

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

2
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 06/03/2011)

4
5 (On record - 8:370 a.m.)

6
7 CHAIRMAN RABE: Good morning everybody.
8 We're back on the record. It's 8:37 on Friday, June
9 3rd. This is an Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
10 Council meeting continuing, day two. Where we left off
11 yesterday we were in a discussion about the consent
12 agenda, which is item D under new business and regions
13 that wanted to withdraw from that. We had to end the
14 meeting at that point in time.

15
16 As we resume the meeting this morning,
17 Myron is not able to be here today, so I think there's
18 a question in terms of who is going to represent the
19 Native Caucus in terms of a voting member. Does the
20 group want to have a caucus to appoint somebody to the
21 voting role for the balance of the meeting?

22
23 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, if that is
24 needed, then maybe we'll take a quick break for a
25 Native caucus to appoint somebody as an alternate.
26 Maybe this should be a permanent alternate position or
27 are we just picking somebody for temporary.

28
29 MR. ALCORN: I'd say it's up to you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN RABE: With that, all of the
32 non-caucus members will leave the room and we'll
33 reconvene when we're called back.

34
35 (Off record)

36
37 (On record)

38
39 CHAIRMAN RABE: It's 9:20. We're back
40 on the record. Tim, can you talk?

41
42 MR. ANDREW: I'm sorry?

43
44 CHAIRMAN RABE: I was just going to ask
45 -- I assume since you're sitting up here that you were
46 appointed the position for vote for the group.

47
48 MR. ANDREW: No. Molly.

49
50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Oh, okay. I shouldn't

1 assume anything. Molly, would you like to report out.

2

3 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Molly, BBNA. The Native
4 Caucus appointed me as an alternate for Myron Naneng
5 for the duration of this meeting.

6

7 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Thank you. Then
8 continuing on with the agenda, where we left off
9 yesterday when we had to break at 4:30 was we were at
10 the point in the consent agenda to ask if there were
11 other regions that requested to be withdrawn from the
12 consent agenda. At this point we have AVCP that has
13 requested to be withdrawn from that agenda. Are there
14 any others?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Hearing none. Do we
19 have a motion to adopt?

20

21 MR. PETERSON: Mr. Chair. I so move to
22 adopt the consent agenda.

23

24 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have a second?

25

26 MR. ANDREW: Second.

27

28 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a motion and a
29 second. Is there any discussion. Tim.

30

31 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
32 just to note on the record prior to the vote that AVCP
33 has chosen to withdraw from the consent agenda. Thank
34 you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Tim. Rick.

37

38 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Sun'aq. I
39 actually looked through the paperwork and I don't have
40 a copy of that consent agenda.

41

42 CHAIRMAN RABE: As part of the agenda
43 itself, the listing of the item, is that what you're
44 referring to?

45

46 MR. ROWLAND: I'm trying to figure out
47 what it is that's being voted on.

48

49 CHAIRMAN RABE: Oh. Doug.

50

1 MR. ALCORN: I can answer that. Rick,
2 the consent agenda is the agreement that the Council
3 made years back that if there's no change being offered
4 by the region, then we would adopt the current year's
5 regulations as a recommendation to go forward to the
6 Service Regulation Committee. So the consent agenda is
7 -- it would essentially be the regulations in the
8 booklet that we have, this booklet here. So basically
9 it's sending this forward as a regulation.

10
11 If I can take liberty with what I heard
12 Myron say yesterday, the reason he can't do that is
13 because it has in it the section that has required
14 licenses. Based on my explanation of this is in there
15 as a courtesy and a service to the hunting community
16 that this is also a requirement under law, but it is
17 not part of the regulatory process, which is what Fred
18 explained yesterday. This requirement for the Duck
19 Stamp is not part of the regulations package, so it is
20 really not part of the consent agenda. It's a separate
21 law.

22 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. I'll have to check
23 into that. I apologize for our confusion on our part,
24 but I'll have to abstain to check into that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick, I'm not sure if I
27 understand what you mean you have to abstain.

28
29 MR. ROWLAND: Well, if there's a vote,
30 then I won't be able to vote because I'm unfamiliar
31 with that process. I just want to check into it as far
32 as consenting or supporting or not supporting. So I'm
33 just stating.

34
35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

36
37 MR. ALCORN: Then I guess I would ask
38 the question as a representative from the Kodiak
39 region, looking then at the regulations that are
40 described, page 8 of the regulations, the question then
41 would be are you not consenting to those regulations?

42
43 MR. ROWLAND: I'm saying that I have to
44 have discussions, because I'm one individual, with the
45 other individuals that came here to find out what
46 transpired prior to all of this information. So I'm
47 saying I'm uneducated about this. Because I'm
48 uneducated, then I'm not supporting or supporting, just
49 abstaining. So I appreciate it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick, in terms of the
2 procedure, if I have this correct, unless withdrawn
3 from the list that would be voted on here shortly and
4 there was already a call of the question, although it's
5 not acknowledged yet, then Kodiak would be included as
6 a continuation of this year's regulations as the
7 regulations that would be going forward. So it's not
8 clear to me what actions you're asking in terms of
9 helping you clarify to be able to either participate as
10 part of the consent agenda or to withdraw from it. Are
11 you asking for a caucus to talk to the rest of the
12 members here?

13

14 MR. ROWLAND: No. Then if it's right
15 here, right now, and I have to make a decision whether
16 I support this or not, is that the question you're
17 asking me?

18

19 CHAIRMAN RABE: That's the proposal
20 that is in front of the group, is to adopt the 2011
21 regulations in that book as the recommended regulations
22 to the Service for 2012.

23

24 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. If I have to make
25 a decision on that, I would not support any closures in
26 this area. I would not support this. Simple as that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN RABE: So then I think the
29 proper interpretation is that Kodiak is also requesting
30 to be withdrawn from the consent agenda because you're
31 asking for changes in what's written in that book in
32 terms of regulation.

33

34 MR. ROWLAND: Well, if that's how
35 you're wording it, then word however you want.

36

37 CHAIRMAN RABE: Well, I'm just trying
38 to seek understanding so that we have things on the
39 record correctly in terms of what the intent of Kodiak
40 is relative to regulation package going forward to the
41 Service for consideration for 2012.

42

43 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. So if that's the
44 question you're asking, whether I support it or don't
45 support it, then Kodiak area does not support it
46 because this closure here quite possibly is a reduction
47 of subsistence use. So that's where we're at.

48

49 CHAIRMAN RABE: Are you referring to
50 the 30-day closure?

1 MR. ROWLAND: I'm talking about Page 8.

2

3 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

4

5 MR. ALCORN: I don't know if this will
6 help understand the reason for the closure, but your
7 predecessor actually recommended this closure because
8 there were a lot of transient Coast Guard employees and
9 other residents of the city of Kodiak that were under
10 this regulation entitled to hunt if they were a one-
11 year resident or longer. Because that was not part of
12 the traditional hunt, the option was to close that
13 roaded system and it's described there in order to
14 avoid that confusion and conflict and that was the
15 reason it was in there. So I'm not saying that to
16 suggest that you change your mind. I'm just giving you
17 some history on why that closure was put in there.

18

19 MR. ROWLAND: Thanks, Doug. I'm aware
20 of that topic and I've had discussions with elders and
21 they were confused as to why that happened. That not
22 only closure occurred related to waterfowl harvest, but
23 also egg collecting in that area too and they weren't
24 supportive of that. That's one of the other reasons
25 why I think it's appropriate now to withdraw consent.

26

27 CHAIRMAN RABE: So to be clear, Rick,
28 you are asking that Kodiak be withdrawn from the group
29 as part of the consent and then request different
30 regulations be considered. Procedurally, I'll have to
31 defer to Doug in terms of what we do under
32 circumstances like that.

33

34 MR. ROWLAND: Sure, that's great. Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

37

38 MR. ALCORN: I'll defer to Molly.

39

40 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

41

42 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I guess my question
43 would be then Kodiak would be out of compliance with
44 regulations for 2011?

45

46 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

47

48 MR. ALCORN: Well, it's not out of
49 compliance. The Fish and Wildlife Service, working as
50 staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, has

1 responsibility to establish regulations for any
2 waterfowl that will occur in the subsequent year.
3 Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act bird harvest or
4 harvest of those birds that are listed under that Act
5 that are considered migratory, they are closed by
6 default.

7
8 That law and that treaty with Canada
9 back in 1916, the countries agreed to close harvest of
10 those birds unless the governments took action to open
11 them annually. So the Secretary of the Interior is
12 given that responsibility every year. So every year we
13 have to take action to open them where they are closed
14 by default. So that now, through this co-management
15 process, we are charged with taking action to open the
16 opportunities to hunt for subsistence purposes during
17 what was formerly the closed season under the Treaty
18 Act.

19
20 The Treaty Act said that hunting can
21 occur from September 1st through March 10th. From
22 March 11th through August 31st no hunting will occur in
23 either country. In 1996, when the Treaty was amended
24 and ratified in 1997, it gave the Secretary the
25 authority to promulgate regulations that allowed
26 harvest of birds only in Alaska from March 11th through
27 August 31st.

28
29 So the action that we're taking as a
30 part of this process is to recommend regulations for
31 that formerly closed season. So we're recommending to
32 the Service that based on these regulations that we've
33 worked out over the years that these regions be open
34 for harvest of birds that we've listed and there are, I
35 think, 92 species of birds collectively throughout the
36 state that are open for harvest, which are otherwise
37 closed.

38
39 So if Kodiak abstains from this action,
40 the Service has two choices. One is not to open for
41 that region or the other is to open with a unilateral
42 authority and responsibility that we have. So the co-
43 management process was designed so that we get input
44 from the regional representative. It's by design that
45 we sit at this table and we have these discussions
46 every year.

47
48 Without the input of the region, then
49 the Service has a decision to make. Do we not open it,
50 therefore keeping the entire region closed, or do we

1 open it for whatever input that we have and whatever
2 information that we have, biological or social, to
3 establish regulations that we believe are reasonable
4 that will accomplish the two goals that we've been
5 charged with under that amended treaty.

6
7 One goal is to perpetuate subsistence
8 traditions and culture and the other goal is to
9 conserve birds. So we have to make that call. We
10 would rather do it with you all at the table. We would
11 rather do it with your consent and your input. So
12 that's why I mentioned to Myron yesterday it puts us
13 between a rock and a hard place because we would rather
14 not invoke our unilateral authority. We would rather
15 have the input from the Council.

16
17 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you, Doug. I
18 appreciate that. I hope that you would make decisions
19 on it and also understand that there's a government to
20 government tribal consultation requirement by the
21 Federal government of the United States. Knowing that,
22 we would appreciate not only for the Sun'aq Tribe but
23 additional tribes on Kodiak. If there's no input from
24 the AMBCC, then the Service would communicate
25 individually with each tribe. Qu yana.

26
27 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

28
29 MR. ALCORN: That takes us outside of
30 this process and certainly consultation is something
31 that the Secretary is saying that we must do and we are
32 in the process of writing policy, but we don't have
33 policy right now. We are still operating under current
34 policy for that and the current policy is that we will
35 consult with tribes when we are affecting a resource
36 that they own and migratory birds are not considered a
37 resource that a tribe owns. It's a public resource
38 owned by all of us.

39
40 Also the policy says that we will
41 consult if we are affecting lands owned by the tribe.
42 By our definition, this wouldn't qualify because we're
43 not affecting the land. The third is your ability to
44 self determine, to self govern. Those are the three
45 conditions under the current policy that we consult
46 with tribes. So when that policy is revised under this
47 current administration, then we'll implement that
48 policy. At this point, consulting is not required
49 under that policy. So what we have done, Rick, in the
50 procedural regulations, we have cited this

1 co-management process as a de facto consultation. You,
2 as a representative of that region, part of your grant
3 agreement is to consult with those tribal
4 organizations, those villages, and be a representative
5 for those throughout this deliberative process that we
6 have.

7
8 I recognize you're in a very difficult
9 position because you're new and you're trying to come
10 up to speed on all this and approving this consent
11 agenda without understanding the history of it is a
12 very difficult place for you to be in, but that will
13 also place us in a difficult place as well. So it's
14 unfortunate that you weren't briefed before you sat
15 down at the microphone.

16
17 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim, I'd like to
18 recognize you in just a second, but before we do that
19 I'd like to ask for a clarification in terms of the
20 Council procedures and this may go to Doug as having
21 been here the longest and helped develop some of that.
22 If a group withdraws from the consent agenda, is there
23 a procedural opportunity to consider whatever the
24 changes are at this meeting that are at issue for the
25 reason that they're withdrawing? Doug.

26
27 MR. ALCORN: I think if it's a
28 technical issue, then it does not allow for any
29 technical analysis, so our process that's on the next
30 page after our agenda says that the Alaska Department
31 of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the
32 Technical Committee will present their analysis. Then
33 we have public input and then we have discussion and we
34 vote.

35
36 So if there were a counter-proposal on
37 the floor right now, we would -- Fish and Wildlife
38 Service would have to ask for a recess and to have some
39 opportunity for some adequate review of a technical
40 proposal. If it's a policy level proposal, then I
41 would have to vet that with my policymakers, which are
42 the executive managers of the region. It would cause
43 us to have a necessary recess if the Service was going
44 to take action on a particular counter-proposal.

45
46 The reason for that is we have that
47 process that I explained yesterday. We have a proposal
48 submittal process a period of time when we submit from
49 November 1 to December 15 and that allows for all of us
50 to have that opportunity to review through the winter

1 prior to the spring meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN RABE: So did that help, Rick,
4 in terms of understanding what would follow if Kodiak
5 withdraws from the consent agenda, what the options are
6 in terms of the specific concern that you've expressed
7 with regards to the regulation closure area?

8

9 MR. ROWLAND: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim.

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
14 just like to respond to Doug's comment about the birds
15 not being owned by this group or by anybody. They're
16 owned by everybody. Although the tribes do not own the
17 birds, the birds make up a huge contribution to our
18 food security, our subsistence way of life, to our
19 dances, to the very fabric of our communities.
20 Whatever regulations this body adopts or whatever
21 action the Fish and Wildlife Service takes in reference
22 to birds has a significant impact on our way of life,
23 thus the tribes have to be consulted. Even though we
24 don't own the resource outright, it does affect our way
25 of life.

26

27 The other comment I'd like to make is
28 the Service fulfilling its tribal consultation
29 requirement through this body as a de facto
30 consultation process is totally outside the realm of
31 the tribal consultation policy because we are not a
32 tribe as far as I know. This body is made up of
33 regional representatives that work or are part of our
34 regional tribal consortium. Although we may be
35 individual tribal members, but our tribes have not
36 delegated the authority for us to act on their behalf
37 as far as tribal consultation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy and then we'll
40 come to Molly.

41

42 MS. TAHBONE: Regarding the special
43 action process, is that a way for them to be able to
44 forward their concerns?

45

46 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'm not sure if I
47 understand special action process, Sandy.

48

49 MS. TAHBONE: Fred might be able to
50 provide information on that.

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: As I recall about the
2 special action request when the Council discussed it,
3 it was when there was some certain things that needed
4 immediate attention from a region that they could
5 submit a special action request for the Council to
6 consider. I don't think we put any timeframes on that
7 other than there was a regulation concern or a
8 conservation concern that it would submit a proposal,
9 but I don't recall any time constraints.

10
11 CHAIRMAN RABE: Does that help, Sandy,
12 to answer. I'm not sure that that's a yes or a no.

13
14 MS. TAHBONE: Well, the question I had
15 was would they be able to submit a special action
16 request and it would be outside of our -- we do have
17 the timeframe for our regular proposal cycle, but then
18 a special action request is outside of that cycle,
19 regulations that need to be addressed outside of it.
20 So I would assume this would fall within that process.

21
22 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have an expert
23 that is willing to answer Sandy's question? I'm
24 certainly not that person. Fred, do you -- Donna, will
25 you come up.

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst with
28 AMBCC Staff. The way that was written was the special
29 action does have to be -- the deadline for it is the
30 spring meeting, so the special action would have to be
31 submitted before the spring meeting. That's the way
32 it's written. I don't have it right in front of me,
33 but that's how I remember it being written. That was
34 the stipulation, is it has to be received before or
35 during the spring meeting.

36
37 CHAIRMAN RABE: So, Donna, I guess a
38 follow-up question then. Was that intended to be a
39 process that fell between the normal proposal process
40 then and the meeting? I'm not sure why it was
41 established by the Council. It wasn't during my tenure
42 and I'm not familiar with it.

43
44 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, it was set up --
45 there was a lot of disagreement when the process was
46 set up, but the process was basically set up where
47 extenuating circumstances, a person couldn't get the
48 proposal together during the proposal period and they
49 needed extra time. Ideally we recommend submit it as
50 early as possible, obviously before the spring meeting.

1 From what I remember how it was written was it needs to
2 be presented before -- the deadline was this meeting
3 for any requested changes.

4
5 MR. ALCORN: I have a question, Mr.
6 Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN RABE: Yes, Doug.

9
10 MR. ALCORN: I don't even know where
11 it's written. Is it written in our bylaws? I'm trying
12 to find that special action.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: It was in transcripts.
15 It was a voted action from what I remember from several
16 meetings ago. I just remember writing up that meeting.
17 That's the only reason I remember the details on it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

20
21 MS. CHYTHLOOK: This is Molly. I guess
22 mine is just a comment as to how I would deal with the
23 objections, withdrawal from the consensus agenda. I'm
24 glad we're going through this exercise because this I
25 think is new to us. During our regional meetings with
26 our representatives is where it seemed like something
27 like this would start and then be discussed within our
28 regional bodies because our regional representatives
29 are from different -- within Bristol Bay different
30 areas. So we would -- it would be on our agenda item
31 and discussed and that request would come from that
32 body to bring to here, is I guess how I would deal with
33 this because I don't know if I could do it any other
34 way to withdraw a regulation information from my
35 region.

36
37 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. So if I
38 understand procedures correctly and we use procedures
39 to maintain some order and semblance in terms of how we
40 work our way through these issues, is that the rules
41 the Council has adopted and we're discussing now
42 suggest to me that groups that are withdrawn from the
43 consent agenda are basically withdrawing from having
44 anything specific in the regulation package going
45 forward. There's not an alternate proposal in the case
46 of Kodiak or AVCP that is in the agenda to be discussed
47 or adopted by the group in substitution. Is that a
48 reasonable interpretation of where we're at at this
49 point in time?

50

1 Doug, do you have a.....

2

3 MR. ALCORN: Well, the way I understand
4 it is AVCP has withdrawn their support and Sun'aq Tribe
5 has withdrawn their support, so there are 10 regions
6 that are still supportive of the consent agenda. The
7 action -- we have a motion and second to approve it
8 with one amendment that's been offered on the table.
9 So that's the action for the Council now. As I've
10 described, then the Service Regulation Committee will
11 have to take up the two outstanding or withstanding
12 regions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: All right. We had a
15 call for the question. Before acknowledging that, I
16 just want to ask if there's any other need for
17 discussion before we vote on this.

18

19 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Peter.

22

23 MR. DEVINE: Can I just speak on the
24 special action request form. I think where that came
25 from was a few years back we had an incident in Cold
26 Bay. We wanted to put in a closure period so that
27 subsistence wasn't overlapping with the sport hunt
28 because of an incident where some hunters went out and
29 shot a bunch of birds, the birds end up in the dump and
30 we didn't have that proposal in before the spring
31 meeting, but once we got here I submitted it and I
32 think that's where that word came up for that special
33 request. So I don't know why it's not written in
34 somewhere where we could use it if we need to, but we
35 have in the past passed something at this meeting that
36 wasn't even on the agenda before.

37

38 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you. There
39 haven't been any discussion that I'm aware of that
40 suggests that there's any opposition to the consent
41 agenda. Is it more appropriate to do this with a
42 formal vote or is it.....

43

44 MR. ALCORN: Call the question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN RABE:to call the
47 question? Okay.

48

49 MR. ARMSTRONG: Could we have a short
50 at ease here. I'm not sure how we're going to operate

1 here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do you want to stand
4 down for five minutes?

