steve.

37  
38 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you. Are we  
39 moving to item 6, is that what I heard, before we  
40 continue on with our agenda to item 11? Out of seven  
41 member how many -- I didn't quite hear. How many  
42 members are online of the seven that we have right now?

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Yes, Steve. This is Eva.  
45 So we have five Council members online out of the  
46 seven. William Hopson is an excused absence. Wanda  
47 Kippi was on with us this morning, but is taking off  
48 this afternoon to teach her kids. She did offer she  
49 can be called in for an action item. So maybe this

50

1 might be something Wanda could join for election of  
2 officers and we would have everyone participating with  
3 the exception of William.  
4

5 Election of officers does come up every  
6 year. It is important even as awkward as it is over  
7 the phone to hold those elections to reconfirm those  
8 roles. If the Council would like, I could reach out to  
9 Wanda and see if she would be able to join us for that  
10 vote.  
11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you for that.  
13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.  
15 Thank you, Steve. It's always good to be well  
16 informed. I'm going to go to Anaktuvuk. Earl, do you  
17 have an update with your discussion with Esther Hugo  
18 for appointment to the SRC?  
19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Earl Williams,  
21 Anaktuvuk representative. Yes, I spoke to her earlier.  
22 She gave me thumbs up and she wished me more luck and  
23 wished me for continuing representing Anaktuvuk. I  
24 just wanted to say thank you very much and I'll keep  
25 you informed what's going on here.  
26

27 Thank you very much, sir.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We need a motion  
30 to.....  
31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: One more thing. One  
33 thing that Esther told me is that Marcy had more  
34 information on this, so I think she should bring this  
35 up because she talked to her more.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Marcy,  
38 you on?  
39

40 MS. OKADA: Hello, Mr. Chair and  
41 Council members. This is Marcy Okada with Gates of the  
42 Arctic. I also spoke to Esther during the lunch break  
43 and she said she would like to continue to serve on the  
44 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Is that  
47 consistent with your conversation with Esther, Earl?  
48

49 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. She said yes too.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So we need to  
2 re-engage on that motion for Esther Hugo to be  
3 appointed by the RAC to serve on the SRC for Gates of  
4 the Arctic.

5  
6 MR. OOMITTUK: I'll make a motion.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

9  
10  
11 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair, to  
12 appoint Esther Hugo as a member for the Gates of the  
13 Arctic. Is that what you're asking for? We keep  
14 getting cut off on the teleconference.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The SRC, Subsistence  
17 Resource Commission. Can I get a second.

18  
19 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll second.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A second. I think  
22 that was Earl, AKP.

23  
24 MS. ITTA: Call for question.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
27 called for. All those in favor of appointing Esther  
28 Hugo as the representative to the SRC for Gates of the  
29 Arctic signify by saying aye.

30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed  
34 same sign.

35  
36 (No opposing votes)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. Thank  
39 you, Madame Coordinator and to Marcy. You've got your  
40 reappointment for Esther.

41  
42 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That concludes Gates  
45 of the Arctic. We're going to go down the line and go  
46 to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We're on item 11,  
47 agency reports.

48  
49 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 This is Steve Berendzen, Arctic National Wildlife  
2 Refuge, Refuge Manager. I've just got a few updates  
3 since our last meeting.

4  
5 We've been working on a regulation  
6 change for Arctic Refuge to preclude people from using  
7 domestic pack animals, specifically domestic sheep,  
8 goats, llamas and alpacas. The reason we're doing this  
9 is that sheep and goats are confirmed vectors of  
10 significant diseases that can be transmitted to and  
11 affect Dall sheep.

12  
13 Llamas and alpacas carry some diseases  
14 that could transmit and they're suspected to  
15 potentially carry additional diseases that could  
16 significantly affect Dall sheep. So we're wanting to  
17 be proactive in keeping those domestic pack animals out  
18 of the Brooks Range and potentially affecting the Dall  
19 sheep in the Brooks Range.

20  
21 We're hoping to get this regulation  
22 change incorporated through a hunting regulation change  
23 package that is a nationwide package that is going in  
24 that process right now.

25  
26 Another item or an update is.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, I've got a  
29 question.

30  
31 MR. BERENDZEN: Oh, sure.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve. So  
34 having a regulation like that only leads me to think  
35 that there's some proposals to bring in these types of  
36 animals as pack animals for some guides or leisure  
37 stuff to make it easier to roam around in the Reserve  
38 over there. I'm wondering if horses and things like  
39 that are a part of that because I think I've seen a  
40 horse roaming around out by Atigun Pass like eight or  
41 ten years ago when I drove through there. I actually  
42 saw a horse.

43  
44 MR. BERENDZEN: Mr. Chair. We're not  
45 aware of people who have brought any of these domestic  
46 pack animals in the Refuge, but there are some people  
47 who have expressed some interest including a commercial  
48 outfitter that wanted to use them. We did not allow  
49 that. We understand that some individuals may want to  
50

1 do it. We're wanting to be proactive in getting this  
2 regulation in place to prevent that from happening.

3  
4 As far as horses, they're different  
5 enough physiologically that they are not expected to  
6 transmit any diseases to Dall sheep, so we have no  
7 problem with horses being used as pack animals. They  
8 have traditionally been used and we're not including  
9 them in this prohibition.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Go ahead  
12 and continue.

13

14 MR. BERENDZEN: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
15 Chair. Last fall or late last summer we implemented a  
16 change in moose harvest in Unit 26C. I mentioned it at  
17 the last meeting, but just an update on that. We  
18 modified the harvest regulations for Kaktovik residents  
19 to allow PIN tags to be issued to hunters but still  
20 retain a harvest limit of three moose.

21

22 The season was also expanded to open in  
23 October and extend through April. We also expanded the  
24 hunt area to include all of Unit 26C and 26B remainder,  
25 which is the drainage of the Marsh Fork of the Canning  
26 River. So a much larger area to be allowed for  
27 hunting, much longer seasons to allow hunting and more  
28 opportunities for residents to opportunistically  
29 harvest a moose if they're out and happen to see one 10  
30 tags instead of the three.

31

32 So that's the change. My understanding  
33 is that no moose have been harvested yet. I don't know  
34 if Mr. Rexford has any update on that. I have not  
35 heard of any moose harvest yet this year.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can we stop here and  
38 get questions. Maybe Council Member Rexford has  
39 questions. I do have questions myself too, but I'll  
40 yield to Eddie if he's got any questions.

41

42 MR. REXFORD: I don't have any  
43 questions right now. Thanks for the info, Steve. I  
44 know we're still waiting for.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have a question.  
47 Sorry about that. I must have cut you off there,  
48 Eddie.

49

50

1 MR. REXFORD: Still waiting to harvest  
2 three moose for the community. Okay, folks. I'll go  
3 out now that it's warming up.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We wish  
6 you guys good luck. Steve, to my understanding we had  
7 deliberated about area to hunt even if it became closer  
8 to the coast and that's still the case, right?

9  
10 MR. BERENDZEN: Yes. The entire area  
11 is open for hunting.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's awesome.  
14 Here's a question and it might be -- I don't know if  
15 it's controversial or not. There was a request by -- I  
16 think the proponent may have been ADF&G at a request  
17 from a guide operator or somebody to open moose to  
18 antlerless in Unit 26A and West 156. One of the  
19 arguments was about the statement which carried my  
20 thought pattern, which we tried to make the case for  
21 many years, about transient moose population that come  
22 in from other areas and populate areas.

23  
24 Quite frankly that was being said about  
25 the 156 West to allow for antlerless season on the  
26 State Board of Game rights, which I completely disagree  
27 with and they should follow with the current structure  
28 of the Federal regs and make it the way that how the  
29 Federal operations for rural priority, meaning it had  
30 to probably be changed to a Tier wording instead of  
31 exact wording on the State regs.

32  
33 Here's my concern. We argued for those  
34 back when Penton was the Council member out of Kaktovik  
35 many, many years ago. Like started in 1990s. We  
36 always had the concern that there existed a transient  
37 population of moose that came from somewhere else.

38  
39 It seems to me that was part of the  
40 justification without any real population estimated  
41 guides, no sustained yield principals to think about  
42 opening Unit 26A through the Federal Board of Game to  
43 antlerless and put it in the State Board of Game regs.  
44 It scares me when that starts happening especially when  
45 there's no basis for the census and real look at the  
46 threshold and harvestable surplus issues and things  
47 like that.

48  
49 How does Steve Berendzen allocate just  
50



1 by looking at these comparative? If they can propose  
2 something like that, it seems to me that you can  
3 propose over there as well for these kind of things  
4 unless we outright differ in approach I guess. I just  
5 thought I'd mention that.

6  
7 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
8 I think in the case if that were proposed on Arctic  
9 Refuge where the -- especially on the North Slope of  
10 Arctic Refuge where the moose population is very  
11 limited and they're at the extent of their range, I  
12 think we could justify biologically that it's just not  
13 warranted and sustainable. If that answers your  
14 question.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My question is more  
17 related to a limit of three when the proposal on Unit  
18 26A, a different land manager, I think, by the way, and  
19 the proposers being the State, I think it was the State  
20 proposing, that antlerless harvest occur in an area and  
21 part of the justification was, you know, the population  
22 fluctuates so dramatically over here.

23  
24 And the argument we made a long time  
25 ago that we were denied more than the amount, in some  
26 cases in years past it was only one moose for the  
27 village, that these arguments were being used to  
28 support a proposal in Unit 26A, 156 West, which I think  
29 now makes some merits about rethinking your approach  
30 with the community of Kaktovik about advocating some of  
31 these resources now that it's a larger area.

32  
33 The area is limited to the entire  
34 village with just three moose when Unit 26A and 156  
35 West is a very difficult thing to achieve anyway, but  
36 now proposals -- it doesn't say limit to three is what  
37 I'm saying.

38  
39 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 I'm not sure I have an answer for you on that scenario  
41 or question.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I thought it was a  
44 good talking point because that argument was used -- I  
45 think maybe it might have been used successfully. I  
46 don't know what the Board of Game did with that  
47 proposal, but I think it was just important to  
48 highlight because there's similarities here.

49  
50

1 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you for bringing  
2 that up. Should I proceed with.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead and  
5 continue.

6  
7 MR. BERENDZEN: Okay. Council Member  
8 Rexford mentioned that the Rolligons arrived very  
9 recently in Kaktovik with school modules and a little  
10 of the history on that is that the Refuge issued a  
11 special use permit to Peak Oilfield Services on March  
12 16th to transport Kaktovik school modules over  
13 shore-fast ice of Refuge lagoons. Peak performed a  
14 scouting trip on March 18 and encountered some overflow  
15 that stopped them.

16  
17 Since then we've had some colder  
18 temperatures and rewording of one of the conditions in  
19 the permit. They attempted again on March 29th and  
20 made it to Kaktovik on March 30th with the first load  
21 of equipment that they brought over.

22  
23 Our understanding is that they have  
24 hopefully more Rolligons moving equipment there today  
25 and we'll be able to keep that going and get all the  
26 school modules transported to Kaktovik this spring. I  
27 think we've all been working to try to achieve that and  
28 hopefully that goal will be achieved.

29  
30 That's all I've got, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for  
33 Steve Berendzen, Refuge Manager.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. We'll  
38 go to -- did we just do Arctic National Wildlife  
39 Refuge?

40  
41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
42 Correct, that was Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
43 Steve, was that the conclusion of the Refuge's report?

44  
45 MR. BERENDZEN: Yes, it was. That's  
46 all I had, Mr. Chair.

47  
48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. We  
49 don't have a representative from the Barrow Field  
50

1 Office right now. Usually Ernest Nageak participates  
2 in the Council meetings when they're in person there.  
3 Unless Ernest has joined us online here just recently I  
4 don't think we're going to have that report by  
5 teleconference this time.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So  
8 we'll go to BLM.

9  
10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If  
11 I may interject, I did get a hold of Wanda and she said  
12 to give her a call when the Council was ready to take  
13 up the vote for election of officers. So as you wish.  
14 If you want me to connect her to the teleconference now  
15 or what timing you'd like for me to reach out to her.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
18 the Council? Do you guys want to do election of  
19 officers real quick?

20  
21 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's get  
24 Wanda.

25  
26 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

27  
28 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you. Just  
29 standby briefly and I'll give Wanda a call to call in.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've sure got a lot  
34 of vacant seats. There's three vacant seats that I can  
35 see. I think we should try to get one from Point Lay,  
36 one from Wainwright and then Tad's spot when Tad passed  
37 away is still vacant. All of these vacant seats can be  
38 from any village. You've just got to submit your  
39 letter of interest.

