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ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD
CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Inupiat Heritage Center
Barrow, Alaska

May 18, 2005
8:30 a.m.

Members Present:

- Doug Alcorn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Matt Robus, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 - Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak
 - Tim Andrew, Association of Village Council Presidents
 - Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
 - Taqulik Hepa, North Slope Borough
 - Ben Golodoff, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association
 - Ralph Andersen, Bristol Bay Native Association
 - Mitch Simeonoff, Kodiak Area Native Association
 - Attamuk, Maniilaq Association
 - Fred Armstrong, Executive Director
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 5/18/2005)

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Good morning everybody.
Could we please have the room come to order.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Well, good morning. My name is Matt Robus, I'm the Chair of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. I'd like to welcome everybody to the spring meeting of the Council for 2005, working on 2006 regulations.

Before we get to introductions and the business at hand, I would like to ask everyone to bow your heads in a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence)

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. Okay, the Council, there's a quorum present. I know there's at least one member who's not seated yet but will be here soon.

First order of business, I believe, is the seating of alternates for, at least, a couple of the regions. And I have letters here from the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association naming Ben Golodoff as the replacement -- as the alternate for Peter Divine at this meeting, welcome Ben. And then from the Kodiak Area Native Association has nominated Mitch Simeonoff, Sr., as the primary representative, good morning Mitch, for that region.

So with those alternates formally seated I don't believe that there's any others other than the primary's here.

I believe it's time to go to the roll call of the membership and I'd call on the Secretary to call the roll.

MR. AHMASUK: Association of Village Council Presidents is here somewhere, I just saw him.

Bristol Bay Native Association.

MR. ANDERSEN: Here.

1 MR. AHMASUK: Chugach Regional Resources
2 Commission.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. AHMASUK: Copper River Native
7 Association.
8
9 MR. HICKS: Here.
10
11 MR. AHMASUK: Kawerak. Here. Central
12 Council of Tlingit and Hadia Indian Tribes.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16
17 MR. AHMASUK: Aleutian/Pribilof Islands
18 Association.
19
20 MR. GOLODOFF: Here.
21
22 MR. AHMASUK: Kodiak Area Native
23 Association.
24
25 MR. SIMEONOFF: Here.
26
27 MR. AHMASUK: Maniilaq Association.
28
29 ATTAMUK: Here.
30
31 MR. AHMASUK: North Slope Borough.
32
33 MS. HEPA: Here.
34
35 MR. AHMASUK: Tanana Chiefs Conference.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MR. AHMASUK: Alaska Department of Fish and
40 Game.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Here.
43
44 MR. AHMASUK: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
45 Service.
46
47 MR. ALCORN: Here.
48
49 MR. AHMASUK: Mr. Chairman, you have a
50 quorum, 10 of 12 members here. One person is not sitting

1 at the table but he's here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Austin. Okay,
4 now, that we're seated, let's go around the table and
5 introduce ourselves once again and then we'll do a brief
6 pass through the audience as well to see who's here
7 watching us today. And once again, Ben, we'll start with
8 you.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a
13 question, do we need to formally seat the alternates before
14 we move on, do you need a motion to do that or is it okay
15 just to.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, you're right. So I
18 would hear a motion for the formal seating of alternates.

19

20 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we
21 seat Benny Golodoff, Mitch Simeonoff, Taqulik Hepa, Tim
22 Andrew as the alternates for this meeting for their
23 respective regions.

24

25 MR. HICKS: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there any objection to
28 the seating of those alternates?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Hearing none, that's the
33 action of the Council. Thanks, Ralph.

34

35 All right, so, now, Ben, we'll start with
36 introductions with you, thanks.

37

38 MR. GOLODOFF: Yes, good morning. Benjamin
39 Golodoff, alternate for Unalaska -- Aleutian/Pribilof
40 Islands Association.

41

42 MR. HICKS: And I'm Joeneal Hicks, I'm with
43 the Copper River Region, CRNA.

44

45 MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm Mitch Simeonoff, Kodiak
46 Area Native Association.

47

48 MS. HEPA: Taqulik Hepa, North Slope
49 Borough.

50

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Good morning. I'm Fred
2 Armstrong, the Executive Director for the Council.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I'm Matt Robus. I'm the
5 Division Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation
6 with the Department of Fish and Game.
7
8 MR. ALCORN: I'm Doug Alcorn,
9 representative for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
10
11 MR. ANDREW: Tim Andrew, alternate for
12 Myron Naneng, AVCP.
13
14 MR. AHMASUK: Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak.
15
16 ATTAMUK: Attamuk. Maniilaq Association,
17 Kotzebue.
18
19 MR. ANDERSEN: Ralph Andersen, Bristol Bay
20 Native Association.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Let's
23 start here and work through the rows of the audience.
24
25 MR. ROTHE: Tom Rothe, waterfowl
26 coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.
27
28 MR. MOLUTIN: Iver Molutin, Kodiak Area
29 Native Association.
30
31 MR. OATES: Russ Oates with Division of
32 Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
33 in Anchorage.
34
35 MR. WENTWORTH: Cynthia Wentworth,
36 subsistence migratory bird harvest survey coordinator, Fish
37 and Wildlife Service in Anchorage.
38
39 MR. OBERHOLTSEY: Steve Oberholtser, Fish
40 and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Law Enforcement.
41
42 MR. SIMON: Jim Simon, regional supervisor,
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
44 based in Fairbanks.
45
46 MR. PIERSON: Brian Pierson, wildlife
47 biologist with North Slope Borough and Department of
48 Wildlife Management.
49
50 MS. LANG: Karen Lang, eider recovery

1 coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2

3 MR. SUYDAM: Good morning. My name is
4 Robert Suydam. I'm with the North Slope Borough,
5 Department Wildlife Management.

6

7 MR. LEEDY: Bob Leedy, Migratory Bird Chief
8 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage.

9

10 MS. WATSON: Annette Watson, university
11 researcher based in Fairbanks.

12

13 MS. GOLODOFF: I'm Suzie Golodoff, I'm
14 traveling with my husband.

15

16 MR. KOONUK: Ray Koonuk, Point Hope.

17

18 MR. NUPIKEAK (sp): I'm Eli Nupikeak from
19 Nuiqsut.

20

21 MR. ATKEN: James Atken, Atqasuk.

22

23 MR. STAR: Sky Star, Staff for AVCP.

24

25 MR. JAMES: David James, natural resources
26 and land manager for CATG.

27

28 MS. BROWN: Wenonna Brown, subsistence
29 coordinator, Yukon Flats, Kanuti and Arctic National
30 Wildlife Refuges, Fairbanks.

31

32 MR. OSTRAND: I got missed. I'm Bill
33 Ostrand, Staff to the Co-Management Council.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thanks, I think
36 we've got everybody now.

37

38 The next item on the agenda is the approval
39 of the agenda and I would ask for a -- oh, pardon me, I'd
40 like to give Taqulik an opportunity as the host region.

41

42 MS. HEPA: My name is Taqulik Hepa. I'm
43 the Deputy Director for the North Slope Borough's
44 Department of Wildlife Management, and I am an alternate to
45 Charlie on this Co-Management Council.

46

47 I just wanted to take a couple of seconds
48 to welcome you all to Barrow. I hope that you enjoy your
49 stay. Unfortunately a lot of our hunters are out on the
50 ice now, either whaling or participating in our migratory

1 bird hunting, it's a time to be -- my family is out at camp
2 right now geese hunting so I am here today representing
3 them.

4
5 And just wanted to share with you, we've
6 had a real successful spring whaling season, not just in
7 Barrow but in the other communities. Point Hope has
8 harvested several whales. Wainwright as well. Gambell,
9 Savoonga. So it's been a good season. I hope that you
10 take the time, during the breaks, to visit the Heritage
11 Center. We have the bowhead room, it's in closed doors,
12 but make sure that you walk through there, there's a lot of
13 good information about the history of whaling for our
14 people, including how we deal with management on the
15 bowhead whales.

16
17 Other than that, if you have any questions
18 you're welcome to ask our staff, we have a couple of our
19 biologists here, Robert, Brian and Josh. I'd also like to
20 recognize our North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management
21 Committee members, we have three of them present here
22 today, they're the advisory to this board. We have Ray
23 Koonuk from Point Hope. I know they introduced themselves.
24 Eli, he's been on our committee for many years. He's from
25 Nuiqsut. And James Atken, Sr., from Atqasuk. So I grew up
26 with some of these guys anyway.

27
28 Okay, well, I'd like to welcome you all to
29 Barrow and thank you, I hope we have a good meeting.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Taqulik, thank you very
32 much for hosting the meeting, we appreciate it.

33
34 I'd like to mention one logistical item,
35 because of an event that's going to be held here in the
36 building next door, we're going to work straight through,
37 well, we'll have some breaks, but we're going to go for a
38 late lunch. We'll break at about 1:00 o'clock for about an
39 hour and a half and then come back here so just kind of
40 pace yourself for not getting out of here right at the
41 crack of noon, but as I said we will take a few breaks to
42 let people stretch and chat and so forth.

43
44 All right, so now we're back to where I
45 thought I was, and that's the approval of the agenda. I'd
46 asked if there are any requests or suggestions for change.
47 I have some but I'll wait and see what other people would
48 like to do.

49
50 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we

1 approve the agenda.

2

3 MS. HEPA: I'll second it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, with that the motion
6 is open for discussion.

7

8 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

11

12 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I move that
13 all the items that we swap Items 3 and 4, what's now No. 3
14 becomes No. 4, and what's now No. 4 becomes No. 3.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Ralph. I
17 suggest that we kind of see what other suggestions are and
18 then we can kind of adopt them all in one fell swoop if
19 that's possible.

20

21 Doug.

22

23 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair, I would ask that
24 the regions that have proposals that are going to be
25 submitted during the course of this meeting that were not
26 submitted in the fall time period, that we'll be
27 discussing, offer those now so that we can pencil those in
28 so we know to discuss them as we go through the regional
29 proposals.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Are
32 there any regions that would wish to speak to proposals
33 like that?

34

35 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tim.

38

39 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have
40 three proposals that we would like to submit.

41

42 One is the proposal to include the law
43 enforcement segment into the regulations in the Goose
44 Management Plan.

45

46 The other is a proposal to prohibit the use
47 of aircraft in Unit 18 for the purposes of spring and
48 summer migratory bird hunt.

49

50 And the other is to -- oh, wait a minute,

1 excuse me, I made a mistake here.
2
3 Correction please.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay.
6
7 MR. ANDREW: Let me start from ground zero.
8
9 Okay, the first one is to close the
10 cackling Canada geese and Pacific black brandt in YK-Delta
11 for a period between the egg laying, when the egg laying
12 begins and when the young birds are fledged.
13
14 The other is to close the primary brandt
15 colonies on the YK Delta to hunting of all the birds
16 between the initial period of nesting until the young fly.
17
18 And then the prohibition on the use of
19 private and chartered aircraft.
20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, Tim, thank you. And
24 I believe the first one you mentioned is already in the
25 deferred proposals so that's going to be covered as well.
26
27 Are there other regional proposals that
28 need to be inserted because of the procedural issues that
29 we were talking about yesterday?
30
31 MR. GOLODOFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ben.
34
35 MR. GOLODOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I
36 brought this proposal from our district, Aleutian/Pribilof
37 Islands, and it was proposed by Peter Divine, Jr., so I
38 hope all of you looked at it, and read some of it. I'd
39 like to see it passed.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, very good.
42
43 MR. GOLODOFF: Thank you.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: We can go into the details
46 of that later, so we'll just add that to our agenda.
47
48 Are there any other regions that have
49 proposals that didn't go through the regional process?
50 Mitch.

1 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman, Herman
2 Squartsoff had a meeting in Kodiak in March and in the
3 minutes it shows that they had a proposal but I don't have
4 the typewritten to support the list change from State to
5 regional lists. And another one was to change the
6 migratory bird dates from May 1 to June 20th to May 10th to
7 June 30th. He didn't give me a written proposal on these
8 motions from his meeting. And so I just put them before
9 you and ask what my procedure would be -- take it back and
10 formulate a proposal or what?

11

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Right. The normal
14 procedure would be to have a written proposal with the
15 backup materials submitted between November 1st and
16 December 15th, I believe, is that the period?

17

18 MR. ARMSTRONG: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: And that might be the best
21 course unless you feel like you've got the material here to
22 back up the proposal and make a good case for it here
23 today. We did not discuss it during the work session so,
24 you know, I really have no idea how prepared you feel. But
25 November would be the normal time to make the submittal.

26

27 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a
28 question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

31

32 MR. ANDERSEN: There are proposals,
33 yesterday during the workshop, that were identified as
34 being deferred again. And in Mitch's case, you know, we're
35 going to have -- I mean his regional council has identified
36 areas, I mean some topics for proposals, and I'm wondering
37 if -- first of all I guess I have a question.

38

39 In order to keep with the Flyway Council
40 process and to have the proposals run their course through
41 the process, when is the latest that we can, if we decide
42 to a call a special meeting to look at those, to look at
43 Mitch's proposals and any other proposals that might be
44 deferred, if we wished to take action on them, when can we
45 meet and still keep with the timeframe of going through the
46 process?

47

48 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: The Flyway meeting occurs
49 in mid-July but I'll defer to Staff here that are more
50 involved with the mechanics of that process for advice on

1 what the timelines are like. It gets pretty pinched any
2 time after this date, so I'd ask either Mitch or Donna or
3 Tom.

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: I'm the one that writes them
6 so.....

7
8 REPORTER: Donna.

9
10 MS. DEWHURST: You don't have me trained
11 yet, that's good.

12
13 Donna Dewhurst, Fish and Wildlife Service.
14 Probably need bare minimum of three weeks lead before the
15 Flyway Council meeting. So I would need to have final
16 recommendations by -- let's see if you're saying Flyway
17 Council's mid-July, so that would back it up to, what, the
18 third week in June, so by mid-June would probably be the
19 absolute latest to be able to get them. That'd be a rush,
20 but we could do it. That way we could get something to the
21 Flyway Council.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: And as a member of the
24 Flyway Technical folks, Tom, would you have any comment.

25
26 MR. ROTHE: My advice would be just
27 that.....

28
29 REPORTER: Could you.

30
31 MR. ROTHE: Sorry. My advice would be the
32 Flyway itself, probably doesn't need a whole lot of time.
33 It would be good to have a couple weeks in front of that
34 Technical Committee meeting, which I think this year starts
35 on July 17th. I think the most important thing is that the
36 Council is assured that within Alaska everybody had
37 adequate opportunity to hear about it, and I'm presuming
38 that the official public notice part of this stuff occurs
39 after Flyway Council SRC reviews.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

42
43 MR. ANDERSEN: And the reason that I ask is
44 because, you know, I think that, again, if the Council
45 wishes to take action on Mitch's proposals, I think that we
46 should hear them. Because I kind of think that their
47 Council has taken action and approved areas or topics for
48 regulations or proposed regulations, then it's important
49 that we get them and that we take action on them this year,
50 that way they're not put off for another year. As long as,

1 you know, we're beginning the process now, I think, you
2 know, the whole regulatory thing and I think that we --
3 there have been some internal things going on in his
4 region, I understand, and I think it's only fair that we
5 begin -- you know, that they be given an opportunity to
6 submit their proposals for our consideration.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Okay, I
11 guess I'm reluctant to keep jamming things later and later
12 in this process because in order to do work I think we need
13 to go along with this at a careful rate. So I think
14 there's a risk here, again, Mitch, I'd ask if you don't
15 feel prepared to really put those forward at this meeting,
16 what would your feelings be about trying to prepare
17 something and have a special meeting, teleconference, or
18 something to deal with these in that rushed time schedule,
19 would that be appropriate or would it be best to wait until
20 fall?

21
22 MR. SIMEONOFF: I think it would be
23 appropriate to wait and see because the transition between
24 Herman and myself happened so fast that I didn't get all
25 the information from him and it this meeting happened in
26 March, it might be that he has the proposals on paper and
27 he just didn't get them to me. But I can get back to you
28 when I go back to Kodiak and talk with Herman and see if
29 these proposals are in paper.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. Well, I guess
32 I'll ask for this Council's sense, would you be up for a
33 special meeting teleconference to deal with those proposals
34 if it can be done within the next couple of weeks and we
35 can get word out once Mitch talks to me and Staff after he
36 gets back home?

37
38 Is there any objection to that approach.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, that will be our
43 plan then, and we can get together and talk about how we're
44 going to communicate at a break here.

45
46 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you, Mr.
47 Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.
50

1 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2 guess it's understood by other regions who didn't submit
3 proposals, that their previous regulations become ones that
4 carry forward. I believe in our past meetings we never --
5 we did not formulate motions that carried those forward.
6 We may have but I just can't remember how. But it's my
7 region's understanding anyway that the regions, our
8 regulations for '04 are the ones that are going to carry
9 forward.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That's my understanding
12 too and I'll let Fred address that.

13
14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
15 kind of found out it's not automatic that last years
16 regulations be carried forward. The premise we operate
17 under is that everything is closed until the Service opens
18 the season, and so what we have to do is -- the Council has
19 to formally recommend last years regulations for the
20 upcoming year.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.

23
24 MR. AHMASUK: So that we will take action?

25
26 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

27
28 MR. AHMASUK: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

31
32 MR. ALCORN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Because
33 we have proposals that are coming to us outside of our
34 adopted process, it occurs to me and it seems to have
35 occurred to some of us in discussion in the workshop
36 yesterday, that there may be a need to task our Standard
37 Operating Procedure Committee with taking this on as an
38 assignment, an ad hoc assignment, to consider how we can
39 consider -- how the Council can consider proposals outside
40 of our adopted process and that may result in an amended
41 process but we would leave it to the Standard Operating
42 Procedures Committee to make a recommendation at the next
43 meeting to the Council.

44
45 I don't know where that might fit on the
46 agenda but it seems to me we need to do that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. That's a good
49 reminder, and I've added that as a note under the -- well,
50 an agenda change, I'm going to suggest in a while,

1 regarding assignments at the end of the meeting under other
2 business.

3

4 Okay, if there's no other regional proposal
5 additions, I've got one that would apply on a statewide
6 basis, and it does have to do with something we discussed
7 at the work session, and that is the need or the
8 opportunity for us to make it very clear that baiting is
9 not a legitimate tool to be used for subsistence hunting
10 and we could add a regulation that would be a statewide
11 regulation that would make it clear that that general
12 baiting prohibition does apply to the subsistence waterfowl
13 hunting as well.

14

15 So that's one that I'd suggest that we also
16 add to the proposal list and we can deal with it after we
17 do the regional proposals.

18

19 Austin.

20

21 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. The way I understand it, this Council would
23 initiate a proposal, it would go out to the regions and
24 follow under our adopted procedures for a proposal; is that
25 true, I think that's how we discussed this previously.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Yeah, I confess it was a
28 little unsettled in my mind exactly where we'd go but I
29 wanted to at least bring the subject out on the table today
30 and the Council can decide whether to take action or do a
31 quick turnaround for a special meeting or add it for the
32 next cycle basically.

33

34 So anyway, if it's agreeable to put it on
35 the agenda we'll just figure that out then.

36

37 MR. AHMASUK: Sure, yeah, it's all right.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

40

41 MR. ARMSTRONG: I omitted a Committee
42 report, and that's the Tech Committee, and I think the
43 recommendation was to put it before the Harvest Limitations
44 Committee, is that right, Tom?

45

46 MR. ROTHE: (Nods affirmatively)

47

48 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Yeah, I have a note to

1 insert a Technical Committee report in between v and vi,
2 which would be just after the Harvest Limitations
3 Committee.

4
5 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. And if there was a
6 suggestion that we move the 05 -- our newly published
7 regulations after the invitation for public comments, and
8 that would be my Staff person, Donna.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: So does everybody
11 understand that, we'd be taking the last item under
12 Committee reports and moving it up to just above old
13 business so that we'd get a briefing on '05 regulation
14 changes just before we start into the first of the proposal
15 deliberations.

16
17 (Council nods affirmatively)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. And then I have a
20 suggestion on the back side of the page under other
21 business, where I'd suggest that as the second item we
22 insert assignments because we will have to assign at least
23 one Flyway representative and we also have the SOP
24 Committee assignment, and possibly other Committee
25 assignments before we get through. So if that's acceptable
26 we'll do that.

27
28 (Council nods affirmatively)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. So taking that
31 list, if there's no other changes to the agenda that are
32 suggested now, taking that entire list, which is -- I'll
33 try to summarize here, we're going to flip flop the entire
34 Committee report section and put it under the regional
35 proposal section, except that the '05 regulation briefing
36 will be pulled up to just before old business.

37
38 We are also going to insert a Technical
39 Committee report into that Committee report section.

40
41 We have inserted one proposal for APIA
42 region, three proposals for the AVCP region, and then we've
43 agreed to discuss a baiting proposal that would be a
44 statewide proposal.

45
46 And then finally we've inserted an
47 assignment section under old business.

48
49 Are there any other changes?
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there any objection to
4 the changes that we have talked about?
5
6 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.
9
10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Just a matter of
11 clarification for me, from AVCP was going to pull one of
12 the deferred.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: We could do that as.....
15
16 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, so if everybody
19 seems comfortable, is there any objection to those changes.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Our new agenda is the
24 rather tangled thing that I have in front of me. Thank you
25 very much.
26
27 And I need to mention one thing, I've seen
28 a couple of hands in the audience and I need to remember to
29 explain that unlike the work session, this is a formal
30 meeting, and we can only deal through either members of the
31 Co-Management Council or if a member specifically requests
32 that a member of the audience or Staff participate, then
33 we'll bring you forward and you can talk into the
34 microphones. This is a bit, rather more formal than the
35 meeting we had yesterday. So I don't want people to get
36 frustrated, that's just the rules we have to operate under.
37
38 If you do want to insert some sort of
39 commentary as we go along there'll be opportunity for
40 public comment on each proposal and you could also talk to
41 your regional representative and have them insert comments
42 or even call on you if necessary.
43
44 So with that we will move on now. The next
45 item I have on the agenda is the approval of minutes of the
46 last meeting.
47
48 Ralph.
49
50 MR. ANDERSEN: I move that we approve the

1 minutes from the last meeting.

2

3

MR. HICKS: Second.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Moved and seconded. Does anybody have any comments or corrections to the minutes.

7

8

MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair.

9

10

MR. ANDERSEN: Question.

11

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CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Just a minute -- Doug.

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MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair, I would like to make an observation on the minutes. Just we made a -- we took action about a year, year and a half ago to develop synopsisized minutes and the way that some of these actions read they don't make a whole lot of sense to me and I would just suggest that Fred and Bill and Donna, when they go through these, characterize some of the discussion in some way so that we just don't have a motion, and a motion was made and accepted because there's no context, there's no explanation of what the action actually meant.

I'm wondering if there's a way that we can get just a little more meat on the bones on these.

Just an observation, and I can talk with Fred and Bill in private.

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Are the synopsisized minutes done by AMBCC Staff?

MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, the motion last year was just to list out the motions the Council made, but if you want us to expand, we certainly are open to that, at least a summary of each motion.

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, I think that would be helpful especially since we only meet a couple times a year. That would probably prompt memories a little more.

Thank you.

Any other discussion on the minutes.