5

6 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Let's stand down
9 for five minutes so we can get procedurally things
10 squared away here.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN RABE: Council is back in
17 session. At this point my understanding of where our
18 discussions have taken us is that we have a consent
19 agenda where two regions, AVCP and Sun'ag Tribe of
20 Kodiak have withdrawn from the consent agenda, leaving
21 the other 10 regions as part of the consent agenda. We
22 have a call for the question and I think with the
23 discussion that has occurred, it's appropriate at this
24 point in time to ask if there is any opposition to the
25 consent agenda.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN RABE: Hearing none, the
30 consent agenda is adopted. At this point, is there any
31 additional new business. That is the last item that's
32 listed under the agenda for new business? Is there any
33 other new business? Sandy.

34

35 MS. TAHBONE: Were we going to request
36 suspension of the rules to put on the table?

37

38 CHAIRMAN RABE: That's what I'm waiting
39 -- that's why I asked the question.

40

41 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chairman. I move for
42 suspension of the rules to discuss the two regions that
43 have pulled from the consent agenda.

44

45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do I have a second for
46 that motion.

47

48 MR. DEVINE: I second that motion.

49

50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Peter. Is

1 there any discussion on the motion and the second to
2 suspend the rule of the day.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN RABE: Is there any objection?

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN RABE: The rule is suspended.

11

12 MR. ANDREW: Which one do you want to
13 take first?

14

15 CHAIRMAN RABE: Whoever wants to.....

16

17 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. I guess we'll go ahead and tackle the AVCP
19 portion. I'm just going to make my statement.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Again, procedurally,
22 and I don't want to get too hung up on procedure, is it
23 most appropriate here to then ask the question what
24 agenda items we want and build the agenda at this point
25 and then go back and discuss the agenda? Would that be
26 the more appropriate thing to do? Okay. So without
27 going into specific motions, that seems like a
28 reasonable approach to everybody? If everybody agrees,
29 then the request from the Chair is what other agenda
30 items do we have under new business now that we've
31 suspended the rule for the day. Tim, you have the
32 floor.

33

34 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. As far as I
35 understand, the motion to suspend the rules to discuss
36 the two regions and I chose to go forth with AVCP. I'm
37 not going to take very much time in discussing AVCP's
38 position. You've all heard what Myron had indicated
39 yesterday. To bring any type of resolution for the
40 reasons for AVCP's withdrawal is for AVCP to invite
41 perhaps people that have concerns, Doug and Fish and
42 Wildlife Service and perhaps anybody that's involved in
43 the Service Regulations Committee process to come and
44 meet with our Waterfowl Conservation Committee before
45 the time has come to present these things to the
46 Service Regulation Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN RABE: Just as a procedural
49 issue, I assume that the proper thing to do here is
50 that we have one request for an additional item, which

1 was inclusive of the two regions that had been
2 withdrawn from the consent agenda to have a discussion
3 about that. So that is one agenda item that has been
4 suggested. Are there any other agenda items? Then we
5 need to approve the modified agenda and then go back
6 onto the agenda, I think, to take any actions. Are
7 there any other agenda items now that we've suspended
8 the rule? Hearing none -- Sandy.

9

10 MS. TAHBONE: You keep looking at me
11 like I'm.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN RABE: Well, I'm just looking
14 at everybody. Anybody who's looking at me, I'll look
15 at you.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MS. TAHBONE: So I'm assuming there are
20 two additional agenda items that we will be bringing
21 forward. One is AVCP, the issues that they have with
22 their 2012 regulations, and the other is Kodiak with
23 their 2012 regulations, correct?

24

25 CHAIRMAN RABE: That's correct. I
26 think Tim put it into one and that's fine, but, yes, we
27 have those two areas that have been put forward as an
28 agenda change. Before we close this out I just wanted
29 to ask if there's anything else that needed to be
30 proposed as a change to the agenda. If there's nothing
31 else, is there any objection from the group to the
32 addition of that item to the agenda?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Hearing none, that is
37 adopted by the group. Do we have a procedural thing to
38 get back off the suspension of the rule here? Anybody
39 know? Fred?

40

41 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. I move to
42 unsuspend the suspension and back on to the rule of the
43 day with the amended two new items.

44

45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Doug. Do we
46 have a second to resume back to the agenda with that
47 modification?

48

49 MR. DEVINE: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay, we have a second.
2 Do we have any discussion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN RABE: Is there any objection
7 to resuming to the agenda now with that change?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN RABE: Hearing none, we're
12 back in the order with two new items under new
13 business. One an item related to Sun'aq Kodiak and the
14 other with AVCP. Who would like to start?

15
16 MR. ANDREW: Do I have to restate what
17 I said earlier?

18
19 CHAIRMAN RABE: You don't have to.

20
21 MR. ANDREW: I'd just like to refer to
22 my previous comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN RABE: I guess though as Chair
25 I have a question. We put those back on as agenda
26 items and my assumption was that there was an action on
27 the part of the Council was needed, the reason we put
28 those back on for discussion. Maybe that's not
29 correct. Is there anything from AVCP as a proposal
30 that you want to put forward because it's now an agenda
31 item?

32
33 MR. ANDREW: The only solution at this
34 point that I'm authorized to put forward is basically
35 what Myron had indicated yesterday, that if we are
36 going to move forward on anything as far as the AVCP
37 region to address the concerns that Myron had with our
38 regional body, then after that point we shall move
39 forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN RABE: From that I assume that
42 there's no voting action required for that new agenda
43 item. Sandy.

44
45 MS. TAHBONE: For the record, because
46 my understanding is we do not have 2012 regulations
47 before us for the AVCP region at this point.

48
49 CHAIRMAN RABE: As Doug has described
50 the process as he understands it, I think that's

1 correct. At this point, having withdrawn AVCP has
2 deferred to the Service with regards to whatever
3 actions in promulgating regulations occur. They
4 haven't proposed a particular set of regulations for
5 Council to consider. Sandy.

6

7 MS. TAHBONE: Would it be possible for
8 the AVCP representative to state the issues so we could
9 have it on the record at this point what needs to be
10 discussed in order to resolve their issues, in order
11 for regulations to move forward? I mean he said he
12 referred to Myron's statements yesterday.

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim.

15

16 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 don't really like to restate what Myron had said
18 yesterday, but I want to make a stab at it. If you
19 look at what has been sent out to our villages, this
20 publication that is issued by the U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife Service as part of the AMBCC, every one of us,
22 our names are on this regulation book or this guide, as
23 Doug had referred to it as a guide, our names and our
24 regions are here. It does say at the front AMBCC.
25 This is regulations for the subsistence hunt.

26

27 Contained in this is supposed to be
28 regulations of the AMBCC, but this is not. Page 4.
29 This is not a regulation of the AMBCC. This is placed
30 into this regulation book at the discretion of the U.S.
31 Fish and Wildlife Service. It was not us that placed
32 this law or regulation into this booklet and we cannot
33 continue to support the publication of this booklet
34 with this language in it because we didn't take any
35 action on this issue. Did we vote to put this in
36 there? Absolutely not. We weren't given that option.

37

38

39 This language was put in here as well
40 as -- I mean that indicates to us that the U.S. Fish
41 and Wildlife Service can put anything that they want
42 into this regulation book as they see fit. This is
43 supposed to be our publication. It was probably paid
44 for by AMBCC funds that were directed to AMBCC.
45 Although it's under the umbrella of the U.S. Fish and
46 Wildlife Service, we didn't have any say so. This is
47 not in the spirit of co-management in our opinion.
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Again, I'm not

1 hearing any motion for any action on the part of the
2 Council for this item at this time, correct?

3

4 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. I don't see
5 why we need a motion. I mean these two regions
6 withdrew. Now it's up to them and you guys to see what
7 the problem is and then to go through, submit another
8 proposal and that's how it's taken care of. I mean
9 there's nothing that needs to be voted on or done right
10 now. I mean the consent agenda has been approved with
11 the two withdrawals.

12

13 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Peter.
14 Kodiak, Rick, do you have something that you want to --
15 do you have a proposal to put forward relative to the
16 agenda item now that it's been added for your region?

17

18 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Sun'aq. There
19 are a number of different topics that could be
20 discussed related to this withdrawal. It would make
21 sense that once there's a discussion with elders and
22 reps in the Kodiak Archipelago region as to what is
23 appropriate for their specific village area and their
24 suggestions about the Kodiak Island road area closure,
25 it would be appropriate if, like previously discussed,
26 a letter was written about what would be most efficient
27 in the form of a proposal to create a system that will
28 not cause closures in the future and it would also
29 soothe the issues that the elders have discussed about
30 infringement upon egg collection times. So I'll be
31 recommending to the village reps that we have
32 discussions about what would be most appropriate for
33 hunting times, collection times, to be submitted to the
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

35

36 Then also along the lines of another
37 issue is that after the meeting last year the
38 representative prior -- I believe it was the spring
39 rep, Sun'aq rep, Johnny Reft, came back and said that
40 there was issues related to the Duck Stamp. That also
41 has to be discussed because there were inconsistencies
42 statewide about the procedures that had to be followed
43 and some were held to those standards and some were
44 not. So that will also be discussed, the Duck Stamp
45 issue. We'll have that in the form of a letter
46 submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife after the next
47 meeting of the village reps.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Thank you.
2 Again, with no proposals for action on the part of the
3 council for either of the two agenda items, but I think
4 your concerns were well articulated and heard by
5 everybody, including the Service in terms of the
6 reasons that the withdrawal from the consent agenda
7 occurred.

8
9 In terms of moving our meeting forward,
10 not hearing any proposals for those two agenda items, I
11 think we're done with new business at this point in
12 time. Unless there's any comment that I'm in error on
13 that, I think we'll move forward with item number 12,
14 which is the FY11-12 budget and grant updates, which
15 will be presented by AMBCC Staff. Fred?

16
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: I think Doug is.

18
19 CHAIRMAN RABE: Is Doug going to take
20 that?

21
22 MR. ALCORN: I will. Anybody not here
23 during the work session two days ago when I handed out
24 these budget documents? Does anybody need them?

25
26 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

29
30 MS. TAHBONE: I need a little bit of
31 clarification regarding the previous agenda item. So
32 it's my understanding now at this point the
33 recommendations from AMBCC regarding the consent agenda
34 will be just those 10 regions that did not.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN RABE: Withdraw.

37
38 MS. TAHBONE: So we will not be
39 recommending any regulations for AVCP or Kodiak for
40 2012, correct?

41
42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Let me try and restate
43 what I think we have done. That is that there are 10
44 regions that have remained part of the consent agenda,
45 which are all in agreement that the regulations that
46 exist within those regions for 2011 are the
47 recommendation for the same regulations in 2012.

48
49 The two regions that have withdrawn
50 from the consent agenda and have not put forward any

1 substitute proposals at this point fall to the Service
2 to make a decision in terms of what regulations they
3 will put forward to the SRC for potentially inclusion
4 as regulations for next year. There is no specific
5 recommendation from this body with regards to those two
6 regions. Doug.

7 MR. ALCORN: Just for the record, I
8 don't take the lack of a proposal or recommendation as
9 an endorsement for no opening or no regulations at all.
10 So it's not like a default to a closed season. We'll
11 have to consider what makes the most sense for
12 perpetuation of the subsistence season next year.

13
14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. So, Doug, you
15 have the floor.

16
17 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 This is a discussion that we took up in the work
19 session and I will be brief. I've handed out two
20 documents and the purpose of these two documents is to
21 explain that we have two converging budget lines. One
22 is that our costs go up and the second line is that our
23 actual budget is declining. For 10 years I've held the
24 AMBCC's budget fairly constant.

25
26 As manager of three different divisions
27 and having to bear these reduced budget allocations,
28 I'm no longer able to maintain a flat budget for the
29 AMBCC. There will necessarily be some reductions. I
30 don't know what the magnitude of those reductions are.
31 But the reason that I'm handing these two documents out
32 are to explain why those two lines are converging and
33 they're converging rather rapidly in an escalating
34 manner.

35
36 The first one I would draw your
37 attention to is an excerpt from an email of our
38 assistant regional director for Budget and
39 Administration who did some analysis on the increased
40 costs of paying Staff. We transitioned from the cost
41 of living allowance reimbursement to Alaska employees
42 to locality pay. It's phased in over three years.
43 We're in the second year of the three-year phase in.
44 The excerpt email has FY2009, FY2010, 2011, 2012
45 written on the left-hand column. It's kind of an
46 excerpt or just a stand-out paragraph in that email.

47
48 What it says is that there is an
49 estimated 2 percent increase in staffing costs for
50 2010. This is fiscal 2011. We're looking at

1 approximately a 7 percent increase in the cost of doing
2 business to keep our people employed. Next year we're
3 looking at a 3.25 percent increase by these early
4 estimates.

5
6 Those numbers are subject to some
7 change because, as mentioned in this email, it depends
8 on whether or not you have employees under the old
9 retirement system, which I'm under, or employees under
10 the new retirement system. Those employees which
11 probably 90 percent of our staff are under the new
12 retirement system, the cost is actually higher to keep
13 them on board associated with the fringe benefit
14 package. So that's the point of this one handout. Our
15 costs have gone up collectively about 13 percent over
16 the last two or three years.

17
18 The other document that I handed out is
19 a document that explains that the U.S. Fish and
20 Wildlife Service in the President's budget has
21 voluntarily taken a reduction of this year \$12 million.
22 Next year, \$14.4 million in what are referred to as
23 administrative efficiencies.

24
25 That translates, if you look at the
26 table that's attached to that memo from the acting
27 director, looking on the left-hand column for the
28 number 1231, that's referred to as the sub activity.
29 That's the money that I get in my region to manage my
30 migratory bird program and the AMBCC. If you read over
31 from that column, reading over to the R7 column, the R7
32 column is Region 7. That's the Alaska Region. That's
33 my -- that 82 that you see there is the reduction that
34 I have to absorb this year just in that sub activity.
35 I also am taking a reduction in the 1234 sub activity
36 of 36,000 and am taking a reduction on 1261 sub
37 activity a portion of the \$467,000 reduction. I'm
38 getting a portion of that because there are other
39 programs that are funded out of that pot of money.

40
41 The point is that my budget is going
42 down and it will go down more significantly next year.
43 This represents only the \$12 million reduction in
44 administrative efficiencies. Next year I have a \$14
45 million reduction that I will be taking a proportion of
46 that reduction. It will be higher than this table.

47
48 The point is that the Fish and Wildlife
49 Service, like many Federal agencies, is going to have
50 to manage reduced budgets, declining budgets. So the

1 message that I'm giving you all is that there likely
2 will be slight reductions in the grants to the regions
3 and there perhaps will be slight reductions in our
4 ability to meet and our budget to conduct meetings.

5
6 So I am suggesting that we try to reach
7 some cost efficiencies through different meeting
8 models, different ways that we come together rather
9 than having a two time per year meeting where we meet
10 face to face, that we forego the face-to-face meeting
11 in the fall and have a teleconference meeting in lieu
12 of that as one way to save probably about \$15,000. I
13 would suggest a similar strategy for regional meetings
14 if possible.

15
16 The fact is we are facing a declining
17 budget and this year to manage the Service is under a
18 10 percent mandatory reduction in travel expenses and I
19 suspect that that will be repeated next year and it may
20 be as severe as a 20 percent mandate in reduction. So
21 next year our travel budget may be another 10 percent
22 reduced. So that's the nature of the budget climate
23 that I'm trying to manage in. So I'm giving this
24 information so that you all will be advised. If you
25 have some reductions in the grant agreements, it's
26 because of this.

27
28 So to wrap this up, for 10 years all
29 reductions that we've had to cover have come out of one
30 division and it's come out of Russ Oates' division, the
31 Division of Migratory Bird Management, because I've
32 held the AMBCC budget flat. I can no longer do that.
33 So that concludes my report.

34
35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Doug.
36 Patty, you have a comment, question.

37
38 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: A comment, I
39 guess, and a question. I'll give the question first.
40 In the letter that you handed out dated March 24th to
41 the Service Director from the Director, it says in the
42 first paragraph, the Service was planning to achieve at
43 least 12 million in savings in areas of travel, energy,
44 information and strategic -- information technology,
45 excuse me, and strategic sourcing. So which one of
46 those four does the AMBCC fall under?

47
48 MR. ALCORN: Strategic sourcing is
49 grants and contracts.

50

1 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Okay, thank
2 you. And then I just wanted to make a comment on your
3 comment about maintaining the AMBCC budget over the
4 past 10 years. That is a little misleading, I think,
5 because I know that we have not had a full staff on
6 occasion and I believe that that money has been
7 reprogrammed out of the AMBCC, so although the budget
8 that's presented to us is pretty much the same amount
9 every year, I know that those figures fluctuate
10 throughout each fiscal year.

11
12 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

13
14 MR. ALCORN: If I can respond. The
15 fact is that money has been plowed back into the
16 statewide harvest survey. You're right, Patty. We've
17 had two staff reductions over the past decade. One was
18 the coordinator, Cindy Wentworth, who coordinated the
19 harvest survey. Her salary package was in the
20 neighborhood of \$112,000. When she retired about four
21 years ago, we used that money to support the
22 coordination of the harvest survey under contract with
23 the State of Alaska.

24
25 When Bill Ostrand left two years ago,
26 we used that money to support the portion of the
27 revised harvest survey that escalated the cost by
28 nearly the equal amount of money. We approved two
29 years ago in the fall meeting in Dillingham that Molly
30 hosted a revised model or revision to the harvest
31 survey and that was an escalation of cost. We were
32 hoping to receive a grant from the Coastal Impact
33 Assessment Program that Bomer operates. The State
34 submitted a proposal, was unsuccessful in obtaining a
35 grant. So Fred, in using that money left over from
36 Bill Ostrand's salary, was continuing to support the
37 expansion of that survey model for the last two years.
38 So that money has been spent and it's been spent on
39 AMBCC activities, primarily the harvest survey.

40
41 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty.

42
43 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: And then what
44 about the funding from the grant agreements that
45 weren't signed? Thank you.

46
47 MR. ALCORN: That funding goes back
48 into covering the cost of doing business. We have what
49 we call uncontrollables that we're given.
50 Uncontrollables are when staff costs go up. We've been

1 given those uncontrollables. This year we did not get
2 uncontrollables, so those monies are covering
3 uncontrollables, have covered uncontrollables in the
4 past.

5
6 If there is reverted money, then it
7 goes to -- the way Fred's budget works is he uses old
8 money to cover advance work. That's the way grant
9 agreements work. We use money from this fiscal year to
10 pay for the grants for next year, so that money is
11 plowed into those grants. It buys down the cost of
12 doing business for the entire division.

13
14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty.

15
16 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Sorry. Okay.
17 So if the Region 7 is facing an approximately 13
18 percent reduction or having to cut costs by 13 percent
19 in fiscal 2011, right, is it a safe assumption that
20 everyone, including each of the regional management
21 bodies in other areas of the Service in Region 7 are
22 going to be just automatically across the board cut 13
23 percent or how does that work?

24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

26
27 MR. ALCORN: No, as a manager I'm given
28 the prerogative to kind of balance that. Without going
29 into a lot of detail, we have what -- in the Fish and
30 Wildlife Service through the Office of Management and
31 Budget, we have commitments that we make at the
32 beginning of the Federal fiscal year that says you will
33 do X number of things and they're counted. Russ and
34 Fred and I have to make that commitment early in the
35 year.

36
37 We actually don't -- we actually got a
38 memo yesterday from the Washington office allocating
39 this year's budget and we are three-quarters of the way
40 through this year's budget by the end of this month.
41 So we're nearly three-quarters of the way through.
42 We've made commitments with that money in November.
43 That's when they're due. They're locked into a
44 database that cannot be changed. We don't have access
45 to go in and change the numbers of deliverables, the
46 products that we deliver. So we have to manage --
47 that's my job, is managing and balancing those funds.
48 So I have to reapply those funds.

49
50 The short answer to your question, will

1 the AMBCC or the region suffer a 13 percent reduction,
2 the answer is no because I can try to manage around
3 that, but there will be some reduction necessary.

4

5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim.