40  
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A  
42 village can have more than one representative on this  
43 Council?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, I think  
46 so.

47  
48 MR. OOMITTUK: It's open to the public,  
49 right? Anybody that's a resident of the North Slope?

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm pretty positive,  
2 yeah.

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Hello, Mr. Chair and  
5 Council. This is Eva. Steve, I can reply to that for  
6 you. We did have another call for applications and  
7 that just closed recently. Now we will be conducting  
8 interviews and there's a whole nomination panel process  
9 for the selection and recommendation of applicants.

10  
11 That gets forwarded on to the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board and they meet in the summer to review  
13 those nominations for people to serve on each of the  
14 ten Regional Advisory Councils. That then gets  
15 forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior's Office.  
16 Final appointments are made by the Secretary of the  
17 Interior.

18  
19 So it's about a one-year process from  
20 application to appointment. So we're at the stage  
21 right now where applications that came in will be going  
22 through the interview process and then on to the Board  
23 this summer. We will open up another call to apply to  
24 the Regional Advisory Council again this fall. We have  
25 an application period every year. Usually it opens in  
26 the fall time and is open through February or March.

27  
28 For the North Slope Region the  
29 requirement is to be a resident of the region and  
30 knowledgeable subsistence hunter, fisher, gatherer and  
31 seeking applicants from all the communities. We do have  
32 some vacancies on the Council where there are  
33 communities still not represented. Really happy to  
34 have an Anaktuvuk Pass representative again.

35  
36 We also encourage more than one  
37 representation from a community. Often we've had  
38 several representatives from Barrow or Utqiagvik as a  
39 larger community, but we sure could use additional  
40 representation from Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass and  
41 Atqasuk and Wainwright and Kaktovik.

42  
43 We do have those three vacant seats on  
44 the Council. Currently the vacancies are in part due  
45 to the Presidential Order and the Secretarial  
46 appointment process. The more applications we get  
47 increases the chances of having appointments made to  
48 those seats. Please reach out to folks, encourage  
49 participation in meetings and applications.  
50

1 We'll have another application process  
2 opening up again in the fall and we'll keep the Council  
3 appraised of appointments for this year for  
4 applications that we've just received.

5  
6 MS. KIPPI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.  
7 This is Wanda calling back in.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Wanda.  
10 Quyanaq. We're going to do election of officers and we  
11 were just giving Steve a rundown of vacancies and  
12 requirements about vacancies and stuff. We encourage  
13 those interested to apply.

14  
15 With that, Madame Coordinator, if you  
16 could help us coordinate the election of officers,  
17 please.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 This is Eva. I will start the election of officers  
21 process. I will open up the floor for nominations for  
22 Chair. Once the Chair is elected, then they will take  
23 over the rest of the nominations for Vice Chair and  
24 Secretary.

25  
26 Maybe I'll just check with the Council  
27 if the Council would like to vote by unanimous consent  
28 or if you would like for me to hold a roll call vote  
29 for conducting it over teleconference. As the Council  
30 wishes.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
33 the Council.

34  
35 MR. OOMITTUK: Open the floor for  
36 nominations for Chair and whoever nominates that person  
37 they ask for unanimous consent. If everybody agrees,  
38 then we go with that.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The floor is open for  
41 nominations. We'll go from there.

42  
43 MS. PATTON: Yes, the floor is open for  
44 nominations for the Chair.

45  
46 MR. REXFORD: Madame Coordinator.

47  
48 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

49  
50

1 MR. REXFORD: I nominate Gordon. This  
2 is Eddie.

3  
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Second that nomination.  
5 Ask for unanimous consent.

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Eddie Rexford nominates  
8 Gordon Brower as Chair. We had a call for vote by  
9 unanimous consent. Do we have any other nominations  
10 for Chair.

11  
12 MS. KIPPI: Madame, I would like to  
13 close the nominations. Wanda.

14  
15 MS. PATTON: We've had a request for  
16 unanimous consent. The election of Gordon Brower as  
17 Chair. All in favor say aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 MS. PATTON: All those opposed same  
22 sign.

23  
24 (No opposing votes)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame  
27 Chair -- or Madame Coordinator.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 Congratulations again on serving as the Council Chair.  
33 Motion passes by unanimous vote.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Before I open the  
36 nominations for Vice Chair I just want to state my  
37 appreciation to all of the Council members for your  
38 confidence. I will do my best in the best interest of  
39 our people throughout the North Slope to represent  
40 them. Thank you very much for your confidence in me.  
41 Quyanaqpak.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 With that I'm going to open the floor  
46 for Vice Chair for nominations.

47  
48 MR. WILLIAMS: I nominate Steve, Peter  
49 Earl Williams.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Earl Williams. Thank you,  
2 Earl. Just a reminder to everybody so we capture  
3 everything accurately in the transcripts and in our  
4 minutes to just remember to please state your name when  
5 you're making a motion or commenting or presenting.  
6 That was a motion by Peter Earl Williams, Anaktuvuk  
7 Pass.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's one  
10 nomination. Any other nominations.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
15 the Council. We have one nomination. Move to close or  
16 nominate additional.

17  
18 MS. ITTA: I make a motion to close the  
19 nominations, Mr. Chair. Nuiqsut.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on  
22 the floor for Nuiqsut, Martha, to close nominations.

23  
24 MR. REXFORD: Second.

25  
26 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion. Wanda.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by  
29 Kaktovik. It sounds like Kaktovik beat you there,  
30 Wanda. It sounded like Eddie Rexford. Any discussion.

31  
32 MS. KIPPI: Question.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
35 called for. All those in favor of closing nominations  
36 signify by saying aye.

37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39  
40 (No opposing votes)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Being that there is  
43 one nomination for Vice Chair, I request that we all  
44 signify by unanimous consent for Steve Oomittuk as the  
45 Vice Chair. All those in favor say aye.

46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed  
50

1 same sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Congratulations,  
Steve. Are you still on, Steve?

7

8

(No response)

9

10

11

12

13

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I wonder if Steve got  
cut off somehow. Maybe let's do a real quick head  
count. Kaktovik, you still on?

14

15

MR. REXFORD: Yes.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We've got Nuiqsut.  
Earl, you on?

19

20

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

21

22

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda, you still on?

23

24

MS. KIPPI: Roger. I'm on.

25

26

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, are you back  
on?

27

28

(No response)

29

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, can we proceed  
with the last order for the Secretary or do we need to  
wait until Steve is present?

33

34

35

36

37

MS. PATTON: Hi, Mr. Chair and Council.  
We do have a quorum. We have five Council members  
present. It is possible to proceed with the vote for  
the Secretary.

38

39

Thank you.

40

41

42

43

CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
the Council for the Secretary. We need a nomination.  
Could be unanimous consent or nominate.

44

45

46

MS. ITTA: I nominate Wanda Kippi.

47

48

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda has been  
nominated.

49

50



1 MR. WILLIAMS: I call for nominations  
2 be closed. Earl Williams.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Nominations have been  
5 requested to be closed. All those in favor of closing  
6 nominations for Secretary signify by saying aye.

7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9  
10  
11 (No opposing votes)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Wanda is  
14 the only nominee. I ask for unanimous consent. All  
15 those approve say aye.

16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18  
19 (No opposing votes)

20  
21 MS. KIPPI: I barely have 1 percent,  
22 Mr. Chair. So if you lose me, you lose me.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We've got you  
25 nominated though. Now you're the Secretary.  
26 Congratulations.

27  
28 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 Thank you all for putting your confidence in me for  
30 taking that position.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Steve,  
35 you on?

36  
37 (No response)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In case we lose Wanda  
40 and Steve hasn't returned, if we lose Wanda, do we lose  
41 quorum?

42  
43 MS. PATTON: No, we still have quorum  
44 with four Council members given that the current  
45 membership is only seven.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Very good.  
48 We'll go by your lead. We're done with election of  
49 officers. I'd like to congratulate everybody. Again,  
50

1 thanks for your confidence. So we'll go to BLM at this  
2 point, right?

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct.  
5 We're up to the BLM report. Wanda, thank you so much  
6 for calling back in to participate in the election of  
7 officers. Wish you all the best with your teaching the  
8 young ones at home. Take good care.

9  
10 MS. KIPPI: Thank you all. You guys  
11 have a good day. Quyanapqak. I'm going to sign off  
12 right now. I was busy with my grandson. Thank you,  
13 everybody. Until next time.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

16  
17 MR. OOMITTUK: Hello, hello. This is  
18 Steve, Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Steve.  
21 Congratulations. You're the Vice Chair.

22  
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I heard  
24 that. Thank you all. I keep getting disconnected. I  
25 don't know if it's GCI or what. Sorry about that.  
26 Just when I was going to say thank you to everybody it  
27 shut off on me.

28  
29 Thank you, I appreciate it.

30  
31 Are we still on nominations for  
32 Secretary or is that done?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Wanda won the  
35 nomination. Then Wanda had to go. She's being a  
36 teacher right now too. She's got kids at home.

37  
38 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Congratulations.  
39 I will take note of that. Thank you. So bear with me.  
40 If I get disconnected, I will keep calling back.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

43  
44 MR. OOMITTUK: So are we going back to  
45 our regular agenda?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. We have BLM  
48 that's next.

49  
50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, BLM. Thank you.

2  
3 MS. JONES: Okay. It sounds like  
4 you're ready for me. I'd like to thank the Chair and  
5 the members of the Council and the Coordinator for the  
6 opportunity to have this meeting today. My name is  
7 Shelly Jones. I'm the District Manager for BLM's  
8 Arctic District. A position I've held for a little  
9 over two years now. I'm still enjoying lots of  
10 learning opportunities every day and really looking  
11 forward to any input the Council can give on the  
12 different permits and activities that I'll be briefing  
13 on today.

14  
15 I think everyone might have access to a  
16 document I sent in called March 2020 update on BLM  
17 North Slope Permitting Activity. It's kind of a big,  
18 lengthy document.

19  
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Hi, Shelly.  
21 This is Eva. So I did email that, your updated report  
22 that was sent in on Monday. However, it's likely that  
23 many of the Council members aren't able to have that in  
24 front of them. Many don't have email or limited  
25 opportunity to access a computer for printing. If you  
26 can, describe things as best as possible. I know  
27 there's a lot of maps and information in that report.

28  
29 For the Council members, it will be  
30 coming in the mail also. It might take a little while  
31 to arrive given the current circumstances with our  
32 office. Shelly, if you can elaborate as much as you  
33 can because probably many of the Council members don't  
34 have the ability to print that or bring it up on  
35 computers.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 MS. JONES: Sure. I'm definitely not  
40 going to go through all of it. It's very similar to  
41 the report we used in October and previous meetings.  
42 We just keep that up to date, but many of the things on  
43 it are the same as they were. I'll just go through  
44 some of the highlights.

45  
46 As you know, BLM is a multiple-use  
47 agency. That's a term for the kind of management where  
48 we're open to use authorizations and do a lot of  
49 permitting. That is the basic focus of this report.

50

1 We also do a fair amount of planning and at the top of  
2 the list I put some of the major EISs and higher-level  
3 plans that we're working on.

4  
5 The first one I just wanted to mention  
6 is the Willow Master Development Plan. That's an oil  
7 and gas master development plan they call it from  
8 ConocoPhillips to create five new drill pads just west  
9 of the Greater Mooses Tooth developments, just west of  
10 GMT2.

11  
12 We got basically all the way through  
13 the public process and the EIS came out in draft and  
14 the comments were being evaluated when ConocoPhillips  
15 really took to heart, I guess you'd say, some of the  
16 comments they received, especially from some of the  
17 whaling captains from Nuiqsut and other places and  
18 really rethought a significant aspect of their proposal  
19 which originally was going to require an offshore  
20 island either by Atigaru Point or just offshore by  
21 Lonely and that was going to be used to offload the  
22 modules that would build the infrastructure on the  
23 pads.

24  
25 It was a significant amount of gravel.  
26 Those islands were going to be about 10 acres and then  
27 after they were done being used they would basically  
28 just be left to naturally erode away. But after  
29 talking it over with the whaling captains and others,  
30 they reevaluated their proposal and wanted to do an  
31 overland route now to get the modules out to the pad.  
32 They'll do that in the wintertime.

33  
34 I think it will involve some upgrades  
35 of the Oliktok Dock and the modules will come in there  
36 and then they'll be brought overland just a little bit  
37 upstream from Ocean Point and then cross country again  
38 on ice roads in the wintertime to the locations. So  
39 that's one of the changes.