(No comments)

MS. HEPA: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Now -- question's been
2 heard. Is there any objection to the minutes being adopted
3 as they stand.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Minutes are adopted, thank
8 you.

9
10 The next item is an invitation for public
11 comments, and this would be an opportunity for members from
12 the audience to make general statements or specific
13 statements, if you have any, about the AMBCC process or
14 anything that we're slated to do for today. There will
15 also be proposal specific opportunities for comments so you
16 needn't try to make your proposal specific comments at the
17 moment.

18
19 But if anybody would like to come forward
20 and make some general comments to the Committee, I'd
21 appreciate hearing them.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 Mr. Suydam.

26
27 MR. SUYDAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Council members. My name is Robert Suydam, I'm with the
29 North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management.

30
31 It's my understanding that there's at least
32 one proposal for a pretty ambitious science project to
33 collect a bunch of birds this summer. I think it's upwards
34 of about 400 different shorebirds and I believe that these
35 species are on the hunting -- able to hunt list for
36 subsistence. And so I guess I kind of have a question or a
37 request that the Council consider putting something like
38 this on their agenda, whether it's under new business or
39 perhaps the Council can discuss it under Council comments
40 at the end of the agenda or something.

41
42 Maybe it's something that the Council
43 doesn't want to deal with, but it seems like if a lot of
44 birds that are open for subsistence are also taken for
45 science that it's an issue that the Council should be aware
46 of and discuss.

47
48 So I guess I encourage the Council to do
49 that, to encourage agencies to present those kind of
50 proposals to the Council long before they actually occur.

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Robert. Iver,
4 would you like to come and make a public comment?

5
6 MR. MOLUTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
7 Board Members for giving me an opportunity to speak on
8 behalf of the meeting we had in March, I was there. And
9 every proposal that we had passed unanimous. And I just
10 wanted to let Mitch know that I think the proposals are
11 available, and I think I can go to the Staff in the back
12 and I think I could get that proposal because I think it's
13 really important that we get that passed this year because
14 it affects this year later.

15
16 And, I think, Mitch, we should do that and
17 we should try to get it passed because I think Alex and --
18 can get a hold of Herman or not, but I'm sure he has a copy
19 of the proposal and I think we can get it here before you
20 start working on the proposals.

21
22 That's all I wanted to say. I think it's
23 pertinent that we get it passed this year -- I mean before
24 November.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you very much.
29 I guess just a comment, I'd appreciate any information on
30 those proposals that we can get at this point. I'm not
31 sure we're going to be ready to debate the merits today and
32 that's why we've set up this special meeting that would
33 still get us into the next possible time that we could put
34 the regulations into effect. So I guess let's just let
35 that ride and see what information you can get to us.

36
37 MR. MOLUTIN: One more thing, I really like
38 your idea of a teleconference because that's a way to get
39 this, and I think with all your Board members you could get
40 that proposal passed, it's relatively inexpensive that way
41 if it has to come after this meeting.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. Are there any
44 more public comments at this time?

45
46 MR. JAMES: Good morning. My name is David
47 James, I'm the Natural Resource land manager for CATG,
48 Gwichin' Tribal Government in Fort Yukon.

49
50 And I'd like to give the opportunity to

1 come and visit your village and I was really excited to
2 come up here and seeing people getting ready to go geese
3 hunting and whaling and stuff as our people have already
4 done our geese hunting and they're flying up here now.

5
6 And the reason my tribal council sent me up
7 here is to see what kind of communications and informations
8 is coming back to our region. We have a lack of
9 information coming into our region and this is our way of
10 life, our subsistence in spring time, we depend on these
11 birds and the geese and fish in springtime. We don't hunt
12 no large mammals like moose.

13
14 To find out what kind of communication
15 information is coming out to the villages, and for
16 proposals here, if we could make comments and that's our
17 main point from our tribal government, is to develop some
18 kind of a mechanism so we have some information coming out.
19 Since you guys are meeting two times a year, and then
20 there's also this other forum of Flyway Council and how
21 they're making their decisions that's going to affect our
22 way of life.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, David.

27
28 Ralph. David, Ralph may have a question
29 for you.

30
31 MR. ANDERSEN: David I have a question for
32 you. First I want to thank you for flying up here to
33 participate and attending our meeting.

34
35 You mentioned that there's a lack of
36 communication or lack of information for your area, and I'm
37 wondering if you can explain to us how your regional
38 Council is operating and if you're able to get information
39 about the work of our Council here, you know, if you get
40 information through them. Can you tell us -- explain to us
41 how your Council works and what you think the problem is
42 for the lack of communication?

43
44 MR. JAMES: Yeah, Ralph. First off can you
45 explain, Council, are you talking about our tribal council
46 or.....

47
48 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, according to the way
49 we're set up here, each of us are members of a regional
50 council that under the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management

1 Council, each of us represent a regional council. The
2 areas are there on the board.

3
4 Is there a Council set up for the Interior?
5 I mean if you're having problems with information about the
6 work of this Council, it seems like, you know, that's why I
7 was asking my question, if you could explain how the
8 Interior Region Council operates and the reason for the
9 lack of information?

10
11 MR. JAMES: Yeah, Ralph, I could explain
12 that. A few years back we did have an advisory council in
13 Tanana Chiefs, and the Advisory Council had six
14 representatives from six different regions, within the
15 Tanana Chief region and we never did have a meeting for
16 about four years for some odd reason or not. And I was
17 representing the Yukon Flats and I represented 10 villages
18 at that time and they meet quarterly, I mean twice a year,
19 and they wanted information and I couldn't give them any
20 information because I don't have no information. I don't
21 attend these Council meetings, your guy's meetings, so our
22 tribal council and the 10 villages said it's about time
23 that you attend these meetings and find out what's going on
24 with this Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.

25
26 So a few years back when this Co-Management
27 Council was being formed I was on the RAC, I was
28 representing the Eastern Federal Subsistence Advisory. One
29 of my concerns at that time was communication. How will
30 the communication come back to the villages, you know, if
31 we're going to select this regional organization to
32 represent us as a body? And that was my only comment.

33
34 And I'm always pushing for communication
35 and information that comes back to the tribes one way or
36 another. And that was my only concern at that time. And I
37 supported the regional but then I always wanted to make
38 sure that the communication comes back to the villages, the
39 minutes of the last meetings and the proposals or the
40 comments. So that's where we're at right now.

41
42 I'd like to ask one question, if each one
43 of you representatives as a Committee within your
44 organization -- no, you guys meet twice a year as a body
45 there, as representatives, how you guys are structured?
46 But you guys do meet twice a year as individuals and make
47 your comments back here?

48
49 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That's the general plan.
50

1 MR. JAMES: That's the general plan.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: If I can make a comment,
4 communications is vital to the process being successful
5 because once the decisions are made here based on proposals
6 from the regions and it goes forward through the Federal
7 process to become regulations, obviously the word needs to
8 get back to the users around the state. So I would agree
9 with you that communications are very important and we need
10 to improve them if it's not working.

11

12 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Taqulik.

15

16 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
17 wanted to thank you, David, for coming all the way up to
18 Barrow to attend this meeting. And I'd like to mention
19 that later on on the agenda we're going to be hearing an
20 update from the Outreach Committee. Through this Council,
21 we formed a Committee to deal with outreach issues, and so
22 you'll hear that.

23

24 And just, you know, as an example, of what
25 you are asking, if we have an advisory council for each
26 region, and I know on the North Slope region we do and we
27 utilize our Fish and Game Management Committee which was an
28 organization that already existed that dealt with
29 subsistence issues and we talk about migratory bird issues
30 twice a year. And we rely on those representatives to go
31 and then share that information back to their community
32 councils and their representatives and residents from their
33 communities.

34

35 And as a new council, I think we've been in
36 effect for three or four years now, so we're kind of going
37 through some growing pains, and I think the outreach is
38 coming forth.

39

40 So thank you.

41

42 MR. HICKS: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Joeneal.

45

46 MR. HICKS: Do you not know that your
47 regional representative is Mike Smith?

48

49 MR. JAMES: No. No, I know Mike Smith, but
50 what I was requesting is information, you know, from Mike

1 Smith, since he's the representative -- he's not here, but
2 -- to my subregional, Yukon Flats, so in order for me to
3 get that -- to know what's going on here, do I have to get
4 it from him, and that's what I'm asking, you know.

5
6 MR. HICKS: Okay. Well, I would be more
7 than happy to attend some of your meetings if you would
8 like. I'm from the Copper River and I could assess
9 whatever I can.

10
11 MR. JAMES: Okay.

12
13 MR. HICKS: Pull me aside later.

14
15 MR. JAMES: Okay.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

18
19 MR. ANDERSEN: I had one more question.
20 You mentioned that you're a member of the council that was
21 set up for migratory birds?

22
23 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

24
25 MR. ANDERSEN: How does that operate, I
26 mean is it functioning? I mean I'm concerned about the
27 lack of communication, you know, that, and I'm wondering
28 how the Interior Council is operating?

29
30 MR. JAMES: We formed with Stan Ned -- Stan
31 Ned is the one that -- we formed the interior region and
32 then we developed policy and procedures back in '99 and
33 2000 and after that it went through some changes and our
34 organizations, Tanana Chiefs, is made up of six different
35 regions, sub-regions and these six different sub-regions we
36 have a representative and I represent the Yukon Flats --
37 and we were supposed to meet once a year, I suppose, but
38 for some odd reason it just -- policy or political stuff
39 came in or I don't know what ever happened, and we never
40 did have a meeting and that's the way it was structured.

41
42 And so I, myself, requested one but no
43 funds or nothing, so that's just what's left of that there.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you for your
46 comments, David.

47
48 Are there any more members of the public
49 who would like to speak at this point.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing no enthusiasm for
4 that, we'll move on to the next item which I believe is a
5 short briefing from AMBCC Staff on the '05 regs, the
6 process that got us to where we are at right now.

7

8 Donna.

9

10 MS. DEWHURST: You should have one of these
11 in your notebooks, and I think there were some available
12 for the public out on the table.

13

14 These were, again, with some delays, they
15 were mailed out to all rural boxholders in the hunt region.
16 The first one would be on Page 3 under methods and means,
17 oh, about midway down where it says use of live birds as
18 decoys, we added St. Lawrence Island to it. It just said
19 Diamede originally, we added St. Lawrence. So that was the
20 first change.

21

22 The next one would be under North Slope,
23 Page 6, the yellow-billed loon provision at the top of the
24 page on Page 6, that was the language we settled on there.
25 And that language pretty much is identical to what's
26 actually in the Federal Register.

27

28 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

31

32 MR. ARMSTRONG: The language, it's missing
33 the number of birds that can be inadvertently caught, and
34 that's up to 20.

35

36 MS. DEWHURST: That is true.

37

38 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's an important part.

39

40 MS. DEWHURST: And let's see the next one
41 is on Page 9. We added three communities in the Southeast
42 region and they're all just for glaucouse-winged gull, egg
43 gathering only, and that was Craig, Hydaburg and Yakutat.
44 So the lower two maps and the three communities, so Craig,
45 Hydaburg and Yakutat with their regulations, which are
46 basically the same as the Hoonah regulations. And it's
47 just for glaucouse-winged gull, egg gathering only.

48

49 And then on Page 11, there's a photo, and
50 then it's also listed on the bird list, and then tundra

1 swans were closed in the Cold Bay are, basically Units 9(D)
2 and 10. And that was closed to all uses, egg gathering,
3 hunting, everything.

4
5 And I believe that's it. That's the gist
6 of the changes from last year.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Donna.
9 Any questions from the Council.

10
11 MS. DEWHURST: And I would like, you
12 probably noticed the new format on the books, if you liked
13 it or didn't like it, or whatever, if you can get with me
14 on a break and let me know, really appreciate it, because
15 I'm the one that designs them and I tried to do a little
16 bit different format this year.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

19
20 MR. ALCORN: Just a comment, and I guess
21 I'll brag on Staff. I think that this is really a helpful
22 document. It takes a lot of work. Donna's done a
23 tremendous job, I think, putting this together in a real
24 reader friendly format. And I just would like to commend
25 Staff for a job well done.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Donna.

28
29 Okay, next on the agenda, is to move into
30 deliberation of proposals. And once again we'll go through
31 the regions in the order that we did yesterday, which means
32 that the first one for consideration is the proposal --
33 excuse me.

34
35 Okay, so the first proposal we'll consider
36 is the one from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association,
37 and if.....

38
39 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, excuse me.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

42
43 MR. ANDERSEN: I have a question. Are we
44 going to be hearing the No. 2, old business, the AVCP
45 proposal?

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Forgive me, you're right.
48 That's what I get for having a tangled agenda in front of
49 me.

50

1 The first proposals we'll hear is under old
2 business and that's the AVCP proposals. There are two that
3 were discussed at the work session and we should bring
4 those forward one by one at this point and work through
5 them. They would be under Tab 2 of you book.
6

7 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure
8 what the proper protocol is at this point, but I'd like to
9 call a short Native caucus, if we can, please, on this
10 issue.
11

12 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Certainly. Let's -- do
13 you know how long?
14

15 MR. ANDREW: Excuse me.
16

17 MS. HEPA: There's a room that we could
18 meet with everybody.
19

20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. A caucus is in
21 order and do you want to predict how much time so I can
22 tell everybody when to be back.
23

24 MR. ANDREW: Probably 15 minutes.
25

26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, very good. So by 20
27 after 10:00, let's try to be back in the room, back on the
28 record. We'll recess for a caucus.
29

30 (Off record)
31

32 (On record)
33

34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I'd like to call the
35 meeting back to order please.
36

37 (Pause)
38

39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, we're back in the
40 room at the table. Before we start with proposals, I would
41 like to run down the procedure that we use to adopt
42 proposals and that is the last page before Tab 1 in your
43 binder, if you'd like to turn to that.
44

45 As we go through each region, the proponent
46 can move their proposal and introduce the proposal and
47 describe the action that's contained in it and then we will
48 have a multi-part Staff analysis beginning with Tom Rothe
49 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Bob Leedy or
50 perhaps other Staff for the Fish and Wildlife Service; a

1 Technical Committee analysis; an opportunity for public
2 comments on the specific proposal; and then we will
3 continue Council discussion and make a recommendation,
4 hopefully through consensus or by vote if necessary.

5
6 So with that I would remind everybody that
7 we're in the AVCP deferred proposals that are in the old
8 business section and I would ask for a motion for the first
9 proposal.

10
11 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tim.

14
15 MR. ANDREW: I move to defer this proposal
16 with the establishment of an enforcement committee and the
17 committee's charge would be to determine the meaningful
18 participation of tribes in enforcement and would defer this
19 proposal to that committee.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: And just for the record,
22 let's make it clear, we're talking about the deferred
23 proposal that would adopt the YK Goose Management Plan
24 Enforcement Protocol into regulation; and I'm just stating
25 that that's the proposal we're talking about.

26
27 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, that would review the
28 proposal and also -- and, anyway, for tribes participating
29 in enforcement policy.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, there's been a
32 motion to defer this proposal, is there a second.

33
34 MS. HEPA: Second.

35
36 MR. ANDERSEN: Second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: There is a second. Is
39 there any objection to the motion as seconded to defer this
40 proposal and I guess as part of the motion, to establish an
41 enforcement committee to involve members of the Council as
42 well as enforcement organizations in coming up with a way
43 to involve representatives from the regions around the
44 state in the enforcement policy of the Council.

45
46 MR. ARMSTRONG: Could I.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

49
50 MR. ARMSTRONG: Could I just get

1 clarification as deferred to create an enforcement
2 committee?

3

4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I believe the motion is to
5 defer the proposal with the understanding that an
6 enforcement committee would be put together in order to try
7 to take some of the features out of the proposal and
8 incorporate them in a draft -- in a new proposal or in an
9 amended proposal, whatever could be brought back to the
10 Council that would have input from all the interested
11 parties; is that a fair way to state it?

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.

16

17 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 During our caucus we had discussed the proposal and the
19 subsequent deferment proposal now before us as well as a
20 committee and Mr. Andrew tried to characterize a mission
21 for this committee, I hope it was understood by everybody.

22

23 And during caucus we also see that the
24 membership of the committee, we'd like to see Charlie
25 Brower, Myron Naneng, Ralph Andersen, Joeneal Hicks, two
26 State representatives and two Federal representatives
27 comprise the committee for a total of eight. And there is
28 some concern, there's direction during our caucus
29 discussion regarding chairmanship, we felt it was necessary
30 to have a Native member be chair of the committee.

31

32 And, again, I'll try and characterize the
33 mission that Mr. Andrew said earlier. You know, it's hoped
34 that this committee can determine ways in which tribes can
35 be involved in regional enforcement policies, okay. So of
36 the nature of the proposal that we're now considering --
37 that we're deferring now actually, a regional enforcement
38 proposal, it's hoped that this committee can look into ways
39 in which regional enforcement policies can be established
40 involving tribes so that this proposal can be correctly, I
41 suppose, heard at a future meeting.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

44

45 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Austin,
46 would you repeat the names of the folks that -- I think I
47 missed the third and fourth names.

48

49 MR. AHMASUK: Sure. Mr. Chairman. From
50 the Native, we nominate Charlie Brower, Myron Naneng, Ralph

1 Andersen and Joeneal Hicks, and then the four remaining two
2 State and two Federal.

3

4 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

7

8 MR. ANDERSEN: I'd just like to add that
9 our preference, I mean if we could have a preference for
10 who you appoint, we would suggest that one of your
11 representatives be from the enforcement division of each of
12 your respective agencies along with a policy person from
13 your agencies.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you.

16

17 MS. HEPA: Call for question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Yeah, there's a motion
20 already on the floor, I was just checking to see if we
21 could do all of this as one part of the motion -- Fred.

22

23 MR. ARMSTRONG: There were two issues
24 identified, one is creating this committee and the other
25 one was to revise the proposal, so that's why I'm confused.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Taqulik.

28

29 MS. HEPA: I think Tim was requesting to
30 defer the proposal in an understanding that this committee
31 would be established, and I think that we could do that
32 during the assignments later on on the agenda.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Was
35 there a hand over here.

36

37 MR. AHMASUK: Well, I was just going to say
38 there's a lot to this, a couple things to this motion. If
39 it's easier to break it up, one part defer the proposal
40 there ending the motion, and then create another motion to
41 establish an enforcement committee. Those are the two
42 things we're trying to get at here. But I don't know, you
43 may choose otherwise.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: As long as everybody
46 understands exactly what's incorporated, I'd rather do it
47 in one rather than spend a half an hour manoeuvring around
48 to get another motion on the table.

49

50 I'd have a question, though, about the

1 deferral, would it be the intent to have this come up again
2 at the fall meeting or would we go all the around until the
3 next regulation adoption meeting next spring or do you want
4 to leave that up in the air?

5
6 Ralph.

7
8 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman. We didn't
9 discuss that in caucus but I think that our understanding,
10 anyway, is that the proposal would resurface whenever the
11 committee got its work done. And along with that, we'd
12 expect other proposals from other regions as well to follow
13 the work of the enforcement committee. If the enforcement
14 comes up with a guideline for -- to address the charge that
15 it's been assigned or that it will be assigned.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

18
19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Unless there's a date
20 certain or a specification deferred proposals will always
21 show up on the next meeting agenda, so you need to be
22 specific.

23
24 MR. ANDERSEN: And if that's the case then
25 we'll defer it again. It's just simple, you know.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I guess I need to make one
28 disclaimer, I represent the State here but the way the
29 chain of -- the way the enforcement and biology is arranged
30 on the State side, it's an entirely separate department
31 that does enforcement so, you know, I will go forth and I
32 will try to produce the right person to be part of this
33 committee if we adopt it. But it's not as simple as
34 producing the biology side. Just so that's understood.

35
36 Any other discussion.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, the motion is to
41 defer the proposal and to establish an enforcement
42 committee that would be made up of eight members. We can
43 detail that during assignments, perhaps, but we have four
44 nominees from the Council as well as two State spots and
45 two Federal spots. And I believe that incorporates the
46 motion, is there anything that I've neglected to state?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, then remembering

1 that we have a process here. I guess we've done discussion
2 before all the input from Staff. I guess I'd ask if there
3 is State Staff input on this proposal.

4
5 MR. ROTHE: Which proposal?

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: The proposal to defer this
8 proposal and establish an enforcement committee.

9
10 MR. ROTHE: No comment.

11
12 MR. LEEDY: Again, from biological
13 standpoint no comment sounds like a good idea though.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there any comment from
16 the enforcement side of the Federal Staff?

17
18 MR. OBERHOLTZER: Steve Oberholtzer, Fish
19 and Wildlife Service. We, as always, are more than willing
20 to participate with the Council in trying to figure out how
21 to do things better. I would present that the Council
22 already makes enforcement policy and I think I've said this
23 almost every meeting, by the regulations you create, with
24 the expectation that when you create a prohibition, it's
25 expected to be enforced.

26
27 Some of the language I saw in the deferred
28 proposal mitigates enforcement or in some cases relegates
29 discretion of whether some things can be enforced or not to
30 entities outside of law enforcement, so we're more than
31 willing and anxious to meet with you and talk about how
32 things can work better.

33
34 And, yeah, to that end, we'd like to
35 participate.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thanks, Steve. Is there
38 any public comment at this point. I recognize we're
39 deferring a proposal so this is a little strange, but any
40 public comments.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing none and
45 understanding that we've already had some discussion, is
46 there any further Council discussion.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. So I'd ask for a

1 voice vote. All in favor of passing the proposal to defer
2 and establish an enforcement committee, signify by saying
3 aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All opposed, same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: The proposal to defer
12 passes.

13
14 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, on the second
15 deferred AVCP proposal relating to the Alaska Natives only
16 participation in the spring and summer migratory bird hunt,
17 I would move to defer for the fall meeting for a
18 continuation of review of the proposal.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: There's a motion to defer
21 that proposal, is there a second.

22
23 MR. HICKS: Second.

24
25 MS. HEPA: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I will ask, although I
28 don't expect any comments from either the State or Federal
29 Staff on the motion to defer. Bob Leedy.

30
31 MR. LEEDY: No comment from Fish and
32 Wildlife Service.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. And I assume
35 there's no need for Technical Committee analysis at this
36 point.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Are there any public
41 comments on the motion to defer.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing none, is there any
46 discussion amongst the Council.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Still seeing none, I'd ask

1 for a voice vote on the motion to defer the second deferred
2 proposal which has to do with Alaska Native only
3 participation, those who favor deferral to the fall meeting
4 signify by saying aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Those opposed, same sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, that is deferred to
13 the fall meeting. We'll now move into the regional
14 proposals for the 2006 process, 2005 regulations --
15 regulatory process and the first region is Ben's region,
16 the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, and Ben you have
17 one proposal that we put on the agenda that has to do with
18 the Cold Bay area and if you'd like to introduce a motion
19 for that proposal we'd hear that now.

20
21 MR. GOLODOFF: Excuse me, I'm not very
22 well.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That's fine. I don't --
25 I'm making up -- I'm not making up the rules but I'm trying
26 to remember the rules as we go so all we need is a motion
27 made from you for the Cold Bay proposal and we can move
28 forward with discussion of that proposal.

29
30 MR. GOLODOFF: You mean like to have a
31 motion?

32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Yes.