6

7 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
8 issues that you bring up in the budget is quite
9 concerning to me, especially our ability to meet twice
10 a year, taking out the fall face-to-face meeting with
11 an audio-conference. As far as I can recall, since the
12 beginning of the AMBCC and my involvement and through
13 what Myron has related to me, the State of Alaska has
14 never contributed to the processes of AMBCC and I was
15 just wondering if that cost could possibly be taken out
16 or be brought forth by the State of Alaska as a fall-
17 back to the cuts in Region 7.

18

19 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim, I assume that was
20 a question to me. I can't answer that question in any
21 absolute sense. As far as I know -- actually I don't
22 know the history of when the organization was forming
23 in terms of whether or not that was ever discussed or
24 what the history of potentially the State contributing
25 to the process.

26

27 As I understand the process and the way
28 the State was identified as a member of the group in
29 terms of advising for regulations going forward, it's
30 not that the State is propagating any State regulations
31 and in that sense I think the State's role is more
32 advisory and not an active participant other than
33 wanting to get the best programs for the State, but not
34 a financial supporter of the effort at this point.
35 This is a program that has really come out of Federal
36 initiatives.

37

38 So to say that there couldn't be an
39 initiative financially, I think that the appropriate
40 way for the Council or the regions for that to happen
41 would be to request a budget increment from the
42 legislature for this specific purpose as a State
43 contribution and that's a process that I assume either
44 you or leadership within your regions are all very
45 familiar with. In terms of it coming out of funding
46 that has been given to the Department at this point in
47 time, I wouldn't anticipate that, Tim, but I think that
48 there is some likelihood that a case could be made that
49 the State does want to contribute to the process
50 through the legislative budgetary process.

1 Rick.

2

3 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Sun'aq. I have
4 a couple questions. is the funding to support the
5 AMBCC designated Federally as mandatory or
6 discretionary?

7

8 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

9

10 MR. ALCORN: Discretionary. We've
11 never had an actual earmark or an allocation to fund
12 the AMBCC. When this was enacted in 1996, we began to
13 get really active implementing it around 1998, '97 or
14 '98. There was a decision made prior to my arrival in
15 1999 to fund the activities and that money was carved
16 out of the division of Migratory Bird Management. That
17 budget, when I came into this position, was about a
18 million dollars a year and it stayed just about at a
19 million dollars a year. That money has never been,
20 like I said, earmarked, appropriated or allocated by
21 the Congress for that purpose though.

22

23 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you, Doug. I'm not
24 here to question how you cut the money up or anything
25 or how you could save money, but to allow this to go on
26 because it's such an important aspect of communication
27 to the rural communities. In thinking about this, I
28 know that in past historical events leaders that had to
29 deal with major cuts. Let's take Lincoln for example.
30 That was the kind of individual that spoke to the
31 individuals in the tents and on the field so he could
32 have a clear understanding of what's going on out in
33 the field to make his decisions. Let's take Patton for
34 example. He was a man who went out in the fields and
35 climbed into the trenches and talked to those
36 individuals.

37

38 If we, as AMBCC are removed from that
39 communication process, the link to the U.S. Fish and
40 Wildlife and the State of Alaska would be reduced and
41 your information that you're receiving would be
42 limited. So I think it's very important that in your
43 thought process about where you're making your cuts, I
44 don't think that AMBCC should be reduced in any way if
45 possible. Quite possibly there are other areas that
46 funding percentages can be removed because it's so
47 important to you to make your decisions.

48

49 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty.

50

1 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I think Molly
2 had a question first.

3
4 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

5
6 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I guess my
7 question -- I've got a question and a comment. If
8 AMBCC regional body dissolves, how much of that money
9 would be affected from the Service?

10
11 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

12
13 MR. ALCORN: Well, I hope the AMBCC
14 doesn't dissolve. I hope that we can think of perhaps
15 a more cost-efficient way to get our business done. If
16 it were to dissolve, spending authority doesn't go
17 away. It's considered part of my base. As I mentioned
18 in response to Rick's question, there's not any kind of
19 an acknowledgment in the budget that this is a function
20 that I am paid a separate pot of money to work on.
21 It's one of many initiatives that I have to implement.
22 Just like we have to conduct our annual surveys,
23 waterfowl surveys and shore bird surveys and other work
24 that is required that the Office of Management and
25 Budget has us commit to in the fall.

26
27 This is one of those commitments. We
28 commit to having a regulation-making process. We
29 commit to having meetings and bringing those
30 recommendations to the SRC. All of those commitments
31 still exists. If the AMBCC were to dissolve, then we
32 would probably go out with a Federal Register proposed
33 rule and propose a new model. If the AMBCC were to
34 vote today not to ever meet again, we would then go
35 through another process that we did 12 years ago and
36 take public comment and put out alternatives for
37 actually getting this work done.

38
39 MS. CHYTHLOOK: And then I guess the
40 next comment is with your full knowledge of all these
41 reductions, and I asked this during our work session,
42 you went ahead and created or hired a person to replace
43 Bill Ostrand and when I asked that question the other
44 day one of the main reasons for job replacement was to
45 help with the second revision of the survey to address
46 a species of concern, you know, if that survey process
47 would go through. It sounds like it's going to anyway.
48 But when Bill Ostrand had his job, he mainly worked
49 with AMBCC.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

2

3 MR. ALCORN: That is the primary
4 responsibility of that position. Kay Larson-Blair is
5 our new staff. She will be providing that committee
6 support that Bill provided. Bill had three primary
7 functions. Fred can correct me. His primary function
8 was as Staff to the AMBCC to help coordinate activities
9 of the committees. In fact, he chaired a committee or
10 two if I'm not mistaken, which I would argue probably
11 wasn't the best arrangement. It would be best if a
12 Council member chaired. But he was very actively
13 involved in moving those committees, the activities of
14 those committees forward. As we know, in his absence
15 the committees have not been as active as they probably
16 ought to have been. That's one of his primary
17 functions.

18

19 His other function was to actually
20 manage the grant with the State for the harvest conduct
21 and analysis of the harvest survey because Bill had an
22 analytical background. He had skills in that regard,
23 so he managed that portion of the grant and was part of
24 those discussions on the Harvest Committee as well.

25

26 Then the third responsibility is to
27 provide staff to Fred in working within the Fish and
28 Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife Service is a large
29 bureaucracy and there are large -- excuse me, there are
30 many ancillary requirements that we get that require
31 work by staff working for the director to answer
32 questions that the Congress asks us to respond to or
33 that the Office of Management and Budget, which is an
34 extension of the White House, or for any other reasons
35 that we have to provide staff support to the regional
36 director and to the director. Every program has that
37 as a responsibility.

38

39 So while he is an employee of the AMBCC
40 and that is his, now Kay's, primary beat, she is still
41 a Fish and Wildlife Service employee. She still has
42 training requirements that she has to attend, she still
43 has those miscellaneous duties as assigned as are
44 described in our position descriptions, that we all as
45 bureaucratic employees have to be responsive to. So
46 while it may be that she is specifically assigned to
47 the AMBCC, there is a percentage of her time that is
48 used just being a Federal employee making this Federal
49 machine move forward.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Patty, another
2 one. Okay.

3
4 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I know we've
5 had access to view the budget in the past, so I
6 understand that the co-management grant funding
7 worksheet that's provided in the binder is only a small
8 portion of the AMBCC's budget, but I see that the total
9 amount of grant funding does reflect like a 12 percent
10 cut, but how much cutting are we talking about in the
11 rest of the AMBCC budget and in what areas?

12
13 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

14
15 MR. ALCORN: Well, like I said, I don't
16 know what the actual cut is, Patty, because we only
17 just got our allocation yesterday. I just also got a
18 phone call when I stepped out of the meeting that my
19 budget analyst is taking another job, my lead budget
20 analyst. So Russ and I and Fred and my budget analyst,
21 who will be with me probably for another month or so,
22 we have to sit down and figure that out and we have to
23 figure out where those reductions in our capacities
24 will come from. That's what managers are forced to do.

25
26 So I can't tell you right now without
27 looking at the final tally to tell you how those
28 reductions will come. The conundrum is that we are
29 nearly three-quarters of the way through the year
30 spending the money that we only just now received
31 authority to spend. The way that works -- it's not
32 that we're spending without the authority. The way
33 that works is we get authority by month to spend a
34 twelfth of last year's funding level per year or per
35 month, so we have the authority to allocate, obligate
36 that kind of expenditure.

37
38 We will go through our budget. Fred
39 has submitted a budget
40 request to me. I will tell you that Fred is true to
41 this Council and he submits a full budget request every
42 year and I've supported that, but this year I can't.
43 So we're going to have to have that discussion next
44 week. I'll be glad to share that with you all and Fred
45 can distribute that to you all when we have a final
46 allocation.

47
48 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty.

49
50 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thanks, Doug.

1 So, for now, you're kind of giving us a heads up that
2 this is coming down in the future. One comment. As
3 Native organizations, villages, village governments, we
4 all are faced with that same type of budgeting process
5 and that reality with getting funding from the Bureau
6 of Indian Affairs or other agencies, so we hear you.

7
8 MR. ALCORN: Well, thank you. I
9 appreciate that, Patty, because out of respect to this
10 group, I don't want to catch you all by surprise. I
11 want you to be advised of why this decision is being
12 made.

13
14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Peter.

15
16 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 just want to comment on the -- to echo what Rick said.
18 If you're going to make cuts, I'd like to see the
19 meetings still happen because there's a lot of
20 heartfelt input that's put into these meetings and
21 you're not going to get that from a teleconference. I
22 mean there are a lot of things that are hashed out, you
23 know, sitting down face to face. I mean we take breaks
24 and resolve some of this stuff. How are we going to do
25 that with a teleconference? Even with the TV it's
26 going to be next to impossible to conduct a meeting
27 like this with this big of a scope of what we do just
28 on a television.

29
30 CHAIRMAN RABE: Thank you, Peter. I
31 guess at that point -- and I've been sitting here
32 thinking about some of this. I fully recognize Doug's
33 position as a budget manager and the responsibilities,
34 the broad scope of responsibilities that he has and
35 stuff and the information that he's brought forward I
36 think very candidly about the situation that he's
37 confronted with and his openness to ask for feedback on
38 some of this. It's not entirely clear to me, but it
39 may be a suggestion as to whether or not there is an
40 opportunity to provide specific comments in terms of
41 tradeoffs that Council may want to make relative to
42 money, for example, that goes into the grants versus
43 having a second face-to-face meeting or something like
44 that. Is that a reasonable thing, Doug?

45
46 MR. ALCORN: I think that's reasonable
47 and I think what Fred and I will do is given -- when we
48 realize what our limitations are and the magnitude of
49 that reduction that's going to necessarily come, then I
50 think Fred can offer up some alternatives to strategies

1 and vet that with the Council and maybe we can have a
2 discussion of that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim.

5

6 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Just on Mr. Devine's comments earlier. I've
8 participated in teleconferences before that involved
9 groups about this size or larger at times and have had
10 the opportunity to meet with people face to face and
11 I'm one of those people that continually supports face-
12 to-face meetings rather than teleconference especially
13 for this body. Try to have a Native caucus right in
14 the middle of meeting and keep that line of
15 communication going, it's virtually impossible to
16 accomplish that.

17

18 If there's any way that we can possibly
19 preserve the face-to-face meetings and perhaps looking
20 at cost-cutting measures in other areas, like for
21 example this book here probably costs quite a bit of
22 money putting it together, all the paper, the covers
23 and dividers. It all adds up to something at some
24 point. Perhaps looking into transmitting that by email
25 and having a computer at your side when we're meeting
26 to go through the budget or the agenda items would
27 likely contribute to some of the cost-cutting that's
28 necessary.

29

30 Maybe looking at meeting locations. I
31 don't know if they cost money to meet at the Fish and
32 Wildlife Service conference room as opposed to this
33 here. The other area that's really important that I
34 could see is the recording services that we have. I'd
35 really hate to see that go away, but if there's any way
36 that we could possibly try and live with those budget
37 cuts and make it easier for us to have that face-to-
38 face, I think there's an incredible amount of value in
39 the face-to-face meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN RABE: Rick.

42

43 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Sun'aq. I
44 appreciate this information. This information
45 hopefully is related to this document here, is that
46 correct? It's the summary of annual AMBCC grant
47 funding updated 2/28/11.

48

49 MR. ALCORN: That's one component of
50 the budget.

1 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So I just went
2 through a quick edition of it and it appears as if your
3 total there is \$2,800 off. So if maybe a closer look
4 could be paid to if the actual information you're
5 getting is correct, then maybe we could still keep the
6 meetings. From looking at it, it's \$2,800 off. I just
7 wanted to point that out. Then also yesterday when I
8 saw the new airplanes I thought business is good here
9 at Fish and Wildlife Service and then I started
10 hearing, wow, they're getting ready to cut the
11 meetings. That's cutting the umbilical to the
12 communications. I think it's important that these
13 meetings occur face to face.

14
15 MR. ALCORN: I would like to respond to
16 that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

19
20 MR. ALCORN: Not to belabor this, but
21 those airplanes are actually by earmark from the
22 Congress. We got them through our construction account
23 and it was based on the need for safety. Our newest
24 airplane that we -- we have four. Our newest airplane
25 is a 1970s vintage 206. Our oldest airplane was a
26 1950s vintage Beaver. They were all being operated
27 over gross weight, which means we had to operate them
28 heavier than they were allowed, than they were designed
29 for, in order to accomplish our mission. So the
30 Congress earmarked money for us to replace those. That
31 came as an aside from our normal budgeting, so we are
32 operating those for the safety of our people and
33 because of the fact that our aircraft were just old and
34 worn out.

35
36 While it does look like we have --
37 we're flush with money, the way the Federal money comes
38 to us, it comes in all different paths. Sometimes
39 there are earmarks from a particular Congressman or
40 Senator. Sometimes the Congress as a whole
41 appropriates those types of earmarks. There are lots
42 of different ways is the point. Our base is the money
43 that I'm referring to and that's the money that we get
44 to do the daily work that we have assigned to us.

45
46 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

47
48 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, I've got a
49 question. How in the process, if any, are you going to
50 involve the Council in reviewing when you do come up

1 with your cuts? Within that process do you provide a
2 rationale as to why you're making those cuts to your
3 boss? And at what point are we going to be able to
4 evaluate what you feel are the cuts to this Council?

5
6 MR. ALCORN: Like I said, we will
7 determine what the necessary cuts are and we will
8 identify strategies that the Council can take a look
9 at. As far as analyzing my budget decisions I make
10 with my other divisions, number one, it's not
11 appropriate nor is it your prerogative to do that, so I
12 as a manager have to do that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

15
16 MS. TAHBONE: I wasn't suggesting that,
17 Doug. My question was at some point you're going to be
18 making the decision of where the budgets are going to
19 be cut, but within that process I assume you're going
20 to be basing your decision on something, whether it's
21 your own -- I mean I'm not sure, you know, if it's your
22 -- I mean how are you going to engage if at all this
23 Council in making those recommendations for those cuts.
24 Are we going to be asked if you're going to have a
25 preliminary proposal for cuts? That's my question.
26 How are we, if at all, going to be engaged in your
27 decision?

28
29 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

30
31 MR. ALCORN: Are you talking about the
32 magnitude of the cut? You mean to one division versus
33 another division or this -- well, I guess maybe you and
34 I are talking about the same thing, Sandy, and that is
35 the strategy where those cuts will occur. Let's say
36 for example we're forced to administer a 5 percent cut
37 and Patty asks will that be an across-the-board cut to
38 all the divisions and I said no. So let's say I make
39 the decision that the AMBCC is going to look at a 5
40 percent cut while Russ's program absorbs the other
41 portion of that and he actually looks at a 14 percent
42 cut. That's my decision to make. So based on that
43 then Fred will have to decide what's the best strategy
44 to absorb those cuts. Is that the question that you
45 would have a discussion about what's the best strategy?
46 Yeah.

47
48 Well, I think that what I committed to
49 earlier was that once we get our heads together next
50 week we figure out how we can still do business with

1 the cuts that we're looking at. Fred knows what his
2 baseline is and then he can develop a strategy and
3 propose those strategies to you all and you can have a
4 discussion of those strategies.

5
6 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

7
8 MS. TAHBONE: So I guess my next
9 question would be to Fred. Fred, have you started
10 developing a process or have a process to involve the
11 Council in the decisions that you will have to be
12 making regarding recommendations, whatever they may be,
13 to your boss?

14
15 CHAIRMAN RABE: Fred.

16
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Sandy, I just heard the
18 directive this morning, so I'm going to look at the
19 baseline and look at potential strategies and as Doug
20 suggested I'm going to send them out to the Council to
21 review.

22
23 MS. TAHBONE: So within that review are
24 we going to be making a decision as a Council to either
25 adopt or recommend revisions to your proposal that
26 you'll be submitting out to us and then you'll take
27 those into account and move them forward to your boss
28 or how is it going to work?

29
30 MR. ARMSTRONG: I take the guidance
31 from Doug, so what he suggested I'll have to carry out.

32
33 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

34
35 MR. ALCORN: We actually have to make
36 the decision soon. So I think what Fred is going to do
37 is lay out a strategy and -- I've already proposed that
38 we go from two meetings to one meeting per year. I
39 think that would realize about a \$15,000 cost to
40 savings. I've heard others say that that perhaps is
41 not the best strategy. So Fred and I will think about
42 other ways. It translates into reducing grants. Our
43 salaries are fixed. It translates into reducing the
44 contract with the harvest survey work that we contract
45 with the State to get done, which translates into
46 additional monies for you all to do your work.

47
48 The fact is that we have more work than
49 we have money to pay for. So we will have to make some
50 tough decisions and it's really not for the Council to

1 vote on. I'm just going to have to make that decision
2 and then say this is the money that we will have to
3 spend. If the regional partners cannot get the work
4 done, then we'll have to re-think that, but that's
5 where we are right now.

6

7 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy, I had Enoch with
8 a hand up before. Did you have something?

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I had a simple
11 question. So you're going to decide where you're going
12 to make your cuts. Are you going to talk with the
13 Budget Ad Hoc Committee or is it just going to be
14 alone, the agency?

15

16 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

17

18 MR. ALCORN: The role of the Budget Ad
19 Hoc Committee was to actually build the budget, that
20 was their role. I think it warrants a discussion for
21 future. It's good information, good fodder for future
22 discussions, but that committee is not designed to
23 manage the AMBCC budget. It wasn't the purpose for
24 which it was established.

25

26 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy, you had your
27 hand up.

28

29 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah. I just need to
30 clarify again. I know I asked the question and I kind
31 of heard part of it and then you kind of changed it.
32 I'm not really sure how I'm hearing it. From what you
33 just stated then, Doug, is that we will not be involved
34 in the process because your timeframe is so short and
35 you've already proposed to cut one meeting, but you've
36 heard the views of this, so I'm still not really clear
37 if we're going to be involved in any way regarding --
38 what I'm hearing from you is you're going to get
39 together with Fred. Fred is in charge of our budget,
40 so he's going to propose to you where he feels that
41 those cuts should be made. He's going to make those
42 proposals to you, not you making the proposals to him
43 as to where within his budget those cuts will be made
44 and then you will, of course, make the ultimate
45 decision. So the recommendations, from my
46 understanding, will come from the program, not from you
47 as his boss. You won't be telling him where he should
48 be making his cuts. He'll be proposing to you where he
49 feels those cuts should be made, correct?

50

1 MR. ALCORN: Well, not necessarily
2 because it's an iterative process, Sandy. Part of
3 those iterations, part of those discussions we want to
4 include the regional representatives on the AMBCC.
5 That's why I said Fred needs to think this through,
6 develop some ideas for reducing costs and he can share
7 those with you all. You can provide an input to those.
8 That's the input that I'm seeking. It doesn't come to
9 an actual vote of the Council a thumbs up or thumbs
10 down to what the strategy will be. So that's the
11 involvement of the Council that I'm seeking, is to work
12 with Fred on those strategies on what makes the most
13 sense.

14
15 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Peter.

16
17 MR. DEVINE: I just need some
18 clarification. So it's my understanding that what you
19 want right now, Doug, is this is it, this is the only
20 meeting we're going to have this year or are we going
21 to have our fall meeting? I would like to suggest
22 that, you know, until we get all the pros and cons that
23 we remain as is. I would like to suggest instead of
24 going out to the villages maybe just have our fall
25 meeting here in Anchorage at a State facility.