40  
41 A couple of the other changes on that  
42 for the Willow Project is they now decided that they  
43 need a freshwater reservoir in the vicinity of their  
44 drilling operation. So that's been added as a new  
45 component and also some subsistence boat ramps in  
46 places where the gravel roads would cross rivers.

47  
48 So that was enough of a change to the  
49 overall project that now we've entered into a  
50

1 supplemental phase for the EIS that got published on  
2 March 20th in the Federal Register and that announced  
3 another 45-day comment period. You can go online and  
4 look at the draft EIS again and make additional  
5 comments up until May 4th. I think that's the 45-day  
6 public comment period.

7  
8 Later this month we'll be having  
9 virtual public meetings. Making arrangements for that  
10 now using Zoom. I don't know if people have heard of  
11 that application, but it's available. A lot of the  
12 school kids are using it for the tele-work that they're  
13 doing up at the University. So we're going to try to  
14 use it for the first time to have the virtual meetings  
15 and take comments and et cetera. There will be  
16 information coming out about that.

17  
18 Also an update on our Integrated  
19 Activity Plan. We call that the IAP. That already had  
20 a 75-day public comment period. It started November  
21 22nd and was over February 5th. We're basically right  
22 now responding to public comments and working on  
23 developing a preferred alternative for that IAP. Then  
24 we'll write the final EIS. They're expecting to have a  
25 record of decision for that sometime towards the end of  
26 the summer.

27  
28 Similar, Willow may get done maybe even  
29 before the IAP now. They keep kind of flip-flopping  
30 which one gets done first. So not quite sure, but both  
31 of them are projected to be finished by the end of the  
32 summer. We had a lot of good public comment and  
33 different consultations along the way for both of  
34 those.

35  
36 Lastly, as far as our EISs, we've had  
37 our work done on the leasing plan for the Coastal Plane  
38 in the Arctic Refuge. That's been back east at the  
39 Secretary's Office for quite a while now, so we're just  
40 waiting. We keep thinking any day now, but I haven't  
41 seen anything finalized yet. So I don't really have  
42 any update or crystal ball on when we'll see the record  
43 of decision for that one.

44  
45 Some of the other things going on this  
46 winter. ConocoPhillips had a big winter exploration  
47 program planned. They got off to a good start I think.  
48 They got three of the wells drilled and then the  
49 coronavirus situation hit and they decided to button up  
50

1 their work for the season up there on those projects.

2

3 I think they've got a little more work  
4 to do to finish the well they were on, the third one,  
5 and then the other four wells will be put off to the  
6 future. They're not going to do those. So that's kind  
7 of the status of that. They're already starting to  
8 demob a lot of the amps and other equipment are coming  
9 off as we speak.

10

11 They also did a I think smaller than  
12 what they had planned geotechnical exploration, trying  
13 to find gravel. But they did get that project  
14 completed. There were a couple of seismic projects  
15 that happened this winter. The one was Narwhal project  
16 and the other was a Kuukpik 3D. It was a phase II of a  
17 two-year project that started last year. I think both  
18 of those are finishing up now as well.

19

20 I have quite a few other of our permits  
21 on there, but I've asked one of our wildlife biologists  
22 and one of our fisheries biologists to join on the call  
23 today. We added several of the projects that we wanted  
24 to talk about as far as BLM's work on avian bird  
25 projects and also some of our hydrologic work. I think  
26 I'll go ahead and turn it over to Debbie Nigro who is a  
27 wildlife biologist for the BLM.

28

29 MS. NIGRO: Hi, this is Debbie and I've  
30 been doing quite a bit of work in the NPR-A over the  
31 years looking at bird populations and how they're  
32 changing over time and trying to get some baseline  
33 information so that we can determine if there are  
34 changes due to this oil and gas development.

35

36 As I'm sure you're aware, it takes a  
37 long time to collect these datasets, but we're doing  
38 really well and now that the development is actually  
39 taking place we're excited about continuing to try to  
40 collect data to try to figure out if these developments  
41 truly are affecting our bird populations.

42

43 I'll talk briefly about caribou work  
44 that BLM is doing in the NPR-A since we don't currently  
45 have a caribou biologist. We are continuing with the  
46 agreement that we have with the North Slope Borough  
47 Department of Wildlife Management to contribute money  
48 to the collaring effort on the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou  
49 Herd. That's been going on for many, many years.

50

1 We're also helping to fund a USGS study  
2 in the Kuparuk Oil Field that is looking at the effects  
3 of traffic on caribou. Vehicle, on-the-ground traffic.  
4 So if anybody has any questions about either bird or  
5 caribou projects, I'd be happy to try to answer them.

6  
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

10  
11 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, the bird  
12 population in the news the last few years we've been  
13 seeing a lot of deaths posted on our birds that are  
14 starving. Not just throughout the North Slope and  
15 further south and Cape Thompson area. I know that the  
16 Borough did some studies on those or they took samples  
17 or the Fish and Game.

18  
19 We know that the population has  
20 decreased in some areas. Their feeding grounds and  
21 nesting grounds. The birds that migrate north  
22 especially in the Prudhoe Bay area where the food  
23 source is such in abundance, daylight. Migrations of  
24 birds that come from all over the world, you know. You  
25 know, you have this EIS, environment impact statements.  
26 Is there reports available on the impacts industry has  
27 or is there even studies done?

28  
29 A lot of these birds that migrate in  
30 their homelands, you know, is there something else  
31 affecting them other than what's here in Alaska? Is  
32 there a way to get that EIS report from BLM?  
33 Especially what they do on -- I know this, you know, in  
34 the last meeting they were doing EISs. Is it an  
35 ongoing thing that they do throughout industry? Is  
36 there environmental impact, you know?

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MS. NIGRO: Hi, this is Debbie. Yes,  
41 all of BLM environmental impact statements are  
42 available online. I'm sure that the link to those are  
43 in the meeting materials, but I'm also sure that Shelly  
44 or I can provide those to you specifically if you'd  
45 like.

46  
47 There has been a lot of research done  
48 on birds to look into why their population numbers are  
49 changing, especially for those populations that are  
50

1 decreasing. For a lot of the birds that come up to the  
2 North Slope the reason that they're coming up with is  
3 that their wintering grounds, which are usually like  
4 wetlands and marshes in eastern Russia, China, Korea,  
5 Japan, are being filled up with gravel so that people  
6 can make cities of docks and all that kind of stuff.

7  
8 So the birds fly back there and find  
9 that that area is no longer suitable for them to feed  
10 on and there aren't necessarily lots of other places  
11 they can go in the winter. So the thought is that a  
12 lot of the decreases in the bird populations,  
13 especially the shorebirds, is due to overwintering  
14 mortality and to not having enough food.

15  
16 There have been a few studies that have  
17 looked at the effects of birds from infrastructure on  
18 the Slope and all of those studies are available online  
19 and they're all referenced in the EIS documents.  
20 Again, if you'd like me to send you specific articles  
21 over email or through the mail, however, please let Eva  
22 know and I can send you anything that you'd like.

23  
24 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. You know,  
25 for so many years the arctic has always had studies and  
26 we had all these old DEW line stations that were built  
27 years ago and some of those sites are still there that  
28 never have been cleaned up in BLM. The environmental  
29 impact statements on some of these and the dump sites  
30 that we have in certain areas what they dumped into the  
31 environment, all this stuff has never been cleaned up.

32  
33 There's a lot of DEW line sites that  
34 exist that have runways and buildings and stuff like  
35 that that have never been cleaned up, you know, and  
36 what effects they have. I mean back in the old days  
37 what they dumped in the dump sites was very hazardous  
38 material that the government was using.

39  
40 Thank you. I would like to see some  
41 reports sent to me. I'm here in the Point Hope area.  
42 We collect a lot of eggs from the murres and other  
43 species of birds. The majority of the time the murres  
44 that we collect we have 300,000 that nest on Cape  
45 Thompson and 600,000 at Cape Lisburne and those are  
46 right in the area of military sites.

47  
48 We notice that the population is going  
49 down and they're laying their eggs a little earlier.

50



1 We usually go there the first of July. We know there's  
2 going to be eggs first of July. But they're laying  
3 them in June, the middle part of June now. We do pay  
4 attention to our food source. It varies from year to  
5 year.

6  
7 It seems like different animals are  
8 migrating more at different times. Before in the past,  
9 you know, we were always set with a time, we knew when  
10 things were going to happen, but in this day and time  
11 it's so jumbled up we never know when the animals are  
12 coming nowadays it seems like. We just play it by ear  
13 and still try to subsist what we normally feed on  
14 throughout our lifetime and our parents' lifetime and  
15 their parents.

16  
17 Like you said, the migration, where  
18 they spend their winters, you know, in some of these  
19 foreign countries and their homelands where they spend  
20 the winters up north, you know, are they getting  
21 contaminated? Are these animals that we've always  
22 subsisted on are they edible today?

23  
24 You know, are they being studied if  
25 it's safe to eat these birds coming from China and  
26 Russia, you know, and all these other places with  
27 nuclear waste and stuff like that and overcrowding?  
28 Now we're dealing with this Covid-19. Does it pass  
29 through animals? Does anybody know that? Was that  
30 ever studied, anything like that?

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 MS. NIGRO: Yeah, this is Debbie again.  
35 Now that I know where you live -- I'm sorry, I didn't  
36 know what place you are from -- I understand that  
37 probably a lot of your concern is focused on the  
38 seabird populations which have the last couple years  
39 had very, very large die-offs of a lot of birds.

40  
41 The Wildlife Service has been studying  
42 that along with the Park Service and many other  
43 entities. It seems like the thing they're coming up  
44 with is that the ocean is warmer. Because the ocean is  
45 warmer some of the little krill and prey organisms that  
46 these birds feed on can't live in that warmer water.

47  
48 So I think with the seabirds that you  
49 collect the eggs from it's not a problem they don't  
50

1 think with a contamination from where they come from,  
2 but rather a problem with the ocean warming in general.

3

4 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

5

6 MS. NIGRO: You're very welcome.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions  
9 for -- was that Debbie?

10

11 MS. NIGRO: That's right. Debbie.

12

13 MS. JONES: I also have -- if I might  
14 ask for just a few more minutes, Matthew Whitman was  
15 going to give a little information on some of his  
16 fisheries and lake studies.

17

18 MR. WHITMAN: Hi, this is Matthew  
19 Whitman. I think I was just going to be mentioning our  
20 long-term network of hydrology and fish habitat  
21 monitoring sites. Basically that's all over in the  
22 Eastern NPR-A trying to set up stream monitoring sites  
23 ahead of development so we get good pre-development  
24 information on water quantity and water quality so that  
25 once the development is built we can do an analyses to  
26 see if there are changes caused by the land use.

27

28 For example, in GMT1 area we started  
29 monitoring over there in 2008 ahead of development and  
30 now we're at the point where we're doing analyses to  
31 see if there have been changes that we can detect in  
32 water flow and water quality. We're doing the same  
33 thing out in the Willow area, getting out ahead of the  
34 projected development trying to get baseline conditions  
35 so we can try to see if there are downstream effects.

36

37 I can take any questions about that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for the  
40 BLM folks.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question.  
45 Shelly, it might be you. On your presentation you have  
46 B2 on the IAP as a preferred alternative, Map 222, and  
47 then the following map with a whole bunch of big color  
48 schemes from turquoise to purple to yellow. Are those  
49 two of the same on the preferred alternative?

50

1 MS. JONES: Well, I think what's being  
2 shown on this map -- and Debbie and Matthew correct me  
3 if I'm wrong -- this is the one that says B2 is  
4 actually what was approved as our 2013 plan. So that's  
5 the situation today. It's not easy to tell which areas  
6 are open and closed, but the hatch-marked areas are  
7 closed and the white area is open. Then on the new  
8 plan.....  
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's the  
11 existing map, right?  
12

13 MS. JONES: Yeah, that's the -- and the  
14 existing plan that we currently have approved. So like  
15 the.....  
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having said that,  
18 there's another map just right after that with a lot of  
19 different colors and it's 3/13/2020 dated on that map.  
20 It's just the next page.  
21

22 MS. JONES: Right.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What is that map?  
25

26 MS. JONES: So this is.....  
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It has NPR-A and a  
29 whole bunch of colors and looks like a lot of greens.  
30

31 MS. JONES: Yeah. So that started --  
32 there were four alternatives in the current plan.  
33 Alternative A is what they call the no action, which  
34 really means that we would stick with our existing  
35 plan. So that's Alternative A.  
36

37 Alternative B described more  
38 conservation-oriented alternative. I think all of them  
39 have river setbacks, but under Alternative B those  
40 setbacks were recommended to be a little larger in some  
41 areas and different features like that.  
42

43 Alternative C, which is what's shown  
44 here, was sort of the -- is a little more  
45 development-oriented than the current plan. More acres  
46 would be open under this alternative and that situation  
47 was analyzed here. The green areas were the river  
48 setbacks and the purple areas under this alternative  
49 were areas that would be closed to oil and gas  
50

1 development. The tan areas would be open.