34
35 MR. GOLODOFF: Okay. I'd like to have a
36 motion for the Cold Bay -- I'd like to make a motion to put
37 the Cold Bay proposal on the floor.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Is there
40 a second.

41
42 MR. HICKS: Second.

43
44 MR. ANDERSEN: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, it's been moved and
47 seconded that the proposal for a closure of the Izembeck
48 Lagoon area. And I know that we had some material passed
49 out on that yesterday, do we have anything to that effect
50 in the book at this point?

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, we have the
2 proposal that was handed out and maps of that area also on
3 the wall, too, and Tab No. 8 is where all the maps are.
4

5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. And as I
6 recall it's the near the back of that section about four
7 pages in from the -- no, it's more than that, excuse me,
8 it's near the front of the section. And before we start
9 discussion here, I guess, Ben, would you like to kind of
10 recall for us, on the record, what this proposal calls for,
11 what you're trying to do, and then we can have some
12 discussion by Staff -- would you like to just describe your
13 proposal.
14

15 MR. GOLODOFF: Why this proposal was
16 brought forward was an incident happened last fall there in
17 Cold Bay, some hunters came in before the regular hunting
18 season started and shot over 100 brandt and ducks. So the
19 people in Sand Point, King Cove, False Pass, Unalaska,
20 Dutch Harbor and the Pribilofs asked me to bring this
21 proposal forward for your approval.
22

23 Thank you.
24

25 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Ben. And just
26 to set the record straight because I know there was a
27 little confusion over the wording of the proposal, can you
28 confirm that what we're talking about here is a proposal to
29 close the entire Izembeck Lagoon area, including Moffett
30 Lagoon and Glasnet Lagoon.
31

32 MR. GOLODOFF: Yes, the way I see it
33 worded, it just mentions the black brandt.
34

35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Forgive me, I meant to say
36 closure of the black brandt season for the last two weeks
37 of August but the closure area would be the entire Izembeck
38 Lagoon area.
39

40 MR. GOLODOFF: Yes, I think -- well, the
41 way it's written, I hate to say just for black brandt, but
42 the way it's written, I think that's what they mean.
43

44 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Austin.
45

46 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Thank you, Mr. Golodoff.
48

49 Maybe to add some substantive comment to
50 this proposal. From my perspective, being on the Harvest

1 Survey Committee, being on the Emperor Goose Committee,
2 being a member of the Council, I think one thing that I see
3 as being addressed by this proposal is that there is a
4 potential as we're aware in the latter part of August for
5 persons to take advantage of the season prior to September
6 1st.

7
8 That being the case, there is a potential
9 for a loss of some survey information. Typically these
10 harvest surveys are conducted within the region. If
11 person's take advantage of the season prior to September
12 1st, they may access this area and then whenever they do
13 leave the area and from that perspective, there is a
14 potential for, you know, losing some harvest information
15 that in my mind is being addressed by the proposal before
16 us.

17
18 So in that light it certainly does fav --
19 the proposal, in my mind, favorably addresses that concern
20 and hope that that's something that is realized here.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Austin.
23 I'd like to now go to the Alaska Department of Fish and
24 Game Staff analysis. Tom if you'd like to say a few words.

25
26 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. There's a couple
27 of technical issues, first of all I just want to recognize
28 that there's reference in the proposal to basic concerns
29 about who hunts. This proposal would not affect that as
30 far as I can tell.

31
32 So on the basis of the justification for
33 reducing harvest brandt, I think that's consistent with
34 what the Pacific Flyway Council would like to do, it's
35 consistent with other cooperators and parties to the Co-
36 Management Council. So in effect, this would close the
37 last two weeks of August when the brandt arrive so in
38 effect it certainly would reduce harvest.

39
40 The one technical issue that I am concerned
41 with is the geographic definitions of the lagoon. The
42 place names are confusing, for example, it may be common
43 for this whole area to be called Glasnet Lagoon, but on the
44 maps Glasnet refers to the western end, but it says
45 definitely to include Norma Bay and Applegate, which are
46 part of the west. And then it refers to Moffett Lagoon
47 which is the far eastern one-third of the lagoon and it
48 doesn't seem to clearly address what happens in the middle.

49
50 So I think we need some clear definitive

1 definition of whether we're talking about the whole lagoon
2 or just the one-third east and one-third west being closed.
3 If the middle remains open, that is the most accessible
4 place, with the public road, boat launch and plenty of
5 brandt in the middle so I doubt if it would substantially
6 reduce potential harvest if the middle part of the lagoon
7 were left open.

8

9 So just the geographic boundary definition
10 seems to be the key shortcoming I'm concerned about.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tom. Bob Leedy
13 for the Service.

14

15 MR. LEEDY: The Service supports this
16 proposal, agrees with the State and the local residents
17 that forwarded this, that this would be a good step forward
18 in protecting brandt in this area.

19

20 I share Tom's concerns about having the
21 description in writing more clear, that might be done
22 simply by talking about subsistence hunting for black
23 brandt in the Cold Bay area specifically Izembeck Lagoon
24 and you could put parens, Moffett Lagoon and Glasnet
25 Lagoon, that it will be closed. I just think you need some
26 reference overall to Izembeck Lagoon to make it clear to
27 people.

28

29 And beyond that, I would suggest that
30 either at this meeting or discussion of this regulation at
31 some point in the future that consideration be given to a
32 total hunting closure for waterfowl during the last two
33 weeks in August to preclude the possibility of increased
34 disturbance of staging brandt as they feed in their staging
35 areas to travel south for the winter.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Tim, as
38 Chairman of the Technical Committee I'll ask if there's a
39 Technical Committee analysis that either you or somebody on
40 the Committee would like to give.

41

42 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom.

45

46 MR. ROTHE: It may be a little awkward but
47 I can reflect Technical Committee discussions. Tim wasn't
48 able to be present at the meeting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Go ahead.

1 MR. ROTHE: We did not have this proposal
2 in front of us and didn't discuss it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Are
5 there any public comments on this proposal which would
6 close Izembeck Lagoon for the last two weeks of August to
7 the taking of brandt.

8
9 Steve.

10
11 MR. OBERHOLTSE: Steve Oberholtser, Fish
12 and Wildlife.

13
14 Just one comment. If the Council intends
15 to close on shore hunting around the lagoon, it may want to
16 describe that specifically, what buffer area around the
17 lagoon to its off limits to hunting.

18
19 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a
20 question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph, go ahead.

23
24 MR. ANDERSEN: Is Steve up as a member of
25 the public or did he come up and make comments as a
26 representative of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: My view is that that was
29 an addendum to the Fish and Wildlife Service Staff analysis
30 from another division of the Service.

31
32 Okay, no further public comments so let's
33 discuss it as a Council. I think a couple of good points
34 have been brought up.

35
36 I'll ask for anybody to start, I may have a
37 question or two.

38
39 Austin.

40
41 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In
42 light of the suggestion to more clearly define the
43 geographic area, might I say that you could potentially
44 define the area encompassing Cape Glasnet to the point of
45 Moffett Lagoon. I understand that what I just said is
46 probably not very clear either. I guess what I'm saying is
47 if the shoreline from Cape Glasnet north to whatever that
48 point is there off Moffett Lagoon could be one suggestion
49 to clear the area.

50

1 I'm not sure how that would work but that's
2 one suggestion.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. I'm a little
5 cautious about getting into the specific geographic
6 boundary writing by the Council on the record. I think we
7 can probably get airtight language as long as all
8 understand conceptually what we're passing, which is again
9 the entire Izembeck Lagoon area including Moffett Lagoon at
10 the north all the way down and through Glasent Lagoon at
11 the southwestern end, and I'm asking Ben once again for
12 confirmation that it's that whole area that's dotted in the
13 page that's been submitted in the book that we're talking
14 about.

15
16 Bill Ostrand, as Staff that worked on this
17 proposal, could you come forward please.

18
19 MR. OSTRAND: I just wanted to inform the
20 Council that I put together this map, the black and white
21 one that's in your folder, actually both of them in
22 consultation with Peter Divine who wrote the proposal.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: So it's your understanding
25 from working with Peter that the entire dotted area is the
26 area of the closure that was desired?

27
28 MR. OSTRAND: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. And then going to
31 the point that Mr. Oberholtser brought up about shoreline
32 hunting around the lagoon, there appears to be some sort of
33 buffer shown on this map, do you know what that description
34 was meant to be?

35
36 MR. OSTRAND: No, the buffer that's shown
37 was, you know, my own judgment call. That, I did not
38 discuss with Peter. I did discuss with Peter if he meant
39 the entire lagoon or just portions of the lagoon and we
40 agreed upon that description. But as far as a shoreline
41 buffer, that wasn't discussed.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tim.

44
45 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
46 have some concern, you know, not being familiar with the
47 geographically of the Izembeck Lagoon area and the
48 boundaries that are shown here, I don't know if the
49 hunttable area extends beyond this area or is it contained
50 in this area here as outlined in the map?

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom, do you want to
2 address that?
3
4 MR. ROTHE: I can make a suggestion. In
5 this case it may actually be fairly easy because brandt
6 really don't come up over the uplands and feed on berries
7 or anything, they pretty well stick to the lagoon.
8
9 I, personally, don't think we need to --
10 it's difficult to define buffers in a regulation unless you
11 say within X number of yards of the shore or something.
12 But I think we're lucky that brandt really just stick on
13 the marine waters and if we close the lagoon itself, I
14 think that should take care of 99 percent of the issue.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any further discussion by
17 the Council.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Does everybody feel like
22 they know what the proposal says at the moment?
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I'm not sure everybody
27 looks comfortable but nobody's objecting to moving ahead.
28
29 MR. HICKS: Call for the.....
30
31 MR. ANDERSEN: I call.....
32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.
34
35 MR. HICKS:question.
36
37 MR. ANDERSEN:for the question.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question is heard. All
40 those in favor of adopting the motion as described
41 realizing that we will work up technical language in Staff.
42
43 (Pause)
44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: A question's been raised
46 whether or not this is an amended proposal and we have not
47 formally amended it, we have clarified the description, I
48 think, based on the map that was prepared by Bill in
49 cooperation with the original proponent. I'm a little at
50 sea here as to whether we need to back up and make an

1 amendment or whether by clarifying it on the record, we can
2 proceed. Doug, did you want to say something?

3

4 MR. ALCORN: Well, if it's appropriate I
5 would offer some clarifying language based on what I heard
6 from Bob, I kind of wrote some comments down. I can read
7 the sentence if that would help.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: As an amendment?

10

11 MR. ALCORN: Yeah, as a friendly amendment.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, you may proceed.

14

15 MR. ALCORN: Okay. All I wrote was the
16 closure will apply only to hunting in the Cold Bay --
17 excuse me, yeah, the closure will apply only to hunting in
18 the Cold Bay for the entirety of Izembeck Lagoon, including
19 Moffett Lagoon, Glasnet Lagoon, Norma Bay and Applegate
20 Cove.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: And that's offered as an
23 amendment?

24

25 MR. ALCORN: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there a second to the
28 amendment.

29

30 MR. ANDERSEN: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: The amendment's been made
33 and seconded. Is there any objection to that amendment
34 being adopted.

35

36 MR. AHMASUK: No objection, Mr. Chairman,
37 but may I have some discussion?

38

39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Discussion on the
40 amendment?

41

42 MR. AHMASUK: That's right, on the
43 amendment.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Go ahead.

46

47 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When
48 we say Cold Bay in our -- when we're suggesting Cold Bay,
49 in my mind we're just black and white read of our motion,
50 it also includes the area east of this barrier land here

1 between Izembeck Lagoon and Cold Bay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: So, yeah, you're saying by
4 mentioning the name of the settlement we're also referring
5 inadvertently to Cold Bay itself which is an arm of the
6 Pacific Ocean to the east of town there.
7
8 MR. AHMASUK: It may be, yeah.
9
10 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my
11 second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay.
14
15 MR. ANDERSEN: I'd like to offer an
16 alternative amendment.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Go ahead.
19
20 MR. ANDERSEN: Rather than having it under
21 the third bold paragraph and maybe we can include my
22 amendment in both the second and the third. But my
23 amendment would go along with what I heard from Bob Leedy
24 under how should the new regulation read. Under the
25 longest paragraph in that section, it would be the
26 subsistence hunting for black brandt in the Cold Bay area,
27 specifically Izembeck Lagoon and then in parenthesis,
28 Moffett Lagoon and Glasnet Lagoon, including Norma Bay and
29 Applegate Cove, close of parenthesis, will be closed
30 between August 15th and August 31st.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there a second to that
33 amendment.
34
35 MS. HEPA: Second.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.
38
39 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
40 Chairman, discussion again. I say, you know, again, that
41 there are -- just looking at a USGS map there are two areas
42 with the words Cold Bay on them and all it takes is just a
43 cursory black and white read of our proposed language to
44 indicate that we're.....
45
46 MR. ANDERSEN: So scratching any reference
47 to Cold Bay would do it?
48
49 MR. AHMASUK: Yes.
50

1 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay, let's do that.
2
3 MR. AHMASUK: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. So you're
6 incorporating that into your amendment?
7
8 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, deleting in the Cold
9 Bay area, comma, specifically, comma.
10
11 MS. HEPA: And I'll second that.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay.
14
15 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's a friendly amendment.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I think everybody
18 understands what we're trying to do here. Is there any
19 objection to that grand amendment that we now have before
20 us being adopted.
21
22 MR. ALCORN: I'm not objecting, I'll just
23 suggest you read it straight through now.
24
25 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay, I'll read it again.
26
27 Subsistence hunting for black brandt in the
28 Izembeck Lagoon, and in parenthesis, Moffett Lagoon,
29 Glasnet Lagoon, including Norma Bay and Applegate Cove,
30 close of parenthesis, will be closed between August 15th
31 and August 31st. We would scratch Cold Bay area.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. I'll ask again if
34 there's any objection to the adoption of that amendment to
35 the main proposal.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing no objection, we're
40 to the main proposal. Is there any further discussion.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MR. ANDREW: Call for question.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question's been heard.
47 All those in favor of adopting this proposal as amended
48 signify by saying aye.
49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed, signify by
2 the same sign.
3
4 (No opposing votes)
5
6 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Amended proposal passes.
7 And I suggest that we take a 10 minute break. I have 11:10
8 so please try to be back here by 11:20 and we'll continue.
9
10 (Off record)
11
12 (On record)
13
14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I'd like the meeting to
15 come back to order please.
16
17 (Pause)
18
19 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Alrighty. We are still
20 within the regional proposal section and we have dealt with
21 the APIA proposal so the next on the list as far as regions
22 is Association of Village Council Presidents, and I'd ask
23 Tim to move a proposal.
24
25 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt
26 the proposals submitted by AVCP and the Yukon Delta
27 National Wildlife Refuge relating to the closure of the
28 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge to the hunting of
29 cackling Canada geese and Pacific black brandt from the
30 period when egg laying begins until the young birds are
31 fledged. And I so move.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there a second.
34
35 ATTAMUK: Second.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It's been moved and
38 seconded. I would ask Tom Rothe to talk about the
39 Department of Fish and Game's analysis of this proposal.
40
41 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, briefly because
42 we've been party to the YK Goose Management Plan, pretty
43 familiar with this.
44
45 This proposal would, I think, implement a
46 provision that has been in the Goose Management Plan.
47 Certainly an expansion of the closed period for the
48 cackling Canada -- or cackling geese and brandt would have
49 some harvest reduction effects and both of those
50 populations warrant some conservation at this point so I

1 don't -- I think good things will result from this.

2

3 And as long as we're clear on how that
4 announcement is announced to hunters, I don't have any
5 other technical advice.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Tom. Bob
8 Leedy from the Service.

9

10 MR. LEEDY: Yes, thank you. The Service
11 strongly supports this proposal and is appreciative of AVCP
12 for taking such forward looking action. This should
13 enhance protection during more of the nesting period and
14 during the critical brood rearing period for two species
15 that are currently in decline.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Bob. Tom, back
20 to you in terms of Technical Committee comments, if any.

21

22 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, the Technical
23 Committee did not have this proposal at the time so we
24 didn't review it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. At this
27 time are there any public comments regarding this
28 particular proposal, if so, come on forward.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, seeing none, I'll
33 offer it to the Council for discussion. Is there anything
34 that people would like to offer on this.

35

36 Austin.

37

38 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. I understand that much of this has been worked
40 out with the GMP. How is it that the consultation between
41 the Refuge manager, AVCP and the Waterfowl Conservation
42 Committee works? I understand that it will work
43 successfully, but how is it that it works and how will the
44 closure -- how quickly can a closure occur? Are parties
45 agreeable to the closure, how quickly it happens and such?

46

47 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Bob do you want to try
48 or.....

49

50 MR. LEEDY: I would be inclined to let Tim

1 Andrew go first. I mean it's their plan, their Committee.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right, Tim.

4

5

MR. ANDREW: As the proposal states, that
6 it's already contained in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Goose
7 Management Plan, and people are very much aware of the plan
8 and its provisions and certainly abide by it. So you know
9 it's already in place, it just puts it into regulation.

10

11

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

12

13

MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. The way it
14 works is the Refuge manager is in contact with his field
15 biologists out in the field and as soon as birds start
16 laying they relay that information to him. He usually
17 contacts AVCP president and let him know that they're going
18 to close down and then they go forward with the radio
19 announcements in the area there to let people know that
20 immediate closure is happening. People are aware of this
21 process, too.

22

23

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

24

25

MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
26 believe that the AVCP is the unique region in the state
27 that the Refuge manager works in consultation with AVCP and
28 WCC to call -- even this season, to call when the nesting
29 season begins and then our regs read that, I believe it's
30 closed for 30 days and then 30 days hence that closure
31 period it opens again.

32

33

What this proposal does, the way I
34 understand it, is it extends the call to when the fledging
35 occurs and that -- so it's a soft limit, there's no 30 day
36 limit, isn't that right, the fundamental change?

37

38

MR. ANDREW: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's at the
39 discretion of the Refuge manager and usually when the
40 Refuge manager is going to close or open any season
41 normally consults with AVCP and the Waterfowl Conservation
42 Committee.

43

44

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tim. Is there
45 any more Council discussion.

46

47

(No comments)

48

49

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing none, do I hear the
50 question.

1 MR. ANDERSEN: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Ralph. All in
4 favor of passing the proposal for the closures and the
5 extension of the closures as described by Tim signify by
6 saying aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All opposed, same sign.
11
12 (No opposing votes)
13
14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tim.
15
16 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
17 Chairman, I move to adopt a proposal from the Association
18 of Village Council Presidents, and the Yukon Delta National
19 Wildlife Refuge relating to the closure of the primary
20 brandt colonies on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta to hunting of
21 all birds between the initiation of nesting until the young
22 birds fly annually.
23
24 Mr. Chair, I so move.
25
26 MR. ANDERSEN: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Ralph. Let's
29 go to Tom Rothe for Staff analysis.
30
31 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, this proposal is,
32 again consistent with the discussion of the Waterfowl
33 Conservation Committee and other parties to the YK Goose
34 Plan, so we really appreciate the Committee offering this
35 up.
36
37 And in terms of conservation of brandt,
38 this should also really help address harvest reduction that
39 we believe is necessary to get the population increasing
40 again.
41
42 So technically it will likely have the
43 effect intended. The one concern that we did hear about
44 yesterday, technically, would be the definition of where
45 the closure occurs and so I'm not sure the Co-Management
46 Council needs to work this out in detail, but what at least
47 the Staff might consider is providing a map that is
48 available at the Refuge or find some discreet geographic
49 boundaries that can be described legally, although, that
50 will be difficult out there. Again, just so that the

1 everybody, the hunters particularly clearly they can see
2 where hunting is closed.

3
4 One additional comment I want to make is I
5 think one of the factors that has been on AVCP's mind and
6 the Refuge's mind is that ATV traffic in that region of the
7 brandt colonies has been increasing and is creating some
8 habitat problems and some disturbance, so I think AVCP has
9 done a good job working with the Refuge to try and address
10 limiting access and preventing some problems through this
11 proposal.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tom. Tim.

14
15 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From
16 my experience in dealing with closures within the area
17 relating to moose, you know, the Department and the Refuge
18 have printed out maps that were accessible by local
19 residents that really clearly defines the closure area and
20 to define the closure area, you know, in the scale of what
21 we see here to more of a localized -- perhaps a bigger map
22 and it would really help the local people in determining
23 which area is closed because rarely do we get any outside
24 hunters within the brandt colonies. It's mostly the local
25 people that utilize the area. So, you know, if it helps in
26 the process of identifying or clearly defining the closure
27 areas is to make something -- a map of a bigger scale and
28 posting it in nearby communities.

29
30 I think that would help.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Tim. And
33 from the work session we learned that there would need to
34 be some sort of legal description for the purpose of the --
35 or the actual regulations, so between the map for the
36 hunters and the technical language worked out by Staff, we
37 ought to be able to come up with an appropriate way to
38 delineate this.

39
40 Bob Leedy for the Service.

41
42 MR. LEEDY: Yes, thank you. I agree fully
43 with everything Tom said. I just wanted to emphasize that
44 this not only protects the breeding birds, it reduces
45 disturbance within the colonies and should hopefully result
46 in some increased production in these colonies and as we
47 heard yesterday it is production that is the primary
48 problem with the brandt right now.

49
50 I think it's also worth noting that this

1 will benefit other birds that nest in conjunction with the
2 brandt, and in particular spectacled eiders and cackling
3 Canada geese, both of which are of great concern for
4 conservation reasons so this is a multi-purpose proposal.

5
6 And I think also of significance is that
7 it's a very clear demonstration of cooperation with users
8 up and down the Flyway to pull back on harvest of brandt
9 until we can get them back up to the population levels we
10 all want.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Bob. I suspect
15 the answer regarding Technical Committee analysis is the
16 same as for the previous proposal.....

17
18 MR. ROTHE: (Nods affirmatively)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS:so we won't go there.
21 Are there any public comments.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing no public comments,
26 we're at the point where the Council can discuss this
27 proposal, is there any Council discussion.

28
29 Austin.

30
31 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
32 guess I seem to always be kind of anal about the proposals,
33 but the proposal is asking to close the primary brandt
34 colonies. Later on within the proposal it characterizes
35 what it will do, and it says it will -- this conservation
36 measure for black brandt and cackling Canada geese, do we
37 need to say what is being proposed is brandt and cackling
38 Canada geese closure, otherwise it sounds like we intend to
39 close brandt colonies, oh, by the way we're going to sneak
40 in cackling Canada geese.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, I have several
43 people wanting to answer. I'll start with Tom.

44
45 MR. ROTHE: Just to clarify and Tim can
46 chime in, this says closing hunting of all birds. So it
47 should be clear. But the one thing you might consider is
48 naming the major brandt colonies just as a more formal way
49 to clarify it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I think part of the
2 question might be are we talking about cackler colonies as
3 -- areas that serve as nesting colonies for both brandt and
4 the other species that's later named in the proposal.

5
6 MR. ROTHE: My understanding is that is not
7 the case. This is focused on known brandt colonies, the
8 boundaries surrounding brandt colonies, there are some
9 cacklers and other birds in those areas.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tim.