26
27 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

28
29 MR. ALCORN: Thank you for that, Peter.
30 I'm not looking for an actual decision today and I
31 wasn't looking for an endorsement with that idea
32 necessarily. That was just an idea, an example of a
33 way that we could reduce costs. So what I'm charging
34 Fred to do is to work with you all. If you have ideas
35 on how -- Tim has expressed some ideas. That, to me,
36 is the exchange that we need to have so that when we do
37 make that final decision, when I have to make that
38 final decision, that we all have had a part of those --
39 we've had input into that and that we recognize -- when
40 that strategy does come out, we recognize those as
41 having been discussed or having been suggested by Fred
42 and he will vet that electronically I'm sure with you
43 all before we actually make that decision.

44
45 So if there is a decision not to have a
46 fall face-to-face meeting, it will be after there's
47 been some discussion of that in the strategy that Fred
48 will lay out for you all. You're welcome to provide
49 those comments and you're welcome to cc -- if you have
50 an email response to his strategy, you're welcome to cc

1 that to your colleagues and engage in a virtual
2 dialogue I suppose.

3

4 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

5

6 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 We're operating under 2010 budget now or 2011?

8

9 MR. ALCORN: We've been operating under
10 one month increments of the 2010 budget authorities.
11 Now that we have the 2011 allocation, we know as of
12 yesterday what that allocation is. It was not only the
13 \$82,000 less, but we've also found an additional \$5,000
14 just an accounting reduction and I've asked the
15 question why that. We just had that come to us
16 yesterday. We do know now what our final amount of
17 money that we have to operate the Council. We know
18 what that amount is now. Not only the Council, but my
19 other programs as well. So I now have to allocate that
20 money, those three pots, I have to allocate to both
21 Fred and to Russ and how they will get their work done.

22

23 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

24

25 MS. CHYTHLOOK: But when we're
26 operating under previous year, that goes from what
27 month to what month? My understanding is that we're
28 going to be operating under the 2010 budget until such
29 time as the 2011 funding kicks in.

30

31 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

32

33 MR. ALCORN: We were operating under
34 the 2010 budget levels but we're actually spending
35 fiscal 2011 money. So, for example, we get the
36 authority from the Congress under a continuing
37 resolution to spend usually one month increments until
38 the Congress passes a budget, which they passed a
39 budget about two months ago in April. When they pass
40 that budget, then the Office of Management and Budget
41 has to develop their allocation strategy and how much
42 is going to go to the Department of the Interior and
43 Department of Defense and so on. That all takes time.
44 Now it's finally coming to me. I actually get my
45 regional allocation two months after we've had a
46 funding bill pass by the Congress. Two months later I
47 get my allocation and it says this is your bottom line.
48 This is how much authority you have to spend as a
49 manager. I've already been spending that same money
50 with those incremental authorities since October 1st.

1 October 1st is the first day of fiscal year 11.
2 October 1st of 2010 was the first day of fiscal year 11
3 and we have authority then to spend this money through
4 September 30 of 2011. That ends the fiscal year.

5
6 What Fred does is he takes that budget
7 authority and he creates these grant agreements and
8 puts them in place late in the fiscal year and then
9 that gives you all operating capital for the coming
10 year before we have the authority to obligate that much
11 money to fund it, so we are funding you always in
12 advance.

13
14 So the work that you're doing in the
15 regions this year, you're actually using money that was
16 appropriated in 2010. We had the authority to obligate
17 it in 2010. Fred will obligate this year's money for
18 your work to be conducted beginning October 1st this
19 year.

20
21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

22
23 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I was just trying to
24 understand the -- well, I understand, but trying to put
25 the funds that we're using now within the fiscal year
26 and that start swimming in between or quarter of the
27 way into.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

32
33 MR. ALCORN: One last comment, I guess.
34 You are adequately funded -- let me say you are fully
35 funded, I won't say adequately, that's a subjective
36 statement, but you are funded based on the grant
37 agreements that you have in place that you signed last
38 fall. Those fund your operations to those grants that
39 expire presumably September 30th if that's how far they
40 go or through December 31st, I think, of this year
41 actually I think is how far they go.

42
43 MR. ARMSTRONG: September 30th. They
44 have 90 days to close it out.

45
46 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We're done with
47 that. No actions are needed on that. That was
48 advisory. Moving on to item 13 is the plan and
49 approval for the harvest survey for 2011. I'm sorry,
50 Donna.

1 MS. DEWHURST: We do need one action on
2 the grants.

3
4 CHAIRMAN RABE: We do. Come up on the
5 record if you would.

6
7 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst. For
8 those that weren't at the workshop we do need Council
9 action on what to do about the Southeast Alaska grant.
10 We put it out to bid last fall for 60 days I think it
11 was and we received no bidders. We haven't had a valid
12 partner for I think it's three or four years.
13 Basically nobody has expressed any interest. So it
14 would be nice to get some advice from the Council as to
15 how to proceed. There's options. One that's been
16 thrown out is possibly make that partner kind of an ad
17 hoc partner where we try to get somebody, if we have an
18 issue that comes up or proposals, and we would then try
19 to secure somebody to help organize meetings if we had
20 to in Southeast.

21
22 In the meantime, it's been a low --
23 part of it is there isn't any hot issues. You know,
24 they only have egging and egg harvest in Southeast and
25 there haven't been any big hot issues. The Glacier Bay
26 thing was one and there is a thing in your packet on
27 that. Glacier Bay National Park is trying to resolve
28 that and allow them to egg in Glacier Bay. That kind
29 of resolved the last Southeast issue. We just need
30 some sort of guidance as to how you all would like to
31 proceed with that. We can put it out to bid again.
32 That's another option.

33
34 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty.

35
36 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Donna, did we
37 get a formal answer from Southeast Inter-tribal Council
38 at all?

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: Yes, they are no longer
41 interested in being partners and we contacted Gordon
42 and his parent CETHITA, the parent organization. They
43 aren't interested either.

44
45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Peter.

46
47 MR. DEVINE: I was just wondering if
48 you need a motion for that or just directive to
49 resubmit a posting for a partner.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Suggestions.
2
3 MS. DEWHURST: It's probably better as
4 a motion just because then we'll have it in the
5 official meeting notes.
6
7 MR. DEVINE: I'll make a motion to
8 solicit a partner for Southeast representative.
9
10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Is there a second to
11 the motion?
12
13 MR. SHIEDT: Second.
14
15 CHAIRMAN RABE: It's been seconded.
16 Discussion. Is it clear to you what the motion is?
17
18 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. Just to make it
19 clear, we did do that process last fall and we had no
20 -- well, we had one interested contact, which was a
21 consulting firm out of Wasilla and that was the only
22 interest expressed when we went through the
23 advertisement last fall.
24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: I guess the question
26 becomes one of if the motion is to repeat the process,
27 then is there a fallback in terms of what the
28 expectation is should that process not produce anybody
29 who's willing to serve in that role and I think that's
30 what Donna is asking for the question.
31
32 I've got Rick and then I've got Sandy.
33
34 MR. ROWLAND: Rick from Sun'aq. In
35 your solicitation, did you send letters to individual
36 tribes or was it just through newspapers?
37
38 MS. DEWHURST: We don't handle the
39 actual solicitation. It's done through our contracting
40 office. I believe most of its done online. They did
41 contact the prior folks that had the contracts in the
42 past, but I don't know what else they do beyond that
43 because I don't handle that. That's handled by our
44 contracting office.
45
46 MR. ROWLAND: As a follow up.
47 Sometimes I don't read the newspaper and when I wasn't
48 familiar with it I didn't look at it online. So I'm
49 sure you have a contractor that's efficient and maybe
50 they didn't cover all the bases. Contacted tribes,

1 contacted the Alaska Native Brotherhood or another
2 regional organization down there. Maybe somebody down
3 there doesn't realize it and maybe another solicitation
4 might generate a response.

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: Part of what was
7 explained to me was twofold. One is the amount of
8 money is very small. It's \$14,000, which is one of the
9 smallest grants. The other thing was there are no hot
10 issues. Nobody had anything compelling that they
11 wanted to deal with that would compel them to be a
12 representative and leave the area. At least that was
13 what was explained to me why nobody was interested.

14
15 CHAIRMAN RABE: So we have a motion and
16 a second.

17
18 MR. ROWLAND: Call for the question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN RABE: I had a hand up just as
21 you said that. Sandy, did you have something relative
22 to -- before we vote on this?

23
24 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, I had a question.
25 My understanding is your reasoning behind is regarding
26 the funding, correct, or the organization itself being
27 a partner? My understanding is the Southeast Central
28 Region is considered one region and then there's a
29 number of organizations under that region. They can
30 either choose to send one representative or one
31 representative from each of their organizations. So
32 would it be possible that one of the other
33 organizations within that region if they could assume
34 being the spokesperson for Southeast and if there does
35 become an issue that they would go through that
36 organization? I mean there's other ways that we can
37 possibly deal with this.

38
39 MS. DEWHURST: I've thought about that
40 and if we didn't have an actual partner organization I
41 think what we would need is somebody that would be a
42 Southeast -- at least agree to be a Southeast contact
43 so that if an issue did come up we'd have somebody as
44 an advisor, somebody to call.

45
46 MS. TAHBONE: So I would suggest that
47 the other organizations within the Southeast and
48 Southcentral Region be asked if they would like to do
49 that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: We have a motion, so
2 that's a suggestion in terms of details within in terms
3 of who to contact relative to recontracting. Okay. As
4 long as I understand it's not an amendment. Molly.

5
6 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Comment. One of the reasons why they're not interested
8 in a partnership is because of no harvests of migratory
9 birds, no egging. I know because Southeast is usually
10 a commercial oriented area.

11
12 MS. DEWHURST: The only thing they have
13 under our program is egging. I don't know what page it
14 is in the reg book, but there's three regions, sub
15 regions that have egging, but they seem pretty content
16 with the way the regs are right now other than they
17 want to egg inside Glacier National Park and there's
18 some Park regs that are against that, but they're in
19 the process of changing that and correcting it.

20
21 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

22
23 MS. CHYTHLOOK: So do we know of any
24 other regions that have traditional harvesting and
25 egging other than Southeast that we know of.

26
27 CHAIRMAN RABE: I'm not sure if I
28 understand that question. Are you asking are there
29 other regions that practice egging?

30
31 MS. DEWHURST: I think all the regions
32 report some egging.

33
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Sorry. Other partners
35 available. Although I think we've covered a majority,
36 most of our regions are covered, aren't they, under
37 here, under the partnership here?

38
39 MS. DEWHURST: They're the only region
40 that's not represented at this time. The way the
41 advertisement was written it was wide open. The only
42 stipulation -- we tried to limit it a little bit so
43 that we didn't get solicitation by sportsmen groups was
44 that it said they did have to get support from -- I
45 can't remember how many, but it said a certain number
46 of local village IRAs had to express support for the
47 group.

48
49 CHAIRMAN RABE: Patty.

50

1 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: So absent a
2 grant agreement, if an issue were to arise from the
3 Southeast, is there an avenue for them to get a
4 resolution from the AMBCC if they're not a partner?

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: I think what we have to
7 do is hold some meetings. WE'd have to set up some
8 special meetings in Southeast and get some regional
9 input. If we didn't have an actual organization to do
10 that, then it would fall on our staff and we'd have to
11 try to set up some public meetings and get some
12 regional input.

13
14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

15
16 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, the way I
17 understand it within our bylaws is that it's up to each
18 region to decide whether or not they're going to send
19 one representative or multiple representatives. So the
20 way I'm understanding it right now is Southeast,
21 meaning within that is Central Council, Tlingit and
22 Haida Tribes, Indian tribes, they're choosing not to
23 send a representative. That's their prerogative and at
24 some point in the future if they would choose to send a
25 representative that option would be available to them,
26 is my understanding.

27
28 CHAIRMAN RABE: Donna.

29
30 MS. DEWHURST: Fred, correct me on
31 this, but my impression is those two organizations are
32 not interested in being the representative for that
33 region anymore.

34
35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim.

36
37 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 was going through the committee list and at one point
39 we used to have the Outreach Committee whose
40 responsibility was to try and resolve some of these
41 issues, like this here. I think we had an Exclusion
42 Committee or an Inclusion Committee as well. I was
43 just wondering what happened to the Outreach Committee.

44
45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Fred, do you have an
46 answer?

47
48 MS. DEWHURST: I can.

49
50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Donna.

1 MS. DEWHURST: We do have an Outreach
2 Committee. In the past, that usually wasn't considered
3 part of their job. Their job was more getting
4 information about the regulations and that sort of
5 thing. Usually they didn't get involved in grants and
6 that sort of contracting.

7
8 MR. ANDREW: My misunderstanding.

9
10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We had a call of
11 the question. It looks like we've exhausted all the
12 follow-up questions. Is there any objection to the
13 motion? Patty, you object?

14
15 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yes, Chugach
16 Region objects.

17
18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

19
20 MS. TAHBONE: Kawerak Region objects.

21
22 CHAIRMAN RABE: Procedurally, then we
23 do a roll call vote on this.

24
25 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Could I have Peter read
26 the motion again to us.

27
28 MR. DEVINE: The motion was to solicit
29 a partner for the Southeast Alaska partner that is
30 vacant.

31
32 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

33
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: The motion was to
35 solicit another partner or within Southeast?

36
37 MR. DEVINE: No, within Southeast.

38
39 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Procedurally,
40 because we have objections we don't have consent from
41 everybody. If I understand our procedures, we then
42 default to a three vote decision on that. Is that
43 correct, Doug?

44
45 MR. ALCORN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

46
47 CHAIRMAN RABE: So Molly has the vote
48 for the tribes collectively knowing that you have two
49 that have not supported.

50

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Maybe a short caucus.
2
3 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We have a
4 request for a short caucus. Let's go ahead and break
5 into that and we'll see whether or not there's time
6 when we get back before noon.
7
8 (Off record)
9
10 (On record)
11
12 CHAIRMAN RABE: Are we ready to take
13 the vote? Molly, do you have something to report out
14 from your caucus meeting or do we just take the vote?
15
16 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Just take a vote.
17
18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We need to have
19 a roll call vote of the three voting members. Fred,
20 would you please ask for the tribal vote first.
21
22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Alaska Native.
23
24 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No.
25
26 MR. ARMSTRONG: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
27 Service.
28
29 MR. ALCORN: In deference to the
30 regional representative's negative vote, we'll vote
31 negative also.
32
33 MR. ARMSTRONG: State of Alaska.
34
35 CHAIRMAN RABE: Likewise in deference
36 we will vote no.
37
38 MR. ARMSTRONG: Three nos. The motion
39 is not adopted.
40
41 CHAIRMAN RABE: Now that seems to leave
42 us at the same point if I understand it. Donna, why
43 don't you come back up to the table. We have to get
44 some sort of resolution to this or not. We have to
45 decide that's sufficient and it's just left up to the
46 Service to decide what to do with this at this point in
47 time. So not having anything invested in this, I'm
48 looking for direction from others. Patty.
49
50 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: It's the

1 feeling of the Native Caucus that if the regional
2 management body listed in the Federal Register and
3 those other organizations that you've made an effort to
4 contact have indicated that they are not interested at
5 this time in participating that we should respect their
6 decision. I'd like to make a motion to request that
7 the funding for Southeast be redirected from the budget
8 towards a second meeting of the AMBCC.

9

10 CHAIRMAN RABE: Is there a second.

11

12 MR. ANDREW: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug, is there any
15 concern on the part of the Service in terms of the
16 appropriateness of the motion?

17

18 MR. ALCORN: Well, we do have -- I've
19 mentioned it a couple times in this meeting already.
20 We do have an agreement made early on in the Council
21 that if there is a lack of representation from a region
22 by their choice, the Service has the legal
23 responsibility and the prerogative granted by the AMBCC
24 to establish regulations for that region. So if they
25 choose not to participate, it doesn't mean we can't
26 continue on in business. Until such time that they
27 choose to weigh back in, I think that's an appropriate
28 use of the resources so that Donna and Fred then, as
29 managers of the budget, know then how to apply that
30 money. So I think it's appropriate.

31

32 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We have a
33 motion. Did I get a second?

34

35 MR. DEVINE: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN RABE: From Peter. Okay.

38

39 MR. ANDREW: From either one of us.

40

41 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay, either one of
42 you. Okay. Donna.

43

44 MS. DEWHURST: Just real brief then.
45 The only quandary, but I don't think it's going to be
46 an issue, is like in the books we list who to contact
47 for that region and what we'd probably do then would be
48 just list our office -- if somebody has an issue with
49 Southeast, we'll list our office as the contact.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay.
2
3 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Call the question. Is
6 there any objection to the motion to redistribute the
7 money? For clarification, what I heard was two parts
8 to Patty's motion. One was to redistribute, but
9 redistribute specifically to a face-to-face fall
10 meeting.
11
12 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: That's
13 correct, Mr. Chairman.
14
15 CHAIRMAN RABE: Is there any objection
16 to the motion.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN RABE: Then so moved. So
21 we're done with that. Before we move into the next one
22 I need to share with the Council my schedule conflicts.
23 I do have a meeting that starts sharply at 1:00, which
24 allows me to stay until 12:30 and then I'm going to
25 have to leave. Depending on the desire of the Council
26 and our ability to wrap things up, either in the next
27 10 minutes and then take a normal lunch or I can stay
28 until 12:30 and if we're still not done and Council
29 needs to take a lunch, then I will appoint a designee
30 for myself to this Chair and we'll pass the gavel to
31 Doug. Is the Council willing to work until 12:30 on
32 trying to get through the next couple of items here.
33
34 MS. TAHBONE: Git 'er done.
35
36 CHAIRMAN RABE: All right. Liliana,
37 would you please come up to the mic and let's talk
38 about the 2011 Harvest Survey Plan as quickly as we can
39 to summarize that. Sandy, do you have a question
40 before we start?
41
42 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chairman. If we
43 could, in order to move things forward, if they already
44 know what action needs to be taken, if we can start it
45 with a motion.
46
47 CHAIRMAN RABE: That's fine. I support
48 that. Do we have a motion in terms of what needs to be
49 -- do we have a default on this in terms of an adoption
50 of a specific plan at this point? Go ahead, Lili, you

1 have the floor. Put your mic on.

2

3 MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves from Fish and
4 Game. So I was called to present the plan for 2011 as
5 the State coordinator for the surveyor, but I don't
6 make decisions related to that. I can offer
7 recommendations and that kind of thing, but lots of
8 decisions are budget driven. So I can describe briefly
9 what is the plan for this year, but I don't know -- is
10 there a motion for that usually? Do we need the
11 Council to approve?

12

13 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug, a matter of
14 procedure.

15

16 MR. ALCORN: Two years ago we approved
17 a new model, the revised harvest survey. The Council
18 approved it and it was based on a rotation of regions
19 and whatever strategy is associated with that. We
20 approved that. This year is a break from that approved
21 strategy, so that's the only thing. It could be
22 advisory. Your report can just be advising the Council
23 that this is the strategy. It is a break from what was
24 approved, but there are reasons. It's driven by budget
25 and the need to collect information on rarely caught
26 species, primarily Yellow-Billed Loons. So if the
27 Council wants to hear the report and the reason for the
28 change, we can approach it that way.

29

30 CHAIRMAN RABE: That seems reasonable.
31 There may be some informational pieces that Council
32 doesn't have at this point. So if you could go through
33 from the standpoint of deviations from the plan that
34 had been previously approved, that might be the fastest
35 way.

36

37 MS. NAVES: Just as a clarification,
38 the regular rotation schedule, it's subjected to a
39 yearly assessment based on budget availability and the
40 (indiscernible) is. This is cause the original survey
41 design cost somewhere between seven and eight hundred
42 thousand dollars. The revised survey is still around
43 500,000, so that's a reduction, but that is still
44 beyond the current funding capability. So it was
45 understood since the beginning that it would be
46 subjected to cuts. There is this plan, but this plan
47 is flexible on a yearly basis.