2

3 Then we have an Alternative D, which is  
4 quite a bit more development areas open. Under that  
5 one there would be areas around Teshekpuk Lake open  
6 that would be -- some of them might be no surface  
7 occupancy but would still be available to sell leases.  
8 Then if somebody bought a lease in those areas they  
9 would do directional drilling so they wouldn't develop  
10 the surface.

11

12 Then what's actually happening right  
13 now is we're looking at the comments we got on all  
14 those different alternatives and the interests of our  
15 administration and other stakeholders and coming up  
16 with what will probably be called Alternative E, which  
17 will be what the decision-makers feel is the best  
18 management plan for us going forward and I'll call that  
19 the preferred alternative. They could take pieces out  
20 of different alternatives as long as they were analyzed  
21 someplace they'll move that into a preferred. But we  
22 don't have that preferred alternative yet.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question.  
25 You guys are all done taking in comments and this is  
26 just more of a presentation, so whatever we say here  
27 couldn't be considered or thought about and I'm  
28 wondering if we were a body, a Regional Advisory  
29 Council, were able to comment on this thing. Maybe  
30 that's a question over to Eva. The first one I  
31 mentioned about being able to say a few things about  
32 these maps will probably go in one ear and out the  
33 other, but maybe that's the only way it can be at this  
34 point.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Hello, Mr. Chair and  
37 Council. This is Eva. To answer your question about  
38 the Council as a body making recommendations.  
39 Absolutely if there is an open comment period while the  
40 Council is meeting and you deliberate on the record and  
41 make recommendations, your recommendation would be  
42 submitted as a comment letter from the Council to the  
43 BLM. The challenge is that it does have to occur  
44 within an open comment period.

45

46 Maybe I'll let Shelly respond as to  
47 which EIS and proposals are open for comment right now.

48

49 MS. JONES: Yeah, so that really is

50

1 only public comment period right now for the Willow  
2 project. It's closed for the IAP. In a certain way,  
3 you know, we'll always take comments. It might not be  
4 able to affect the plan directly as far as what's  
5 written. We can't insert new things into it, et  
6 cetera.

7  
8 As long as -- you know, I guess as a  
9 manager I'm going to be implementing whatever plan we  
10 come up with and our staff and I are currently  
11 implementing the plan we've got. If there are issues  
12 and things that you would like us to do differently  
13 that are within our power -- you know, we're always  
14 going to have requirements to consult and if there are  
15 things that we could do better in that arena, we'd  
16 accept a comment on that at any time.

17  
18 So the official public comment period  
19 on the IAP is closed, but we take constructive feedback  
20 any time.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Maybe I'm  
23 just going to say something real quick about the IAP  
24 even though it's closed. Those areas -- and this might  
25 be good for Debbie also. Over 20 years of looking at  
26 studies on caribou, we're always concerned about  
27 infrastructure and displacement and looking at studies  
28 from AVR and other industrial studies in the height of  
29 pipeline issues, a road, and issues like habituation,  
30 which is a term used by many of the biologists and the  
31 study groups of how animals like caribou start to  
32 become accustomed to development.

33  
34 There's a slight concern about looking  
35 at the Trans-Alaska Pipeline going north and south and  
36 the strict -- the pretty strict adherence of the  
37 Central Arctic Herd to follow that north and south, but  
38 at the term, at the end to distribute around the  
39 industrial patch, it hasn't hurt the population, but it  
40 has caused some areas to change in their distribution  
41 pattern.

42  
43 If you turn that Trans-Alaska Pipeline  
44 east to west across NPR-A, if the neighboring herd  
45 would do the same thing and habituate over time to the  
46 infrastructure, like a loaded pipeline, it sounds like  
47 a study there.

48  
49 It leads me to think about some of the  
50

1 North Slope Borough policy about prohibiting impacts  
2 like reasonable availability of subsistence resources  
3 where they're normally found. That's an actual policy.  
4 Reasonable availability of subsistence resources where  
5 they're normally found and available for subsistence.  
6

7 Now if that pipeline -- and this is  
8 just an example. If you want to change that  
9 Trans-Alaska Pipeline and look at all of the  
10 radio-collar information that go up and down that  
11 pipeline, following that, and if that were to be the  
12 case that reasonable availability of those resources,  
13 where are the largest populated sector on the North  
14 Slope is paramount to be developed, you would kind of  
15 want to, in my view, put the pipeline as far north as  
16 possible to take the experimentation factor of putting  
17 a corridor like that 60-80 miles south where those  
18 caribou potentially could be habituating to  
19 infrastructure that far away. Just saying.  
20

21 On top of that, north you have so much  
22 infrastructure like the DEW line sites, like Lonely  
23 that has probably 300-500 million dollars worth of  
24 infrastructure in airport and pads that seem to be  
25 dismissed because the resources of that much shouldn't  
26 be put on the wayside. Knowing that the United States  
27 had done heavy, heavy development and exploration since  
28 the '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s and we still have all these  
29 animals, leads me to think about those issues. I think  
30 we grew up with those activities going on.  
31

32 Lastly, there are areas that are so  
33 contaminated naturally from oil seeps, I mean I have  
34 pictures of those, to where allowing access to them is  
35 paramount to be allowing cleanup activity and to try to  
36 control the natural oil seeps like around Sinclair Lake  
37 and those areas where the Navy tried to probably take  
38 advantage of where this oil seep is, thinking, wow,  
39 there's got to be bubbling crude down there and it's  
40 coming up just like the Hillbillies. There's a lot of  
41 crude, dead animals, dead birds around them. I've been  
42 to these sites. I kind of grew up around those areas  
43 as well.  
44

45 I don't know if anybody is making light  
46 of those because NPR-A naturally is pretty contaminated  
47 with oil seeps and you can see like small rivers of  
48 crude oil around Sinclair Lake or the Navy tried to put  
49 a well head on them and there's no way to stop those  
50

1 unless you probably pump it out and reduce the level of  
2 oil bubbling out of the ground naturally.

3  
4 By the way, they were heavy, heavy used  
5 by different generations to provide home heating.  
6 Harvested peat moss saturated in oil and used for home  
7 heating for hundreds of years. There's well-known  
8 locations that the Eskimo Inupiat harvested these in a  
9 way to provide home heating. They call it (in  
10 Inupiaq). That's the term for it, (in Inupiaq).

11  
12 Anyway, just my observations. I know  
13 the comment period is closed, but I think it's  
14 important to see some of this stuff and what we've  
15 lived with for hundreds of years with crude oil just  
16 bubbling out of the ground.

17  
18 I'll stop there. It's just important I  
19 think to hear some of the traditional aspects and how  
20 we looked at these landscapes because -- and a lot of  
21 flightless birds are around these oil seeps and they're  
22 quite a large area. I mean a lot of snow geese  
23 population around the Sinclair Lake and those regions.

24  
25  
26 That's where pretty much close to where  
27 Caelus announced a 6-billion barrel discovery in the  
28 nearshore Ikpikpuk area. That area has been explored,  
29 developed. The area right around the Tulimaniq area  
30 has infrastructure there, airport, pads, was POW-A and  
31 Lonely. Heavy developed areas in the past, including  
32 landfills, there's existing landfills that are just  
33 buried in these areas. They did a lot of cleanup.

34  
35 Anyway, I better shut up I guess at  
36 this point.

37  
38 MS. JONES: Gordon, thank you. I  
39 really think at some point maybe I and our HAZMAT  
40 person, Melody Debenham should come up and compare  
41 notes with you and the Borough and others to make sure  
42 that we have as good a picture as we need for  
43 contaminated sites.

44  
45 We've got a plan that's talked about a  
46 little bit about cleaning up Legacy wells. That's been  
47 going on and is again this winter. Small contracts for  
48 like two or three or four wells to be plugged but not  
49 necessarily all of the sites that you mentioned as far

50

1 as landfills.

2

3 We've got a project that we're working  
4 with the village of Barrow, Native Village, on the  
5 cleanup of Skull Cliff. We're open to doing more of  
6 that. We don't always -- those cleanups are usually  
7 really expensive, so we have to get them on a list and  
8 then prioritize them. That would be really good to  
9 make sure that we have an accurate list so that we  
10 don't overlook something.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: One other thing I  
13 just wanted to mention. There was a big issue about  
14 providing energy to villages back in the '60s and '70s  
15 and I frequently read about them. Back in the '60s and  
16 '50s when the Navy was using natural gas for its own  
17 use from about 1949, 1950 and then only extended the  
18 use of that local energy to the Native Village in  
19 Barrow in 1966. I think it was 1966. Then continuing  
20 to advocate for use of local energy like natural gas.

21

22 In 1984 Congress enacted the Barrow Gas  
23 Transfer Act. It's an important piece of legislation  
24 from Congress that allows for the use of energy to the  
25 villages, like Atqasuk and Wainwright, where industrial  
26 fines and that we can work together to provide reliable  
27 local clean energy to the communities. That's an  
28 existing Act related to the use of gas and oil and  
29 things like that. That should be recognized as  
30 something that the communities on the Slope -- we use  
31 the dirtiest energy and diesel that spills.

32

33 By the way, we've got to get it from  
34 Louisiana or some other refinery state and bring it all  
35 the way around at great environmental risk, when we can  
36 use things like the Gas Transfer Act as these energy  
37 development things develop and provide local energy  
38 sources. It just seems like we don't put two and two  
39 together all that well. It shouldn't just be an oil  
40 and gas planning exercise anymore, but should be  
41 looking at community needs as well.

42

43 MS. JONES: Good point. Okay. I just  
44 have to finish up. I'm not going to go over any more  
45 of the information in the report, but I wanted to  
46 mention that Stacey Fritz, our anthropologist, put  
47 together a really great section at the end of this  
48 document that talks about the Mitigation Fund, the  
49 NPR-A Impact Grant Program and that's the revenue

50



1 sharing that happens even on Federal leases with the  
2 State of Alaska. They take a portion of the funds that  
3 they get from that and put it into this impact grant  
4 program.  
5

6 Since we've started producing a couple  
7 years ago off of the GMT1 Pad, the funds in that  
8 program have just continued to increase. I think most  
9 of the communities are aware of it, but there's a ton  
10 of information online and Stacey pulled some of it  
11 together so you can see who's gotten grants previously.  
12

13 And between that program and -- Debbie,  
14 I'm going to put you on the spot that you routed to me,  
15 NFWF grant, a thing that Fish and Wildlife had, and  
16 maybe they've already spoken about it, but there's a  
17 couple of great opportunities right now if you can come  
18 up with a study design for anything particularly  
19 related to impact from development or studies that you  
20 think might need to be done beyond what we're currently  
21 doing.  
22

23 They're always looking for non-Federal  
24 partnerships and things like that. So I just really  
25 wanted to encourage people to consider those  
26 opportunities and if we can help either by being a  
27 partner or by helping you develop a project, we'd like  
28 to be involved.  
29

30 That is the end.  
31

32 MS. NIGRO: This is Debbie. One of the  
33 big funding opportunities that are currently available  
34 is through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.  
35 If anybody is interested in that grant process, then I  
36 would be happy to work with them and send them  
37 information on what the grant is looking to fund  
38 projects on.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question  
41 on who would be a qualifier for that type of a grant.  
42 Is it a local government or tribal government, a  
43 corporation, an individual?  
44

45 MS. NIGRO: Yeah, I think it would be  
46 mostly local and tribal governments would be given the  
47 most points towards this grant. Individuals for sure  
48 if they could provide substantial input to a project.  
49 Corporations would probably fall at the lowest level,  
50

1 but definitely could still be considered if they want  
2 to engage in a cooperative grant type process.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It sounds  
5 interesting. I hope we get all this information to all  
6 of the Council members. I'm just looking at your  
7 report.