12
13 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
14 understanding of the proposal is to close the brandt
15 colonies and within the brandt colonies may be other birds.
16 And, you know, who knows what other birds may be nesting in
17 conjunction with the brandt colonies but it would close
18 those as well as long as they're contained in those
19 colonies.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. I think
22 that settles the question. Did you have your hand up for
23 something else, Tim, earlier?

24
25 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 The other thing I would ask, in that, the Service in
27 defining these boundaries is to consult with AVCP or
28 consult with myself and Myron in the definition. We'd
29 really appreciate it.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. LEEDY: We will do that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Bob. Austin.

36
37 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Again, I understand that the eventual regulation may have
39 the naming the brandt colonies, but when we use the word
40 close the primary brandt colonies, you know, primary is
41 sort of a qualitative term that is maybe not very well
42 defined. But just a note there. I understand that the
43 eventual regulation may be specific.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: My understanding is that
46 both the map and the legal descriptions would be naming the
47 specific primary colonies that would be protected.

48
49 Okay, with that is there any more
50 discussion.

1 Doug.

2

3 MR. ALCORN: I have a question now. Tim,
4 before we came back from break, Tim was reading these and
5 he made the statement he didn't see a significant
6 difference between these two, and now that we're talking
7 about them I'm starting to hear what you said.

8

9 If you go back and look at the one that we
10 just passed, it reads, how should the new regulation read;
11 hunting for Pacific black brandt and cackling Canada geese,
12 those two species, will be closed on the YK Delta from when
13 egg laying begins until the young birds are fledged, I
14 assume that means flying, is the phrase being used in the
15 next proposal. So we've closed it to those two species
16 from the start of egg laying to when they fledge, that does
17 not include all of the closure for other species. I assume
18 then that the 30 day closure at the call of the Refuge
19 manager in consultation with AVCP still applies, so there
20 will be two separate; is that right? Am I reading that
21 right now, Tim? There would be two separate closures?

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Bob Leedy.

24

25 MR. LEEDY: Yes, I believe that would still
26 be the case. This would be an exception to the normal 30
27 day closure for all other species.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

30

31 MR. ALCORN: Okay, so for clarification,
32 just so that I understand, I'm getting to a point here, so
33 the extent -- the potential extension for just goose --
34 cackling Canada geese and brandt would extend beyond the --
35 potentially extend beyond the 30 days until they fly, or
36 whatever that is, correct?

37

38 MR. LEEDY: Yes.

39

40 MR. ALCORN: Okay. Now, when we go to the
41 proposal that's on the table now for discussion, this is
42 closing harvest of all birds in the colonies for the same
43 period of time. It's closing it from the start of egg
44 laying until fledging; isn't that right?

45

46 MR. ARMSTRONG: No, it's closing it period.

47

48 MR. ALCORN: Well, it says between the
49 initiation of nesting until the young birds fly annually.
50 It's not closing them for the entire season, it's closing

1 them for a definite period of time, and I assume that
2 that's at the call of the -- you know, the same process
3 that would occur, so now I understand your comment.
4

5 MR. LEEDY: Yes, it does appear that they
6 overlap. I think the main distinction is the zone closure,
7 basically, it is to keep people out of a physical area,
8 largely to reduce disturbance in addition to reducing
9 hunting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

12

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: The call or the closure by
14 the Refuge manager will occur just once. As soon as the
15 birds start laying, he'll announce the closure, okay,
16 there'll be -- except that these colonies will be closed
17 for a longer period of time basically is what this is going
18 to be saying.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: For all species.

21

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right, on these colonies.
23 So he's got to make a clarification on this one here.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Bob.

26

27 MR. LEEDY: I understand what Fred's saying
28 is the closure would start on the same date for 30 days and
29 this, that may not be the case, because I would envision
30 the brandt closure as occurring somewhat before the other
31 closures. You'll remember the old Yukon Delta Goose
32 Management Plan closed harvest from peak initiation of
33 nesting until fledging. When we went t o the 30 day
34 closure we were forced to adopt a compromise to allow some
35 egging, you know, in all years on the front end so the
36 closure began later with the 30 day closure than it did
37 previously. So it does raise a question. Because I think
38 from laying to fledging for brandt could encompass a
39 broader period on the front end as well as the tail end.

40

41 It raises a question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

44

45 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But
46 it is egging for cackling Canada geese and brandt are
47 already closed under our current regulations on the YK
48 Delta, correct?

49

50 MR. LEEDY: (Nods affirmatively)

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, further discussion
2 by the Council.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.

7
8 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
9 is a general discussion point about our proposals. We've
10 had trouble distinguishing what you were talking about, I
11 think numbers on the proposals would be good so that we
12 will no longer be confused about which ones.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That occurred to me as
15 well, and I think we should talk among Staff about that.
16 These are recent proposals which complicates the situation
17 a bit.

18
19 Does the Council want to discuss these
20 further. Do you understand the nuances and how these
21 things overlap and if so is anybody calling for the
22 question.

23
24 MR. ANDERSEN: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question's been heard.
27 Those who are in favor of the proposal before us regarding
28 the primary brandt colonies signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed signify same
33 sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That proposal has passed.
38 Tim.

39
40 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move
41 to adopt a proposal submitted by the Association of Village
42 Council Presidents to close -- or to limit the use of
43 private aircraft and charter aircraft for the purposes of
44 hunting during the spring and summer migratory bird hunt in
45 Unit 18 which encompasses the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, in
46 accordance with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management
47 Plan. And I so move, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. Is there a
50 second.

1 MR. AHMASUK: Second.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It's been moved and
4 seconded. Analysis by Tom Rothe.

5
6 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, I think this
7 clarifies a primary provision of the YK Goose Plan. Prior
8 to the meeting in April, the plan is always said that you
9 couldn't use charter or private aircraft for direct
10 purposes of hunting but there, I think, there was some
11 confusion about what exactly that meant. This proposal is
12 consistent with what the WCC and all parties agreed to, to
13 clarify that transportation between communities is okay,
14 but not transportation to hunting sites or that sort of
15 thing.

16
17 So I think it serves a good purpose. And
18 also this, I think, is a really great example of taking a
19 principle agreed on in the Goose Management Plan and
20 codifying it into regulation.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. Bob.

23
24 MR. LEEDY: Yes. Just to add a little bit
25 to what Tom said. I think this -- it's important for
26 others to understand that this is a distinction from the
27 prohibition on use of aircraft for the rest of the state
28 but it is consistent with the way the Goose Management Plan
29 has been interpreted for years.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. And this is
32 another proposal that the Technical Committee has not
33 reviewed at this point so we'll jump straight to public
34 comments. Is there any member of the public that wishes to
35 comment on this proposal.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing none, we're into
40 the Council deliberation and discussion.

41
42 Austin.

43
44 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
45 Leedy, you mentioned that this is a distinction between the
46 currently prohibited methods and means, how so, I guess?

47
48 MR. LEEDY: My understanding is that the
49 current regulations would allow the use of personal or
50 charter aircraft for transport directly to a field camp and

1 to hunt from that field camp. My understanding of the AVCP
2 proposal is that it would allow free transit to villages
3 but not to hunt on the ground.

4
5 And Tim can clarify further if he'd like.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tim.

8
9 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What
10 this regulation would accomplish would be -- it would
11 address a problem that some of our villages face in private
12 and charter aircraft coming in on floats to areas to hunt
13 for migratory birds and they feel by doing so it places a
14 disadvantage upon them in their traditional and customary
15 hunting areas. Additionally, some of the villages feel
16 that by the chartered or private aircraft coming in on to
17 areas that, you know, have never been hunted in that manner
18 before alters the migratory routes of the migratory birds
19 within the area. So it would -- but it would still allow
20 for people to utilize their private and chartered aircraft
21 to come into village airports or villages and then be
22 transported or finding their own transportation out to
23 where they would hunt.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tim. Any
28 further discussion.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MR. ANDERSEN: Question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question's been called.
35 All those in favor of the proposal before us regarding
36 aircraft on the YK Delta used for subsistence hunting
37 signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed signify by
42 same sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Proposal passes. So we'll
47 now move down the list of regions and I believe the next
48 region that has a proposal before us is the North Slope
49 Borough, and I would ask for a motion.

50

1 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I
2 would like to make a motion to accept a proposal by the
3 North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee.
4

5 They are proposing to allow the possession
6 and use of yellow-billed loons that are caught incidently
7 in subsistence gillnets on the North Slope.
8

9 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. Is there a
10 second.
11

12 ATTAMUK: Second.
13

14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It's been seconded. We'll
15 go to Staff analysis, and Tom Rothe will be first up.
16

17 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, what's the
18 batting order, is it Tech Committee or is it agencies
19 first?
20

21 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Agencies.
22

23 MR. ROTHE: Okay. I do have a Tech
24 Committee comment. I guess I don't have any real technical
25 concerns with this. I think it probably needs to clarify a
26 bit that the reporting, actually, will be done to Fish and
27 Wildlife Service at some point. So that's the only thing I
28 saw in there that, procedurally isn't clear by how it's all
29 accounted for from finding a bird to reporting it to -- to
30 getting it recorded somewhere.
31

32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Bob, do
33 you have comments.
34

35 MR. LEEDY: Just the same comment Tim [sic]
36 had. I would feel more comfortable, I think, the Service
37 would feel more comfortable if this -- right now the
38 reporting, in writing, ends at the North Slope. Now, we
39 understand that we're working together and we'll share that
40 information, but because this is a regulation I think it
41 would be beneficial to outside interests if it were clear
42 that this reported data, it would ultimately come to the
43 Service through the AMBCC.
44

45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Taqulik.
46

47 MS. HEPA: I think that was the intent even
48 though we didn't put it in writing, that we would make
49 radio announcements to have the hunters report it to our
50 department, in turn, we would report it to the Fish and

1 Wildlife Service.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. What's the --
4 well, we're not discussing it yet, the Council, so thank
5 you. Now, I guess it's time for Technical Committee
6 comments, Tom Rothe.

7

8 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. The Technical
9 Committee took a look at this proposal and developed a few
10 comments.

11

12 Basically we didn't see any major problems
13 with it and we would forward a recommendation that the
14 regulation as written is adequate as long as the North
15 Slope Borough shares the data with all the parties, that
16 should work out fine.

17

18 We did raise one picky question, the
19 regulation in 50 CFR used the term that these birds may be
20 taken inadvertently in fishing nets and in common usage the
21 word, incidental, is also used, and so we just had a
22 question on whether there's a legal distinction between
23 inadvertent and incidental, and perhaps Steve might address
24 that one.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It looks like Donna might
27 have a comment.

28

29 MS. DEWHURST: Lori Adams felt very
30 strongly that the term incidental would not be used and to
31 use inadvertent. She thought there was a legal precedence
32 between the two terms and had me put inadvertent. I can't
33 explain what the legal distinction is, she just felt very
34 strongly about it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Steve,
37 do you wish to say anything, yes or no?

38

39 MR. OBERHOLTZER: I would just.....

40

41 REPORTER: You need to come on up.

42

43 MR. OBERHOLTZER: I'd just echo what Donna
44 said.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. All
47 right, at this point, there's an opportunity to have public
48 comment on this proposal. Is there any member of the
49 public who wishes to speak on the proposal regarding the
50 inadvertent take of yellow-billed loons.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, seeing none, let's
4 go to Council discussion of this proposal. Are there any
5 items for discussion at this point.

6

7 Ralph.

8

9 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, I have a question.
10 Under the 2005 regulations we heard this morning from
11 Donna, the number 20 was added or needed to be added or
12 somehow clarified, up to 20 birds under the 2005
13 regulations. And I'm wondering if something similar to
14 that needs to be added to this one.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

17

18 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
19 the Federal Register, the quantity of birds is specified in
20 there, it's just not specified in the handbook.

21

22 MR. ANDERSEN: What?

23

24 MR. ARMSTRONG: In the Federal Register
25 where are regulations are published, in the North Slope
26 section there, it does indicate up to 20 birds may be
27 caught inadvertently in subsistence nets for traditional
28 use.

29

30 MR. ANDERSEN: And my question was, do we
31 need to add that language to this proposal?

32

33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It's the intent of the
34 proponent that this is a renewal of the exact regulation
35 that's currently in effect; is that correct?

36

37 MS. HEPA: Yes. That is correct. Knowing,
38 through discussions with Doug that this was -- the way it
39 passed last year was a one year deal and that we would have
40 to resubmit it in order for it to be in effect through
41 2007, I guess.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Tom.

44

45 MR. ROTHE: Technical process comment. And
46 that is, if you want to give clear guidance to the Service
47 Regulations Committee it might be useful to put the number
48 in there.

49

50 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, we'll use the

1 exact language in the Federal register, you know, that the
2 SRC gave us guidance on.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Fred. I
5 guess the remaining question is, is there need or desire on
6 the part of the Council members for clarifying the
7 reporting process or is there something in the reg already
8 that we're not recognizing.

9

10 Fred.

11

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, North Slope
13 didn't have the chance to look at the '05 regs basically
14 because they just were published. The language -- they
15 didn't know what language to use and so they just
16 resubmitted last years and so what we'll do, when we submit
17 the recommendation to the Service Regulations Committee is
18 use the language that was adopted by the SRC again.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. And so to make it
21 absolutely clear on the record, once again the use of that
22 same language is acceptable -- the current regulatory
23 language as what will actually be submitted is acceptable
24 to the proponent?

25

26 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chair, thank you. Yes, we
27 would be comfortable with that knowing that when they were
28 back dealing with the SRC he was in full communication with
29 this making sure that the right words would be used.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. That
34 settles it for me. Bob, did you want to say something.

35

36 MR. LEEDY: Well, simply because this
37 difference in numbers is a bit confusing, I'd like to state
38 that it's my understanding that the reason the SRC went to
39 20 rather than to 10 is because on a reporting basis, they
40 did not want to cap this at a level so low that if they
41 took 10 or 11 or, you know, 12 birds they wouldn't report.
42 So by upping the cap out a little bit they felt that might
43 help enhance the accuracy of reporting in the long run.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right, seeing no other
46 comments, I guess we're ready to proceed. Do I hear the
47 question.

48

49 MR. ANDERSEN: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question's been called on
2 the proposal regarding yellow-billed loons. All in favor
3 of passing the proposal signify by saying aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed, same sign.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Yellow-billed loon
12 proposal passes.
13
14 Okay, that concludes the North Slope
15 Borough proposals.
16
17 The next region that we would be looking at
18 is the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and we did have a proposal
19 submitted within that region. The proponent was Fred
20 Armstrong from the AMBCC Staff. So just a moment, please.
21
22 (Pause)
23
24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, Fred.
27
28 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, we worked with
29 the regional representative from the Interior on this
30 proposal. Seeing that he's absent, I would be
31 uncomfortable in pursuing this proposal until he's present
32 to explain the situation more clearly.
33
34 So I'd ask that this be deferred until
35 then.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there any objection
38 among Council members to deferring this proposal due to the
39 absence of a representative from that region on the Council
40 at this meeting.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, I'm not going to
45 object but I want to state on the record that I think the
46 issues here at Delta are of high importance and that the
47 vulnerability of the whole subsistence hunting, bird
48 hunting program has a lot at stake in us resolving those
49 issues there. It's a highly visible situation. There are
50 different user groups that are watching each other

1 intently. It's close to the second largest city in the
2 state, with a lot of people who are looking at this process
3 very carefully and with some level suspicion.

4
5 And so I just want to urge us all to take
6 this seriously and to try to move forward on this situation
7 in one way or another as the soonest possible -- earliest
8 possible opportunity.

9
10 And with that, I'll recognize Ralph.

11
12 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 What I suggest is that we take this up along with the other
14 proposals that we have deferred for a special meeting. I
15 believe, you know, those that will be considered from the
16 Kodiak area in order for us not to miss this year's cycle.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: How does that strike the
19 rest of the Council. We would try to move forward on this
20 and meet by teleconference at the same time we meet on the
21 Kodiak proposals within the next few weeks to try to move
22 ahead. And, of course, if we can't get it together then we
23 would decide what to do with the proposal at that point.

24
25 So I think the motion, or the suggestion is
26 to defer it to the special meeting that we've already
27 talked about. Is there any objection to that approach.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, that will be the
32 action of the Council.

33
34 MR. AHMASUK: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.

37
38 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. I was just wondering how the proposal that we
40 are now going to defer relates to correspondence we
41 received from Mr. Don Quarberg dated April 13th, 2005, from
42 Delta Junction under Tab 4, Mr. Chairman?

43
44 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Why don't we let the
45 Council take just a moment to look under Tab 4 and screen
46 through that, I haven't looked at it for awhile.

47
48 MR. ANDERSEN: I don't understand the
49 question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I think the question is,
2 by deferring, do we need to look at Mr. Quarberg's letter
3 here and decide whether a response is necessary now or
4 whether we can handle it by deferring the proposal and
5 dealing with the letter at some later point.

6
7 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

10
11 MR. ANDERSEN: I don't know, the letter
12 seems to me to be just information for us, I don't know how
13 that relates to the proposal. We can either respond to
14 this now or we don't need to respond at all or leave it up
15 to the Staff to respond. I don't see the relationship
16 between an objection to the AMBCC process, the whole AMBCC
17 -- I mean the way I read through this generally, I mean the
18 guy is objecting to everything.

19
20 So I mean if we're going to be considering
21 the way his letter relates to the proposal that we're
22 considering now, then I think we'd need to look back at all
23 the other proposals that we've ever taken action on in
24 light of this letter. So if that's the case, I mean if
25 we're going to be looking at, in terms of one proposal,
26 then I say it opens up the door for us to look at all the
27 actions of the Council for the past three years.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I understand what you're
30 saying, Ralph. He does get fairly specific in the last
31 couple of paragraphs of the letter and I guess it would, in
32 my view, be appropriate maybe to let him know that the
33 Council is deferring the proposal but still trying to
34 grapple with the issue during the current cycle, and that's
35 about all the response I see is needed at the present time.

36
37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

40
41 MR. ARMSTRONG: He's been in contact with
42 my office and I can give him a call and let him know that
43 we're deferring it until the Interior representative is
44 present.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, very good. Austin.

47
48 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
49 Chairman. Yeah, I wasn't trying to portray that this
50 correspondence in any way should mean that we have to look

1 at all of our proposals and how we deliberate upon them.
2 And I guess I would disagree with Mr. Andersen in that this
3 letter constitutes relooking at all of our proposals. But
4 perhaps, though, when persons correspond with this Council,
5 whether it's this person whom appears to be taking
6 objection to a lot of our processes here or whether it's a
7 friendly one, it's probably within our purview to at least
8 acknowledge that it's been received in some manner.

9

10 So that's all, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thanks. It sounds
13 like we are in contact with this person and we'll just have
14 to update him on where we're at on that proposal.

15

16 MS. HEPA: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Taqulik.

19

20 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just
21 wanted to agree with Austin, because our Fish and Game
22 Management Committee did submit a resolution opposing the
23 duck stamp issue and I wasn't sure when we would discuss
24 that at this meeting or if you were going to discuss it at
25 all.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I understand. And I guess
28 there's a Council comment section at the end of the meeting
29 under other business and that's the first place I see where
30 that would be an appropriate thing to get into.

31

32 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

35

36 MR. ANDERSEN: Then I'm lost. I don't know
37 where we are. I mean are we considering a motion to defer
38 a proposal or are we looking at the letter, where are we?

39

40 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I believe we were at the
41 point of deferring the proposal to the special meeting, and
42 I kind of believe that I rushed that through without asking
43 for anything other than no objection, considering it be a
44 motion in front of us, and then the question came up about
45 the specific response to Mr. Quarberg.

46

47 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay, somebody changed gears
48 on me and maybe I wasn't paying attention.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I do that a lot, mostly by

1 mistake at these things. Austin.

2

3 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You
4 have it right, and I'll just say that I think it's
5 appropriate that being the TCC rep is not here, that a
6 deferral is timely. Although it doesn't necessarily mean
7 that when a representative is not here that we wouldn't
8 consider their proposal, in this case it seems appropriate
9 as the evidence for a regional meeting isn't entirely clear
10 and so a deferral on the proposal is what I had in mind,
11 so, yeah. Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. Well, just to
14 clarify, I'm considering that deferred now to the special
15 meeting that we have already talked about for the Kodiak
16 proposals.

17

18 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

21

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: The letter ties in with the
23 proposal, in that, the author of the letter supports
24 closure of GMU 20(D) but he went on to.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Make broader statements.

27

28 MR. ARMSTRONG:make broader
29 statements.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Right. All right, I would
32 like to stand down for -- well, first of all, I would like
33 to deal with the baiting proposal that I mentioned before
34 we break for lunchtime but I need to take a break before
35 that. And Fred reminds me, we also need to do a blanket
36 motion for renewing the regulations for all the regions.
37 So we'll deal with those two things but I would like a
38 short break before we get there.

39

40 Tom, do you have something that's pertinent
41 at the moment?

42

43 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, I won't delay your
44 break. I just wanted to say the Technical Committee did
45 look at this proposal for the limited closure and we have
46 some comments on it. But we have not seen Mr. Quarberg's
47 letter and this is the first time a lot of us have seen it
48 so we'll take a look at that and his letter and the
49 Technical Committee, both, kind of raised the possibility
50 that what may be at issue here, too, is whether the

1 community of Delta Junction qualifies or not.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, well, we'll look
4 into those all issues between now and the special meeting.
5 I've got 12:21, let's reconvene at 12:35 and try to knock
6 off those last two issues of this section before we break
7 for lunch. 12:35.

8

9

(Off record)

10

11

(On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, let's go back on the
14 record. First of all, thank you for providing the
15 materials for a working lunch. And what we're going to try
16 to do is get through these last two proposal subjects and
17 then we will break while the activities are taking place
18 next door.

19

20

I believe the next on the list is the thing
21 that I brought up during the change to the agenda, which is
22 the statewide baiting issue. And we've had some
23 conversations going on during the morning here trying to
24 figure out exactly where that should be. And I'll ask for
25 corrections if I stray here from people who know better
26 than me.

27

28

But at the current time there is a Federal
29 statute that prohibits the baiting of birds -- of game
30 birds, for the purpose of hunting. And so that would apply
31 to the waterfowl, snipe, crane, a portion of the birds that
32 are open for subsistence hunting. However, that statute
33 does not cover birds that are available for subsistence
34 hunting under our regulations that aren't technically
35 identified or defined as game birds. So baiting for those
36 birds is not prohibited right now.

37

38

I mentioned putting forward a proposal at
39 this point. After discussing it with various people on the
40 Council and on Staff, I think what I'd propose at the
41 moment, and I'll make this as a suggestion and then people
42 can chime in, would be to ask Staff to make sure that in
43 outreach materials and in the regulation summary book that
44 we've all looked at this morning, that it be made very
45 clear that game birds cannot be taken over bait and those
46 of us who discussed it, think that that will take care of
47 the majority of scenarios that we can think of during the
48 current season, and this next regulatory season where
49 baiting might occur, and it certainly covers the incidents
50 that we've heard information about, whether it be hard

1 information or more of a rumor.

2

3 And the feeling was also that it would
4 probably be too much of a rush to go forward with a
5 regulation proposal right now for the rest of the birds.
6 So I guess my idea right now would be for the State and/or
7 others to come in with a baiting proposal that would seal
8 all of the birds that subsistence users can take during the
9 next open window for proposals.