48

49 The rotation schedule for regions and
50 villages takes four years, so the full rotation

1 schedule is in the handout table. It describes the
2 full rotation between 2010 and 2013, so there you can
3 see the regions that were in the schedule for 2011 and
4 out of those four or five regions after I scheduled for
5 2011 what we have going on so far is the Y-K Delta and
6 the Bristol Bay and the surveys are only going on those
7 two regions.

8

9 There's also this push to have a survey
10 on the North Slope and some sort of reduced efforts in
11 the St. Lawrence Island of the Bering Strait although
12 Bering Strait/Norton Sound is not in the regular
13 rotation schedule, which causes a (indiscernible)
14 regarding to Yellow-Billed Loon. That will be a
15 modification to the regular rotation schedule justified
16 by a (indiscernible).

17

18 So, as I mentioned before, the survey
19 was launched in the Y-K Delta and Bristol Bay. You
20 have training for that. They have regular activities
21 to launch the survey and it was not yet launched in the
22 North Slope and in the St. Lawrence Island, so this is
23 the current situation. This is an update. I don't
24 know where the Council goes from there.

25

26 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

27

28 MS. TAHBONE: I'm just kind of curious
29 why this wasn't part of the Harvest Survey Committee
30 agenda so we could have made a recommendation to the
31 Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly, do you have an
34 answer for that? You were running that Harvest Survey
35 Committee meeting.

36

37 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Molly. It was in our
38 regional agenda that Lili and I created and then we
39 were handed another agenda the other day specifically
40 to go over the new survey process and we ran out of
41 time before we got into the main agenda.

42

43 CHAIRMAN RABE: So there is another
44 agenda item later that talks about a modification to
45 this process and apparently they spent most of their
46 time on that. Fred.

47

48 MR. ARMSTRONG: When the Service was
49 directed to review the harvest survey methodology I
50 recall at the last Council meeting the Council made a

1 motion to have the Harvest Survey Committee in charge
2 of doing the review. Since then we've had three
3 meetings, one of which was the other day. At the last
4 Harvest Survey Committee meeting, the committee decided
5 that they would meet the day before the Council and get
6 an update from the Migratory Bird Department, Russ
7 Oates, and to put together a report for the Council.
8 That was the directive from the last Harvest Survey
9 Committee.

10

11 CHAIRMAN RABE: Lili.

12

13 MS. NAVES: Liliana. Sandy, as I
14 understood, there was a draft meeting agenda that
15 circulated before the April meeting that was cancelled,
16 but that agenda included some regular business of the
17 Harvest Survey Committee, but when you go to the draft
18 agenda again for this meeting, as I perceive the
19 agenda, focus on the revision of the survey and regular
20 business of the Harvest Survey Committee was not there
21 anymore, so I think it was to focus effort on that
22 activity.

23

24 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

25

26 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah. Do we have the
27 plan in front of us that you're proposing? I was
28 looking through and then looking on the table. That's
29 the original rotation, right?

30

31 CHAIRMAN RABE: The original rotation
32 is what this represents. I may not have picked up.
33 Did you go through specific changes to that that you're
34 proposing out of necessity?

35

36 MS. NAVES: I just explained that from
37 the original plan what was implemented so far is Y-K
38 Delta and Bristol Bay and that there are discussions to
39 have a survey in the North Slope and in the St.
40 Lawrence Island. I don't have a handout for that. As
41 I mentioned before, those are decisions that come
42 mostly from Fish and Wildlife Service. I don't make
43 those kind of decisions on my own.

44

45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

46

47 MS. TAHBONE: So I'm at a loss here.
48 It says plan approval. So what's the proposal is my
49 question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN RABE: Lili, can you help to
2 clarify then.

3
4 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN RABE: Fred.

7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Actually when we were
9 given the directive to begin a survey review, the
10 surveys for this year kind of came into question. In
11 Dillingham, a few years ago, when we started the first
12 review, the Council made the motion that when we're
13 going through the review we will always survey AVCP
14 region, Bristol Bay and North Slope. If there's other
15 regions because of conservation concerns, we can focus
16 on them. Since the review was in process, we had to
17 revert back to that schedule which the Council adopted
18 a few years ago.

19
20 CHAIRMAN RABE: So do I understand it
21 correctly then that the proposal would be to revert
22 back to the earlier schedule that had been described
23 and you said that that's Y-K Delta, Bristol Bay and
24 North Slope. So those would be the three regions that
25 the survey would be focused on for this year? That's
26 the proposal?

27
28 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's correct. That's
29 what we had to revert back to. If there's conservation
30 concerns in other regions, we could take those into
31 consideration. Once the review was directed, we kind
32 of had to stop what we were doing and try to focus on
33 that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN RABE: When you say stop, you
36 mean stop the rotation through the other areas that
37 were on this broader schedule when it was.....

38
39 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's correct, yeah.

40
41 CHAIRMAN RABE: So is there a motion to
42 support that kind of change in schedule? Is this
43 appropriate? I'm getting a little bit of a look,
44 Liliana. Do you have concerns?

45
46 MS. NAVES: I'm also a little confused
47 with this agenda item to start with because usually
48 there was an update and inform what was going to be for
49 the survey and I don't remember, maybe my memory is not
50 helping me, I don't remember a motion to approve it or

1 not. I don't remember in the past how is that, but I
2 don't remember a motion to approve a survey plan. I
3 remember from that date of what is the plan.

4
5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug, do you have a
6 thought on that?

7
8 MR. ALCORN: Well, I think it's just an
9 update. If we're diverging from what was approved two
10 years ago based on this rotation, an update on what
11 we're going to be doing this year and then that's it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN RABE: I have to share I think
14 the comment that Sandy made because the agenda item has
15 the word approval in it too. But if it's just an
16 update and everybody is satisfied with this just being
17 an update, then I'm satisfied with that.

18
19 Okay, so we're done with 13. Move on
20 to Item 14, which is approval/adoption of the 2009
21 harvest survey report. I think there are copies of
22 that in the back and I think they've been distributed
23 to Council members outside of the booklet, so there
24 should be a separate packet.

25
26 Tim.

27
28 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
29 discussion purposes, I move to adopt the 2009 harvest
30 survey report.

31
32 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have a second on
33 that motion.

34
35 MR. SHIEDT: Second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN RABE: Enoch second. This was
38 distributed when? Some time ago, right?

39
40 MR. ARMSTRONG: February 11th.

41
42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Liliana, do you have
43 any comments?

44
45 MS. NAVES: Just a quickly review on
46 how is this process for the approval of the yearly
47 reports. So the draft report is usually made available
48 for the fall meeting. So for our fall meeting we will
49 have the 2010 draft report. So during the winter the
50 regional councils have the opportunity to revise the

1 report and contact me if there is questions or concerns
2 about the data and I would work with each partner to
3 address those questions. When all those concerns are
4 solved during the wintertime and you're going to come
5 to the spring meeting, we are in a position to adopt
6 the draft report. Sometimes between fall and the
7 spring meeting there is another version of the draft,
8 but just because there was some more work on the tags,
9 some flashing up on the report.

10

11 At this time we have two versions of
12 the draft for 2009, but there is not any changes in the
13 harvest estimates, just that I added discussion on
14 harvest patterns for each region. There is nothing
15 new. But this is the process. A draft report appears
16 in the fall meeting and adoption on the spring meeting.

17

18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Liliana, are you aware
19 of any unresolved comments that came back to you during
20 the review process?

21

22 MS. NAVES: No. I tried to contact the
23 partners and I had the opportunity of interacting with
24 people during the winter and usually a couple weeks
25 before this meeting I make a last call and I have no
26 input. The only modification is that for the North
27 Slope there is a footnote making clear the reported
28 number of Yellow-Billed Loons and this has happened in
29 the past, so I just extended that to this year, so this
30 is the only thing.

31

32 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Thank you. Boy,
33 there were lots of hands that came up. We'll start
34 over here with Sandy and we'll go around and pick up
35 and we'll go from there. Go ahead.

36

37 MS. TAHBONE: The only thing regarding
38 the Bering Straits, Norton Sound Region is that it
39 continued to be reported at the regional level until we
40 can.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Call it the sub region.

43

44 MS. TAHBONE:make a decision to
45 report at sub region levels.

46

47 CHAIRMAN RABE: Lili.

48

49 MS. NAVES: Sandy, but as we don't have
50 a full survey for 2009 for the Bering Strait Region, we

1 only have for the St. Lawrence Island, so we only have
2 that for one sub region, so we cannot expand that data
3 for the whole region because that's not -- we'll have a
4 bunch of sea birds for the whole Bering Strait and
5 that's not correct to do, so you have at the sub region
6 level only.

7

8 CHAIRMAN RABE: Coming around -- do you
9 have a follow up on that? No? Tim.

10

11 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Liliana, I really appreciate you distributing this
13 information earlier, but throughout the winter I've
14 been extremely busy with fishery issues and I don't
15 have the migratory bird staff person to really review
16 the information that you sent out. I just have a
17 question on the report. It's on Page 35 and 36. There
18 was a significant reduction in the number of birds
19 reported in 2008 and also an increase from the year
20 prior on the egg harvest in the Y-K Delta. I was just
21 wondering if that was a function of the rotation or was
22 it because of some other cause?

23

24 MS. NAVES: Tim brings up an
25 interesting point. 2008 and 2009 was two very
26 different data, two very different years for harvest
27 estimates in the Y-K Delta. So 2008 was the lowest
28 data, the lowest total harvest that's made in many
29 years and 2009 was the highest ever. So having the two
30 years side by side really make a big contrast. Being
31 aware of that, I double checked multiple times based on
32 that entry and that analysis I could not figure out
33 anything related to that.

34

35 For 2009, the note said that as a whole
36 there was more reported harvest and I heard that in
37 2008 when I come for that workshop at the Y-K Delta
38 Refuge, the 2008 was a year where the spring breakup
39 was sudden and birds didn't have much time to maybe --
40 much conditions to hang around for much time, so the
41 sudden breakup in 2008 may have been something that
42 make this big difference in the two years.

43

44 One difficulty with the subsistence
45 harvest estimates is that there are so many factors
46 that can play a role that many times you have a number
47 but you don't know what caused that number. So I
48 didn't find mechanics in the sampling design and
49 (indiscernible) that could cause that, but as an
50 explanation for the 2008 I don't have further

1 information that would explain why those two years were
2 so different.

3

4 CHAIRMAN RABE: Tim.

5

6 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
7 Chair. 2008 was a pretty anomalous year as far as
8 breakup. I do agree with that. It was very fast and
9 sudden and people probably at that time didn't really
10 have the opportunity to go out and harvest as many
11 birds as they did years prior. We also experienced
12 some flooding within the Lower Yukon area. I think the
13 Lower Kuskokwim there was some slight flooding but not
14 to the extent where it would really hold anybody back.
15 Now that I recall that year we did experience a pretty
16 sudden onset of warm temperatures and breakup.

17

18 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. Were there more
19 hands up over on this side that I missed?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We have a motion
24 and a second. Are we ready for the question?

25

26 MR. PETERSON: Before the question is
27 called, a few years ago our regional management body
28 has not met this spring and we're scheduled to meet
29 either in August and September, so the 2009 report is
30 on our agenda for that meeting, so we haven't met to
31 approve our regions yet. By stating that a few years
32 ago we were in the same situation and the Council went
33 ahead and approved the report and we -- I think I
34 abstained from it just because our Council didn't
35 approve it and I'm going to have to do that on this
36 side until our regional management body approves the
37 report. But that doesn't mean that you guys can't take
38 action. You guys took action a few years ago to
39 approve it, just without our approval until our body
40 met. We're not meeting until August or September.

41

42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Procedurally, I guess
43 that leaves me with a questions of what -- once the
44 Council approves it, then, as I understand, this
45 becomes public information and that's been a big
46 discussion point in the past. That's why we go through
47 the approval process. That then becomes a final
48 document at that time. It's certainly not clear to me
49 what the implications are should the North Slope
50 Borough not approve it following Council's action to

1 approve it.

2

3

Mike.

4

5 MR. PETERSON: We did review the report
6 internally. We worked with Liliana on our footnotes
7 and stuff. We don't really have an issue with the
8 report. I'm not going to prevent you guys from doing
9 what needs to be done. I'm just stating that I'm not
10 going to participate in that vote. If I do, I'm just
11 going to abstain because our council didn't approve it
12 yet, but that doesn't mean that you guys can't proceed
13 with what you guys need to do. I just want to make
14 that clear. That's what happened the last time and we
15 didn't have an issue with it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. So if I were to
18 state that as you have a technical procedural reason
19 for not considering -- you're not voting at this point
20 in time, but you don't anticipate any problems in the
21 approval process at a regional level at a future point
22 in time. Okay. Tim.

23

24 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. Our regional management body didn't get the
26 opportunity to review this and document as well. I was
27 just wondering after the Council does approve the
28 release is there an opportunity to make any corrections
29 and note them duly on future reports or how does that
30 process work?

31

32 CHAIRMAN RABE: I think it's a very
33 good question. At least the parts of the conversation
34 that I recall from the recent meetings that I've
35 attended was that was a central issue about wanting to
36 do this in a clean, sequential fashion and that was the
37 reason that we set up the schedule with the
38 expectations that everybody would do the work and that
39 that schedule would meet everybody's need for
40 preliminary approval at a regional basis so that when
41 we got to this point in time we would have a clear
42 slate.

43

44 So the fact that we don't have that, it
45 suggests to me that, one, there's certain risks
46 associated with approving a report where we have
47 regions that are not in a position to have evaluated
48 it, but I also find that kind of an unfortunate
49 situation given the discussion that occurred previously
50 about setting up a schedule that everybody agreed to.

1 Doug, did you have a comment.

2

3 MR. ALCORN: It's consistent with what
4 you just said. We have a process that we agreed to a
5 few years ago and that we would try to get these
6 approved because the Fish and Wildlife Service has to
7 -- when we proposed these regulations, we have to
8 propose them based on known and potential impacts. We
9 have to develop -- we have to analyze what the
10 potential impacts of the proposed hunt will be on birds
11 that are threatened and endangered or candidates for
12 listing on the endangered species list. So we have
13 that requirement and the requirement is to use the best
14 available data.

15

16 This is data that dates back to 2009,
17 so it's now two years old. The longer we postpone it,
18 it becomes less useful for us in that analysis, so we
19 don't have current data. It makes justifying the
20 opening of the hunt more difficult for this agency, so
21 I would support approval of it and if at any point in
22 the future there's a concern by the regions that they
23 express those concerns and we annotate those concerns,
24 but that we do need this information so that we can
25 make our analysis.

26

27 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We do have a
28 motion on the floor to accept the proposal. Are we
29 interested in calling the question at this point in
30 time? Is there any objection to the motion?

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN RABE: Then it is adopted by
35 the Council. Doug.

36

37 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 hate to do this, but I think I need to bring our
39 attention back to the earlier report that we had from
40 Liliana on this year's 2011 survey approach. Dale, I
41 apologize, I was distracted with that phone call from
42 my wife that I hung up on.

43

44 CHAIRMAN RABE: Not good to blame
45 things on your wife, Doug.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MR. ALCORN: Russ was listening and you
50 stated that the scope of this year's survey would be Y-

1 K Delta, North Slope and Bristol Bay. In fact, we have
2 been trying to coordinate with Sandy, who is not in the
3 room now and perhaps we should probably postpone this
4 discussion until she's back in the room, but we have a
5 need to conduct additional surveys on St. Lawrence
6 Island and the sub region of her region this year for
7 the reason that Yellow-Billed Loons were listed as
8 candidate species two years ago and we need current
9 information when we do our conferences. It's not a
10 consultation technically because it's a candidate
11 species and not a listed species, but we have to do a
12 conference, which in essence is very similar to a
13 Section 7 consultation. But we have to analyze, so we
14 are in need of collecting that information and using
15 that information to apply to that analysis.

16
17 The Fish and Wildlife Service have
18 worked with those two villages. We plan to be out
19 there in the fall, so the harvest survey design would
20 be applied to that work out there as well, so that
21 needs to be discussed. I don't know if it needs to be
22 discussed, but at least to be on the record that that's
23 going to be the scope of part of our work out there.

24
25 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. We decided that
26 was an advisory discussion, so I think it's probably
27 appropriate if Council members have any comments about
28 that. Tim.

29
30 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 just have a question. Since this has become such a
32 priority in the harvest survey rotation schedule, I was
33 just wondering at what cost it's going to be to other
34 areas that are going to be surveyed or was going to be
35 surveyed.

36
37 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

38
39 MR. ALCORN: Well, we've actually had
40 to budget out of Russ's program and we have an
41 additional infusion of money from the Endangered
42 Species Office. They are giving us an additional
43 \$40,000 to conduct that work out there.

44
45 Sandy, just so you're aware, we're
46 talking about the survey needing to be conducted on St.
47 Lawrence Island this year. I wasn't aware when Dale
48 mentioned the scope of this year's survey that he
49 didn't mention that, but that's needing to be done this
50 year. We do have money, \$40,000 from the Endangered

1 Species Program to help subsidize that effort.

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. So clarification
6 on the record. Rick.

7

8 MR. ROWLAND: Rick, Sun'aq. Doug,
9 thank you for that explanation. One statement you made
10 in your brief presentation just now is that you said
11 conference is in place of Section 7 relating to
12 consultation. Is that what you said correctly?

13

14 MR. ALCORN: That's right. We have to
15 do technically what's referred to as a conference
16 process as opposed to a consultation process with the
17 Endangered Species Program when we establish our
18 proposed rule for the regulations. What that entails
19 is an analysis of the potential of the proposed action,
20 which is the opening of the season. It's an analysis
21 of the potential to impact the recovery of those
22 species that are listed as threatened or endanger and
23 in this case candidate species. When it's a candidate
24 species, it doesn't require a consultation. It
25 requires a conference. That conference is between my
26 program, who is proposing the action, and the
27 Endangered Species Program, which evaluates the
28 proposal.

29

30 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. In that
31 communication, whether it's conference or consultation,
32 are you communicating with that tribe that's in that
33 area?

34

35 MR. ALCORN: We are. As a matter of
36 fact, we have met with villages of Savoonga and Gambell
37 extensively and had discussions and have their
38 permission to work in that area.

39

40 CHAIRMAN RABE: Okay. So we have added
41 that to the record in terms of the expectations. All
42 right. Now I'm getting confused. So we're onto
43 committee reports. We have one listed specifically,
44 the Harvest Survey Committee update. Molly, do you
45 want to give a quick summary?

46

47 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN RABE: Potentially, I guess,
50 do you have something to announce in terms of -- okay.

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Molly. With our AMBCC Harvest Committee activities
3 since our September fall meeting, we've actually met
4 three times and then another one prior to the work
5 session the other day. The September -- the first
6 meeting was, of course, to make preparation for the
7 AMBCC fall meeting, but most of that discussion at that
8 meeting was regarding the second revision of the survey
9 to address species of conservation concern versus the
10 assist survey that's in its second rotation now, I
11 guess. Bristol Bay is one of the areas that are being
12 surveyed now with that assist survey project.

13
14 At that September meeting, the Harvest
15 Survey Committee appointed an outreach subcommittee
16 because we've wanted to distribute pamphlets that are
17 easy to read for showing harvest and one was -- I think
18 you have it in front of you. A little four-page
19 pamphlet that's created for Bristol Bay, which has been
20 really handy. Not only for our survey -- not only to
21 our households, the public, but to our regional reps.

22
23 When I first came on with the AMBCC in
24 2006, that was one of our worst struggles, was to try
25 to read the harvest from the surveys. With this assist
26 survey project that was created, we were able to with
27 ADF&G Subsistence Division have them help us create a
28 better record to read our migratory bird subsistence
29 harvest survey records. This has really been a plus
30 for our region.

31
32 The Outreach Subcommittee, Sandy was
33 appointed as chair and the main reason for that
34 subcommittee was to do an outreach regarding this. The
35 other two meetings, including the one that met the
36 other day was to continue with their discussions on the
37 second revision survey that we discussed during our
38 Native caucus the other day.

39
40 If there's no questions, I have a
41 motion coming out of the Native caucus after our Native
42 caucus regarding this second revision survey addressing
43 the species of concern.