8  
9 MS. JONES: That one that Debbie just  
10 talked about that came in after we had already written  
11 this up, so I don't think we mentioned it specifically  
12 in our report. But, like Debbie said, we've got the  
13 information now and I posted it on the NPR-A working  
14 groups website. We could give it to Eva and she could  
15 maybe post it or get it slipped into our notes. I  
16 don't know how that works. Email it around to the  
17 Council.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: Hi. Thanks, Shelly. This  
20 is Eva. I think that would be great. In the short  
21 term to be able to get links and information to the  
22 Council directly. I can also snail mail out any  
23 further materials that are available as well.

24  
25 I know in particular our conversations  
26 with Council Member Martha Itta trying to address some  
27 of the subsistence fisheries concerns for that  
28 community. This would be one of the avenues to look at  
29 getting cooperative funding to be able to do that  
30 research. Set up another teleconference call just to  
31 talk about things. Really appreciate your offer of  
32 assistance, Debbie, to reach out to the communities on  
33 that as well.

34  
35 We can certainly follow up on this and  
36 provide the information for the Council and I'll  
37 coordinate follow-up teleconference and meetings to  
38 discuss informally how to approach that and support the  
39 Council and the communities.

40  
41 Thanks so much.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe I can just pose  
44 an example. It might be irrelevant or it might be  
45 almost palatable, who knows. Let's just say, you know,  
46 for the last 30 years I've been fishing in the NPR-A  
47 and my catch has been really good all the time. And I  
48 fish for community size. That's how much I fish and  
49 it's for subsistence. The food and the fish have  
50

1 always been the prime. They never get spoiled.

2

3 But the last maybe eight years we've  
4 been struggling because of climate fluctuation  
5 affecting the ability to freeze the fish and affecting  
6 the timing of when the fish are spawning in my area.  
7 When I do catch a good portion of it, now they're  
8 subject to getting spoiled and I'm very concerned that  
9 I'm not going to be able to fish for the community in  
10 that way unless I transport -- have an immediate  
11 transport mechanism back to freezers and other things.

12

13

14 Is that a situation that could qualify  
15 for a grant under that program to find a remedy?  
16

17

18 MS. NIGRO: Hi, this is Debbie. Yes.  
19 To find a remedy would be something that could qualify  
20 under the grant. Actually transport subsistence game  
21 species, probably not.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not looking for  
24 the transport because I can transport, but it's just  
25 the amount of fish that we do. In the past, and  
26 there's a lot of historical account of building ice  
27 warehouses especially around Nulavik, which is about 70  
28 miles southeast of Barrow. Groups of families would  
29 build ice warehouses and put all their catch in there.  
30 When it freezes up good in November and December they  
31 would haul it to the populated area to allow the food  
32 to be shared with the community.

33

34 What I need to find out is how can I  
35 store my -- that same kind of activity that's been done  
36 so that the food won't go to waste. When it finally  
37 freezes and I'm up there to haul it back to town, I'm  
38 actually hauling good quality food that's not stunk up.

39

40

41 It's more or less our cellars don't  
42 provide the needed cold or the weather itself. If you  
43 store it in warehouses, it gets too warm for long  
44 periods of time, allowing the food to spoil. Some way  
45 to overcome that issue. It's not about hauling it.  
46 It's about preserving it.

47

48 MS. NIGRO: Yes, I do think National  
49 Fish and Wildlife Foundation that we were talking about  
50 would accept a proposal to look into those issues. I

1 think there are probably a lot of other grantee  
2 agencies out there that would be interested in looking  
3 into a project like that. Shelly or Stacey, I don't  
4 know if either of you could address specifically grant  
5 organizations that might be helpful.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It doesn't have to be  
8 answered just yet. I'm just trying to see if that  
9 would be some sort of qualifying grant of some sort to  
10 do that very thing based on climate fluctuation  
11 problems we have.

12  
13 MS. JONES: We should talk that over  
14 with Stacey and see.

15  
16 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This  
17 is Hannah Voorhees with OSM. I just wanted to chime in  
18 and add that this possibly could be a candidate for a  
19 priority information need under the Fisheries Resource  
20 Monitoring Program that we were discussing earlier. I  
21 think a lot of great topics have come up during this  
22 meeting that could be channeled towards invitations for  
23 proposals. FRMP does prioritize projects that look at  
24 local observations, local needs for changing needs  
25 under climate change for subsistence.

26  
27 So just to chime in and remind us all  
28 of the FRMP and the role it could play. Maybe it could  
29 be a mixed traditional knowledge, local knowledge and  
30 kind of conventional science study within that same  
31 thing, conditions affecting preservation and how that  
32 might affect subsistence opportunity.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If those that are  
37 online can put on mute so that we can't -- there's a  
38 lot of disturbance like someone is building a house or  
39 something.

40  
41 Okay. Well, I appreciate the  
42 indulgence on our part to just ask questions. I  
43 apologize for dominating the questioning part. I  
44 should yield to the Council members if they have any  
45 questions.

46  
47 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. It's  
48 Steve.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

2  
3 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay, thank you. You  
4 know the ongoing EISs and the non-NPR-A, especially the  
5 Integrated Activity Plan. It was last written in 2013.  
6 The Secretarial Order 3352 that directs BLM to review  
7 the potential offers for more available leasing in the  
8 future. I was just wondering about the public scoping  
9 meetings that were supposed to begin on our last  
10 meeting in October and the North Slope Region and  
11 Fairbanks, Anchorage area. Is there any report on  
12 that?  
13

14 MS. JONES: Yes. That's a good  
15 question. Our scoping report I think is available  
16 online now and we used -- not all the comments were  
17 directed at like which areas they would want open for  
18 leasing, but a lot were and so those were used to help  
19 inform the different alternatives that we considered so  
20 that should be available on the IAP website.  
21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: It would be useful if we  
23 had some of these reports especially dealing with the  
24 non-NPR-A. You know, you are trying to do a balancing  
25 with the development and subsistence users in the area.  
26 I just wanted to see what the outcome of -- you know,  
27 the concerns people in Fairbanks area. The Natives  
28 within the NPR-A and also within the North Slope  
29 Region. It would be good to hear their concerns.  
30

31 Thank you.  
32

33 MS. JONES: Yeah, you bet. I think I  
34 went to all the meetings and I can tell you the  
35 Anchorage meeting was heavily dominated by industry and  
36 corporate entities and a lot of comments we got from  
37 there were about interest in opening additional areas.  
38  
39

40 At the Fairbanks meeting it was kind of  
41 an even mix. There was quite a bit of comments from  
42 the teamsters and unions and other Chamber of Commerce.  
43 So there certainly were business people there  
44 interested in economic interest, but there was also a  
45 lot of attendance by the Northern Alaska Environmental  
46 Center, some of the Native groups that were people from  
47 the North Slope that are living here in the Fairbanks  
48 area who spoke up and were either calling for more  
49 conservative approach or for keeping the existing plan.  
50

1  
2  
3                   It was kind of a mix in the communities  
4 as well. You know, different -- we heard always about  
5 subsistence concerns of course in the communities  
6 within and around the NPR-A, but almost all of them  
7 wanting to really respect and defer to Nuiqsut and  
8 concerned about the issues that Nuiqsut had been  
9 experiencing and wanted to make sure that those were  
10 addressed properly.

11  
12                   That's just my generalization. There's  
13 definitely a lot more to it than that.

14  
15                   MR. OOMITTUK: Out of curiosity I just  
16 was wondering the non-NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan  
17 was last written in 2013 and these are ongoing EIS  
18 activities that are still going on, the environmental  
19 impact statement, and I would assume that these would  
20 be updated throughout the years. It was last updated  
21 in 2013 and by Secretarial Order it was directed to be  
22 a top review.

23  
24                   MS. JONES: Even after we've finished  
25 the plan then we go into our implementation and  
26 monitoring phase. The work that we do on the  
27 monitoring a lot of it is cited if it's published  
28 literature. All of the studies, even those done by  
29 industry and other science organizations, not us, have  
30 been pulled together on the NSSI, North Slope Science  
31 Initiative, website and they made a specific page for  
32 Nuiqsut on their -- to post because most of the studies  
33 are done around the development which is very close to  
34 Nuiqsut.

35  
36                   They were called out to have a special  
37 page and they had asked for information about the  
38 resources around their community. Again that link,  
39 that website, there's a really nice web map there.  
40 It's called the Nuiqsut Environmental Information  
41 Website. It has a web map that you can click on and  
42 then it will pull up the study that was done there and  
43 tell you where to get the paper.

44  
45                   MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

46  
47                   MS. JONES: Okay.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where are we? Are we  
50

1 continuing on BLM's report or are we about done there?

2

3 MS. JONES: I'm finished if there are  
4 no further questions. That's the end of the report.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions  
7 for BLM before we excuse them.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank  
12 you, Shelly.

13

14 MS. JONES: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to go  
17 down the line to Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
18 wildlife updates. I'm not sure who is going to do the  
19 intros.

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Good afternoon, Mr.  
22 Chair. This is Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department  
23 of Fish and Game and I'm willing to at least do the  
24 portion of the wildlife discussion for 26A.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. You have  
27 the floor there, Carmen.

28

29 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
30 Council. So the first thing that I wanted to do was  
31 review a few of the survey plans that I have for this  
32 year just so that you guys are aware of what's  
33 happening.

34

35 Currently the spring plans are a little  
36 bit up in the air mostly because of virus stuff. I'm  
37 trying to come up with some creative ideas to still  
38 allow the moose and caribou surveys to happen.  
39 However, things are getting a little complicated there,  
40 so it's possible they might have to be cancelled, but  
41 right now I'm still trying to decide and brainstorm  
42 ways to make those happen. Utilizing other resources  
43 so that I don't have to travel.

44

45 There's a muskox survey that's  
46 currently going on for about a month. It's been  
47 covering all of the area north of Kotzebue in Unit 23  
48 and up into portions of Unit 26A. We're trying to get  
49 an idea of the abundance of the Cape Thompson muskox

50

1 population. I had sent flyers out to communities and  
2 I've been telling people about that survey for a little  
3 while. Again, if you happen to see an airplane in that  
4 area, it's a huge area actually, that it may very well  
5 be people doing muskox surveys. If you have any  
6 questions, feel free to call the office here at any  
7 time and I can answer those questions.

8  
9 So that's the spring work. Summertime  
10 the plan is to start with calving surveys at the  
11 beginning of June and then do caribou captures. We're  
12 collaring caribou at the end of June about the third  
13 week and then doing the photo census hopefully in July  
14 if the conditions are sufficient for it.

15  
16 Then fall time hopefully doing caribou  
17 composition or moose composition work out on the  
18 Colville. So that's kind of what I had in mind for  
19 surveys for this year so far. Does anybody have any  
20 questions about any of that?

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I didn't respond  
23 because I've got a huge jetliner going over here.

24  
25 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, I do too. My  
26 window is open because it's so hot inside.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question.....

29  
30 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. While we're  
31 on Alaska Department of Fish and Game, you know, I know  
32 at our last meeting they didn't quite have the photo  
33 census count on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. They  
34 didn't give us a count. I know that the Borough  
35 provided a count to us which was around 213,000, which  
36 is still kind of low. I don't know if that's the  
37 actual number.

38  
39 At our last meeting they didn't have a  
40 photo census available and they were going to give it  
41 to us in the future. That was at our last meeting in  
42 October for the actual count. Compared to last year's  
43 count, just out of curiosity, the numbers of the  
44 Western Arctic Caribou Herd from the year before to  
45 what it is today from the last census that was taken.  
46 Like I said it wasn't available for us in the last  
47 meeting. What was the outcome of that?

48  
49 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair, Mr.  
50



1 Oomittuk. I am currently looking at the most recent  
2 information we have from 2019 and the estimate was  
3 244,077. That's the most recent estimate update from  
4 2019.

5  
6 MR. OOMITTUK: What was the amount from  
7 the year before?

8  
9 MS. DAGGETT: 259,000 and that count  
10 was done in 2017.

11  
12 MR. OOMITTUK: So that's a drop. If I  
13 remember right, we tried to shut down the -- you know,  
14 to increase the population of the Western Arctic  
15 Caribou Herd. We had passed that no sport hunters or  
16 non-residents hunt within Federal lands. Even though  
17 it was passed by the North Slope Borough Subsistence  
18 Advisory Council it wasn't enforced. It didn't go into  
19 effect. People still came in and was it denied by  
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game or who was the one  
21 that.....

22  
23 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So you're talking  
24 about what happened in Unit 23, first of all I believe,  
25 and not 26, right, or are you talking about something  
26 else?