10

11 So I never know if I've explained things
12 sufficiently so that people understand what I'm saying but
13 if that seems clear and acceptable to people I'm fine with
14 that but I'd take suggestions or try to deal with any
15 objections to that approach.

16

17 Tom Rothe.

18

19 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to,
20 subject to law enforcement review, correct your
21 interpretation.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. ROTHE: And I'm heartedly sorry for
26 what I did. 16 USC .704 of the Federal statutes is not
27 just specific to the sport season it just flat says that it
28 shall be unlawful for any person to take any birds with the
29 aid of baiting or, number 2, place or direct bait, period.
30 So it does apply to.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: For all birds.

33

34 MR. ROTHE:all birds all seasons.
35 And that's correct, right Steve?

36

37 MR. OBERHOLTZER: Migratory game birds.

38

39 MR. ROTHE: Migratory game birds, okay. So
40 you could bait songbirds and auklets, okay.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Which is where I was
43 coming from there.

44

45 MR. ROTHE: Okay. All right.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I think we're clear.

48

49 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.
2
3 MR. ANDERSEN: I think it'd be easier if
4 you placed your suggestion into a motion, that way we'd be
5 able to take, you know, after discussion, maybe amend it
6 and take some action on it.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. I move that we
9 direct Staff to prominently display the current prohibition
10 on baiting game birds in the materials that are distributed
11 to the public, and that the Department of Fish and Game be
12 asked to come back with a statewide baiting proposal to
13 cover all subsistence species in the next proposal window
14 as a kind of an expression of intent to the Council.
15
16 MR. AHMASUK: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It's been moved and
19 seconded, it's available for discussion. Staff, obviously
20 you haven't had a chance to think about this until now so
21 let's just have a Council discussion.
22
23 Austin.
24
25 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman. Migratory game birds, I think, I'm pretty clear
27 as to what those are, waterfowl, shorebirds, and crane,
28 now.....
29
30 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Not all shorebirds.
31
32 MR. AHMASUK: Okay. Can we then clearly in
33 my mind explain migratory game birds and then what's not
34 included.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Anybody on Staff like to
37 take a crack at it -- Tom.
38
39 MR. ROTHE: The simplest answer is it
40 includes all waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and snipe. But
41 the reference to the list, is there -- well, we don't have
42 rails, pigeons, doves and other birds that could be
43 included in that category.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.
46
47 MR. AHMASUK: Well, then, Mr. Chairman, on
48 the other hand, okay, non-migratory game birds, what are
49 those, seabirds -- I mean I just want to get it on the
50 record what they are?

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Well, non-migratory game
2 birds would be things like grouse and ptarmigan. But
3 migratory birds that are not classified as game birds would
4 include things like songbirds, most of the shorebirds,
5 owls, sea birds, raptors -- yeah, there's several
6 suggestions including using our bird list as ways to
7 approach this. I think we're kind of demonstrating this in
8 the conversation that we need to go back and draw exactly
9 -- think about exactly how to apply this. But the purpose
10 of the motion is for the Council to address the issue for
11 baiting for subsistence hunting purposes and hopefully put
12 on the record that we're going to formalize the prohibition
13 and extend the prohibition to all the species that
14 subsistence hunters are allowed to take.

15
16 Any other thoughts. Discussion.

17
18 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, a simple solution that
19 occurred to me was when this comes down I can easily just
20 add a definition of migratory game birds to our list of
21 definitions in the regs and we could still use that
22 terminology but just put it in definitions and then it
23 would be clear, if we decided to still use that
24 terminology. So that would be possibly a very simple
25 solution.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, well, I'm willing to
28 talk and negotiate out a solution, but not on the record
29 all together, I think that that's a dangerous way to
30 process so we can put this off -- Ralph.

31
32 MR. ANDERSEN: I was going to say, Mr.
33 Chairman, I think when we get into deliberating the
34 proposal, you know, when it comes forward, then we can more
35 refine specific language and specific things. But I think
36 for action on your immediate motion, which is to have
37 Staff, you know, get out through -- for informational
38 purposes the current regulations, I think it's a good one.
39 But I think, you know, if we could put off some of our
40 detailed discussion of what should be included and what
41 shouldn't be

42
43 I think if we can put that off until we
44 have something in front of us, then it would be more
45 meaningful. But I think for right now, the real -- for the
46 immediate action, I mean on your motion, would be for the
47 Staff to get word out in some way, I guess through the
48 publication of the regulations, you know, the current
49 prohibition.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thanks. If there's
2 no further discussion is there a call for the question.

3
4 MR. ANDERSEN: Question.

5
6 MR. HICKS: Question.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question has been called.
9 All in favor of the motion to both direct Staff to
10 publicize the existing prohibitions on baiting as well as
11 the intent to hear a new proposal for the wider list of
12 birds that subsistence users can take signify by saying
13 aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed, signify same
18 sign.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That proposal passes.
23 Okay, the final item of business for the extended morning
24 is to have a blanket proposal to renew the regulations for
25 all the existing subsistence regulations in your regions.
26 And I would entertain a motion for that type of a proposal.

27
28 MS. HEPA: So moved.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is there a second.

31
32 MR. ANDERSEN: Second.

33
34 ATTAMUK: Second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Moved and seconded. Fred.

37
38 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, just for the
39 record those regions are Bristol Bay Native Association,
40 Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes, Chugach
41 Regional Resource Commission, Copper River Native
42 Association, Kawerak, Incorporated, Kodiak Area Native
43 Association, Maniilaq Association, and Native Village of
44 Tyonek as well as Tanana Chief Conferences.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you.

47
48 MR. ANDERSEN: I have a question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

1 MR. ANDERSEN: We would consider, you know,
2 proposals for like the North Slope region and the Aleutian
3 Pribilofs and AVCP, I mean because -- I think we need to
4 include in the motion continuing those that have not been
5 changed in those areas, and that's how I would amend the
6 motion, if that's in order.
7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: A friendly motion.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I'll regard that as a
11 friendly motion.
12
13 MR. ARMSTRONG: Friendly amendment.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Friendly amendment. Okay,
16 so the motion now includes Ralph's suggestion.
17
18 MR. HICKS: What's that?
19
20 MR. ARMSTRONG: No, you seconded that?
21
22 MR. HICKS: Yeah.
23
24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, okay. Okay.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, so now we have a
27 grand motion in front of us incorporating what Ralph
28 pointed out. Any discussion.
29
30 MR. ALCORN: Restate the motion.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, as I understand it
33 the motion is to renew in all regions the current
34 subsistence regulations currently in effect with the
35 exception of regs that were updated or modified by action
36 previously taken today.
37
38 MR. ANDERSEN: Or new ones.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Or new ones that were
41 added.
42
43 MR. HICKS: Second.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, any further
46 discussion.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All in favor of passing

1 that motion as stated signify by saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That motion passes. And
10 that concludes what I wanted to get done and it's a couple
11 of minutes before 1:00.
12
13 Taqulik.
14
15 MS. HEPA: With that last motion we just
16 passed.....
17
18 REPORTER: Taqulik, your microphone.
19
20 MS. HEPA:that has to be brought
21 forth to the SRC for approval or does that be in effect
22 here?
23
24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: My understanding is, is
25 that would be part of the package that's forwarded for the
26 Flyway Councils to look at and then also for the SRC to
27 eventually take action on. And that ensures that all those
28 regulations will remain in effect rather than fall off the
29 books.
30
31 MS. HEPA: Okay.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right. Okay, so we'll
34 adjourn, because of the activities that are about to start
35 next door until 2:30. I'd like everybody to try to be back
36 by then and we'll forge on through Committee reports this
37 afternoon and get as far as we can.
38
39 Any other parting comments before we split
40 for awhile?
41
42 MS. DEWHURST: Could I get everyone out at
43 the whaling museum for a group photo.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Group photo at the whaling
46 museum right after we adjourn. Okay, thank you. 2:30 is
47 when we're due back.
48
49 (Off record)
50

1 (On record)

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, the Council will
5 come back to order and we are at the Committee report part
6 of the agenda. The first one on the docket here is Harvest
7 Survey Committee, and Austin, I invite you to give a
8 presentation about what the Committee has been up to.

8

9

10 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Earlier this morning I passed out the March 23, 2005
12 meeting minutes of the Harvest Survey Committee which is
13 the most recent approved minutes from our Harvest Survey
14 Committee meeting.

14

15

16 The Harvest Survey Committee met most
17 recently on April 27th, 2005. We haven't approved the
18 April 27 meeting minutes as of today. Since the Council's
19 last meeting in October, the Harvest Survey Committee has
20 met four times, twice in November '04, once in March '05,
21 for which you have the meeting minutes before you, and then
22 most recently April 27th.

22

23

24 The Harvest Survey Committee, of course, as you're
25 aware, was formed since the formation of this Council to
26 look into the design of a statewide migratory bird
27 subsistence harvest survey. The Harvest Survey Committee
28 has developed a now existing survey design. Been in place
29 since 2002. The first survey under the newly formed
30 statewide design was conducted in 2002. If you recall in
31 2003 a statewide subsistence harvest survey was not
32 conducted because of a lack of OMB certification for the
33 forms and what not. The Fish and Wildlife Service,
34 subsistence Staff, Cynthia Wentworth, and folks, quickly
35 got OMB certification passed and now exists. In 2004
36 another survey was done, statewide harvest survey, and we
37 are now again beginning -- we're now in the throws of a
38 2005 statewide migratory bird spring/summer subsistence
39 harvest survey.

39

40

41 If the Council recalls, the Harvest Survey
42 Committee was faced with some fairly difficult tasks within
43 the past three years. We were faced with a limited budget
44 in which to conduct the survey and so throughout these past
45 five years, we've had to go back to the survey design and
46 incorporate cost-cutting measures and have now an existing
47 statewide harvest survey design that fulfills those cost-
48 cutting measures we had to take as well as expectations for
49 reliability of a statewide harvest survey estimate.

49

50

The existing survey design is one of a

1 rotational design scheme. There is simply not enough money
2 to conduct this survey on a statewide basis yearly for all
3 regions and so -- with these past couple of years of the
4 survey we've had to incorporate a rotational scheme for the
5 statewide survey.

6
7 I certainly would invite other members of
8 the Survey Committee to make comment. The Survey Committee
9 membership is in Tab 9, there the second page in comprised
10 of myself, Chair, Rick Langto, Tom Rothe, Robert Suydam,
11 Russ Oates, Taqulik Hepa, Gloria Stickwan is no longer a
12 member of the Committee, so the Committee membership should
13 be updated. Instead of Gloria Stickwan that would be Jacob
14 Isaac, he's an RIT from Bethel. And then Ron Stanek.

15
16 In preparation for our report, I tried to
17 anticipate some questions that the Council might have in
18 terms of the statewide survey. Number 1, I thought that
19 the Committee would be interested in any sort of results
20 that there are now that may be in terms of statewide
21 harvest survey estimate.

22
23 For the 2002 survey year there are some
24 results of the 2002 survey, not complete. For the 2004
25 survey year, there are no results in yet. If the Council
26 remembers the very first year of the newly designed survey
27 in 2002, Fish and Wildlife Service was given the data forms
28 and they were expected to compile the data and thus
29 reports, and so those have, you know, slowly come.

30
31 In 2004, the data analysis and report was
32 contracted to Fish and Game, the Division of Subsistence,
33 and it is expected that there will be some results shortly
34 from the 2004 year.

35
36 In terms of 2005, Ms. Cynthia Wentworth can
37 certainly speak better than I on the completion and
38 progress of those surveys in the other regions. The
39 Committee itself does not write the contract agreements,
40 the Fish and Wildlife Service office does that.

41
42 Additionally, another question I thought
43 the Council might have is results. What sort of results
44 are there now? Can we actually determine whether or not
45 there has been harvest increases as a result of our
46 regulations and the simple answer to that is there simply
47 is not enough data now to give us information that tells us
48 whether or not the harvest has increased as a result of our
49 regulations. Which is why this Committee was formed.

50

1 I would, however, temper that thought, that
2 idea, that it simply isn't the idea of harvest increases as
3 a result of our new regulations that compromise or would
4 result in some sort of prohibition. It's harvest increases
5 as a result of our regulations, but in light of any
6 continental population sizes and fluctuations that there
7 may be. So it simply isn't that in one year pintail
8 harvests increased five-fold and that alone being the
9 significant event if also pintail population increased
10 five, six-fold, and then harvest increased accordingly.
11 Those would be some of the considerations that we envision
12 would be on the table at that time.

13
14 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I would like
15 to, as I normally do, submit to the record our approved
16 meeting minutes. So the March 23, 2005 meeting minutes you
17 have before you, and would ask that that be submitted to
18 our record.

19
20 And with that I would certainly invite
21 Cynthia Wentworth to come to the table and add to my
22 report. With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Austin. And we
25 will include the approved Committee minutes in the record
26 of the meeting.

27
28 Cynthia, do you have short remarks to add
29 to what Austin said, and please come forward to be
30 recorded.

31
32 MS. WENTWORTH: The only thing I could add
33 and people -- I'd be glad for people to ask me in more
34 detail, but I could add the projects we're doing this year
35 and then the ones we're doing in 2006, if you'd like.

36
37 Yeah, this year, 2005 YK-Delta, North
38 Slope, Bristol Bay, Aleutian Pribilofs, Copper Basin and
39 Cook Inlet, so basically seven areas, or regions.

40
41 And then in 2006, YK-Delta, Northwest
42 Arctic, Interior, Kodiak, Chugach.

43
44 So that's pretty much how it gets divided.
45 Each region, of course, has different cost figures, all the
46 way from a high of 73,000 plus on the YK-Delta down to
47 1,700 for Cook Inlet, which is just Tyonek. That's
48 because, you know, we have varying numbers of villages and
49 households that subsistence hunt. One of the things the
50 Committee decided, at least for the next five years, of

1 course, this could always be changed, but that's to survey
2 the YK-Delta every year and rotate other areas every other
3 year. And the reason for that is that 48 percent of all
4 the birds in the spring harvest are taken on the YK-Delta,
5 and if we left them out in any one year it could make, you
6 know, huge differences in our estimates. And also on the
7 YK-Delta is where some of the species that we're most
8 concerned about are taken, like black brandt and yellow-
9 billed loons, and spectacled and stellars eiders, and I
10 could just hear it now if we were missing a year. Because I
11 know what it's been like to miss 1988 and then 2003, not
12 having data for those particular species in particular
13 years just really drives biologists nuts.

14

15 So, anyway, that's our situation.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you.

18

19 MS. HEPA: Good thing you're not a
20 biologist.

21

22 MS. WENTWORTH: I know it is.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

25

26 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a
27 couple of comments on the report.

28

29 The first comment is that my regional
30 director was given an opportunity to identify regional
31 funding priorities for fiscal 2007, which is a year and a
32 half away, and the increase of \$500,000 for the Harvest
33 Survey Committee for the harvest survey implementation was
34 identified as one of the regional directors top two
35 priorities, one of his two that he was allowed to enter
36 into our budget negotiation process. I don't think that it
37 was supported by the directorate, the Service directorate,
38 but what it tells me and what it tells you all is that it's
39 one of our regional director's highest priorities for
40 increasing and getting money to adequately fund the harvest
41 survey.

42

43 The other point that I wanted to bring out
44 is that the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, has
45 recently issued a peer review bulletin. What it does is it
46 requires Federal agencies to ensure that our survey work,
47 our research work is peer reviewed, the design is peer
48 reviewed prior to the implementation of it, and then the
49 reports that re resulting from that work before publication
50 be peer reviewed. And the harvest survey work that we do

1 is certainly, falls within, I think, the criteria for
2 inclusion into that peer review process. So I would like
3 just for the Council to know that I'm going to be working
4 with Cynthia and Austin and Fred and Bob Leedy to ensure
5 that the work that we do is in compliance with that OMB
6 bulletin and it's something that -- I don't know how it's
7 going to affect the harvest survey, the design of it, I
8 suspect that it won't, it's really an administrative
9 requirement to document peer review process, and then
10 everything that we publish either has to have a disclaimer
11 on the cover or have a statement on it that indicates that
12 it's in compliance, I guess, with a peer review bulletin.
13 But it's just an administrative thing that we have to work
14 with, and it potentially could change some of the design,
15 but I don't think so.

16
17 MS. WENTWORTH: No, I think it would
18 just.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Cynthia.

21
22 MS. WENTWORTH: May I say something --
23 thanks.

24
25 I think it would just improve the reports
26 to have them peer reviewed because I'm not perfect and it's
27 bothered me sometimes that my stuff has not been reviewed
28 more thoroughly. I have certain people who have checked it
29 real carefully, like, particularly, Brian McCaffery, on the
30 YK-Delta but I welcome comments from anyone on the
31 technical nature of my work because, again, I've found
32 mistakes in my own stuff, and I don't like that.

33
34 And if I could just say another thing, too,
35 you can stop me if I'm out of order. But I wanted to echo
36 what was said yesterday about extra money and the
37 contracts. Because whenever we can get any extra money
38 from any source we can use it for this harvest survey to
39 improve our accuracy. The more money we have to survey,
40 the more areas we can survey, the more villages, the more
41 households, the more accurate we can make it.

42
43 And like this summer, if there should be
44 any extra money, I really want to use it to order more
45 survey forms, because I don't want to have to take money
46 out of other projects to order survey forms. Fred found
47 some extra money a couple years ago which was what enabled
48 us to get all those beautiful forms that we have right now,
49 most of them. And I'm concerned about where our money is
50 going to come from for the forms for 2006, because we've

1 just been relying on those for these past couple of years.
2 We basically kind of had a freebie this year, because they
3 were already printed. But we've got to come up with, you
4 know, several thousand dollars for those forms. And so
5 like I say, any extra money can certainly be used to
6 improve this survey.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Cynthia. And
9 for the record what was just referred to was a discussion
10 at the work meeting yesterday which talked about the
11 importance of the regional members informing the Service as
12 soon as possible as to money that would be coming back that
13 could be reallocated in different ways. So thank you.

14
15 Before moving on to the next report, I'd
16 like to commend Austin and your whole Committee for a whole
17 lot of hard work and perseverance in the face of some
18 difficult conditions in terms of the funding isn't what any
19 of us had hoped for and it's been really challenging and
20 the Committee has done a very good job under the
21 circumstances, so you're to be commended for that.

22
23 So with that, if there is no other
24 questions -- oh, Taqulik.

25
26 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd
27 just like to make a comment and maybe a suggestion. From
28 the meeting that I've been attending it seems that funding
29 has always been an issue with this survey that is required
30 through this Co-Management Council. And maybe to help, I
31 think that there might be an opportunity for future funding
32 from the Wildlife Tribal Grants working with the regional
33 bodies here. And I don't know if it's appropriate to ask
34 the Alaska -- or Fred's Staff to help draft a proposal, you
35 know, including the regional representation from around
36 this table to submit one proposal to help fund this.

37
38 Because looking at the request for
39 proposals, it seems within their scope, you know, they're
40 asking for the funding to provide for tribal organizations,
41 I don't know if it would be appropriate for us to request
42 Fred's Staff to help put a proposal together to help fund
43 this.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

48
49 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's
50 certainly appropriate and I appreciate your offer and

1 suggestion. And we do actually have a proposal that we
2 were trying to work, two proposals, actually that we were
3 trying to work through tribes in specific regions. And if
4 we have a willing tribe, I think we have a very good chance
5 of succeeding in that competition for that limited amount
6 of money. It's a national competition for money.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. Enoch.

9
10 ATTAMUK: Yeah, Taqulik, that Tribal
11 Affairs Funding Committee, you got to go through an IRA
12 Village to go through it, people like just can't apply for
13 it. But a village could apply on our behalf. That's just
14 for your information.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Taqulik.

17
18 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've
19 been thinking about this over the last couple of days and
20 what I was thinking is us, as being regional
21 representations from the different regions, we could work
22 together with Fred, you know, the people from rural Alaska
23 and maybe getting resolutions from our tribal governments
24 to submit one proposal representing, you know, the
25 different parts of the state. Just as an idea. Just
26 something I've been thinking about the last couple days.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

29
30 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
31 have several questions. And I'd like to go through them
32 like one at a time if you don't mind.

33
34 You know, one of the things in the Treaty
35 amendments and protocol is that our hunt would not increase
36 harvest. And what I'm, you know, something that Austin had
37 mentioned that brought this -- you know, reminded me of
38 this was that -- I mean if somewhere along the line we're
39 going to be -- I think we're going to see, you know,
40 numbers increase. And I'm wondering if the Committee has
41 determined some way to differentiate between an increase in
42 harvest numbers due to more accurate reporting or if the
43 Committee or if the harvest -- or if the Committee could
44 determine in some way the increase in numbers for
45 communities that have been surveyed for the first time or
46 for the second, or you know what I mean, because a growing
47 number of communities are being surveyed for harvest
48 levels, there's going to be an increase in harvest. And
49 what I'm afraid of is that we might get criticized for
50 increasing harvest because of our subsistence hunts when

1 the hunts have been going on for a long time and some
2 communities haven't been surveyed before.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin, do you wish to
5 respond.

6

7 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Andersen
8 for that question.

9

10 That has been a continual question in every
11 one of our Committee meetings since we've been formed. We
12 think that in some manner looking historically into past
13 harvest surveys and formulating some sort of idea of
14 whether the present day harvest is larger or smaller or the
15 same is definitely a worthy topic and something that needs
16 to be explored.

17

18 We do believe that the current survey
19 design gives us probably a fairly good idea of the trend in
20 harvest data, not necessarily whether or not the village of
21 -- some village harvested 1,000 brandt. A number like that
22 may not be as meaningful as our ability to determine sort
23 of trend over time.

24

25 In terms of relating different surveys to
26 today's newer surveys, we have not sat down and talked
27 about exactly how the old surveys can be tweaked in some
28 fashion to relate them to today's survey. So it would take
29 some additional Committee work to figure that out but it's
30 not something that we've ignored. It's been a topic at
31 every Committee meeting just about. But it will require
32 work and actually building up years of data under this new
33 survey design to actually do that mathematics, those
34 statistics. It will take some years for us to get to that
35 point.

36

37 So hopefully within the next few years we
38 get a good data string. We go through a complete rotation.
39 We should be able to do that and come back to you and say,
40 yes, here's the trend. It is the same or it is down or it
41 it's up, yeah.

42

43 MR. Andersen: Thank you, Austin. My next
44 question, I guess, Austin, is is there anything that the
45 Council can do, any action that you can think of that we
46 can take to help your Committee?

47

48 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, well, I
49 think that securing more funding for the survey is
50 paramount, is number 1.

1 Since 2002, when we've had this new survey
2 design running, cost measures have come up. They've been a
3 continual part of the survey that we've had to readdress
4 every year, and so a base, good, stable funding stream
5 certainly would help.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you. If there's no
8 more questions.

9
10 MR. AHMASUK: Just one last thing, Mr.
11 Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay.

14
15 MR. AHMASUK: So that's the current status
16 of the survey. In the future it will, without an increase
17 in funding, it will be a rotational type of survey. In
18 2006, we are slated to, again, go through OMB and
19 recertification for our forms and such, so that will be on
20 the horizon.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thanks a lot.