44
45 CHAIRMAN RABE: Are there any questions
46 before she makes a motion?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN RABE: Hearing none.

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The motion that
2 I'm going to make coming from the Native caucus
3 regarding this second revision requested by, I guess,
4 Russ is that AMBCC Native Caucus recommendation is not
5 to endorse the proposed technical group concept as well
6 as the new components of the updated second revision of
7 the survey to address species of conservation concern
8 survey monitoring.

9
10 Then the recommendation -- I guess
11 we'll deal with this first with my motion and then I've
12 got a recommendation I guess after this motion. That's
13 my motion.

14
15 MR. ANDREW: Second, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN RABE: So we have a motion and
18 a second. To summarize, if I understood correctly.....

19
20 MS. CHYTHLOOK: AMBCC Native Caucus
21 recommendation is not to endorse the proposed technical
22 group concept as well as the new components of the
23 updated second revision of the survey to address
24 species of conservation concern survey monitoring
25 project.

26
27 CHAIRMAN RABE: Do we have any
28 comments, any discussion on this. Doug.

29
30 MR. ALCORN: I'm sorry to hear that,
31 Molly. Perhaps I'll take the blame for -- not perhaps,
32 I will take the blame for not sharing with the group in
33 a clearer fashion on why that's necessary. I would ask
34 if this motion carries, which I don't know exactly what
35 -- I guess I'd vote against it. Is there going to be an
36 alternative proposed? Is there another approach or
37 should I interpret this motion to say that the Native
38 Caucus embraces the survey as it exists today and that
39 survey design as it exists today?

40
41 MS. CHYTHLOOK: That was discussed and,
42 I'm sorry, I should have mentioned it, but I didn't
43 want to include it in my motion. What the Native
44 Caucus is planning to do is just embrace the standing
45 assist survey or continue with that and just leave it
46 at that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN RABE: Mike.

49
50 MR. PETERSON: By stating that the

1 Survey Committee realized that, you're going to go
2 ahead and move forward with what you guys presented on
3 Wednesday, so that doesn't mean that -- I forget how we
4 worded it when we meet.

5

6 CHAIRMAN RABE: Molly.

7

8 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, the
9 recommendation, if that proceeds, is for the proposed
10 harvest survey be brought back to the regional advisory
11 bodies for approval.

12

13 CHAIRMAN RABE: Doug.

14

15 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mike. I
16 appreciate that. That helps me understand sort of
17 where we are on this. What was proposed was an
18 approach. It was an approach to establish a
19 subcommittee. The question that came out of that
20 discussion in the committee was if we oppose this will
21 you proceed and the answer was yes. I understand that
22 that was an offensive answer, but that doesn't mean we
23 actually have to use that specific model. What we're
24 looking for is for us all to agree to move forward to
25 design a survey that will help us as an agency meet our
26 management needs.

27

28 Right now the history of that survey
29 was that according to the original design it would have
30 cost us seven or eight years ago three-quarters of a
31 million dollars, which we all know we never had that
32 much money to do. So we stepped back and we tried to
33 do something that was not as thought to be as
34 effective. It turns out that that information is even
35 less useful for identifying the potential impacts or
36 even to estimate the harvest levels in the take of
37 birds that are rarely caught. The survey wasn't
38 designed to answer that question.

39

40 So we are left in a quandary with
41 having two management decisions or management needs and
42 having a budget that's insufficient to even meet the
43 very first management need. So what we were trying to
44 do was to propose an approach to have a very thorough
45 discussion of how best to meet that need and we wanted
46 -- at my behest, we wanted to have the Harvest Survey
47 Committee involved in that.

48

49 Through the four meetings that we've
50 had with many of the Fish and Wildlife Service people

1 from Washington, D.C. and here and elsewhere, it was
2 apparent to me that we were a large group, not many
3 with a skill set -- I certainly don't have the skill
4 set to resolve the need, to create and design a survey
5 approach that would satisfy those needs. So what Russ
6 has offered to do was to think that through and propose
7 an approach that had a subset of our larger group and
8 hire individuals with the right skills to help us
9 design that model. That was what was proposed.

10

11 It's my fault for not saying that and
12 qualifying that answer. Yes, it is still clear that
13 that survey doesn't meet the management needs that have
14 been described by the Service on a couple of occasions
15 now. Yes, I still have an instruction from my regional
16 senior executive, Geoff Haskett, the Regional Director,
17 to revise our approach. That's why we have to move
18 forward.

19

20 Yes, I still covet your involvement.
21 If you're saying that you don't want to be involved in
22 this motion, then I'm disappointed in that because I
23 don't know that we're going to develop a model that
24 would be as good as if it would be with your
25 involvement.

26

27 CHAIRMAN RABE: Peter.

28

29 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. I just want to
30 make a comment. We spent two years redesigning -- you
31 know, I mean ever since '05 when I was complaining
32 about numbers, we spent two years redesigning the
33 survey and we all sat here and discussed it and then we
34 asked for a winter hunt and we come back and find out
35 we have to redesign the survey again. So I think
36 that's why they want to stick with the old one is
37 because we already spent the time to do it. We asked
38 for something else and they said, no, you have to go
39 back and do this. We already did this, you know. I had
40 nowhere to go.

41

42 CHAIRMAN RABE: Russ.

43

44 MR. OATES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Yeah, probably in retrospect it probably would have
46 been most appropriate for the Fish and Wildlife Service
47 to review for the entire group here. The reasons why
48 we have proposed this latest redesign, in a nutshell,
49 I was involved with the last revision and I can
50 remember clearly we all sat around the table and tried

1 to figure out what our needs were. We knew that there
2 was some need at that point to monitor populations of
3 the commonly harvested species, particularly those that
4 we share with the folks down south that harvest birds
5 down there because we have in the past had to sit
6 across the table from those fall hunters and say, well,
7 these Cackling Geese are in trouble, these White-
8 Fronted Geese are in trouble, these Emperor Geese are
9 in trouble, the Brant are in trouble, we've all got to
10 reduce our take some to allow these birds to recover.
11 We had a lot of success particularly with the White
12 Fronts and the Cacklers.

13

14 Since the time of that last -- I mean
15 at that time we also recognized the need to monitor
16 harvest of things like Spectacled Eiders, Steller's
17 Eiders and Yellow-Billed Loons. Since that time it's
18 become apparent that those candidate and threatened
19 species in particular we learned that we were going to
20 have to demonstrate pretty clearly to the Endangered
21 Species folks to ensure that harvest was not
22 threatening those populations. We made the choice at
23 the last revision that we were not -- we were going to
24 emphasize the effort on the commonly harvested species
25 because we knew we didn't have enough money to do a
26 really good job on the threatened species, the
27 candidate species and the commonly harvested species.

28

29 We felt like our management needs at
30 that time weighed more heavily toward those commonly
31 harvested species. I was there and we made that
32 decision that we were going to emphasize that part of
33 it. It has been since then that the need to get better
34 information on the candidate species, threatened
35 species has loomed far greater in importance and, in
36 fact, when we attempted to use the data from the
37 harvest survey to support proposals relative to Yellow-
38 Billed Loons, we found that the data were
39 scientifically insufficient and basically did not pass
40 scientific muster. That put the Fish and Wildlife
41 Service in a very very bad spot in terms of defending
42 its ability to support the Yellow-Billed Loon proposal
43 in particular. It made the Fish and Wildlife Service
44 very vulnerable to legal action and it basically
45 suggested that the Service was taking action that was
46 not properly supported by scientific data. So it put
47 the Service and for that matter the whole subsistence
48 process in a bad light on the national scene. The
49 Service Regulations Committee basically gave us a
50 short-term get out of jail free card on that.

1 Our Regional Director, who is a part of
2 this Service Regulations Committee, told us to jump
3 into action and try to fix this. That's why another
4 revision so soon, Peter, to answer your specific
5 question. Nobody was more uncomfortable about jumping
6 into this thing on the short notice that we had than I
7 was. When I came to you and sat in front of you last
8 September and presented this new revision, I was
9 extremely uncomfortable and I felt really bad about it
10 because it was not something that I wanted to do and I
11 knew that you folks hadn't been involved from the very
12 beginning on that. I hate that and I apologize for
13 that. That was kind of the situation we were forced
14 into by -- it was sort of precipitated by the need for
15 good information on these rare species, candidate
16 species, so we had to do something.

17
18 What I have tried to lay out to the
19 Harvest Survey Committee over the last three meetings
20 is an approach that we could use to try to get us to
21 where we need to be so that we will be able to produce
22 defensible data that the Service Regulations Committee
23 can feel good about endorsing these proposals that come
24 forward particularly with regard to the candidate
25 species and also to meet our requirements under the
26 Endangered Species Act to ensure that we're not
27 jeopardizing any of these populations.

28
29 Like I said, I realize this has been on
30 short notice, it's been a lot of information to try to
31 digest and a lot of things to consider, but it's kind
32 of the box that we're in. I brought my presentation to
33 the Harvest Survey Committee and, like I said I
34 probably should have done the whole thing for the whole
35 group here so everybody could kind of understand where
36 we were coming from, but I did that and I did it and I
37 made a request at the end of it.

38
39 I requested that the process be
40 endorsed. The reason I did that and, Mike, you made
41 the statement earlier that we're going to go ahead
42 without your endorsement, but I don't know that we are.
43 I don't know that we can. I don't think it's in
44 anybody's best interest for the Fish and Wildlife
45 Service to unilaterally go into this thing. I think
46 without your support and your endorsement that it won't
47 work.

48
49 That is why when I had the graph there,
50 the table that showed composition and skill sets needed

1 for this group, the first one on the list was a member
2 that has basically lived a subsistence lifestyle and
3 understands cultural acceptability and somebody that
4 can be a liaison with the subsistence hunters and help
5 this quantitative, the statistical expertise that we
6 want to bring into this group, craft a survey
7 instrument that will be accepted in the communities and
8 I think that's crucial. I think we're wasting our time
9 if we don't do this.

10

11 Again, the purpose of this is to enable
12 us to convince -- to meet our obligations to the
13 Service Regulations Committee and the protection of
14 those candidate and threatened species by providing
15 data that will be accepted within those arenas of
16 consideration. That's what's behind this and that's all
17 I'm trying to do is help us get to a point where we can
18 do that. I say again we can't get there without the
19 support of this group. I mean I can go through my
20 entire presentation again for this whole group if it
21 would be to the benefit of the understanding. I'm
22 willing to do it. We're in this together and we can't
23 do it without you. The purpose of this is to ensure
24 continued subsistence hunting opportunity.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Russ. Let's
27 let the record show that the Chair, the Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game, had to leave the meeting
29 and I'm going to assume the Chair. This is U.S. Fish
30 and Wildlife Service representative. I'm also going to
31 invite Liliana Naves to the table as a representative
32 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game if she will
33 take that request so that we can at least have three
34 voting entities. We do have a motion on the table.
35 It's been seconded. We are in discussion. I thank you
36 for that, Russ. We do have an offer for Russ to show a
37 portion of his presentation if that's the will of the
38 body.

39

40 I would like to have for discussion
41 sake have Molly, if you would, restate the motion so we
42 realize what the motion is before us.

43

44 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The motion and
45 the recommendation from the AMBCC Native Caucus is a
46 recommendation not to endorse the proposed tech group
47 concept as well as the new components of the updated
48 second revision of the survey to address species of
49 conservation concern survey monitoring.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Molly. Is
2 there continued discussion of that motion. Mike.

3

4 MR. PETERSON: Thank you, Russ. Would
5 the Service then be willing to come and present some of
6 these type of issues to our regional management bodies
7 for their input? Because one of our concerns in the
8 Native caucus was that if we were going to move forward
9 to this we wanted the input of our regional management
10 bodies to help us make a further decision.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let me answer that
13 question first. Of course we'll be willing to
14 communicate with you all. What was being asked was for
15 one representative of the Harvest Survey Committee to
16 be a part of that further discussion in a sub committee
17 or a taskforce group. That's the request. There's no
18 prescription being proposed at this time. There's no
19 model. There's nothing really to propose other than
20 that approach. But we would be willing to participate
21 in regional meetings and explain that.

22

23 This is a significant enough of a need
24 and a significant enough of a product that we
25 definitely need a clear understanding of what's needed
26 and a clear understanding of kind of where we're going
27 and how that information would be used. So the short
28 answer is yes, we'd be willing to participate in those
29 discussions, Mike.

30

31 Molly had her hand raised.

32

33 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I think that
34 wasn't really discussed. What was discussed was that
35 if there's a proposed harvest survey, that the
36 recommendation was that that proposed harvest survey be
37 brought to regional advisory bodies for approval, was
38 what was discussed within the Native caucus yesterday.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Tim.

41

42 MR. ANDREW; I was just wondering if
43 the change in the harvest survey is critically needed.
44 Is it extremely time sensitive to have this adopted
45 now?

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No, it's not
48 sensitive to have it adopted today. What was being
49 proposed again was an approach that was laid out in a
50 timeline that was going to be probably a couple of

1 years before it was actually finalized and sort of
2 tested. During the course of that approach there would
3 be regular updates as the AMBCC meets on its regular
4 frequency. There would be updates on the progress of
5 that through the Harvest Survey Committee or directly
6 from Russ. We don't actually have to have a decision
7 made today. We can continue our discussion through the
8 committee or directly with the AMBCC.

9

10 Let me follow up with Tim and then I'll
11 take Russ's comment.

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
14 for the opportunity for the follow up. So what Mike's
15 recommendation of bringing this concept to the regional
16 management bodies is probably not out of the question.
17 In fact, it can be brought to them?

18

19 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, I don't know
20 what the question is to approach to the management
21 bodies other than just the approach of forming a
22 taskforce. That's what the proposal is at this point.
23 Perhaps Russ has a better answer.

24

25 MR. OATES: What I was looking for was
26 endorsement of the idea that we need to put together a
27 group that will figure out what we need to do to make
28 the survey responsive to management needs.

29

30 One of the items in the timeline was to
31 have meetings in the regions and present the proposed
32 approaches and actually do some testing of whatever
33 this group comes up with and the plan, at least in my
34 head, was to have the cultural expertise member of the
35 group be a liaison with the regions and other members
36 of the group, at least as I perceive it, once it's
37 formed could go out and talk with the folks in the
38 regions about ideas about things that might be
39 culturally acceptable to use as survey instruments.
40 Different approaches.

41

42 What I've asked this group to support
43 is just the idea that we're going to bring in the
44 expertise, cultural, regulatory, statistical and
45 harvest survey expertise as a smaller group, smaller
46 than the Harvest Survey Committee, and get some
47 expertise that is beyond what any of us have with
48 regard to surveys and sampling, to develop and
49 instrument that would be culturally acceptable. I was
50 just looking for support for the formation of this

1 group and the process. I think we've demonstrated the
2 need.

3

4 I think the best time to work with the
5 regional bodies on this is when we actually have
6 something to show them in terms of things that we want
7 to try. I don't know what kind of timeframe we're
8 working with with the SRC, but I was under the
9 impression that they wanted something pretty quick for
10 -- I mean like this year at least as an approach for
11 the Yellow-Billed Loon situation in particular.

12 I think the sooner we get this group
13 together and get it working the better off we're going
14 to be in terms of getting us on down the road. My
15 advice would be to have the meetings with the regions
16 once we have something to show them.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Mike.

19

20 MR. PETERSON: Before you leave, Russ.
21 So with your request to do this group, my question then
22 would be if this group is formed and it moves forward
23 to get the management needs that you guys need and
24 whoever is chosen to be on this group from the Native
25 caucus, are you guys willing to work with a person who
26 might be very vocal and sometimes disagreeable with
27 your approach on how to get this thing going?

28

29 MR. OATES: I never work with anybody
30 that's disagreeable, Mike.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. OATES: We need folks -- I mean it
35 doesn't have to be one person. It could be two
36 representatives. We need people that understand the
37 cultural sensitivities, what's culturally acceptable
38 and they can't be quiet. They've got to communicate.
39 We've got to know -- this group has got to understand
40 what will and will not work in the villages because the
41 whole thing will go belly up if it won't work in the
42 villages. I mean it's critical that those
43 sensitivities are built into this model. So, yes. We
44 don't want somebody that's just going to sit there and
45 say, sure, great, that's fine. It's got to be real.
46 Like I said, I think we need to plan to have some --
47 maybe the statistician go out to a village meeting with
48 the liaison or with the regional rep and, you know,
49 have him talk to the local folks about what would work.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Liliana.

2

3 MS. NAVES: When I heard about this
4 intention for the second revision on the survey, I was
5 personally very (indiscernible) for the whole approach
6 because much of my work were in those two years of the
7 revision of this survey, was fully dedicated to the
8 revision of the survey and to come with something that
9 was -- that had built on the experience and what you
10 learned from the previous years of the survey.

11

12 So it was kind of, yikes. I'm a very
13 pragmatic person. I don't like to be in a revision
14 mode for the rest of the life and to have a new
15 package, let's see what we get with it, but I'm
16 sensitive to the fact that bad data is very dangerous
17 thing. When you're using this information for
18 management purposes, as we have seen with the Yellow-
19 Billed Loon data, I'm correct that it can hurt a lot.

20

21 In the interest of having something
22 that will allow us to have something that portray the
23 subsistence harvest in harness fashion I think that
24 this second exercise is a valid one. I think that what
25 is being proposed now is just a more focused direction
26 on how to pursue the second revision and have a group
27 of people that will dedicate a significant amount of
28 their time to have this completed.

29

30 Having a very large group of people,
31 it's difficult to get things done and it's even
32 difficult to get the tasks assigned because you have so
33 many people involved. I think it's fair that we need
34 very substantial statistical help and I'm not the
35 person to provide that. I'm a biologist. I can do
36 analysis and do some exercise, but I'm not a
37 statistician. So I think it's very much a need to have
38 someone that can address that part of it. I think that
39 what was proposed is just a rough backbone. I think
40 this is something to be worked out yet.

41

42 This is an opportunity also to flesh
43 out the data, lay out the data. A general idea for the
44 technical group. I think what Russ is proposing is
45 very reasonable and it will be up to this group to
46 flesh it out with further input. I think what Russ is
47 proposing right now is simpler than -- it's not the
48 full package, it's just a backbone on how to be more
49 effective in getting this second revision completed
50 sooner than than later.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Liliana.
4 I'll respond to Tim's question again, what's the time
5 sensitivity here. We have an opportunity in the Fish
6 and Wildlife Service to submit a proposal for money
7 that is managed out of the Washington office to support
8 this effort and that meeting is going to occur in
9 September and we have a proposal that's needed to be
10 submitted and it needs to lay out what an approach
11 would be. That was one reason why we were seeking
12 AMBCC's approval at this meeting for that approach, so
13 that we could submit that proposal and perhaps get some
14 additional funding to this region to help support in
15 that effort.

16

17 MR. OATES: I would emphasize that that
18 proposal is due this summer. I think it might be early
19 August. If this thing is going to go, I think getting
20 that money could be crucial to this being successful.
21 I would ask the Caucus to reconsider and give this
22 process a chance and see if we can't work together to
23 make this happen.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Molly.

26

27 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Well, my understanding
28 is that you guys can go ahead and go through this
29 process and get your proposal in unless you need the
30 Native Caucus. I guess my understanding was that you
31 guys indicated that you can do it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Go ahead, Russ.

34

35 MR. OATES: I would just say the Fish
36 and Wildlife Service can unilaterally come up with a
37 survey, but I don't think we can possibly be successful
38 without the advice and assistance of people that
39 understand what kind of survey will or will not work
40 out in the rural community. I think it's pointless for
41 us to pursue this without your support and assistance.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Molly.

44

45 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 The assist survey is a subsistence harvest survey and
47 this is the one that's in place. This revised survey
48 is going to put more pressure to the coordinator, our
49 coordinators and our surveyors, because it's going to
50 be management too. It's just not going to be

1 collecting harvest, subsistence bird survey. It's
2 going to be a management tool eventually because the
3 newest survey that was in place hasn't really been
4 tested out because it's just going on the second year
5 and then this new revised survey came about before that
6 other tool was really tested out. I don't know --
7 maybe because it's Fish and Wildlife backed that it
8 will be a more trusted survey for the agencies versus
9 the one that's in place now.