27  
28 MR. OOMITTUK: I think this is around  
29 2017 and '18 because of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
30 Working Group had some concerns about the population  
31 that had dropped drastically by more than half. We  
32 wanted to ensure that the population that we had grew.

33  
34 You know, and then we wanted to cut  
35 down on the -- you know, there was a lot of concerns in  
36 the community about sport hunters flying around with  
37 planes and chasing them, letting them roam around when  
38 they should be feeding and slowly migrating. We were  
39 always taught to wait for the animal to come to us and  
40 not herd them to where you want them to be. They  
41 follow a certain trail. They migrate.

42  
43 For years and years sport hunters --  
44 you hear of sport planes diverting herds to where the  
45 sport hunters are using a small aircraft.  
46 Overstressing the caribou, especially the younger ones.  
47 Not so healthy. We wanted that population to come up.  
48 Two years in a row we had no hunting within Federal  
49 lands within the North Slope by nonresidential or sport  
50

1 hunters.

2  
3 Subsistence hunters or people within  
4 the communities can hunt on these lands, but we wanted  
5 to limit it to ensure the growth of the population of  
6 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd to ensure that our food  
7 supply for the people that depend on it because of the  
8 high cost of living to put food on the table. That  
9 ensured that we always continued to live our way of  
10 life and put food on the table for the residents that  
11 live within the NANA and North Slope area.

12  
13 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for those  
14 comments, Steve. So here's what I'm aware of and maybe  
15 others who are more familiar with some parts of this  
16 discussion can help fill in the gaps a little bit. So  
17 there's a wide variety of land status in Unit 23 and so  
18 in Unit 23 there were several things that were done to  
19 try to help mitigate the issues you're talking about.

20  
21 The Board of Game changed where the  
22 Controlled Use Area was on the Noatak River. They  
23 shifted it further north to try to cover the area that  
24 the Noatak and Kivalina Advisory Committee had wanted.  
25 So they had a Controlled Use Area five miles either  
26 side of the Noatak River and changed that regulation to  
27 try to help deal with the issue you're talking about.

28  
29 There's also several other Federal  
30 actions that took place during that time period. Some  
31 of them on Park Service land and some on National  
32 Preserve land. I know that they did some pretty  
33 substantial closures in that area during the caribou  
34 migration period to try to protect the caribou herd  
35 moving through that area so that people who are  
36 Federally qualified subsistence users could hunt those  
37 animals. That wouldn't necessarily be accessible to  
38 people who are flying.

39  
40 As far as what happened on the North  
41 Slope, I think the story was a little bit different.  
42 Eva, I don't know if you can help me out here with like  
43 the history of that. From what I remember there was --  
44 the RAC talked about it for a while and maybe, Gordon,  
45 you remember too. The RAC talked about it for a while  
46 and it went before the Board and I think you're right  
47 that the closure didn't happen on the North Slope.

48  
49 If others remember the details of that  
50

1 discussion to help answer Steve's question, that might  
2 be valuable at this time.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. This is Eva.  
5 Thanks, Carmen. I think you have described activities  
6 that had changed primarily in Unit 23 for closures on  
7 Federal lands there. I think, Steve, that's where you  
8 were asking about or referencing.

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

11

12 MS. PATTON: The Council had submitted  
13 their own request for a closure and that was dealing  
14 with Unit 26A and B. That closure was not supported by  
15 the Federal Subsistence Board. There was a lot of  
16 engagement from both the Council and the ACs and all  
17 the various Federal agencies and State agencies  
18 deliberating on that process.

19

20 It was kind of a working group that was  
21 set up for discussing that closure in Unit 23. So that  
22 was in effect as Carmen had mentioned to provide a  
23 Federal subsistence priority on those Federal lands for  
24 that timeframe. That was passed through a Special  
25 Action Request, a regulatory cycle request.

26

27 I wasn't sure if there were any further  
28 questions on that, Steve. I do believe we also have  
29 Joshua Ream, if he's still on the phone. He was one of  
30 the primary analysts for that analysis for that Special  
31 Action Request in Unit 23. So he might be able to  
32 answer some detailed questions in regard to that if you  
33 had further questions.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you for that  
38 response. Yes, Unit 23.

39

40 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. May I  
41 continue with my report or are there any further  
42 questions that people have regarding what I've already  
43 shared.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions  
46 for Carmen.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was there additional  
2 stuff that you were going to report and update on?  
3

4 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. There's just a  
5 little bit more here that I wanted to share with you  
6 and I think you'll be interested to know. I was going  
7 to talk about actions of the Board of Game for Unit  
8 26A.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
11

12 MS. DAGGETT: So there were five  
13 proposals that came up for Unit 26A that were discussed  
14 at the last Board of Game meeting. One of them was to  
15 increase the resident bag limit for brown bears in Unit  
16 26A. The Board adopted that. They increased the bag  
17 limit from 1 bear to 2 bears per year. So that will go  
18 into effect this summer.  
19

20 Then they also adopted to reauthorize  
21 the brown bear tag fee exemption. So people can hunt  
22 brown bears and not have to buy a \$25 tag fee.  
23

24 There was a proposal to eliminate the  
25 registration caribou permit RC-907 in Units 23 and 26A  
26 and parts of 24 for the general season harvest ticket  
27 requirements and that proposal was not adopted.  
28

29 They also took up a proposal to  
30 increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou from one  
31 caribou a year to two caribou a year. That proposal  
32 failed. They did not adopt that.  
33

34 Then there was that proposal you were  
35 talking about earlier to reauthorize antlerless moose  
36 season in the western portion of 26A. Basically  
37 keeping regulations the same as they've been and that  
38 proposal was adopted. Regulations are the same as  
39 they've been for the last several years.  
40

41 Those are the actions for Unit 26A and  
42 there were additional proposals discussed during the  
43 Interior and Eastern Arctic Regional meeting. I've  
44 been directed to just talk about the 26A ones. Perhaps  
45 at some point those other ones can be reviewed. I  
46 guess if people have specific questions about the other  
47 Board of Game meeting and the proposals, I can tell you  
48 if it failed or it was adopted, but I'm not going to  
49 get too much into the discussion of those.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for  
2 Carmen.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have one. The  
7 nonresident bag limit, was that on the whole of Unit  
8 26A?

9  
10 MS. DAGGETT: It was actually for all  
11 of Unit 26 and it failed for all of Unit 26 other than  
12 the fact that 26C already has a nonresident bag limit  
13 of two caribou a year already that was already in  
14 regulation. So it would have been changing the  
15 regulation for 26A and B and it didn't pass in either  
16 one.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And  
19 nonresident meaning that they were coming in from  
20 different states or different countries to enter these  
21 units to bag two of them and that didn't pass.

22  
23 MS. DAGGETT: That's correct. So a  
24 nonresident bag limit is only one caribou in 26A and  
25 26B, which is what it's been for several years.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
28  
29 Any other questions for Carmen.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other updates you  
34 need to provide here, Carmen?

35  
36 MS. DAGGETT: I guess the one thing I  
37 would like to tell you guys is what the current caribou  
38 population is. The current estimate is 56,000 and  
39 that's still current as of 2017 because we did not get  
40 a survey in last summer. Conditions were less than  
41 ideal for most of the summer. Actually got a Western  
42 Arctic Caribou Herd photo census last summer which is  
43 why I could give you the updated number. We didn't get  
44 one done for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd last summer,  
45 but we'll try again this summer.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you say you got a  
48 current population for the Western Arctic Herd?

49  
50

1 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. So Steve asked  
2 that question earlier and it was 244,000.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's with the  
5 digital new methodology of digital marking instead of  
6 the photo census?

7  
8 MS. DAGGETT: That's correct. Although  
9 the photo census is part of the digital marking. I  
10 mean that's all the same process, but we're not using  
11 the film cameras anymore. We're using digital cameras  
12 and digital counting.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank you  
15 very much, Carmen. I think that was a pretty good  
16 report.

17  
18 MS. DAGGETT: You're welcome.

19  
20 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman. This is  
21 Brendan Scanlon, Fishery Biologist, Department of Fish  
22 and Game. I called in late. I don't have anything  
23 different to report from the last meeting, but I can  
24 answer any questions if there were any fisheries  
25 questions earlier that went unanswered.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for the  
28 fisheries biologist for ADF&G from the Council.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe you could do a  
33 brief synopsis or a short -- what was your discussion  
34 last time to refresh people.

35  
36 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chair. I gave a  
37 presentation on the two FRMP funded projects. One  
38 using aerial surveys to count char on the ANWR streams  
39 and the Anaktuvuk River. We also talked about the  
40 grayling radio-tagging project we have going on in the  
41 Colville. We put out about 170 radio tags, 52 of which  
42 were tagged in the village through the ice. Those tags  
43 turn on and off to save battery life.

44  
45 They just turned back on yesterday, so  
46 we'll begin our tracking flights. In essence, this  
47 project was designed to see how far up and down stream  
48 the fish that are vulnerable to subsistence fishing  
49 near Nuiqsut how far they go up the Colville. So we  
50

1 tagged fish well above Umiat and a bunch of the  
2 tributaries as well as near the village. We'll see how  
3 much they mix and see what kind of metapopulation of  
4 grayling we're looking at.

5  
6 For the aerial survey projects for  
7 Dollies that is incomplete. This was the final year of  
8 a four-year project. I know you've all seen the photos  
9 of the orange water coming out of a lot of those rivers  
10 up there.

11  
12 The point I just wanted to make was  
13 it's not getting better, it's getting worse. It  
14 appeared that every dribble of water coming out of the  
15 north side of the Brooks Range between the Ivishak and  
16 the Hulahula River had turbid iron, heavy iron-laden  
17 water in it.

18  
19 That is as far as we were able to go on  
20 the Hulahula. We're not sure on the Kongakut. It  
21 appears that during the winter these iron springs  
22 freeze up, but they seem to run all summer. They seem  
23 to be getting worse.

24  
25 I think that's kind of the big story  
26 for the char right now is how long and how well they  
27 can handle this. Iron is not an acute, immediate kind  
28 of stressor. It's something that's more of a  
29 long-term. It causes respiratory stress, it can cause  
30 recruitment failure because it covers up eggs and bugs  
31 and things that the bugs feed on.

32  
33 So it's something that we're concerned  
34 about and I know the Refuge Manager is familiar with.  
35 I'd like to see how the subsistence fishery changes, if  
36 it does at all, in the next few years based on what's  
37 going on in the freshwater.

38  
39 I did get an email from Carmen earlier  
40 that someone had questions about shellfish regulations  
41 on the North Slope, is that right?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, I think Kaktovik  
44 had mentioned about crabs and abundance.

45  
46 MR. SCANLON: Okay. I don't have any  
47 abundance information on crab. I think red king crab  
48 are showing up more and more in the Kotzebue area. The  
49 regulations for the North Slope crab and shellfish  
50

1 fishing is pretty wide open. Spear and jigs, pot  
2 fishing, shovels are allowed. There's no size limit.  
3 You can harvest males and females. There's no bag  
4 limits and no reporting required. You do need to have  
5 an escape mechanism on your traps and you need to mark  
6 your buoys.

7  
8 If someone has more questions about how  
9 to implement those, I can help them. There's not much  
10 for limits on crab fishing on the North Slope.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Mr.  
13 Rexford, you had a question about that. If you wanted  
14 to follow up with any of that line of questioning.

15  
16 MR. REXFORD: No, that answered my  
17 question. Thanks for that info. It's always been a  
18 concern of mine to try and put some crab pots out  
19 there.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 MR. SCANLON: You're welcome. Good  
24 luck. Hope you try it.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other  
27 questions for ADF&G.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On the iron stuff for  
32 the char, is that something new or is that always a  
33 prevalent problem in that area?

34  
35 MR. SCANLON: Well, I first observed it  
36 in 2016 on a tributary of the Ivishak River that dumps  
37 into the Sagavanirktok. This project was a four-year  
38 project and it appeared to get worse and worse. Like I  
39 said, it was every stream east of the Ivishak. The  
40 Anaktuvuk River was clear and there was just a ton of  
41 fish in there. Also there was handfuls of chum, coho,  
42 but lots and lots of Dolly Varden.

43  
44 I don't know if it's been documented  
45 before 2016. I'm sure it didn't show up just because I  
46 was there, but that's the first I became familiar with  
47 it. People I talked to at the university they were not  
48 familiar with it either. So it appears to be pretty  
49 new and it may be the new normal for a while or it may  
50



1 go away. It's a spring thing. Spring as in it comes  
2 from underground.