23
24 Let's move on to the next report, which is
25 the Exclusion Committee and Doug's going to present a
26 PowerPoint, I understand.

27
28 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
29 going to walk over there, and, Bill, if you'll boot that
30 up, I'm going to stand over there and drive from that
31 machine and I'll try to take a microphone with me.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Very good.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 MR. ALCORN: The Exclusion Committee is
38 comprised of four members, Joeneal Hicks, Peter Divine,
39 Mike Smith and myself. We were formed a year and a half
40 ago, I believe, at our fall meeting. We basically had this
41 charge, I don't recall verbatim the charge, it was actually
42 in the minutes, but I managed to come up here without a
43 copy of the PowerPoint that I had prepared, so I ended up
44 doing this in my bedroom last night on the computer.

45
46 But essentially our charge was to recommend
47 a process for excluding communities that are in the
48 generally included area but that may not meet criteria that
49 the AMBCC would establish, whatever those criteria might
50 be. And I think part of our charge was to think through

1 what those criteria might be and to recommend those to the
2 Council.

3
4 We've gone through two or three iterations
5 or processes in discussion and I'm going to carry you
6 through just so that you understand our thinking. I'll
7 take you through these very briefly.

8
9 The first thing that we attempted to do,
10 process-wise, is we asked Fred to take a look at the
11 criteria that we had established in our procedural
12 regulations that are in your black binders under Tab 9,
13 procedure regs on Page 53, 18, the third column over, there
14 are five criteria that have been developed for including
15 communities. And our strategy was, what if we were to
16 apply those sort of in reverse and see if communities could
17 be tested against those criteria, and logically if they
18 failed to meet those criteria be eligible for consideration
19 for exclusion.

20
21 And I'll go very briefly through the way
22 those five read.

- 23
24 1. The first is a pattern of use
25 recurring in the spring and summer
26 of each year prior to 1999,
27 excluding interruptions by
28 circumstances beyond the user's
29 control. That's the first.
30
31 2. Second criteria for inclusion, now,
32 these are the ones that are
33 published in the regulations. The
34 consistent harvest and use of
35 migratory birds on or near the
36 users permanent residence.
37
38 3. A use pattern that includes the
39 handing down of knowledge of
40 hunting skills and values from
41 generation to generation.
42
43 4. A use pattern in which migratory
44 birds are shared or distributed
45 among others within a definable
46 community of persons. A community
47 for purposes of subsistence uses,
48 may include specific villages or
49 towns with a historical pattern of
50 subsistence use.

1 5. And finally a use pattern that
2 includes reliance for subsistence
3 purposes upon migratory birds or
4 their eggs and that meets
5 nutritional and other essential
6 needs, including but not limited to
7 cultural, social and economic
8 elements of the subsistence way of
9 life.

10
11 Those are the five criteria that are
12 published in our procedural regulations for using to
13 include a community. And the charge to Fred was, think
14 through a process that we could envision and recommend to
15 the Council.

16
17 The problem is in trying to do that we
18 couldn't settle on how much of the community needed to pass
19 or fail those criteria to disqualify a community. And we
20 discussed percentages and, you know, numbers were thrown
21 out and, you know, ultimately we sort of settled on the
22 majority, which is essentially 51 percent, and the problem
23 that that created by settling on that is that as -- you
24 know, communities are dynamic and as percentages, as people
25 move in and out of communities those percentages change
26 over time and we were concerned that no matter where we set
27 a threshold, regardless of what it is, that's going to
28 change. So we really didn't come up with an answer. And
29 that first process sort of failed by its own weight or
30 complexity, I guess.

31
32 So then we came up with this idea of
33 describing a community as a community. And we came up with
34 a number of test questions and they would also include
35 those five same criteria that have been applied for
36 communities for inclusion.

37
38 But the first question is based on, at the
39 community level. And it's similar to the first criterion
40 in the procedural regs. And it's essentially, does the
41 community have a pattern of use recurring in the spring and
42 summer of each year prior to 1999 excluding interruptions.
43 It's verbatim almost of that first criteria. If yes, this
44 is all just trying to think through how the processes would
45 work, if the answer to that question is yes the community
46 then qualifies, if, no, if it doesn't have a history, if
47 that community doesn't have a history and there are
48 communities that we used as examples that may have sprung
49 up since 1999, you know, for any reason, that doesn't have
50 a history then it wouldn't qualify as a community to be

1 included or qualify as a community that has a tradition of
2 hunting, so, therefore, it could qualify as one that we
3 could consider for exclusion.

4
5 That's the first test.

6
7 The next test is if it does, if the
8 community does qualify by having predated the 1999 date,
9 then we would apply questions to an individual. This is
10 where we begin to define the virtual community.

11
12 Does the individual -- is the individual a
13 permanent resident of the community, if, yes, continue to
14 the next question, if, no, the individual doesn't meet the
15 criteria and, therefore, would not be included in the
16 virtual community of subsistence hunters.

17
18 Third question. Does the individual have a
19 pattern of consistent harvest and use of migratory birds on
20 or near the individual's permanent residence, if, yes,
21 continue on, if, no, the user does not meet the criterion.

22
23 Question four. Does the individual have a
24 use pattern that includes the handing down of knowledge of
25 hunting skills and values from generation to generation.
26 Again, these are almost verbatim from those five inclusion
27 criteria, if, yes, continue on, if, no, if you don't you're
28 not included.

29
30 Does the individual have a use pattern in
31 which migratory birds are shared or distributed among
32 others within a definable community of persons. Does the
33 individual have a use pattern that includes reliance for
34 subsistence purposes and so on and so forth.

35
36 That's the fifth of the inclusion
37 criteria. If, yes, the individual then is included as a
38 member of the virtual community of migratory birds
39 subsistence hunters.

40
41 And, then, finally there would be a
42 question that is the individual willing to participate in
43 the harvest survey. Now, the reason this question is in
44 here is because as I go through the next few slides, we
45 were trying to be sensitive to the issue of the language
46 that we described and cited yesterday that is in the Senate
47 ratification language that says that a permanent or an
48 indigenous habitant is defined as a permanent resident of a
49 generally included area, regardless of race. We're trying
50 to be sensitive to that language. So we're trying to

1 refine this by saying this is a process to identify a
2 virtual community that would help the Co-Management Council
3 identify its population of hunters and, therefore, identify
4 its population of individuals that would be surveyed in the
5 harvest survey process. And I understand I'm not part of
6 the Harvest Survey Committee, but I understand through Bill
7 Ostrand's assisting our Committee that this could
8 significantly reduce that effort, that element of the
9 harvest survey and potentially save money by making us more
10 efficient in identifying that. So that's why this question
11 is in there. If, yes -- if this were a system that we had
12 discussed, you print the certificate, carry that
13 certificate with you, you're a member of the virtual
14 community, by virtue of saying -- answering positive to
15 this question, you are included in the roster of hunters,
16 and willing to participate in the harvest survey you'd
17 carry your card. It's not unlike that SHARK* card that we
18 talked about in yesterday's workshop where the subsistence
19 hunters can apply for and get a subsistence halibut card
20 and carry that card and then they're eligible to
21 participate. And if they're not willing to be a part of
22 that survey population then they fail to meet this criteria
23 and they don't print their certificate and therefore
24 they're not members of the virtual community so therefore
25 they don't hunt.

26
27 Really, in talking a few of the details
28 about how that system might work, it could be web based.
29 It could be issued by the individual that goes through. It
30 could be issued by a village, tribal council that takes a
31 roster of its folks from the village, plugs them all in,
32 prints their certificate out, they end up with their stack
33 of certificates, they hand them out to the right people and
34 then they're eligible to be included and be involved in the
35 hunt. And the roster then that we would generate through
36 this web based process could then be used by the Harvest
37 Survey Committee. And then hunters could carry that card
38 similar to the SHARK card. And the bottom bullet there is
39 that there's really no administrative burden placed on
40 AMBCC Staff. To me that's an important element to this
41 particular process that we had envisioned.

42
43 The Committee talked about this in a
44 teleconference call about three weeks ago. They wanted to
45 explore the SHARK card registration process and because
46 there's a slight difference in the SHARK card process and
47 the process that I just described. The process I just
48 described is web based and it's essentially self-
49 certifying. You answer the questions, you print your
50 certificate and basically you go hunting. The only real

1 check on whether or not you falsified your responses, your
2 peers in the community. If they know you didn't meet those
3 criteria and you're carrying a card there might be some
4 pressure applied by your peers.

5
6 If, in this case of the SHARK card, the, I
7 believe NOAA, actually issues -- anybody that's got a SHARK
8 card knows whatever agency it is that issues, somebody has
9 to make that determination in that agency. That's quite a
10 distinction between the process that we've envisioned for
11 this process. So that's something that they asked that we
12 look into and that's the reason why Bill gave his
13 presentation yesterday in the work shop about the SHARK
14 card process and how it works and how those cards are
15 issued and the fact that those folks that do qualify for
16 those SHARK cards carry them on their persons while they
17 fish.

18
19 There's also discussion, the second bullet,
20 by Stanley Mack, who was a participant in our discussion,
21 he and Peter Divine were both on the conference call, they
22 were interested in having the Service, the Fish and
23 Wildlife Service or AMBCC issue the permits and not have
24 them self-issued. And they're not here so I guess they
25 can't articulate why they were asking us to pursue that,
26 but that was a reason for us looking at the SHARK process.

27
28 They also said let's talk to Lori Adams,
29 our Department Solicitor, we have a few questions regarding
30 some of the complexities that we're dealing with in this
31 particular committee and the issue of qualifying or
32 disqualifying individuals versus communities or how we stay
33 at the community level. We ask a few questions.

34
35 Can we design a process similar to the
36 SHARK card process that would incorporate and apply the
37 customary and traditional use criteria, those that I've
38 gone through, those five. And my solicitor answered
39 specifically that the ratification language in the Senate
40 has that phrase in there, regardless of race, and it means
41 that the DOI Solicitor probably wouldn't defend a legal
42 challenge if we disqualified an individual and that
43 individual challenged us, legally. She basically said that
44 the Department's solicitor's office probably wouldn't even
45 take the case, probably wouldn't win.

46
47 Could we design a process to identify
48 hunters based on their willingness to be included in a
49 harvest survey, you bet we can, and we can add that seventh
50 question and then we can characterize it as a -- as getting

1 to a virtual -- defining the virtual community with the
2 intent of including them in a roster of surveyable hunters.
3 If they're willing to be that on that roster then we can
4 certainly limit folks that participate to those that are
5 willing to be surveyed because that's considered management
6 and we're allowed to do that. So we could implement that
7 process with that question.

8
9 Could we design a process for self-issuance
10 of certificates, yes, we could. If we implement a process
11 for hunters to apply for a hunting permit, can the AMBCC
12 issue it? The answer that I got was no, but you have to
13 understand when I'm talking with the solicitor in this kind
14 of a scenario, these are not written opinions, and so she
15 didn't have the liberty or the luxury of having all the
16 documentation and all the laws and regulations to go
17 through, she was just basically giving me her off the cuff
18 comments. And I would suggest that this is probably not a
19 very well thought answer that she's given me. For this
20 reason. If you go back and you read the Senate
21 Ratification language there are basically two points that
22 are made.

23
24 First point they make is the language,
25 certainly that talks about the definition of an indigenous
26 habitant being a permanent resident of the generally
27 included area regardless of race. That's the principal
28 point they make. The second point that they make in their
29 ratification is that communities can invite hunters back,
30 family members back to communities to assist in meeting
31 their subsistence needs and that village councils can issue
32 permits. So I believe we have the Legislative authority to
33 do so and it says the management body can issue permits.
34 So I think that that's certainly within the realm of our
35 authority to do that.

36
37 Could the Service issue the permit, yes, we
38 could. However, I would like to remind you all that there
39 are almost 100,000 people that live in generally included
40 areas at this point. If the Fish and Wildlife Service is
41 asked to certify, much like NOAA certifies and issues those
42 permits, 100,000 permits every two years, if that's the
43 model that we use, the subsistence SHARK card process,
44 would really inundate our four Staff with administrative
45 burden that I'm not sure that we could even manage under.
46 So that's the concern that I have regarding that. But the
47 answer is, yes, Fish and Wildlife certainly does have the
48 authority to do so.

49
50 Finally there was a question of complexity

1 and issues that we deal with in trying to determine what it
2 means to have language in the letter of submittal that
3 talks about customs and cultures that uses Native, the
4 phrase Native, tribal councils, indigenous inhabitant, non-
5 Native permanent residents of villages who have legitimate
6 subsistence hunting needs; there's all those kinds of
7 phrases interwoven throughout the three documents that form
8 our authorizing and mandates -- authorizing legislation and
9 mandates. And we cannot deny that those are interwoven
10 concepts in there. We cannot deny that there is this
11 custom and cultural aspect to this. And I was asked to ask
12 her the question, how does the Council deal with that. How
13 do we reconcile if we perceive that there are
14 inconsistencies. And the response is is there really are
15 not -- she doesn't view them as inconsistencies if you
16 review that the Protocol Amendment and the ratification
17 language as law parallel at the same level and the letter
18 of submittal one tier below that so that as long as the
19 letter of submittal, the language the clarifies the
20 understanding of the State Department, Warren Christopher
21 at the time, Secretary Warren Christopher, as long as his
22 understanding is not inconsistent with the understanding of
23 the Senate then we can use that clarifying language and we
24 can use it and implement it and interpret it the way the
25 letter of submittal does. If there are inconsistencies
26 then the protocol and the ratification language trump the
27 letter of submittal. That's the way that it is interpreted
28 in law and that's the way our solicitor interprets it and
29 that's the way we could interpret it. So she doesn't see
30 it really as inconsistent.

31
32 Another question I was asked to ask her is
33 how do we define legitimate need. This goes back to the
34 paragraph in the letter of submittal that talks about the
35 negotiators understanding of an indigenous inhabitant being
36 a primarily Alaska Native but there are non-Natives that
37 have legitimate subsistence needs, that's the phrase that's
38 used in that paragraph that we've all read many, many
39 times. And I asked her that question and basically her
40 response was it's moot because of the language that I
41 referred to earlier in the Senate ratification language.

42
43 So that leaves us with this question as a
44 Committee -- Joeneal step in any time you want, what do we
45 do now? We, as a Committee, really don't have a
46 recommendation at this point for the Council. I believe
47 that this process, any time that we begin to exclude folks
48 we're really stepping into a very sensitive area and one
49 that's going to need a lot more thought than we've been
50 able to give it at this point. We have met probably a half

1 a dozen times over the year and a half and here's my
2 suggestion to the Council; allow us more time to think this
3 through better. Also, if anyone has any ideas, anyone
4 willing to participate on the Committee thinks you might --
5 you know, if you have any ideas for us and are willing to
6 devote some energy to this, by all means, participate with
7 us. I wouldn't say we're at our wit's end, but we
8 certainly could use some new fodder for discussion and
9 thinking.

10

11 So that's where we are right now. And I
12 guess that pretty much concludes my report as a Committee
13 representative.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 Joeneal, do you want to add anything.

18

19 MR. HICKS: We did speak yesterday somewhat
20 on this particular process and I had mentioned that
21 presently there are five communities that are now included
22 that is slated for exclusion. And just that alone, you
23 know, that particular process like I said is a can of worms
24 is what I referred to it as.

25

26 There's also the possibility that there are
27 other communities that will want to be included and this
28 process also would apply. So -- well, let's say, you know,
29 I'm really concerned. In other words, in particular
30 region, for instance, the Copper River region, seven
31 villages were recently included in the last seven years.
32 There is a very big possibility that several more
33 additional communities will also petition. I know that
34 Bill is aware of several of those communities or even
35 several of the other Council members who work for -- or
36 rather I should say the Staff of AMBCC is aware of that
37 possibility. I don't really believe that they would
38 qualify but the burden of proof is on them. Well, I guess
39 I could just throw out those two particular communities, I
40 mean I don't see why I can't, that would be Kenny Lake and
41 Glennallen. They, in my opinion, don't have any kind of
42 customary and traditional use, but, again, the burden of
43 proof is on them.

44

45 And the way we have been discussing it, you
46 know, they have to show us or the regional management body,
47 prove to us, basically that they qualify. We need to
48 develop criteria to make it hard for them to do that.

49

50 I guess that's the idea behind it. So just

1 be aware is what I'm saying, I mean there are other
2 communities that will want to be included and there are
3 some communities that are already slated for exclusion, and
4 that's -- it's a tangle.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Joeneal. Are
7 there any -- yes, there are questions. Ralph, we'll start
8 with you.

9
10 MR. ANDERSEN: I have several questions.
11 Again, it's a series of questions and most of them are for
12 Doug.

13
14 I first want to, I guess, preface what I
15 have to say with, you know, I thank you for all the work
16 that you and the Committee have done, and it's clear to me
17 that you've done -- you know, with the question and answer
18 thing, from your report, it's clear to me that you've done
19 a lot of work. But there are some things in there that are
20 really troubling to me.

21
22 One of them is that, you know, the mission
23 that you had up there at the beginning of your
24 presentation, I thought that was a pretty clear statement
25 of what it is that the Committee was charged to do. And I
26 had hoped that the Committee would come up with a
27 recommendation on a process to exclude communities, and
28 that was the charge, rather than trying to find -- you
29 know, there are ways to include -- we already have a
30 process for that.

31
32 You know, one thing that I found pretty
33 troubling was issuing permits, and all the complications
34 that you mentioned that go along with that. Because that
35 isn't the way our traditional hunt was ever conducted. We
36 never issued permits to anybody. I mean nobody that I know
37 of that hunted in the spring ever received a permit to do
38 so. You know, there seems to be some deviation from a
39 process to exclude communities to a process to include
40 individuals, that's where it kind of went off on a turn
41 here that I thought was kind of strange.

42
43 You know, just based on what your
44 presentation and on some of the remarks that I've heard,
45 you know, during your presentation and what Joeneal just
46 said, we seem to be mixing two things together. You're
47 mixing inclusion and exclusion together. Joeneal is saying
48 that there are some communities that want to be included,
49 that's not what the Committee is charged with. The
50 Committee is charged with developing a process to exclude.

1 And the other -- you know, the other
2 question is that one of the -- you know, going through your
3 criteria and throughout your criteria, Doug, you mentioned
4 a pattern of usage, I noticed that on a few of your slides.
5 And I'm wondering if that pattern of usage language also
6 includes the length of time. Does the pattern include the
7 length of time of usage, is that included in the pattern?
8 And maybe it would be determining -- you know if it is,
9 then it would be determine the length of time that would be
10 qualified to, you know what I mean, to determine a pattern.
11 Because there are some villages that, you know, are
12 centuries old, there are some villages that are recently
13 new, I mean that are new established villages. And it
14 seems if you can, to me, anyway, and I don't want to --
15 again, this is my own opinion, if you're able to document
16 the usage of migratory birds from the time that the village
17 was first established, that would be tell me that that's a
18 subsistence village. But if in other areas where villages
19 or towns are established and they didn't kick in hunting
20 migratory birds until this group was formed, then that
21 would kind of tell me that, hey, maybe there isn't a
22 patter, maybe they don't qualify as a pattern of usage.

23
24 So, you know, that was really all that I
25 have to say.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

28
29 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
30 Ralph, I think those are pretty astute observations. And I
31 heard really one question.

32
33 Essentially why did we sort of divert away
34 from the community approach as opposed to the -- and then
35 going to the individual approach. The three sort of
36 processes or iterations of processes that we came up with,
37 the very first one, talked about communities, solely using
38 a community approach and that's where we were at that
39 percent threshold of, you know, what composition of the
40 community needs to meet or fail to meet the whatever
41 question that we asked, and it happened to be the five
42 questions that we had taken out of the procedural
43 regulations for including communities. Apply them sort of
44 in reverse, you know, saying that any community that failed
45 to meet these would be eligible for exclusion. And we
46 never could settle on a percent of the community that
47 needed to meet. Does one individual of a community of 100
48 qualify, a community for inclusion or exclusion, and we
49 didn't know what the answer was. And we felt uncomfortable
50 establishing any threshold, and maybe that's not the right

1 solution.

2

3

4 So that's when we went to the, what I refer
5 to as a virtual community, and identifying individuals
6 based on their customs and traditions, including them into,
7 based on those customs and traditions, including them into
8 a virtual community, and then that community then is what
9 is eligible to hunt. By being put in that pot, on that
10 roster, that forms a community and that community then is
11 eligible to harvest.

12

13 So that's how we dealt with it. And we
14 couldn't get away from the individual issuance of
15 certifying that they met that. And we certainly weren't
16 advocating that a -- well, I guess we were advocating a new
17 permitting process. And that, I understand, is counter to
18 the customs and cultures, and I appreciate that, it was at
19 the request of some of the Committee members that were
20 holding up the green SHARK card as a model, is how we kind
21 of ended up at that point. And that's now becomes the
22 third iteration of the process. The virtual community idea
23 is, I think fraught with some complexities and some
24 problems and the Committee has sort of shied away from that
25 approach and now they're asking to pursue in more detail
26 the SHARK card process. But even that is, I think, fraught
27 with some pitfalls.

28

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tim.

29

30

31 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I,
32 too, would like to commend the Committee for the amount of
33 work that you obviously put in towards the exclusion work.

34

35 However, I do have some concerns on some of
36 the criteria. We have in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, a
37 total of eight zero population villages. These are
38 villages that they have tribal members but they do not
39 physically live in those villages, they don't have a zip
40 code, they don't have a telephone, no street address, but
41 perhaps at some point in the future our people will move
42 back into those villages. And if you follow the criteria,
43 prior to 1999, Omkumiute which is down around the Koyuk,
44 and it's a zero population village, did Omkumiute have a
45 recurring pattern of subsistence harvest. Perhaps yes they
46 did because, you know, those people live in Nightmute they
47 live in Toksook, but they did not live in the village of
48 Omkumiute. But they are true subsistence users and, you
49 know, by -- if you follow the criteria per se they would be
50 automatically excluded when they move back to those
51 villages.

1 And I just -- it's a concern that I don't
2 want to see happen to those people who have had a long-term
3 customary and traditional subsistence harvest. And Piamuit
4 is another, George Town, there's Billmoor Slough, Hamilton
5 and others that are within the area which have zero
6 population at this time. And perhaps tweaking the criteria
7 to allow for the inclusion of those communities as they
8 come into place would probably, you know, avoid the
9 exclusion of those communities.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tim. Other
14 comments or questions -- Austin.

15

16 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
17 anticipated this discussion would come to this point.

18

19 The Harvest Survey Committee likewise
20 looked into halibut registration and regarding point No. 1,
21 regarding reduction of costs in the harvest survey.
22 Certainly it is very accurate and true to say that the
23 harvest survey cost would go down if there's some mechanism
24 to enlist or create a list of subsistence users whom you
25 then could survey.

26

27 Number 2, is a point that I find very
28 intriguing and that is this Council has struggled very hard
29 with licensure and duck stamp issues. And I had thought
30 that there's a possibility and I guess we'll pose this to
31 the Committee, that if in some fashion a permit could
32 supplant license requirement, duck stamp requirement that's
33 probably a worthy thing to investigate and come back to the
34 Council with, as that has been a very difficult question
35 for this Council to try and even resolve. So granted, Mr.
36 Andersen's comment regarding our people never having a
37 permit, you know, that certainly is a consideration.
38 However, we also have requirements now for license and duck
39 stamp. I have a SHARK card and those things are very easy
40 to obtain and practically painless.