10

11 Again, it's going to be two separate
12 surveys. One subsistence survey, the other one
13 management tool to certain species of birds.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have Eric and then
16 we'll break from our protocol. We typically don't hear
17 from public during Council deliberation and Council
18 discussion. Eric is staff to the Service and staff in
19 some respects to the Harvest Survey Committee. You're
20 staff to Molly, so I'll entertain your comment after I
21 entertain Eric's.

22

23 MR. TAYLOR: Eric Taylor, U.S. Fish and
24 Wildlife Service. Molly, I think there's a bit of
25 confusion in the sense that there appears to be some
26 thought that the Service has a design already in mind.
27 I want to stress something that Russ's presentation
28 tried to go through where -- and I think Liliana voiced
29 clearly that we're very much in the development mode.
30 We have no idea what this survey might look like.

31

32 As Russ said, the key component is for
33 cultural expertise, whether it's Mike or Molly or
34 someone else from the Harvest Committee or two
35 individuals. But it makes no sense for the Service to
36 think we can design a survey to assess subsistence
37 harvest without clearly cultural expertise. I mean we
38 can design the best survey in the world, perhaps
39 statistically, but if it's not accepted, if people's
40 participation isn't high, then the data are basically
41 useless.

42

43 I've heard concerns that participation
44 in some areas, particularly on the North Slope and in
45 other areas are declining. Clearly the less
46 participation you have in a survey, the weaker the data
47 are. So I think one of the clear motives that this
48 revision has is to try and sit down and say how can we
49 get participation up, how can we get confidence up and,
50 most importantly, how can we get the most accurate data

1 to ensure that this subsistence hunt continues. I
2 think that's one of the biggest concerns.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I had Frank with his
7 hand up and then I have Tim and Sandy and then Molly.
8 I will take Todd's comment if it's as staff to Michael.
9 Frank.

10

11 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods, Bristol Bay
12 Native Association, migratory bird subsistence harvest
13 coordinator. I just wanted to point out that the
14 comments I want to make are a direct result of our --
15 Liliana came last month in April and did a
16 comprehensive training and outlined an existing survey
17 process. In that regard, it would behoove our region
18 to have another addition to that, but I was asked to
19 convene or request that we have a Native caucus to
20 review this issue. If we had heard all this
21 information from Russ and you, Doug, and our Native
22 liaison, Fred, beforehand, maybe it would have been a
23 little more acceptable or we would have had time to
24 digest the information that you're throwing at us now.
25 So.....

26

27 MR. PETERSON: Before, Mr. Chair.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, he still has
30 the mic on and I still have a succession of folks that
31 I've called on. Do you have a comment directly in
32 response to something he said or is it something you
33 want to add to contribute to the discussion. We do
34 have a motion on the table.

35

36 MR. PETERSON: To contribute to the
37 discussion and to get a decision, I'd like to, before
38 we further discuss it, in hopes of making a decision,
39 I'd like to call for a Native caucus.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Before we do
42 that, before I'll consent to that, I would like to hear
43 the comments of hands raised. Hold that thought and
44 I'm going to call on Tim and then I had Sandy.

45

46 MR. WOODS: I'd like to add to this.
47 The regional perspective -- during our training, I was
48 going to get to that. During our training the species
49 of concern is open until closed, is that correct? The
50 whole subsistence harvest seasons are all open until

1 listed closed.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Just the opposite.
4 They're closed until opened.

5

6 MR. WOODS: Closed until opened. Then
7 there's open listing in the regulatory book. The
8 question that regional came up with to surveyors was
9 what if someone catches a closed season bird, how do we
10 deal with that. Well, we're not asking people to
11 commit to crimes or admit to prosecution or anything.
12 That real sensitive issue, real sensitive, the trust
13 issue between the surveyors, and Russ is right. If we
14 introduce something that's going to have people admit
15 to a crime, we're going to lose the trust in our whole
16 surveys.

17

18 So our suggestion, and thank you,
19 Liliana, is just list them. That's not our job. We're
20 not here to prosecute people. We just want an accurate
21 survey. Sometimes there's a misidentification and
22 that's where them lists, the wonderful pamphlets that
23 come out to each household. If anything changes within
24 that protocol how we deal with a survey process, it's
25 going to affect everything that we do or are doing
26 right now. Then we aren't going to get no accurate
27 survey. I don't think the Native community is asking
28 for anything more than they already subsist off of.
29 We're just asking to keep our existing lifestyle.

30

31 That was my speel. I just wanted to
32 speak for our region. That came out of the training
33 that any deviation from that existing -- we're just
34 testing this. This is the first year doing this
35 process. I'll close that with comments.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Frank. I
38 had Tim and then Sandy and then Molly.

39

40 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, just to feed off
41 from Frank's presentation and the word digest and
42 considering the late timing we are discussing on this
43 issue and the need for a Native caucus, Mr. Chairman,
44 I'd suggest we have lunch, Native caucus and then
45 reconvene immediately afterwards or whatever time you
46 determine. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you for that.
49 I will take the hands that have been raised and then we
50 will consider that as a recommendation.

1 Sandy, you were next.
2
3 MS. TAHBONE: I concur with Tim.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Molly,
6 did you have a comment?
7
8 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I concur with Tim.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Great. Then we had
11 one final comment. With Mike's permission, we'll
12 invite Todd to the microphone if he still wants to
13 speak.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. We have a
18 recommendation to recess for lunch and to allow the
19 Native caucus. I'm going to ask that we get back
20 together at 2:30. That gives us an hour and 15 minutes
21 for lunch and a caucus. 2:30.
22
23 (Off record)
24
25 (On record)
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Good afternoon. It's
28 2:43 and we have a quorum by my count, seven of us at
29 the table -- eight of us at the table, so we will take
30 up where we left off before we went to the caucus. We
31 have a motion and a second on the table for discussion.
32 Molly, is there a report from the caucus?
33
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes. The Native Caucus
35 has -- they're going to stand on the motion to -- the
36 standing motion, not endorsing the proposed technical
37 committee as well as the new survey component, but the
38 Native Caucus recommendation is to have the Service
39 work with North Slope, Mike Peterson, regarding the
40 proposed technical group, I guess, the skills
41 requirements and composition, I guess. So the Native
42 Caucus is appointing Mike Peterson to work within this
43 technical group. He has agreed to be a member of that
44 technical group as long as he's, you know, feeling
45 comfortable in working with that group.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion and
48 second. Just so I understand the motion, would you
49 mind restating the motion and then we will, if there's
50 no further discussion, we'll call the question.

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: The AMBCC Native Caucus
2 recommendation is not to endorse the proposed technical
3 group concept as well as the new second revision of the
4 survey to address species of conservation concern
5 survey monitoring, but have recommended to have the
6 Service work with the North Slope, Mike Peterson,
7 within whatever group they're going to be using.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: And I don't recall
10 who seconded the motion. Is the seconder in agreement
11 with that? Was that Tim?
12

13 MR. ANDREW: Okay.
14

15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. We had
16 clarification on the motion. Is there any further
17 discussion. Sandy.
18

19 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah. My understanding
20 is that regarding that committee it will be a
21 subcommittee of the Harvest Survey Committee. That's
22 my understanding.
23

24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It was a taskforce,
25 but.....
26

27 MS. TAHBONE: My understanding, there
28 was a motion made at our fall meeting to address the
29 concerns that were raised and that a subcommittee be
30 formed, something along those lines, so this committee
31 would be a subcommittee of the Harvest Survey
32 Committee. It's not a separate committee, right?
33

34 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It would have a
35 member of the Harvest Survey Committee on it and I'm
36 assuming that that's Mike on that taskforce, but the
37 taskforce is not necessarily a subcommittee of the
38 Harvest Survey Committee. It's a stand-alone committee
39 because there's expertise that was envisioned that is
40 beyond my staff's capacity and beyond the capacity of
41 those that are on the committee, so that's why the
42 taskforce was envisioned. But there would be a
43 representative from the Harvest Survey Committee on
44 that taskforce.
45

46 Russ, would you like to explain the
47 proposal.
48

49 MR. OATES: I guess I can't give a
50 definitive answer, but what I was proposing was that

1 this group would be somewhat autonomous, but would
2 report to the Harvest Survey Committee. Dependant upon
3 the nature of the membership, the group leader could
4 conceivably be the statistician that we hire or it
5 could be our AMBCC liaison person. I hadn't totally
6 figured that out yet. Since part of the membership
7 would be from the Harvest Survey Committee, it seemed
8 natural for that group to report to them the progress,
9 et cetera. I mean that group could -- the task group
10 could also report directly out to the Council as well.

11

12 MS. TAHBONE: Question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The question has been
15 called for. Anybody oppose the motion that's been
16 offered by the Native Caucus?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Hearing no
21 opposition, the motion carries. There is a voice or an
22 expression of opposition to the approach as I
23 understand it or the revision. There is an embracement
24 of the existing survey model. There is also an
25 acknowledgment and a willingness from the Harvest
26 Survey Committee to appoint Mike as a participant on
27 that approach that the Service is compelled to carry
28 forward. Motion carried.

29

30 Let me express my sincere thank you.
31 Thanks for that. I think that was a very difficult
32 circumstance we all find ourselves in and I apologize
33 again for perhaps not being very clear on the need and
34 expressing that, but I believe that we can with this
35 structure we can begin to make some progress and move
36 forward and I appreciate that.

37

38 That carries us to item -- we're still
39 on Item 15, then B. Unless there is any other report
40 out from the Harvest Committee, is there any other
41 report?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: None. So that takes
46 us to Item 15(b) committee reports. Are there any
47 other committees of the AMBCC that are going to report
48 at this time?

49

50 MR. OATES: Can I just ask for

1 clarification, Doug?

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You can, Russ, since
4 that was a little bit confusing, but please come back.

5

6 MR. OATES: I think several different
7 things were discussed in the course of our
8 deliberations on this. The way you just characterized
9 the intent of that motion, that wasn't my
10 interpretation necessarily and I just want to get this
11 clarified since this is part of the record.

12

13 I guess my question to the Caucus, do
14 we interpret not endorsing this approach as opposition
15 to the approach because there's a difference there.
16 Not endorsing can be interpreted as a neutral position
17 and opposed to opposition.

18

19 The other question I would like to have
20 clarified was Doug also indicated that the caucus was
21 endorsing or embracing the last revision and I don't
22 think that was part -- was that part of this motion as
23 well? I would just like to get that clarified because,
24 one, the interpretation I thought I heard Doug say, if
25 we carry that to our Regional Director -- I mean right
26 now I'm talking to you, Doug. If we carry that to our
27 Regional Director, I think his reaction might be
28 somewhat different than if we carried back there was
29 some uncertainty and equivocation and more of a wait
30 and see attitude on the part of the Caucus.

31

32 With Mike's involvement, we go forward
33 and create this technical group and Mike is involved
34 and feels like things are going okay, then so be it,
35 but it's kind of a confusing message to me if there's
36 opposition and yet there's some participation. So I
37 would just appreciate some clarification for my own
38 sake if nothing else.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let me see if I can
41 explain the way I understood it because I voted in
42 support of the motion or didn't oppose it, so it
43 carried by consensus. What I heard the motion do was,
44 first of all, express concern about the approach that
45 the Service was taking, concern that the Service was
46 compelled to revise the survey approach and that my
47 interpretation of that was that there was support for
48 the existing survey and Molly confirmed that. So this
49 was a statement to that effect and I was not going to
50 argue that statement. The Native Caucus said that this

1 is our statement. My vote to support that statement
2 was that I acknowledge the statement. I understand the
3 statement.

4
5 I also interpreted from the additional
6 discussion and the additional offering of Mike's
7 participation was that the Service, compelled for
8 management reasons, is moving to look at the survey and
9 to revise that approach given the management
10 constraints that we have, and that Mike is willing to
11 participate in that dialogue and continue to liaise
12 with the Harvest Survey Committee.

13
14 Molly.

15
16 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I don't think that's
17 the way we discussed it during the Native caucus.
18 We're still not endorsing -- we decided to stand down
19 and stick with our first motion and that's not to
20 endorse the technical group concept as well as the new
21 survey component. We decided to have Mike work with
22 the Service in this, I guess, proposed technical group
23 skill, which has a cultural, subsistence -- all these
24 four bulleted components to this group here, which
25 Mike would be a part of that. During our Native caucus
26 there was no discussion about just what you said about
27 the survey.

28
29 We're still going to be supporting the
30 assist survey as is because Russ earlier expressed that
31 they needed this group to develop something is why the
32 Native Caucus has appointed Mike from North Slope to be
33 a part of that and see where that goes.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I guess Russ's
36 confusion is -- I understand his confusion because I'm
37 also confused. I don't see how we can continue on with
38 the existing survey given that, number one, we don't
39 have the resources to continue the existing survey.
40 Two, the existing survey is not meeting the statistical
41 needs providing the data that we need to use in our
42 analysis of this hunt. So we have been directed by our
43 Regional Director to work with you all to develop a
44 survey that will meet those needs so we can no longer
45 continue to support the continuation of the existing
46 survey once we have a new model designed and ready to
47 implement.

48
49 So at some point we won't be able to
50 continue the survey as we know it today. Molly.

1 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Well, that's another
2 scenario now that we didn't know about. I guess if
3 this technical committee goes forward, then the
4 existing survey is going to be null and void. The
5 Service isn't going to support that?
6

7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The survey that we
8 revised the second time or I guess the first revision
9 that we are in the middle of implementing, we may look
10 at the information that that survey was providing from
11 the most recently approved survey, which I believe was
12 2007, the datasets. We had some conflicting numbers
13 that were confounding us in our analysis, especially
14 when we tried to figure out whether or not rarely
15 caught birds were being taken.
16

17 So that has raised the issue for the
18 need -- it's the cause for the discussion of the need
19 to develop a survey approach that will provide
20 information that we can use because the existing survey
21 is not providing that data. Because that survey, the
22 new model, is costing this year \$560,000, I believe, we
23 can't sustain that.
24

25 I'm going to wait until Molly is
26 through talking to Mike. I'm trying to answer the
27 question that Molly posed. So we, as a funding agency,
28 can no longer sustain what we're spending to do that
29 survey and also it was a survey as I understand it that
30 was going to go out and survey other geographic areas
31 on a rotating basis. It's the schedule that Liliana
32 handed out earlier today.
33

34 The Regional Director is no longer
35 supportive of funding that particular survey. He's
36 willing to fund portions of it until we have a new
37 model in place, but at some point in the future we will
38 withdraw support for that survey.
39

40 Liliana.
41

42 MS. NAVES: If I understood correctly
43 when Frank commented on concerns about this review on
44 the survey, I think that there is -- please help me the
45 Native part to see if I'm understanding this correctly.
46 There is concern from the part of the Natives on this
47 new effort that really touches a very sensitive point
48 that is reporting of closed species and species of
49 conservation concern. So I think that it's very
50 difficult for them to endorse anything that would put

1 the finger in the wound and we don't know where it's
2 going to go and I'm very sympathetic to this position.
3 If I understand correctly, there's difficulty endorsing
4 something that asks about species closed to harvest,
5 really putting a big magnifying glass on species of
6 closed to harvest and species of conservation concern.
7 I think the word endorse in there. I'm correct in
8 understanding things? But there's a willingness to
9 work in the process. Am I understanding this
10 correctly?

11
12 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'm not sure where we
13 are now.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I think that what was
16 proposed was just to form a group to think this
17 through. I don't think anyone has proposed a survey
18 design or a particular approach. That's not even on
19 the table because no one has thought that through yet.
20 What I thought that I was voting for 10 minutes ago was
21 to acknowledge the statements that you made and to also
22 acknowledge the fact that Mike is volunteering to
23 participate in those discussions on that technical
24 group so that we can have that discussion and we can
25 perhaps discuss a new approach. Understanding fully
26 the support that the caucus expressed for the old
27 survey design.

28
29 Molly.

30
31 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Well, you just threw a
32 wrench in stating that the Service is not going to
33 support the existing survey. That wasn't in the pot
34 before. So I don't know where the Native Caucus is
35 going to go from here.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'll apologize again
38 for not making this clear. It's become -- and perhaps
39 it's -- I understand now why you're so confused by
40 this. When the Regional Director became aware through
41 the Service Regulation Committee that we had
42 information that was not clear and it's not that it
43 wasn't trustworthy, as it's been characterized, it's
44 just that it's not statistically precise and therefore
45 we can't know whether or not the estimates are accurate
46 or not. When the Regional Director became aware of
47 that, the Regional Director said we need to correct
48 that and if the old survey is not providing that
49 information we need a new approach.
50

1 And the old survey as well all
2 understood it back in the day was designed to answer
3 the one question we were given by the Congress and that
4 one question was to ensure that through these
5 regulations that harvest didn't change relative to the
6 changes in the populations of the birds. It was
7 designed to answer that question collectively and we
8 were supportive of it.

9
10 The questions now have changed. We
11 still have that question, but the question of the
12 impact on rarely harvested birds is as relevant to our
13 agency as the earlier question and that's what is now
14 driving our need to use the resources that we have to
15 try to satisfy both of those questions.

16
17 So our proposal was to form this task
18 group, technical group, to think that through, to use
19 the resources that we have to try to satisfy both of
20 those needs. What I thought I heard earlier today was
21 an endorsement of the old survey and the validity of
22 that survey and yet a willingness to work in
23 discussions of looking at perhaps a new way to do
24 things.

25
26 I see you shaking your head. If that's
27 not what you meant, then I was confused. Liliana.

28
29 MS. NAVES: Would there be a way where
30 maybe we can maybe retire the word endorsement for a
31 little bit and work in terms of willingness to work
32 with the process proposed by Russ without a request to
33 endorse the second revision of the survey. I think
34 that when you endorse something, maybe it's my poor
35 understanding of the word, but you are kind of fully
36 abiding to it and agreeing with all the terms of it.
37 Maybe we can just not reach an agreement on all full
38 package, but if you try to communicate around the
39 willingness of the Native partners as manifested by
40 Mike, integrating this group, without having to weight
41 so much on endorsement of something or another. When I
42 see a politician on the TV that says I approve of this
43 message, I endorse this message, they are full knit.

44
45 What Frank came to comment on, I think
46 there's a really concern of people from the regions on
47 endorsing and putting the name below a line or
48 something that ask people to report species that are
49 closed to harvest. So maybe if you could work just
50 around a willingness to work together to address the

1 current situation and let's leave the endorsement word
2 out of the equation by now. Would this make you guys
3 feel more comfortable? You don't need to endorse
4 anything. You don't need to endorse a second version
5 of the survey, but if you are willing to work with it
6 and participate in the discussion.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Liliana.
11 Tim, you had your hand raised.

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. We can discuss this
14 and go on and on and on and go another day discussing
15 around this issue here, but I'd like to just
16 individually -- not speaking through the Native Caucus
17 or anything, but individually. Perhaps throw an olive
18 branch out there. There's a lot of issues surrounding
19 this and there's a lot of feelings from the various
20 regions about even the thought of changing harvest
21 survey practices. If we can possibly take this and
22 assign it to the Harvest Survey Committee to work this
23 out and perhaps take it up at a special meeting or
24 something like that through audioconference of the
25 Council when that day finally arrives. My thoughts.
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Do you want to put
29 that in the form of a motion?

30

31 MS. TAHBONE: Wait.

32

33 CHAIRMAN RABE: Sandy.

34

35 MS. TAHBONE: Again I want to say, you
36 know, it was already put in the form of a motion at our
37 last meeting and I'm not sure why the unwillingness of
38 the Service to do that, to work with the Harvest Survey
39 Committee, because that was a motion that was made at
40 our fall meeting. Here we are, we're at the same
41 point. So I'm not sure why the Service is unwilling to
42 work with the Harvest Survey Committee on this issue.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I think we are very
45 willing to work with the Harvest Survey. I think
46 what's at issue is whether or not that Harvest Survey
47 Committee and the Service staff associated with it at
48 this point have the skill sets necessary to put a
49 survey design together.