3  
4 I did notice that on one tributary of  
5 the Canning River the iron-colored water appeared to  
6 start at a thaw slump. So a patch of ground got warm  
7 and melted and that's where the iron water started. So  
8 I kind of hesitate to attribute that to temperature.  
9 It may be just a coincidence. Yeah, I think the  
10 iron-colored water is going to be around for a little  
11 while.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Have you tried to  
14 make any theories like the rash of earthquakes that's  
15 been in that area shaking the mountains around.  
16 Somebody told me that water coming out of the spring on  
17 the north side originated on the south side and took  
18 600,000 years to come across on the other side.

19  
20 MR. SCANLON: Wow. I don't think it's  
21 quite that old, but, yeah, it is pretty old water.  
22 Like you said, coming out of the ground several  
23 thousand years old. The earthquake thing is kind of  
24 out of my wheelhouse. It sounds reasonable. Yeah, I  
25 really don't know the answer to that as a fish guy.

26  
27 I know that this is the first step in  
28 the next call for proposals for the FRMP. We might try  
29 to put something together to sample the fish  
30 particularly for metals analysis to make sure they're  
31 still safe to eat and maybe some kind of measure of  
32 their health. Counting them from the air, really as  
33 long as that water is colored like this, is not  
34 particularly helpful. We would like to handle some  
35 fish and make sure that they're still healthy to eat  
36 and see what their condition is.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other  
39 questions for the fisheries folks from ADF&G from the  
40 Council.

41  
42 MR. OOMITTUK: Point Hope.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

45  
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, a lot of  
47 us depend on fish in the ocean, but earlier when you  
48 mentioned the starvation of migrating birds, such as  
49 the murrens and other birds on the North Slope and  
50

1 further south, do the warmer temperatures in the waters  
2 coming up north and, you know, a lot of our fish comes  
3 from further south. I know a lot of the fish stay in  
4 the rivers.

5  
6 We had some good reports last time.  
7 Are there going to be continued studies on the fish  
8 especially with all this traffic that's going to the  
9 Northwest Arctic now and all the we have no control of  
10 who comes and goes into international waters and then  
11 the feeding grounds of the animals that we've always  
12 depended on in the migration. All the animals that  
13 come. The bowhead whale, the plankton, the krill that  
14 the largest of all animals depend on.

15  
16 Are there being studies other than fish  
17 on the amount of plankton and krill that still -- you  
18 know, or does the warm waters, the ice retreating  
19 further back, the Pole ice, more open water, warmer  
20 temperature further east of us, you know, the effects  
21 on that.

22  
23 Can you answer any of those or do you  
24 know is the warmer temperatures reaching to the  
25 Canadian side also, Barter Island area to Barrow?  
26 Okay.

27  
28 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. I don't have  
29 a lot of answers to that question. I do know that the  
30 Alaska Science Center, which is part of the USGS out of  
31 Anchorage, has projects looking at the nearshore  
32 fisheries ecology near Kaktovik and other parts of the  
33 Eastern Beaufort Sea. They're also looking at, I  
34 believe, the effects of loss of sea ice on walrus in  
35 the northwest.

36  
37 As far as temperature goes, I spent a  
38 lot of time in the Kotzebue area this summer and it was  
39 as warm as I'd ever seen it. We were on the Kobuk  
40 River and we had several days in the mid-80s. The  
41 water got up to over 70 degrees, which is really warm.  
42 A lot of salmon quit swimming at about 55 degrees, 58  
43 degrees.

44  
45 I think we were just a few days away  
46 from big freshwater fish kill. Even Manley, Kobuk  
47 Lakes were pushing 70 degrees. There were a lot of  
48 fish kills. Eastern Norton Sound near Koyuk and  
49 Shaktoolik and Ungalik and Inglutalik Rivers. Also  
50

1 some in Bristol Bay. I can't imagine the North Slope  
2 isn't warming up as well. The results of any of those  
3 projects I don't have those handy.

4  
5 The increasing prevalence of salmon  
6 seems to be a real thing. In fact, the Department of  
7 Fisheries and Oceans in Canada has a program devoted to  
8 doing genetic work on these salmon to see if they are  
9 strays from other systems or if there's actual viable  
10 populations spawning, rearing and returning to North  
11 Slope streams.

12  
13 I hope that helps.

14  
15 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Thank you.  
16 There's something else I wanted to ask. I was  
17 surprised to see a ship parked straight out of my --  
18 you know, I'm from Point Hope area and my house is  
19 right on the coastline and I can see the ocean, the  
20 south side, of activity that comes through there. I  
21 noticed some ships, some boats that were out there and  
22 then I later found out it was Fish and Game or somebody  
23 were doing studies on what kind of species of fish are  
24 out in our areas. I don't know. Are they doing  
25 studies, you know, I mean right outside of Point Hope?

26  
27  
28 I've never seen anything. Although I'm  
29 not on the city council anymore, but I'm on the tribal  
30 council. We see more and more ships or big boats  
31 parked within our vicinity and what are they doing, you  
32 know. We found out it was Department of Fish and Game  
33 doing studies and checking to see what species of fish  
34 or crab is out there. Is that an ongoing? Do you know  
35 anything about that?

36  
37 MR. SCANLON: Yeah, I don't think  
38 that's Fish and Game per se, but the University of  
39 Alaska does have a research vessel and I think they  
40 were out there this year. Like I said, the Alaska  
41 Science Center, which is part of the USGS out of  
42 Anchorage, they were also out there doing a lot of  
43 trawl work. As we're talking I'm looking at some  
44 pictures right now with some of the invertebrates they  
45 caught. I don't know the results, but I know who does  
46 and I can speak to her and see if she can make some  
47 results available to the Council.

48  
49 I was in Point Hope this past fall with  
50

1 Carmen and we actually spent a little time looking for  
2 dead seabirds. Maybe she mentioned this earlier, but  
3 we walking maybe a quarter mile and we saw 70 dead  
4 puffins and murre and we turned around. I'd never  
5 been that close to a puffin before. It's the worst  
6 I've ever seen. There was a program based out of the  
7 University of Washington that has volunteer groups  
8 looking at beaches up and down the coast for dead birds  
9 and documenting them. It's pretty dramatic some of the  
10 information they have. It's not just birds. It's  
11 debris and fish species I hadn't seen.

12  
13 Her name is Vanessa von Biela and I can  
14 maybe get some information from her that you can pass  
15 along to Eva to make available to the Council that  
16 maybe can describe some of this marine fish work that's  
17 being done if you like.

18  
19 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Thank you. We  
20 don't eat the murre very often, but we do eat them.  
21 They're good with seal blubber. You put seal blubber  
22 in there with them and boil them, just the meat, the  
23 brown meat. We don't make soup out of them or  
24 anything. Not like ducks or geese. The days they  
25 couldn't get the ducks or the geese, the murre are in  
26 abundance. They're very good eating. It's a dark  
27 brown meat.

28  
29 We've always climbed the cliffs over  
30 there and passed on from generation. We always know  
31 that 300,000 nests at Cape Thompson and 600,000 at  
32 Lisburne. Those were always the numbers that were given  
33 to us. Seeing the numbers die off and the cliffs  
34 falling down, it's getting dangerous climbing up in the  
35 area. The rock slides are getting more and more.  
36 They've got a bunch of loose rocks over in that area.

37  
38 Nobody died over there in a long time  
39 other than there was stories in the past of whole  
40 families where there was big rock slides. In certain  
41 areas they call (in Inupiaq) where you can't sleep  
42 because the people that were killed in some of those  
43 areas by rock slides their spirits are still there. In  
44 our version of a place you can't sleep. You can't  
45 actually sleep there. People tried to sleep there but  
46 they couldn't. That was something that kept them  
47 awake. It's a place where you cannot sleep.

48  
49 We've always been a subsistence people

50

1 and we're concerned about our migratory birds,  
2 especially birds that come from foreign countries also.  
3 Are they being studied? With the fish that are coming  
4 is there any other sort of thing that we need to worry  
5 about with the contamination from foreign countries and  
6 other places other than our own state? Our animals are  
7 safe to eat, you know.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. I didn't know  
12 that about the murre and how much you depended on  
13 them. So thanks.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other  
16 questions before we get ADF&G off the hook.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anything more on the  
21 presentation between the two of you?

22  
23 MR. OOMITTUK: I've got no other  
24 questions, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank  
27 you, ADF&G.

28  
29 MR. SCANLON: Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Now we have the North  
32 Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management.

33  
34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I  
35 know we did have Brian Person on earlier. Brian, are  
36 you still on with us and able to share some updates  
37 from North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife?

38  
39 (No response)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It sounds like Brian  
42 may not be online at this time.

43  
44 MS. PATTON: We can come back around.  
45 We just have one last report, which is the Office of  
46 Subsistence Management.

47  
48 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. This is Tom  
49 Kron. As most Council members are aware, the Office of  
50

1 Subsistence Management had to reschedule the winter  
2 2020 Council meetings until March and then now your  
3 meeting here in the very first part of April to comply  
4 with the Federal Advisory Committee Act or FACA. Thank  
5 you all for your patience and for working with us to  
6 reschedule the meeting.

7  
8 I also wanted to thank you for bearing  
9 with us through this whole virus concern issue and the  
10 effect that's having. Basically we've done the last  
11 five Council meetings via teleconference. Again it is  
12 very challenging as you are seeing today.

13  
14 Another update on Council Charters. On  
15 Pages 31 through 35 in your Council book you will find  
16 provisions that allow the Councils to proceed. These  
17 were signed by the Secretary of Interior and are valid  
18 through December of 2021.

19  
20 Last year the Federal Subsistence Board  
21 received 63 applications to fill 46 vacant or expired  
22 seats. The Board recommended to the Secretaries of  
23 Interior and Agriculture to appoint or reappoint 42  
24 incumbents and new applicants to the 10 Councils. Of  
25 these 22 appointments were approved and arrangements  
26 were made for these individuals to participate in the  
27 winter 2020 Council meetings.

28  
29 OSM pushed hard, harder than ever to  
30 recruit additional Council members, nominations and  
31 applications for the current appointment cycle. Plus  
32 the Council nomination application deadline was  
33 extended through March 2nd, about a month ago. It was  
34 extended from the original date.

35  
36 Gene Peltola vacated the Assistant  
37 Regional Director position at OSM in June 2018 to  
38 become the Alaska Regional Director for the Bureau of  
39 Indian Affairs. Over the past 21 months Thomas  
40 Doolittle did an outstanding job leading OSM as the  
41 Acting Assistant Regional Director for OSM. Thank you  
42 very much to Tom for his good work.

43  
44 Ms. Susan Detwiler was recently  
45 selected to be our new Assistant Regional Director for  
46 OSM. She started this week. She's on board today. I  
47 got an email from her today. A little bit of  
48 information on Sue. She has over 25 years of  
49 experience working in Alaska with U.S. Fish and  
50

1 Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. She  
2 first went to work for OSM and Fish and Wildlife  
3 Service in 1989 when the Subsistence Program consisted  
4 of just two people.

5  
6 After leaving OSM in 2000, Sue went to  
7 work in other areas within the Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service, including as the Congressional and Native  
9 American Liaison and Endangered Species Coordinator in  
10 Alaska and the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration  
11 Division Chief in Region 8, which is down in California  
12 and Nevada.

13  
14 She has over 30 years of Federal  
15 experience. She has a master's degree in natural  
16 resource policy from the University of Alaska Fairbanks  
17 and a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from  
18 Humboldt State University. Most recently Susan comes  
19 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the  
20 director of the Alaska Operations Office.

21  
22 Sue says that she enjoyed her time in  
23 the Subsistence Program and is very happy to be coming  
24 back. Please join us in welcoming Sue back to OSM.

25  
26 Since the fall 2019 Council meetings  
27 there have been a number of staffing changes at OSM.  
28 Tom Evans, one of our wildlife biologists, retired.  
29 While another wildlife biologist, Megan Klosterman,  
30 left OSM for a position with the National Park Service  
31 in North Dakota. Our Budget Analyst Durand Tyler took  
32 a promotion with a new Joint Administrative Operations  
33 Division or JAO. Even in his new position Durand has  
34 continued to help arrange travel arrangements and other  
35 logistics for the winter 2020 Council meetings.

36  
37 OSM Executive Secretary Pam Raygor left  
38 for a promotion at the Bureau of Safety and  
39 Environmental Enforcement. Our Pathways anthropologist  
40 student, Kristin Bremer, left to finish her master's  
41 degree. Jared Stone, a fisheries biologist for the  
42 Fisheries Division, took a promotion with Alaska Fish  
43 and Wildlife Marine Mammals program.