41

42 And so if obtaining a permit which could be
43 supplanted -- or which would supplant a license requirement
44 or duck stamp requirement is the case then, you know,
45 certainly from my perspective I prefer the least painful
46 route to do that and so would certainly pose that as a
47 question, one that I think deserves the Committee's
48 attention and it's something that I would share with the
49 remainder of the Council here as well.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thanks, Austin. Any other
4 comments from the Council.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing none, I guess the
9 next on our list here is a report on the Invitation to Hunt
10 Committee and that will be presented by Tom Rothe.

11
12 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. Since I provided
13 a brief report yesterday I'll try to make a briefer report.
14 I passed out copies of kind of a written summary of what
15 we've done for your information.

16
17 I want to emphasize a couple things. First
18 of all, this is a first progress report, the Committee
19 hasn't achieved anything to present to you for action or
20 decisions. Again, for the benefit of everyone who is here
21 today, this Committee was charged with developing some
22 options for the Co-Management Council to deal with the
23 provision of the Treaty Protocol that allows for family
24 members that lives in excluded areas to be invited back to
25 their home villages in the included areas to participate in
26 spring and summer hunting. And the purposes are, of
27 course, to transmit cultural traditions and involve family
28 members in this practice.

29
30 The Treaty itself -- the Protocol itself
31 doesn't provide much detail other than it makes it clear
32 that village councils should have pretty much the final say
33 in who gets invited back to hunt and who doesn't. And it
34 makes reference to potential permits that may be issued to
35 allow this invitation to occur.

36
37 Other than that there's not much specific
38 guidance, and the solicitor -- Interior Solicitor has
39 suggested that we have a fair amount of latitude in
40 designing something to, I guess, authorize this invitation
41 to hunt.

42
43 So our Committee agreed to stick on a
44 pretty narrow purpose of developing procedural options for
45 the Council to implement an invitation to hunt program. So
46 we reviewed quite a bit of background materials, some of
47 which I quoted for your benefit in the report, and
48 discussed a few initiation options.

49
50 These are very kind of rough draft, off the

1 top of the head ideas, but in brief, what we want to
2 explore in the future is the idea of possible general
3 resolutions that could be adopted by village councils that
4 would authorize immediate family members to hunt. Some
5 kind of village general permit system, where the village
6 councils could issue some sort of permit to an invited
7 hunter, be it a card or a letter or something. The third
8 one is a process that would involve an exchange of letters,
9 a person in an excluded area would send a request to the
10 village, the village would respond then with a letter back
11 saying, yes, you're invited, no you're not. A little more
12 paperwork involved there but that might be a solution. And
13 the fourth one is somehow develop a roster or a list of
14 everyone specifically that's invited to hunt.

15
16 As I said, these are just kind of really
17 fast and loose ideas on concepts to pursue. There's a
18 couple of requirements that we have to try to meet with
19 whatever system we work out. One is it's got to be clear,
20 specifically, who is invited and who's not invited, so that
21 somewhere it's written down that John Jones has been
22 invited and meets the requirements, he is an immediate
23 family member in an included area. So there's probably
24 numerous ways that you could figure that out.

25
26 The other thing is that it's important for
27 each of these invited hunters, since they will be legal, to
28 be able to kind of identify themselves in the field in case
29 law enforcement or other people contact them. We know that
30 in some villages they are concerned about people that show
31 up to hunt and maybe they're not invited. So we need to
32 find some way that a person can say, here it is, my card,
33 my letter, a phone number or something that says I've been
34 invited.

35
36 So there's a lot of issues involved here.

37
38 There's a couple of things we want to
39 continue to work on that we need to think about a little
40 bit more. One is that there are, again, the village
41 council really should be the level that decisions are made
42 at and there may be some criteria that we need to develop
43 so that each village kind of makes decisions in the same
44 way as far as excluding people.

45
46 Obviously we need to take care that people
47 aren't unjustly treated in this process. And I think that
48 Ralph brought up that, you know, we need to make sure that
49 there's an appeal process or something that clearly that if
50 someone has a complaint they know who to go to. So it

1 needs to be clear how people get excluded and how you
2 document that.

3
4 We need there are procedures for
5 coordinating with law enforcement folks. Again, the
6 primary thing is that we need to know who is invited and is
7 hunting legally and who is not, and so we do need to look
8 at some sort of proof of approval to hunt.

9
10 And the last issue that we discussed
11 yesterday is that if a person is invited to hunt and they
12 have a good time, and they harvest successfully, right now
13 if they're not residents they can't legally possess the
14 birds that they would take. They would have to either
15 leave them in the village or something. So we recognize
16 that as something that needs some careful thought because
17 in the -- perhaps it's desirable if a son, a father, you
18 know, from Anchorage goes to a village and hunts, it might
19 be appropriate for them to be able to eat some of those
20 birds at home, but again that's really maybe a broader
21 discussion about the possession rules right now.

22
23 So those are the three things we want to
24 explore more fully as well as the general processes that we
25 might want to work on the details for. So that's a real
26 quick report of where we're at. We're just getting
27 started.

28
29 We certainly would like to have more
30 participation by folks with law enforcement because their
31 concerns and needs need to be rolled into this somehow.

32
33 And we need to make sure that we all really
34 consider strongly that the village plays a central role in
35 all this and we need to have something simple and flexible
36 that's going to work for them. So we're looking for good
37 ideas too.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tom. Are there
40 any questions from the Council or discussion.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Apparently not at this
45 point -- okay, Joeneal.

46
47 MR. HICKS: Just more of a comment, but do
48 you think that people who would, let's say come from
49 Anchorage to wherever, do you think that's something that's
50 going to really be a big thing or would it be something

1 like a case by case basis or what?

2

3 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. I don't think we
4 have any idea how much activity there would be under an
5 invitation program. Obviously Fairbanks, Anchorage,
6 there's a lot of folks from the villages who have relocated
7 there and it could be quite a number of people that are
8 involved. I don't know, other Committee members, Ralph, do
9 you have any sense?

10

11 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

12

13 MR. ANDERSEN: I, like you, I mean I have
14 no idea. But I know that it's happening. I know that
15 there are people living in Anchorage that fly to the
16 villages, or people -- you know people that probably live
17 in Fairbanks that go to your village, but there -- I mean
18 it's hard to say what the numbers are and that might also
19 affect, you know, the harvest levels. Because if those
20 numbers were never documented before in harvest surveys,
21 you know, people traveling back and forth and never being
22 surveyed for their harvest levels, I mean they would --
23 their names would somehow get to Cynthia, so that's -- I
24 have no idea how big of a participation it would be but I
25 don't think it would be a lot. I mean I don't think we're
26 going to see a mass exodus from Anchorage or from Fairbanks
27 to fly out. Because one of the criteria that we're looking
28 at is that -- or considering is that these would all be
29 generated by village councils and that would place some
30 sort of -- you know that would place a limit itself on the
31 number of people that would be going out there anywhere.

32

33 MR. HICKS: Yeah, well, that's what I would
34 suggest, is that, the village council play a big role in
35 that particular process.

36

37 But what I wanted to more so add to that is
38 that I know that there are some people that's going to come
39 to Mentasta, Chistochina regardless with the idea of taking
40 ducks and taking it back to Anchorage, you know, that's
41 going to happen. What has the Committee done in that
42 regards? I know we had some discussion on that yesterday
43 also but legally they can't, am I correct?

44

45 MR. ROTHE: Yeah, I think that's correct.
46 I think our Committee needs to work with the Council in a
47 larger sense and review those possession rules and figure
48 out what it is we'd like to see.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any further discussion.

1 Doug.

2

3 MR. ALCORN: I guess a question for Tom, is
4 there any -- there's no action that the Committee is asking
5 for, it's just a continuation of the work that you're
6 doing, right?

7

8 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, yeah. We just
9 had one meeting, this is a complicated process. As I said,
10 I mean we really need some input from the village councils
11 to figure out if they have any suggestions on how they
12 would like to handle this, there's some recordkeeping
13 requirements, if they want to take responsibility for doing
14 the approvals and obviously we don't want to tie them up in
15 paper. But I guess I would hope that the members of the
16 Committee, I think Ralph and others can maybe go out and
17 poll village and tribal governments and try to ask, you
18 know, how would you like to handle this.

19

20 So we don't have anything ready for action
21 right now.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Tom.
24 Next report is from the Emperor Goose Committee, Russ, were
25 you going to present that -- now is your opportunity.

26

27 MR. OATES: It's a pleasure to talk into
28 these little red-lighted microphones again.

29

30 Okay, I have a report here that I put
31 together based on our minutes from our meeting. And let's
32 see, I'll just send a few down this way. I better have one
33 of those -- thank you. Just to remind the Council here,
34 the Committee members include Ralph Andersen, Tom Rothe,
35 Chris Dau, Austin Ahmasuk, Peter Divine, Tim Andrew and
36 myself. And the Committee met in Anchorage on March 30th
37 and 31st to continue in the revision of the Pacific Flyway
38 Management Plan for emperor geese which is really the
39 primary function of this Committee, and also to develop a
40 schedule for the completion of the revisions to the
41 Management Plan. At the meeting members present included
42 Ralph, Tom, Chris, Austin, Peter and myself. And we had
43 some guests at the meeting, including Fred Armstrong and
44 Bill Ostrand. Bill provided a lot of support for this
45 meeting. And then we had invited guests Joel Schmutz from
46 USGS BRD as well as Ed Malik and Bob Stan of Fish and
47 Wildlife Service who were involved in survey work on
48 emperor geese and Stanley Mack also came on the second day
49 and was an alternate.

50

1 Somehow in the early moments of the meeting
2 I was elected the Chair, so here I am, Ralph just ran away,
3 I guess it was his fault.
4

5 Okay, it had been over a year since this
6 Committee had actually gotten together and met, I believe
7 that's correct, somewhere in that timeframe. And so we
8 also, since there were -- I think Peter was a new member at
9 that point, we decided to do a review of the status and
10 trend data, and I won't go into details on that but
11 basically the status -- the population is well below the
12 population objective of 150,000 birds. And the trend, it
13 looks like it's probably stable to maybe very slightly
14 increasing. And so we wanted to have some discussion
15 within the group providing more background about why the
16 population is where it is in order to know what direction
17 to take on the Management Plan. And so we talked about the
18 status of the population taking advantage of people there
19 that had done the survey work as well as the BRD folks that
20 did research on the nesting, bird rearing, survival and
21 recruitment.
22

23 We talked some about the predation problem
24 on the nesting grounds. I guess just to kind of put it in
25 a nutshell, the adult survival has increased somewhat but
26 the recruitment, in other words, the reproduction, annual
27 reproduction has decreased somewhat and we talked about the
28 factors relative to the decreased recruitment and there's
29 two main factors. One is the issue that I talked about
30 yesterday with regard to the grazing lawns and the reduced
31 fitness of the young goslings, and the reduced survival.
32 And the other is the issue of predation by foxes and gulls
33 on the breeding ground.
34

35 We also talked about harvest and harvest
36 management. And we had reports of what harvest information
37 was available and it's fairly incomplete and so we really
38 don't have a solid feel for the amount of harvest that is
39 occurring. We talked about the need for harvest management
40 and the fact that we've had some degree of success in terms
41 of reducing the harvest of emperor geese on the Yukon
42 Kuskokwim Delta as per terms of the Goose Management Plan,
43 and we talked about the reasons why that had been
44 successful and the primary reason has been there's a lot of
45 interactive communication with the hunters on the Delta and
46 we really had an excellent outreach effort going on out
47 there for many years. And it was felt that the fact that
48 this outreach effort has mostly been concentrated on the
49 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta that we really couldn't expect that
50 there would be good acceptance of efforts to reduce harvest

1 in other regions where there really hasn't been a
2 substantial effort at outreach. And this was identified as
3 a really major issue. One of the things that we agreed
4 within the Committee, we needed to bring before this
5 Council, and that is there needs to be increased outreach
6 efforts in areas outside of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta in
7 order to get a better understanding of what the situation
8 is with the emperor geese.

9
10 And so we're hoping that somehow during the
11 course of this meeting -- we're hoping that during the
12 course of this meeting anyway that the Council will agree
13 that that is a significant issue and will support efforts
14 to increase the amount and quality of outreach that's
15 available to regions such as Kawerak, BBNA, and Aleutian
16 Pribilof area in order to get better understanding on the
17 part of subsistence hunters and improve compliance with the
18 closed season for emperors.

19
20 I think one of the really valid points is
21 that we can't really expect people to accept and understand
22 if we don't communicate with them. And I believe it was
23 Ralph who made the point that the information probably
24 shouldn't come from Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Service
25 people but from the local people that hunt in the areas,
26 and the regional representatives would be good people to
27 help bring this information to the folks out there.

28
29 Basically the other aspect that we feel
30 needs to be worked on is to try to reduce the amount of
31 predation on the breeding grounds. And I know the Service
32 has made some efforts in the past to do some studies out
33 there and is continuing in that arena but we've got to get
34 acceptance among the leadership, both of Fish and Wildlife
35 Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game that this is
36 an important component of emperor goose management. And so
37 Tom and I have agreed to work through our leadership to try
38 to ensure that that message is delivered and get
39 concurrence from our leadership that it is an issue and we
40 need to try to move forward and take more definitive action
41 than we have in the past on this.

42
43 Once we got through the background
44 information we began working on the management plan again
45 and the first aspect of it, the most important aspect of it
46 was to review and revise the goal of the plan and the
47 objectives of the plan and we did that, we worked through
48 the goal and the objectives and rewrote several of them. I
49 have them listed in the report here. I don't know if you
50 want to go through them individually at this point in time,

1 if you'd rather just pass on that for now, we could come
2 back to it if there are detailed questions.

3
4 The last thing we did was we adopted a
5 schedule for revision of the plan and we really feel like
6 we're going to be able to get it done by this fall. The
7 goal of our schedule here is to have the plan distributed
8 to the Council for review so that you can comment on it or
9 go ahead and approve it at the meeting this fall and we
10 think that's very doable at this point.

11
12 So I guess that's pretty much what I had.
13 Would anyone on the Committee like to provide additional
14 comments, you're welcome to.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thanks for the
17 report, Russ. Regarding the outreach request, I guess I'll
18 leave it to Fish and Wildlife Service Staff to -- or AMBCC
19 Staff to talk about whether there's any capabilities to do
20 more along those lines with existing resources, but the
21 other thing is that potentially some of the year end of
22 money freed up by money being turned in before -- while
23 there's still time to make decisions about how it can be
24 spent would be another source for that type of effort. And
25 I guess that's something to keep in mind as that money
26 starts coming back in.

27
28 MR. OATS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we understand
29 that there is a severe limitation of funds for this sort of
30 activity. And what we're hoping to do within Fish and
31 Wildlife Service is try to on the cheap have some of our
32 external affairs folks work with the Committee to develop
33 some suitable products that could be presented during the
34 course of other travel by the regional representatives and
35 maybe get a little more bang for the buck that way.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, sounds fine. Are
38 there any questions, comments. Tim.

39
40 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And
41 I really appreciate the amount of work that the Committee
42 has put into the work here. I wasn't able to come to the
43 meeting when the meeting was called on, I believe it was
44 May 18th, it might have been on business travel.

45
46 However, one of the ways that really helped
47 within our villages within our area when there was
48 intensive -- when there was an intensive education effort,
49 was the huge graph indicating what the population used to
50 be, the trends, and what the current population is as of

1 today, the big posters. We've seen all over the community
2 in Bethel, we also seen it in a number of the villages that
3 we visited out there, they'd be posted all over the place,
4 people knew exactly how many birds were out there and how
5 many birds we used to have and what's our target or what's
6 our goal for the population within the area.

7
8 So something like that would probably -- I
9 mean if we were to bring something like that back, it would
10 certainly help.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tim. Any other
15 comments. Tom.

16
17 MR. ROTHE: Just real quick as far as cross
18 communication, I'm on the Emperor Goose Committee but I'm
19 also on the Outreach Committee, which you will hear later,
20 so I'm carrying emperor messages to the outreach group and
21 I think it was real clear in our Committee meetings that
22 there are, particularly some areas in the state, like the
23 Aleutians and Alaska Peninsula, where people really need
24 some basic information about emperor geese to understand
25 what the problem is.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Anything
28 else?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right. Is the Council
33 up for a short break, I know that we're trying to roll
34 through this but we've been here an hour and a half since
35 restarting -- okay, so let's take a 10 minute break and
36 really try to make it 10.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, let's come back to
43 order.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, we'll come back to
48 order and the next report in a row is the Harvest
49 Limitations Committee, and I happen to be the Chair of that
50 and this is going to be a short and time-saving report

1 because we have not had a meeting during the last cycle.
2 There's a variety of reasons but the primary of which is,
3 is that the Chairman didn't get the Committee together so I
4 apologize for that.

5
6 I do think that there's a sense amongst our
7 Committee that several of the issues on the Committees that
8 have already reported are probably more proximate, have to
9 be dealt with and what the Harvest Limitations Committee
10 will eventually produce depends to some extent on the work
11 of other Committees.

12
13 I realize that sounds a bit feeble.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: And we have a Harvest
18 Limitations Committee meeting during the next cycle, I
19 promise.

20
21 I note that we do have one member of the
22 Committee, was Herman, who is no longer a part of the
23 Council, so during Committee assignments we probably need
24 to address the composition of that Committee.

25
26 And that's all I have, are there any
27 questions or lectures that anybody wants to give the Chair.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you. Next, we
32 inserted during the agenda change part of the meeting, a
33 Technical Committee report, and Tom Rothe will provide
34 that.

35
36 Tom.

37
38 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the
39 faith of our Committee co-Chairs, Connie Fredinberg and Tim
40 for letting me recount what we did at the last meeting.

41
42 Other than review proposals there were two
43 things that we discussed. One I really won't go into very
44 much. Connie brought up the issue that was kind of strange
45 that there -- because of the Selandang Ayu oil spill there
46 was a potential for people to take subsistence birds and so
47 there was a concern that people need to know if there was a
48 health problem with eating those birds, but she also raised
49 the issue that there were some birds that were
50 rehabilitated and then released and if they were caught,

1 was a need to identify those birds. So I think Bob Leedy
2 agreed to kind of look into how banding requirements are
3 done for rehab'd birds and to help look at whether we could
4 provide advice to subsistence hunters about that.

5
6 The other, I think, big accomplishment that
7 we reached at the Committee's level was developing the
8 birds of conservation interest report for you and I passed
9 that out. I think you've seen this before in a draft form,
10 an earlier draft, you know, the Council has been working on
11 this a little bit here and there over the last few years
12 and so let me just say that the Tech Committee believes
13 that it has reached a point where we are comfortable that
14 the program, as described here, meets the Council's needs.
15 We are comfortable that the list of candidate birds that's
16 on Page 3 represents those species for which there are
17 concerns of some sort, and warrant the Council's attention.
18 And so I guess we're ready to offer this to you for
19 adoption at this point.

20
21 Let me just briefly kind of go through what
22 you have in front of you here. The first couple of pages
23 are simply a description of the purpose of the BCI list and
24 some clarifications about what it is and what it is not. I
25 think principally, based on the Council's discussion in
26 previous meetings, we view this as simply a way to identify
27 those birds for which there's some concern of some sort.
28 And primarily to use this BCI list as a way to communicate
29 with people, particularly subsistence hunters about
30 population status of these birds and some of the problems
31 they have, and I think it's largely we view the actions
32 resulting from this would be outreach first of all and
33 probably for the most part, many of these species.

34
35 So the goal of the program as we see it and
36 we hope you see it, is that, we're focusing on only those
37 species that are considered subsistence resources. We're
38 not worried about all the other song birds or things that
39 people don't eat. And our goal is, obviously all of us
40 want to restore populations that are in trouble, want to
41 address problems before they becomes more severe and result
42 in good healthy bird populations that everybody can use.

43
44 There's some clarifications in here, and
45 I'm paraphrasing really loosely but it makes it really
46 clear that the BCI list program has nothing to do with
47 decisions about whether to open seasons or close seasons or
48 in any way change hunting regulations. It's primarily for
49 information purposes and to promote the change of
50 information on species that need our help.

1 Toward the bottom of Page 1 there are some
2 criteria for helping to decide which species deserve
3 attention. They're the typical kinds of things you see in
4 biological planning exercises, populations that are small
5 or that have declined substantially. Populations that are
6 only found in a few areas, either because they've shrunk to
7 that level or there are some very special areas where these
8 birds are concentrated in.

9
10 There are populations that are affected by
11 environmental processes, whether it's El Ninos or volcanos
12 or glaciers, all that stuff, and sometimes we need to, you
13 know, really carefully recognize that these natural affects
14 may keep populations at lower levels.

15
16 Obviously the Item No. 4 is that we, as
17 people, affect bird populations by hunting on both
18 subsistence and sport harvest.

19
20 And No. 5 is that developing commercial and
21 natural resources often has impacts on bird populations and
22 usually expressed through habitat loss or disturbance or
23 something else or direct mortalities like oil spills.

24
25 So these are the kind of very broad
26 criteria that we use to look at all the bird species of
27 interest. And what you see then in kind of the supportive
28 stuff in the back is simply an information matrix that
29 shoes for each of these proposed candidates species which
30 factors seem to be the most important reasons why there are
31 concerns. This wasn't a deeply scientific, kind of rocket
32 science approach, this was kind of just a general checklist
33 that shows for each species, some of the key issues,
34 conservation issues.

35
36 Both the candidate list on the third page
37 and the matrix and everything else is divided up into two
38 groups. The first group is species that have closed or
39 restricted hunting. Again, this list is not meant to be an
40 influence on regulation decisions, it simply is a way to
41 highlight that there are some birds for which we've already
42 restricted hunting and maybe that's a higher priority or
43 not. But we are also doing something to reduce hunting on
44 these.

45
46 And then there's a second group for which
47 there really aren't restrictions for hunting, but they also
48 deserve our attention, either because their populations are
49 small or declining or some other problem.