50

1 MS. TAHBONE: That's one of the issues
2 that was raised. We're not arguing that point. When
3 the presentation was made to the Harvest Survey
4 Committee several days ago, it was presented via
5 PowerPoint. There was no hard copy sent out. There
6 was no room to discuss each point or the approach of
7 the proposal that was given. I think there needs to be
8 discussion as to the criteria that was set in order for
9 the Harvest Survey Committee to be able to be a part of
10 the solution.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Tim.

13
14 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 That's why I'm proposing that the Service works with
16 the Harvest Survey Committee in the development of this
17 process. Like what Molly was indicating at the Harvest
18 Survey Committee meetings, let's lay out all the
19 marbles on the table, all the issues, be
20 straightforward and work at it to where we can possibly
21 come up with a compromise or a solution to this issue
22 that we've been talking about since a few days ago. If
23 the Service were to fully abide or commit to work with
24 the Harvest Survey Committee, perhaps we can have
25 something on the table sometime soon.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So we do have a
28 motion that was approved at the fall meeting. We have
29 the minutes of that meeting. We can read those. It's
30 on page 2 of the minutes. It says the motion was made
31 by Mr. Rosenberg that the Fish and Wildlife Service
32 works within the confines of the Harvest Survey
33 Committee of Co-Management Council to review and make
34 recommendations to the Regional Director and to the Co-
35 Management Council on any changes to the design of the
36 current survey and any implementation of any new survey
37 design. The motion was seconded and then the motion
38 passed by unanimous consent.

39
40 So your point, Sandy, is we already
41 have that approval. We can remand this discussion to
42 the committee as it's consistent with what Tim is
43 suggesting and we continue the discussion, continue the
44 dialogue. If we can reach an agreement on an approach,
45 we can proceed.

46
47 Liliana.

48
49 MS. NAVES: I don't see an issue of
50 this proposed group B because they're in a subcommittee

1 of the Harvest Survey Committee and have, for instance,
2 the new statistician to be ad hoc person in the
3 subcommittee of the Harvest Survey Committee. We
4 already worked with ad hocs in the past on Harvest
5 Survey Committee and I don't think this is a new
6 configuration. If it's needed to be -- a new expertise
7 is needed to be brought into the subcommittee, I don't
8 see a problem that this cannot be a subcommittee of the
9 Harvest Survey Committee with ad hoc participants.
10 Would this be amenable?

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. At this
13 point I'm willing to leave the motion as it was
14 approved at the last meeting to remand this to the
15 Harvest Survey Committee to continue the discussion
16 between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Committee
17 and we'll see if we can make progress. We have a
18 commitment from Mike to be a liaison with the group or
19 to commit, I guess, special attention to the group and
20 we'll see if we can make some progress. At the next
21 Council meeting we can report that back out.

22
23 I would hope that if the Committee
24 embraces an approach that we can move forward in a
25 step-wise fashion before the AMBCC's fall meeting
26 because there are some time constraints associated with
27 us being able to obtain some additional funding to
28 support this.

29
30 I don't see anyone objecting to that
31 approach. I think we've thoroughly vetted this,
32 thoroughly discussed it, so I'm willing to move on to
33 the next discussion item.

34
35 Russ, did that clarify your question at
36 all?

37 MR. OATES: Yes, Mr. Chair. I
38 appreciate Liliana's comments and I appreciate Tim's
39 comments. I think, in a sense, the Harvest Survey
40 Committee was trapped by the circumstance of having
41 that meeting limited to a half a day and butting up
42 against the workshop and the regular Council meeting.
43 Basically I think I sense now very strongly that the
44 Committee would have appreciated time to think about
45 this and talk about this at great length and maybe
46 reconvene at a later time for additional discussion.

47
48 As Molly observed, because of the noon
49 deadline in that meeting we didn't even get through the
50 entire agenda that was scheduled for the Harvest Survey

1 Committee. I think Tim has a good idea that we have
2 another discussion within the Harvest Survey Committee
3 about this. I like Lili's concept, the notion of
4 endorsement probably isn't necessary if we just agree
5 that we just want to try to work together and move
6 forward with this to address the concerns and the
7 issues that exist with the current harvest survey. I
8 think we've probably accomplished what we needed to
9 here.

10

Thank you.

12

CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Molly.

14

15 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Just a question and
16 maybe -- I don't know if we've ever gotten anything in
17 writing, but what would be clear to me is to have the
18 Service put in writing explaining to us what is wrong
19 with the existing survey. I can understand the old
20 survey because we've got records of the data from that
21 old survey, but we just started this assist survey and
22 we hadn't even -- we don't even have any information
23 from it. Then this other new survey popped up because
24 the old survey -- I guess the old survey numbers
25 weren't trusted.

26

27 What I would like to have the Service
28 do is put in writing what is wrong with the existing
29 survey. I need that in writing and before our next
30 harvest meeting.

31

Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. I think
35 that's a very reasonable request and we will do that
36 and we will deliver that to you and the Harvest Survey
37 Committee members before we propose convening again as
38 a committee. I think that's a fair request.

39

All right. It's getting late.

41

42 MR. SHIEDT: Are we going to do that
43 motion?

44

45 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: If you want to do
46 that in a formal setting, you can. I've already
47 consented to it and I can direct Staff to provide that
48 before we convene. I put that in the record.

49

50 Liliana.

1 MS. NAVES: I think that's nice having
2 the motion because motions go in the minutes, so we
3 have that as a to do list.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. As Chair, I'll
6 entertain a motion to that effect.

7
8 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Make a motion to have
9 the Service put in writing explaining what is wrong
10 with the existing survey or the survey that I guess is
11 in progress now. If that can happen before our next
12 meeting, I'd appreciate it.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Do I have a second?

17
18 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a second by
21 Enoch. Discussion.

22
23 MR. SHIEDT: Question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Call the question.
26 Anyone opposed to the motion as stated?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Hearing no
31 opposition, we will get a statement or a White Paper so
32 to speak to the chair of the harvest Survey Committee
33 and the members.

34
35 All right. This takes us through 15(a)
36 again. Any reports from other committees.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Seeing none. We're
41 going to move to Item 16, invitation from the public
42 for comments about the actions that we've taken in this
43 meeting? Frank. Come to the microphone. Identify
44 yourself.

45
46 MR. WOODS: Two things. A member of
47 the public and my position as a subsistence
48 coordinator. I appreciate all the work. We have an
49 approved survey in progress and it's ongoing and it's
50 well put together. People are familiar with that.

1 This board passed that through cooperative agreement
2 and a two-year process. That's all I've got to say.

3

4 As a public, we live in two worlds. I
5 come here -- Alaska is an urban state. Seventy-eight
6 percent live in urban Alaska, 28 percent live in rural
7 Alaska. My job is to kind of coordinate the two. The
8 Service, the State and most organizations are familiar
9 with 50 CFR 135.25(a). Do you know what that is? We
10 have to regulate common sense.

11

12 To be honest, we all have to sit down
13 and work this stuff out. Number one, when I go back
14 home and I represent the people that have to feed
15 themselves and they depend heavily on them resources --
16 and I thank you, Doug, majority of the people don't
17 live in Russ's world, your world. When you're trying
18 to communicate that to us, it becomes a foreign
19 language. When you communicate to us, I understand a
20 little bit of it.

21

22 You take the average person that lives
23 in Togiak or Koliganek or rural areas, they don't know
24 what you're talking about and they don't want to
25 understand. They just want to help feed their family.
26 That's their concern. My grandma was raised
27 traditionally and she doesn't understand ANCSA, ANILCA,
28 the Board of Game, Board of Fish, the Federal
29 Subsistence Board, this board let alone. I've heard
30 the same thing all around the state. You're right,
31 Russ. That urban way of monitoring and surveying and
32 picking out information that you need to do your job,
33 it's hard to translate that into actual on the ground.

34

35

36 I have to be honest. It's hard for the
37 average person in rural Alaska to be questioned every
38 time and they act like they're defending the way of
39 life and people are getting tired of it. They're
40 getting sick and tired of getting surveyed, they're
41 getting sick and tired of having to defend themselves.
42 They're sick and tired of having -- and they don't want
43 nothing more than they already have been doing for a
44 long time. They don't want nothing more than, you
45 know, they're willing to share.

46

47 I'll tell you how willing they are to
48 share. When subsistence suffers, they take the
49 conservation effort to automatically save that
50 resource. Who suffers? They do. Their families. The

1 bottom line is they have a hard time feeding their
2 family. The Yukon-Kuskokwim king problem. You can say
3 the same thing for caribou. Say the same thing for
4 moose. Say the same thing for fish, all the way down
5 the line. The Native community will automatically take
6 a conservation effort immediately. You pass it on to
7 the sportsman, they'll fight tooth and nail and they'll
8 fight tooth and nail from the time they begin until the
9 time they stop until they get their way. There's a
10 different approach on values. My grandma was raised
11 traditionally. She called that the right way. They
12 share.

13

14 I'm Westernized. I went to school, I
15 understand the English language, I can read 50 CFR
16 135.25(a). That's the white way.

17

18 So when you get conflict and this whole
19 conflict is just about values. How do you put the
20 regulatory power and push that value onto the average
21 person, sometimes it doesn't fit. I think you have
22 right intentions of keeping the survey going and it
23 might be a matter of communication. It sounds like
24 there's communication here.

25

26 I thank you for helping us do our job
27 because our job is to help feed our regions and that's
28 what we're here for. This cooperative agreement is
29 supposed to do that. Like I said in the beginning, we
30 have an important job and I take it seriously. People
31 suffer if we don't do our job.

32

33 I've been here, what, four years now,
34 maybe five. I really appreciate all the committee's
35 commitment to doing your job and helping your people.
36 Thank you, board members. With that I'll shut up.
37 Thanks.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Frank.
40 Are there any other comments from -- we'll get to board
41 comments in a minute. Any other comments from the
42 public.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: This closes the
47 public comment period. Let's go to Item 17, committee
48 appointments and assignments. What we don't have on
49 the agenda is typically closing comments from the board
50 members and we'll get to that. We'll interject that as

1 soon as we get to date and place of next meeting.

2

3 So committee appointments and
4 assignments. Do we want to take a look. Sandy, go
5 ahead.

6

7 MS. TAHBONE: That usually is an item
8 for our fall agenda. We appoint committee assignments
9 at the fall meeting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Right. We didn't
12 have any other discussions of other committees, did we,
13 other than the Harvest Survey Committee. All right.
14 So we can take that as -- we'll just move past that.
15 So let's move into setting a date and time for our next
16 meeting before we go to closing comments. Do you all
17 have your calendars. Fred, do you have a time when we
18 -- do we normally meet in late September, early
19 October?

20

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: Typically we meet the
22 last week in September.

23

24 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
25 recommend Hawaii.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sponsored by AVCP I
30 take it? How about the week of September 26th? Is
31 that open on your calendars? It was recommended by
32 Peter. Russ, go ahead.

33

34 MR. OATES: I don't know if it's
35 critical that I be here, but I'm tentatively scheduled
36 to be at the National Migratory Bird Coordination
37 meeting. If that matters that much that I'm here, then
38 so be it. If not, so be it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I would like for you
41 to be here. The week of October 3rd, the very next
42 week, does anyone have a conflict with that week? I'm
43 looking for anyone that has a known conflict. Would
44 you like to push it back and do it in conjunction, a
45 week before, a week after, allowing those of you that
46 want to attend AFN to be here for that?

47

48 MR. ANDREW: No, because AFN is too
49 busy for us and we don't like to stay here for more
50 than seven days at a time.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Let's go back
2 to the week of October 3rd. I'm not seeing anyone with
3 any raised hands or conflicts. Monday would be most
4 likely a travel day. That puts Tuesday as the -- Tim.

5
6 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I do have a
7 conflict on that week. I believe that is the week of
8 the AVCP convention. It's normally held like two weeks
9 prior to the AFN.

10
11 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.

14
15 MS. TAHBONE: I think we should always
16 try to stick with the same week, same month. So I
17 would stick back with September, last week.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The week of September
20 26th.

21
22 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I so move.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. We will
25 schedule meetings during that week. Russ and his staff
26 will have to divide his interests.

27
28 MR. OATES: Dr. Trost will be at the
29 same meeting I'm at. There won't be a Pacific Flyway
30 rep here.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That does cause a
33 conflict. Well, the will of the group has been
34 expressed as the 26th. Would the 19th be unacceptable?

35
36 MR. ANDREW: Too soon.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Too soon? Too early?
39 All right. Let's leave it on the 26th. I apologize
40 for having too many meetings and too many conflicts.
41 The week of the 26th is what we'll schedule. Based on
42 Peter's recommendation and the dire situation that
43 we're in the budgets, I'm going to suggest that we meet
44 in Anchorage. Tim.

45
46 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I thought
47 we had some discretionary money now that Southeast is
48 not participating.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We do.

1 MR. ANDREW: To Hawaii?

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Not that much.

4

5 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Who is going to Chair?

6

7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That meeting the
8 State of Alaska is still Chair and I'm the vice Chair.
9 That's why I'm finishing out this meeting.

10

11 All right. Let's go around the table.
12 We'll close this out with an opportunity for any
13 members to provide some closing comments, observations
14 in that regard. Would anyone like to have the mic.
15 Sandy.

16

17 MS. TAHBONE: No comment.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Rick.

20

21 MR. ROWLAND: First I'd like to say
22 thank you everyone for working so hard for all the
23 Native Alaskans who use ducks as migratory birds and
24 eggs, so on and so forth as a food source and have done
25 so for quite so many years. I thank you for listening
26 to us, Fish and Wildlife, State of Alaska and creating
27 an opportunity for the dialogue. I think it's
28 important to have that dialogue. I recognize here just
29 today that some things might have been overlooked
30 because there's so much going on. Maybe we tried to
31 jumble a couple of things into one item. There is a
32 great need for communication. So that refers over to
33 ensuring that there are face-to-face meetings that we
34 can have the ability to talk these things out. So I
35 appreciate the movement forward on talking about these
36 things.

37

38 A couple of the housecleaning items I
39 wanted to talk about was the folder that I picked up
40 here was a little disorganized and I had to add some
41 documents to it. Also I was surprised to see when I
42 told about that budget in that grant it was 2,800 off,
43 so might want to put a thumb on that to make sure we're
44 getting the correct information.

45

46 There was another thing that really
47 surprised me, was about the Emperor Geese, that there's
48 Emperors and Snows showing up down at home, but nobody
49 is hunting them, everybody is asking about it. It made
50 me ponder it yesterday when I went home. I thought I'm

1 going to look on the internet. We can't hunt them, but
2 there are places over in the United Kingdom that have
3 them for sale. That's kind of a bummer for us because
4 some people would sell them somewhere but we can't hunt
5 them to eat. That was kind of frustrating to find that
6 out.

7

8 Moving forward, in our area there's a
9 lot of reservation to do survey because of a lack of
10 trust and there's a number of different reasons. In a
11 positive ending, I think that it would be great if
12 somehow trust could be established to where the Natives
13 that are users don't feel threatened to go and get food
14 for their family.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Rick. Are
19 there any other comments. Tim.

20

21 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. I don't very often get a chance or an
23 opportunity to sit here in Myron's place. He's pretty
24 well committed to AMBCC and its processes. This
25 meeting has been a pretty contentious one for me. I
26 represent probably about 25-30,000 people that depend
27 on migratory bird resources out there. In fact, it
28 makes up 20 percent of our diet. We're the highest
29 region harvesters of migratory birds, geese, ducks,
30 swans and whatnot.

31

32 It is for those subsistence hunters
33 that Myron and I sit here and advocate for. One of the
34 things I'd like to point out is that Duck Stamps has
35 always been something that we've been focusing on for a
36 number of years. We're trying to get a congressional
37 fix. The thing that bothers a lot of people out there
38 in having to buy Duck Stamps is the wild resources,
39 including the migratory birds out there, are our
40 grocery store. A lot of people out there just don't
41 get the connection. Why do you need a Duck Stamp to go
42 out and try to feed your family. Why aren't people in
43 the cities given a turkey stamp or a chicken stamp to
44 go to the grocery store and a license also to go to the
45 store and get turkey and chicken and goose or whatever
46 else, birds that are available in the store.

47

48 We have these resources right outside
49 our door and we've been doing it for thousands and
50 thousands of years even prior to the arrival of the

1 Russians and even prior to the establishment of the
2 United States government. I'd just like to emphasize
3 that we will continue to be advocates for our 25,000
4 people that depend on these resources out there and do
5 it as much as free and customarily and traditionally as
6 they have done for generations and generations. That's
7 our commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Tim. Are
10 there any other comments. Michael.

11

12 MR. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Taqulik wanted me to bring up two points. The first
14 one being is that I have a staff member whose sole job
15 is to do surveys. He became quite disgusted, I guess,
16 in doing the migratory bird survey because he kept
17 getting hollered at by subsistence hunters and they
18 just end up complaining to him. He's the type of
19 person that doesn't deal well with complaints. So she
20 just wanted me to point out that that's happened in our
21 region when we are doing the surveys, is that our staff
22 gets -- they're viewed as working for the Service and
23 then they get all the complaints and they get kind of
24 discouraged on doing surveys.

25

26 The second thing is that she wanted me
27 to invite the Council to our summer whaling
28 celebrations. We'll have our first celebration on June
29 28 and our second one on June 30th. She wants me to
30 invite you guys to come up and enjoy some outdoor
31 activities all day long. Big picnic and dinner outside
32 with traditional foods, including geese and duck soups.
33 I extend that invitation to you guys as well on behalf
34 of the whaling crew I'm on. We were successful in
35 landing a whale in April, so I invite you guys to come
36 up and join us in celebrating the bowhead whale, which
37 is the main part of our culture and also the migratory
38 birds. When we catch whales, one of the things we do
39 is go out and harvest lots and lots of migratory birds
40 to help feed the community.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Mike.
45 Enoch, you have your mic on.

46

47 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. I just wanted to
48 say thanks to everyone here, the agencies and
49 everybody. We're trying to do a job for our Natives to
50 be able to harvest food on the birds. I do a lot of

1 surveys, bears, sheep, trout, whitefish, caribou and
2 sheep. When it gets to birds, it's a different thing
3 due to what is happening that they're scared to be
4 cited and they're scared to lose their snowmachines,
5 their boats, whatever they do to harvest their birds.
6 This is the last time I heard it, not too long ago,
7 that they don't want to be cited due to the Duck Stamp
8 issue. They wanted me to bring it up when I went up to
9 Noorvik and Kiana, Noatak and Kivalina. I'm pretty
10 sure I hear the same thing from my other villages.

11
12 The Duck Stamp issue is a concern. Yet,
13 if they don't get it due to high cost, gas is over \$13
14 a gallon in one of my villages, and it's a real
15 hardship for them. They want to see if there's a way
16 because -- and I hear this from the elders and I
17 personally feel the same way that the spring harvest is
18 a subsistence hunt. Why was Duck Stamp brought into
19 it. Duck Stamps should be only for the sport hunters
20 because they mainly hunt for game, not the Natives
21 hunting for food for the table. With that said, into
22 consideration, why for the spring hunt again is the
23 Duck Stamp being brought into us. Some people that go
24 camping, by the time the Duck Stamps get to Kotzebue,
25 they're already in camp. In order for them to go get
26 their Duck Stamp, if they use six gallons, figure that
27 out how much it cost them to go get that \$10 stamp.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Enoch.
30 Any last closing remarks. Molly.

31
32 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I feel totally
33 deflated, totally drained. Although the meeting was
34 contentious, this is a work in progress. Because
35 there's two cultures here -- well, maybe more than two.
36 In order for us to understand each other we need to
37 have all our marbles on the table so that any black
38 ones don't show up later on to confuse everything else.

39
40 I do thank you for being here for this
41 healthy discussion. It's always been a practice for
42 any committees, for any meetings that it's only the
43 meetings that we do these discussions, these
44 contentious discussions and then we leave in a family
45 -- not family, in a friendly manner to work better
46 together in the future. So I thank you for this
47 meeting and we learn from each other and let's move
48 forward positively to help each other.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Molly.
2 With that, I'm going to suggest that we adjourn at a
3 quarter to 4:00 and I would just offer my thanks for
4 you all to sit at the table for a long week. I think
5 it's been a good meeting. So we'll see you on the week
6 of the 26th of September.

7
8 Thanks.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (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)

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