44  
45 With all these departures OSM staffing  
46 was down about 40 percent. The good news is that OSM  
47 filled four vacancies over the past two months. Tina  
48 Baker took a lateral transfer from the Joint  
49 Administration Operations Office to become the Office

50

1 of Subsistence Management Administrative Secretary.  
2 Michelle St. Peters returned to OSM after working for  
3 the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program for  
4 about a month to resume her duties as the Grants and  
5 Agreements Specialist. While Sabrina Schmidt and  
6 Catherine Avery were selected to fill two vacant  
7 administrative assistant positions.  
8

9 With these new arrivals OSM is still  
10 down about 35 percent. However, by the end of the  
11 calendar year we hope to fill at least three to four  
12 additional vacancies. OSM is currently waiting on  
13 Human Resources at Fish and Wildlife Service to  
14 advertise one Fishery Biologist position and the  
15 Anthropology and Council Coordination supervisor  
16 positions, leaving us down about 28 percent.  
17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19

20 I'd be happy to answer any questions  
21 that you have.  
22

23 Thank you.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks. Any  
26 questions for OSM.  
27

28 (No comments)  
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In terms of  
31 recruiting, I know there were solicitations for  
32 nominations for these vacant seats on the North Slope.  
33 Is there any update that you can provide as to filling  
34 of any of those? I know we're closed right now until  
35 the fall period. Is there an expectation that  
36 something will happen soon?  
37

38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Real quickly.  
39 Basically the Federal Board submits recommendations to  
40 the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. Again, as  
41 noted last fall, there were recommendations for  
42 appointments of 42 incumbents and new applicants to the  
43 10 Councils. Again, one of those 10 Councils is the  
44 North Slope Council.  
45

46 Basically Washington D.C. makes the  
47 decisions on who gets appointed. Ultimately 22  
48 appointments were made including the reappointments for  
49 the North Slope Council. You're currently at seven  
50



1 Council members and we're working with what was  
2 decided.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there any  
7 direction as to whether seven will be the normal for  
8 going forward?

9

10 MR. KRON: Again, we submit  
11 recommendations, the Federal Subsistence Board submits  
12 our recommendations. Our hope, with adequate numbers  
13 of nominations, our hope would be to get the North  
14 Slope Council back to 10. We're optimistic that with  
15 the education that has occurred during this past cycle  
16 that that can happen. Again, we do not have any  
17 control over the final decisions.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All  
22 right. Is there any other report on behalf of OSM?

23

24 MR. KRON: No, that was it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing  
27 no additional questions for OSM, thank you for the  
28 update.

29

30 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to item  
33 12, future meeting dates.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. This is Eva.  
36 Maybe if we could just check and see if anyone from the  
37 North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management  
38 was able to join us on the phone before we move on.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. Wildlife  
41 Department, you're on the spot, North Slope Borough  
42 wildlife Department report, your agencies.

43

44 (No response)

45

46 MS. PATTON: Just checking to see if  
47 Brian Person was able to reconnect.

48

49 (No response)

50

1 MS. PATTON: All right. Sounds like  
2 not. We'll definitely try to connect with them for our  
3 next meeting. We can move on to future meeting dates.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. Do we have a  
6 calendar somewhere?

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
9 You'll find your fall meeting calendar on Page 15 and  
10 16 of your meeting books. We'll first look at the fall  
11 2020 meeting dates and location.

12  
13 Currently the North Slope Council had  
14 selected to meet August 18th and 19th. I might just  
15 make a recommendation given the uncertainty with  
16 Covid-19 and travel restrictions, uncertainty about how  
17 long those restrictions will remain in place. There  
18 might be a better opportunity for the Council to meet  
19 in person if the Council scheduled the fall meeting for  
20 a later date.

21  
22 I know the Council likes to alternate  
23 between meeting prior to the fall whaling season and  
24 meeting after the fall whaling season. Just for  
25 thought, there might be more opportunity to actually  
26 meet in person if the meeting occurred a little later  
27 in the fall to get over all the restrictions regarding  
28 Covid-19 right now.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. What's  
31 the wish of the Council to suggest a meeting date later  
32 in the fall. If I'm going to be fishing, I'm usually  
33 at my spot somewhere around September 10 and I've been  
34 known to return home from my spot around October 15.  
35 The past few years that's fluctuated quite heavily.

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. Is  
38 there.....

39  
40 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

43  
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I think with all  
45 this going on and we have several months, this is  
46 April, I guess we can't see the future of this virus  
47 that's going on, Covid-19, can we make it at the  
48 discretion of our Madame Coordinator and if we can do  
49 it in August, let's do it in August, but if we can't we  
50

1 can play it by ear. She can contact us and make  
2 arrangements for our next meeting.  
3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. This is  
5 Eva. Yes, I think that would be an option if the  
6 Council wants to remain with the August meeting and see  
7 if there is an opportunity to meet in person in August.  
8 It might be helpful to elect an alternate later date.  
9

10 The program can only support two  
11 meetings occurring simultaneously. Right now the  
12 window of time that is open for the North Slope to meet  
13 would be the week of September 27 and October 18th,  
14 although AFN occurs at the end of that week, October  
15 22nd through 24th. And the week of November 1st.  
16 Those are kind of the three weeks that are open later  
17 in the season where we could reschedule the North Slope  
18 to meet if needed.  
19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said November  
21 1st. It's on -- let me check here.  
22

23 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry, it would be the  
24 week of November 2nd or the week of October 19th or the  
25 week of September 28th.  
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think if we do  
28 November 2nd and then if there's an opportunity that's  
29 advantageous that might be sooner, we just schedule it  
30 for the latest. Allow us to do all of our summer and  
31 fall fishing and hunting and then target November 2nd.  
32 But if there's an opportunity somewhere in August, then  
33 you'll just let us know.  
34

35 MS. PATTON: Sure, that would be fine.  
36 We can keep that August date and see how things  
37 transpire and then reschedule to that week of November  
38 2nd if it's looking like we're not going to be able to  
39 meet in person.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Are we thinking two  
42 days?  
43

44 MS. PATTON: Yes, two days.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
47 the Council. I think November 2 and 3 as tentative  
48 dates. Subject to change by consultation from Eva.  
49  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Another recommendation if  
2 I may, Council. This is Eva. Because of Steve's  
3 travel coming from Point Hope, there are direct flights  
4 to Barrow from Point Hope on Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
5 If the meeting is held on a Wednesday/Thursday, that  
6 allows Steve to travel directly. It's a long ways  
7 around otherwise.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are you suggesting  
10 the 3rd and 4th?

11  
12 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 Actually the 4th and 5th and then Steve could travel on  
14 Tuesday November 3rd for the meeting.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm just trying to  
17 figure. I think Steve is also on the Assembly and he  
18 might already be in Barrow at that point.

19  
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Steve, can you  
21 please remind us. Are the Assembly meetings still  
22 occurring on the second Tuesday of the month?

23  
24 MR. OOMITTUK: I think it's the first  
25 Tuesday. Usually we have a workshop on Monday and a  
26 meeting on Tuesday. Not every time we have a workshop,  
27 but the majority of the time we've been having a  
28 workshop on Monday and regular meeting on Tuesday.  
29 Usually I try to head home by Wednesday, but if we're  
30 going to have a meeting in that time period, I can stay  
31 up here two days for the meeting. I'd just need to get  
32 back to Point Hope is all I would need.

33  
34 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you for that  
35 feedback.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So sounds  
38 like November 4 and 5. Anybody want to make that into  
39 a motion.

40  
41 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I'll make a motion  
42 to.....

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Was that Earl Williams?

45  
46 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

47  
48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Earl.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor  
2 for November 4 and November 5 for our fall Regional  
3 Advisory Council meeting. It sounds like that would be  
4 in Barrow.

5  
6 MR. OOMITTUK: Second that motion.  
7 Point Hope.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any discussion.  
10 Seconded by Steve.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those in favor of  
17 scheduling our fall 2020 Regional Advisory Council  
18 meeting on November 4 and November 5 signify by saying  
19 aye.

20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say  
24 nay.

25  
26 MR. OOMITTUK: Nay.

27  
28 (No opposing votes)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. That  
31 is our tentative schedule.

32  
33 MR. OOMITTUK: April Fools.

34  
35 (Laughter)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, somebody had to  
38 throw one in. Anything else, Eva?

39  
40 MS. PATTON: We do need to select the  
41 winter 2021 meeting. If you look on Page 16 of your  
42 meeting book there's a 2021 calendar there. Since the  
43 North Slope RAC is the last Council to meet, all the  
44 other Councils have already selected their winter  
45 meeting dates. I'll let you know the windows that are  
46 open.

47  
48 The week of February 22nd is available  
49 that whole week and the week of March 15th and the week  
50

1 of March 22nd. Essentially those three weeks are open  
2 and available for the North Slope Council to meet.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
5 the Council.

6  
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. President, I suggest  
8 February because March is a busy month for the majority  
9 of the people with all the ball games, March Madness,  
10 spring break.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, you got me on  
13 that one.

14  
15 MR. OOMITTUK: So maybe February. You  
16 suggested what, the 22nd, is what you stated?

17  
18 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct. The  
19 week of the 22nd is open, uh-huh.

20  
21 MS. ITTA: I'm okay with February.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It sounds like  
24 February. Do we want to make that into a motion. Is  
25 it February 23 and 24 maybe?

26  
27 MS. PATTON: Again, Mr. Chair.....

28  
29 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

30  
31 MS. PATTON: Just to touch base again  
32 on the travel for Steve in particular. If it's a  
33 Wednesday/Thursday he can travel direct at least one  
34 way into Barrow.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So 25 and 26?

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Or 24 and 25.

39  
40 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair, 24  
41 and 25.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, 24 and 25.

44  
45 MS. ITTA: Second it.

46  
47 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any  
50

1 discussion.

2

3

MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those in favor of scheduling our winter 2021 Regional Advisory Council meeting tentatively in Barrow, I guess, February 24 and 25, signify by saying aye to approve that.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, you've got dates. All right. Item 13 is closing comments. I'm going to start with Kaktovik.

MR. REXFORD: I don't have anything to add. Quyanaqpak.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Kaktovik. Anaktuvuk Pass.

MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have one at the moment. Thanks for inviting me.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Welcome, Earl. We'll go to Nuiqsut.

MS. ITTA: Good afternoon. No comments. Thank you to everybody.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha. We'll go to Atqasuk.

(No response)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm pretty sure Wanda is busy with kids. We'll go to Steve at Point Hope.

MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you all. Sorry I was late.

I'd like to welcome to the board Anaktuvuk Pass.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Steve.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Peter Williams, yeah.  
4 We still have some seats to be filled, but I thank you  
5 for this day. Be sure to wash your hands, do the old  
6 nod shake, you know. I guess we've got to be careful  
7 nowadays. Hope and pray for this will pass by and we  
8 all will meet again under better standards.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 Until we meet again. Happy hunting.  
13 Spring is in the air. Good luck to all whaling  
14 communities. We'll see you guys next year. And thank  
15 you to all the departments for listening to our  
16 concerns and responding. Our way of life is very  
17 important to us. We want to ensure that we continue  
18 and don't run into obstacles as we've always done.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 Have a good evening.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Quyanaq,  
25 Point Hope. Always good to hear from you Steve.  
26 Myself, I thank everybody for participating and welcome  
27 Anaktuvuk. It's good to have you representing your  
28 community. Thank you, Earl. Also wash your hands,  
29 clean your house, disinfect, social distancing. Be  
30 safe. It's better to do more than be sorry. Protect  
31 our families. Make sure everybody is home. Make sure  
32 when they go out know where they went or who they're  
33 visiting.

34

35 With that, thank you so much everybody.  
36 I will go to item 14.

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Motion to adjourn, Mr.  
39 Chair.

40

41 MS. ITTA: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion to adjourn and  
44 seconded.

45

46 Any discussion.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50



1 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.  
2  
3 MS. ITTA: Call for question.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.  
6  
7 The question has been called for. All  
8 those in favor of adjourning our meeting signify by  
9 saying aye.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 (No opposing votes)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bye.  
16  
17 (Laughter)  
18  
19 MS. ITTA: Thank you all.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, everyone.  
22 Thanks so much.  
23  
24 MR. WILLIAMS: Good night.  
25  
26 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Eva.  
27  
28 MR. OOMITTUK: Take care.  
29  
30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, everyone.  
31  
32 (Off record)  
33  
34 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 1st day of April;

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th day of April 2020.

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22