50

1 So just kind of a way to organize the two
2 groups so you can sense right away whether harvest is a
3 concern or not.
4

5 So I know this is potentially really
6 complicated issue but I can assure you that a lot of people
7 were involved in reviewing these sort of nominations. I
8 think there's really good justification for these. We
9 tried to capture these in just little paragraphs for
10 purpose of this meeting, but there's a lot of information
11 from everybody who helped put this together to, I think,
12 adequately support the candidates that we're proposing to
13 put on your list.
14

15 I'm going to stop there and see what you
16 think.
17

18 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Tom.
19 Does the Council have questions or comments. Taqulik.
20

21 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Unfortunately I have to go. I'm leaving tonight to go to
23 D.C., and I need to get to the office before 5:00 to take
24 care of a few things.
25

26 But before I leave I just wanted to tell
27 you all that it was an honor hosting this meeting here in
28 Barrow this week. I hope you guys all enjoyed your visit
29 and I just wanted to thank Fred and his Staff for the hard
30 work that they put in to make it possible to have the
31 meeting in Barrow, and the Council for allowing a meeting
32 to take place in another place besides Anchorage.
33

34 And before I leave I just wanted to make
35 sure that I talked about the duck stamp issue if you don't
36 mind, just before I leave.
37

38 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: (Nods affirmatively)
39

40 MS. HEPA: Our Fish and Game Management
41 Committee did put in a proposal or passed a resolution in
42 November 2004, this is our second one over the last couple
43 years. I think that for our next meeting this issue should
44 be dealt with and talked about, maybe at our fall meeting,
45 I would like to make that recommendation. Because I know
46 that AVCP, Kawerak and other people have put in similar
47 resolutions and no action has been taken. And it's an
48 issue that our Fish and Game Management Committee has asked
49 us to address, so I'd like to make that recommendation.
50

1 So at this time I need to run to the
2 office.
3
4 Thank you, and I wish you guys good luck
5 with the rest of the meeting.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you.
8
9 MS. DEWHURST: We should give Taqulik a
10 hand for the hospitality.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I agree. Thank you very
13 much.
14
15 (Applause)
16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, well Tom has just
18 finished his report.
19
20 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Matt.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Taqulik. And
23 I'm opening it up for the Council to make comments or
24 recommendations. Ralph, take it away.
25
26 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe Tom
27 asked for approval of the list; is that right Tom?
28
29 MR. ROTHE: That would be the Technical
30 Committee's proud recommendation to you.
31
32 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay. So I move that the
33 list that's contained on Page 3 be approved by the Council,
34 I make that motion.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Ralph. Is
37 there a second.
38
39 MR. AHMASUK: Second.
40
41 ATTAMUK: Second.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It's been moved and
44 seconded. Discussion. Austin.
45
46 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
47 Chairman. I see that the long-tailed duck ended up on the
48 list and according to the matrix only one criteria which
49 was the population with a sustained decline was check-
50 marked. And looking through the entire -- looking through

1 all the other matrix's, that's the only burden which one
2 criteria was check-marked and I was wondering how such
3 determinations are made and what, you know, apparently one
4 check-mark was all that was required to place the bird on
5 the list.

6

7

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom, or other Staff.

8

9

MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, first of
10 all, the Committee didn't spend a whole lot of time working
11 out this matrix, we were working by email, and so there may
12 be some omission of things, and we haven't gone through the
13 criteria in any depth. But I think -- and the levels of
14 concern vary widely. So there are some that we're really,
15 really concerned about and some that just -- we want to
16 keep an eye on.

17

18

But long-tailed duck has declined in North
19 America and in all parts of Alaska pretty substantially
20 over the years and maybe Russ wants to speak to this, but
21 we don't know what the reasons are. And it's primarily a
22 long-term decline in population size. We don't think the
23 range has shrunk, we don't know of any natural processes
24 that affect it except that, you know, there's a possibility
25 that things like climate change and sea changes have some
26 effects on these sea ducks. We have no sense that
27 subsistence or sport harvest is excessive, and we don't
28 think that oil fields and mines have impacted long-tail
29 ducks where we could really point to that either. So it's
30 just the population decline that is the main reason for
31 concern.

32

33

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Russ, if you have
34 something, come on up.

35

36

MR. OATES: Yeah, I just wanted to follow
37 up a little bit with what Tom said, Austin.

38

39

The long-tailed duck is not among the best
40 monitored species that we have but we do record it and a
41 number of the strata within the Continental breeding survey
42 that's been done every year since 1957, and if nothing else
43 it's been fairly consistently done and that survey suggests
44 approximately 80 percent decline during that time period.
45 And considering the size of the population estimate anyway
46 it's not -- I mean we don't consider this to be anywhere
47 near threatened or endangered or anything like that, but
48 it's a species that we want to keep an eye on, and we felt
49 like it's sort of on the radar screen with Fish and
50 Wildlife Service now, and then in Alaska in particular it's

1 gone down quite a bit. And so we're just highlighting this
2 as a species that we do have some concerns about but we're
3 not sending up any red flares just yet.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Russ. Any
6 other questions or discussion.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I will say from my
11 standpoint, that as somebody who at various times has had
12 to be back east in front of the SRC or down south in front
13 of Flyway Councils, this type of list, I think will enhance
14 the Council's credibility with those groups in terms of
15 paying attention to where these populations are at and
16 without taking away from the subsistence opportunity we can
17 also show that we care about the bird populations, and I
18 think that this would be a good sign to send so I'm
19 speaking in favor of the proposal.

20
21 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I call for the
22 question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: It's not heard. Austin.

25
26 MR. AHMASUK: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. The
27 matrix also has BR and NB, I understand that they refer to
28 breeding season and non-breeding season, and for a couple
29 birds in one category, there's both BR and NB, such as
30 black turnstone, it says pop vulnerable due to limited
31 range, breeding season, non-breeding, what does that mean?

32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom, and/or Russ.

34
35 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. We're a little
36 undergunned here on our shorebird experts, but we presume
37 that that means that the problem exists both during summer
38 and breed -- during breeding and then during the non-
39 breeding period, either during migration or winter
40 somewhere. Is there a specific species you want us to look
41 into?

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I think black turnstone
44 was given as the example on that Page 4.

45
46 MR. AHMASUK: Yes.

47
48 MR. ROTHE: That's the most obvious one and
49 the one I have no clue about.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Russ.
2
3 MR. OATES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think
4 this simply reflects who was filling out the little matrix
5 at the time.
6
7 (Applause)
8
9 MR. OATES: The shorebird folks were a
10 little more discriminating as they filled in the blocks and
11 we just kind of put a big old X there, so, yeah, we'll try
12 to get that more consistent in the next version of this
13 Austin.
14
15 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom.
18
19 MR. ROTHE: A good example, it's not a
20 shorebird, but the yellow-billed loon, for example, at the
21 bottom there, that kind of designation for vulnerable to
22 direct mortality. In the summer that might be oil
23 development on the North Slope somewhere, an oil spill type
24 thing and it might be in the winter where you'd have a
25 different oil spill or a different problem. So it just --
26 that reflects the bird could face some problems on both
27 ends of the spectrum.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Austin.
30
31 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And
32 then it follows, there's a question mark for a couple
33 species in the matrix, it would be my preference to not
34 have a question mark, you know, so perhaps, I'm not saying
35 that it could be taken off but I mean if the question mark
36 can be traced to evidence of some sort then there should be
37 an X there I suppose.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom.
40
41 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. I think the best
42 way to look at this matrix is kind of a report card right
43 now, best we can do it. And it will be a work in progress,
44 the Tech Committee should continue to gather more
45 information and work on these places where the X's are.
46 Again, an example is when the Harvest Survey Committee
47 figures out exactly how many yellow-billed loons they're
48 taking we'll take that question mark out of there.
49
50 So it's just simply places where we don't

1 know if there's a problem here or not, but it's up to the
2 Council whether you want to remove the question marks.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

5

6 MR. ALCORN: Well, question marks aren't my
7 concern, Tom, but there's a sentence in the process, it
8 says the AMBCC will annually review the status of BCI birds
9 and make recommendations as needed for management
10 activities, can you articulate or expand on that thought?
11 How does this group envision the Council, number 1,
12 reviewing the status of the BCI birds, will there be
13 supplemental surveys or how will we do that, and then
14 recommendations needed for management activities, how does
15 that translate?

16

17 MR. ROTHE: I'm tempted to make a wise
18 remark but I won't on the record.

19

20 MR. ALCORN: Thank you.

21

22 MR. ROTHE: The operative phrase here, one
23 of them is as needed. And this Council has a very broad
24 charge to be involved in the full array of migratory bird
25 management and research issues so we wanted to reflect that
26 latitude. But it's simply, if the Council has anything
27 they would like to recommend, whether it's a harvest survey
28 adjustment, whether it's Russ' aerial survey program,
29 whether it's a habitat issue, I think this Council, you
30 know, needs the latitude to say that if -- we'll just take
31 a look at this list, if there is some issue that somebody
32 wants to propose an action on that would reflect the
33 Council's conservation thrust for anything.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

36

37 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
38 charge given to the Tech Committee by the Council was to,
39 hey, you guys, create -- here's this list, create this
40 list, create the criteria and come back and report to us
41 and that's basically what they're doing. They weren't
42 given no parameters other than to create a document for you
43 guys for approval. And that's where we're at.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.

46

47 MR. ALCORN: I agree. And that's why when
48 there's a call for action by the Council I wanted to
49 understand if we approve the report as submitted by default
50 or by inference concur with that action, I just wanted to

1 understand what that was.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: In my view this allows the
4 Tech Committee at least once a year to make additional
5 reports on the same subject and if they recommend that
6 there be changes in the document it could be updated. So
7 it's more, I think, kind of a placeholder for Council
8 action if we want to formally change the contents and
9 probably not requiring a whole lot more than that. So I'm
10 comfortable with the phrase, if that's what it means, and
11 Staff seem to be nodding in the affirmative.
12
13 More discussion.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: We have a motion.....
18
19 MR. ANDERSEN: Is it okay to call for the
20 question now?
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I would hear it now and I
25 did hear it, I think but.....
26
27 MR. ANDERSEN: Question.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Those in favor of the
32 proposal before us signify by saying aye.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed.
37
38 (No opposing votes)
39
40 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, the bird
41 conservation list is adopted.
42
43 Does that complete the Technical Committee
44 report, Tom?
45
46 MR. ROTHE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, one final Committee
49 report then and that would be Donna presenting a report on
50 the Outreach Committee activities.

1 MS. DEWHURST: When you get it turn to Page
2 -- well, the pages aren't numbered, but it will basically
3 be Page 3, the planning, step by step. There should have
4 been enough -- ah, somebody took more.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 MS. DEWHURST: This is the planning
9 process. What we've done is initiated a joint planning
10 effort. We've introduced this at previous meetings, where
11 the AMBCC, the Council is one part of a three-tier effort
12 toward outreach with the Migratory Bird Branch and the
13 Endangered Species folks, and we're at step two.

14
15 We've completed step two, is where we are
16 in the process. Step one was each group had to identify a
17 committee or a team to develop their issues, and that's
18 what we did at the fall meeting was the Council identified
19 an outreach team. Off the top of my head, Tom could
20 probably help me, Tom Rothe, Alex Panamaroff from Kodiak,
21 Patty Brown-Schwalenberg from Chugach Regional, Taqulik
22 from North Slope, Wenonna Brown representing the Fish and
23 Wildlife Service, I think that's everybody, that was the
24 outreach team identified by the Council. We got together
25 or tried to get together, we did a lot over the phone and
26 email and identified harvest issues that everybody felt --
27 we had -- basically the caveat was pick the top five. And
28 we identified a whole bunch of them, voted, and the top
29 five ended up being -- if you look over on Page 2 you see
30 AMBCC and the top five were the ones that were originally
31 identified by the Committee. Six and seven were added in,
32 they were high on the list but they didn't make the top
33 five, but they ended up being things that ended up getting
34 discussed at this joint meeting so we put them back in,
35 that they were discussed but they weren't right in the top
36 five when we voted. But those were the ones that were
37 voted on as the top five.

38
39 So that was step one as far as the Council
40 goes.

41
42 Similar things happened with the other two
43 branches and they came up with theirs and theirs are
44 listed, also, under that list.

45
46 Step two was for the three different
47 divisions to get together and merge and see where the
48 issues were in common. And that's where, when you look on
49 this nice little colored thing, the colors show when the
50 same outreach issues were across several groups, and that's

1 what we were trying to identify. From that we came up with
2 the top five that crossed -- bridged all the different
3 groups which is on the very first page, issues common to
4 all offices. Those top five are:

- 5
6 1. Lead shot is still being used.
7 We've mentioned that a lot today.
8
- 9 2. We still have a problem with
10 getting people to participate in
11 harvest surveys.
12
- 13 3. With the closed bird species a lot
14 of folks still don't understand why
15 the birds are closed. They know
16 they're on the closed list but that
17 we need to do a better outreach
18 effort to explain why and sell why.
19
- 20 4. Bird habitat is being lost and
21 damaged and trying to get the word
22 out about that and limit that,
23 primarily, you know, what we can
24 deal with in Alaska.
25
- 26 5. There's also a lack of
27 understanding that birds are a
28 shared resource among all the
29 Flyways and that what happens in
30 Alaska impacts what happens in
31 Texas and vice versa, and also
32 internationally, not just between
33 us and Canada and the Lower 48, but
34 also international.
35

36 So those were the top five. So those are
37 the ones that are going to proceed -- those five issues are
38 the ones that are going to go on to step three.

39
40 Step three is we're going to form a larger
41 outreach team with representatives from all three groups
42 plus a bunch of Outside people. This is where we bring in
43 the experts. This is where we bring in the people that
44 might have money. Kind of a key point.

45
46 We discuss our top five issues and try to
47 come up with, at this point, trying to identify tools. How
48 can we bridge these -- get these issues out there. Is it
49 going to be a brochure, is it going to be a video, you
50 know, what's the best way to do it, and how can we form

1 partnerships to get the money to do it; that's the big
2 thing. We'll probably be doing applications for grants,
3 series of things like that. When you have outside partners
4 you can do things like that easier. But obviously the
5 government doesn't have the money for this new initiative
6 at this point so we're going to have to be creative and try
7 to move forward.

8
9 Another idea that's been discussed and it
10 sounds like it's going forward is, and it originally came
11 from Fred Armstrong and everybody's embraced it, is an
12 umbrella message that all these issues are going to get put
13 under, and that is -- the message would be healthy
14 families, healthy birds, or healthy birds, healthy family,
15 it could go either way. But the idea is that the birds --
16 the health of the birds is integrally applied to the health
17 of people in the area. Because not only literally in that
18 if you eat the bird you want it to be a healthy thing
19 you're eating but also lifestyle, the fact that subsistence
20 is such an important part of a healthy family's lifestyle
21 that we don't want to do anything -- if the bird
22 populations are down like so much of what we heard today
23 then it starts impacting the ability to do subsistence and
24 that then rolls back to the family. So a lot of these
25 issues fall under that nicely. And that's probably going
26 to be the big message with these other issues underneath
27 that we're going to try to pursue forward, is the idea that
28 family health and bird health are closely tied. And try to
29 bring these messages home so it explains better.

30
31 So the next step is this large outreach
32 team. The last discussions -- things have gotten delayed.
33 We were hoping originally to come forward to you with an
34 outreach plan at this meeting, that didn't happen. Things
35 always happen slower than you anticipate. We're hoping to
36 accomplish this large outreach team meeting, step three, I
37 think we're looking at early next fall, probably August,
38 September, and at that point, then we'll start writing an
39 outreach plan, which will come back to you probably for
40 signature and agreement. So that will be the next step.

41
42 And then the outreach plan, it will
43 actually identify some of the tools and more details.
44 We'll actually flush out the actual wording of messages and
45 things like that. Right now everything is pretty general.
46 So that's where we're at.

47
48 The team tentatively, at this point, the
49 next iteration of the big team is on the back page. And
50 you can see as far as Council members, we don't have any

1 immediate Council members but we have Alex Panamaroff who
2 was originally picked by Herman and he's been participating
3 actively representing Kodiak, and then for North Slope it
4 will either be Robert or Taqulik, and of course Tom Rothe
5 will be representing the State and you'll notice a lot of
6 the other folks, you know, we have folks with the Sea Life
7 Center, folks with Audobon, we have a lot of outside folks
8 involved in this stage because that's where we're going to
9 try to form the partnerships and get the funds.

10

11 So that's kind of the game plan in a
12 nutshell.

13

14 I will invite -- Tom, do you have anything
15 to add?

16

17 MR. ROTHE: (Shakes head negatively)

18

19 MS. DEWHURST: The main thing we're trying
20 to do is pull everybody together so we don't have a bunch
21 of different efforts and a bunch of different messages
22 going out there, we're trying to prioritize, concentrate on
23 some key messages and put all our effort there. And as
24 everybody knows money is limited so we have to just
25 concentrate on one or two things initially, try to get
26 those forward with some nice glitzy products and then after
27 that's done then we can start looking at other things that
28 need to be tackled, but that's our plan.

29

30 Any questions.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Donna.
33 Any questions from the Council -- Ralph.

34

35 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah, I don't really have a
36 question but I have, I guess a word of caution.

37

38 One of the things that I think we really,
39 you know, while I appreciate the theme and the umbrella
40 thing, one of the things that I think we really need to be
41 careful about, is that that we're -- is addressing human
42 health issues. Because I'm not comfortable with the AMBCC
43 sending out human health messages when really we're not in
44 that business. And I think that -- you know, unless the
45 Service has changed its policy, I thought that the Service
46 had stepped back from things like that.

47

48 And I noticed that on -- that if we're
49 going to pursue that, though, I think it'd be good to have
50 one of the partner members be someone that deals with human

1 health issues.
2
3 MS. DEWHURST: We'll have partners
4 with.....
5
6 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay. Then.....
7
8 MS. DEWHURST: They aren't listed, they're
9 not part of the.....
10
11 MR. ANDERSEN: I don't see.....
12
13 MS. DEWHURST:immediate outreach to
14 the.....
15
16 MR. ANDERSEN:it, that's why I.....
17
18 MS. DEWHURST: We have a lot of consultants
19 and advisors that are going to be at that meeting that
20 aren't specifically listed as a team member but they will
21 be added in -- they will be present as consultants and we
22 do have, is it -- where did Karen go, Karen -- is it --
23 Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is one of the
24 consultants that is going to be involved in the effort. So
25 they would be the ones giving the message, not us
26 immediately. But what we're trying to do is any message
27 they give ties into any message we give.
28
29 So what we're trying to do is an effort
30 where we're not giving conflicting messages.
31
32 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay.
33
34 MS. DEWHURST: And that all the messages
35 feed in together.
36
37 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay.
38
39 MS. DEWHURST: So, yes, you're right.
40 We're not going to be going out telling you that you're
41 going to die because you ate that bird. Any messages that
42 were immediately human health would probably come from
43 them, but they might cross reference that we're talking
44 about, lead shot, or something else, and they should all
45 enforce, reinforce the same thing. I think that's where
46 we're going.
47
48 MR. ANDERSEN: Okay, thank you.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, I guess she kind of
2 stole my thunder, but, yeah, that was exactly where we're
3 going, we know that we're not the experts in the health
4 arena but we also didn't want to be sending out negative
5 messages. Like healthy bird populations, for instance, was
6 kind of the focus, you know, to maintain the healthy
7 populations.

8
9 But also there's some cross issues between
10 the health field and our goal here with the program, and
11 that's the health of the birds, you know, there seems to be
12 more oil spills occurring, more development occurring that
13 we need to start broadening our scope of thinking here.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: More discussion from the
16 Council.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing none, thank you,
21 Donna, very much.

22
23 MS. DEWHURST: And there's no action
24 required at this time, the action will be when we have a
25 plan.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. I'd like to
28 announce as Chair, that we do, or I do intend to power
29 through here and finish the meeting. We're through with
30 the reports and we're into the other business section of
31 the meeting. I think we can do this fairly expeditiously.
32 I just wanted to give everybody a picture of where we're at
33 in the meeting here.

34
35 Under other business, the first section is
36 an invitation for comments from the public and for those
37 who have sat patiently in the audience all day long and
38 some sat most of the way, if not the whole way through
39 yesterday, we appreciate you paying attention and your
40 contribution to the meeting, and I'd welcome anybody
41 wanting to offer advice to the Council or comments on what
42 we're doing, that would be fine and now is the time.
43 Anybody interested in doing that -- Iver.

44
45 MR. MOLUTIN: Yeah, Iver Molutin from
46 Kodiak. And I want to thank the Council for letting me
47 attend this meeting and also I wanted to thank her and all
48 the people from Barrow because I think you did a hell of a
49 job in putting this thing together. It's my first time
50 here in Barrow and I'm impressed with what I see here, and

1 I really like the situation in Barrow. It's really an
2 educational thing for me. And I like the way that Barrow
3 is being managed by a lot of their entities and I just
4 wanted to relate that to her, but that's okay, I can tell
5 the other people that are here.

6
7 And one of the things that I was thinking
8 about is when we had our halibut meetings, Adak is a new
9 community, it's a new village community with 80 people and
10 their concern was that they want to be included as a Native
11 village and I would like to not see any criteria developed
12 that would exclude them to harvest whatever there is out
13 there, birds, migratory birds, just because they are moving
14 into a new area.

15
16 And another thing that concerns me is I
17 have a hard time with the Natives moving into another area
18 like Anchorage or a bigger population like Fairbanks and be
19 excluded from their traditional food. Because like it or
20 not, you're breaking an unwritten law. And I just have a
21 problem with that and I just hope that in the future when
22 you develop the criteria for the proposal that Tom had or
23 the proposal that he's working on that we can include and
24 get more of the Native people more of the food that they
25 need. It's healthier for them -- by all standards it's
26 healthier for them and they have much much better lifestyle
27 if they can get the food. A lot of people move to
28 Anchorage because of the economic problem and a lot of
29 people move there because of their health, and other
30 reasons. And I would just like to see this Board somehow
31 include as many of the Native people that they can to get
32 their traditional foods.

33
34 And in closing, I just again want to thank
35 everybody here in Barrow and I want to thank everybody for
36 making this, I think, a really good meeting, because I
37 learned a lot even though I know much about it. I know I
38 was out of order a couple of times, but I'll learn, I'm
39 only 73 and I'm not.....

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. MOLUTIN: I'm not too old to learn and
44 I think I still got a couple of days left.

45
46 So with that I think I'll just close and I
47 really, again, just want to thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Iver. I've
50 appreciated your comments during the entire meeting.

1 MR. MOLUTIN: See, I can learn.
2
3 MR. ANDERSEN: You're not too old to learn.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any other comments from
6 the public.
7
8
9 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chairman. Board members.
10 I would like to thank you for listening to me this morning.
11 I was really impressed with the meetings and the village
12 here too. We had a good time dancing over here. And I
13 have compiled a lot of information from the meeting, your
14 process is going along and I'm really glad and I'll get
15 some good reports back and you've got some good Staff, from
16 the State and the Feds, and from the tribal representation
17 and I'd like to invite you guys into the Interior, if you
18 guys are having your meetings -- it's good to come out in
19 the villages away from Anchorage and hold it within the
20 different regions of Alaska.
21
22 I have my same concerns. A couple of
23 concerns. One is that a lot of our local people move to
24 Fairbanks for a number of reasons and it's just a fact of
25 life, you know, but they do come back home and hunt in the
26 spring time and they bring their families and friends and
27 it's wonderful to see. In the past few years a lot of our
28 people are going out and getting a lifestyle that they were
29 raised up with and living off their food and it brings them
30 back spiritual, healthy, really feeling back to the land
31 and I'm hoping that you boards will give the opportunity to
32 these people to hunt as their grandfathers did.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, David,
37 appreciate your comments. Any other public comments.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right, well, thank
42 you, we'll move on here -- no, here's one more taker.
43
44 MR. NUPIKEAK: I'm Eli Nupikeak from
45 Nuiqsut, we're the closest village to the biggest oil field
46 on the North Slope.
47
48 The problem we'll now be facing is that
49 Dalton Highway will be open for public for sporthunting and
50 stuff like that, they'll be coming around the corner. We

1 utilize the Dalton Highway also for winter travel to get to
2 the place where we always go out. Now if an 80 year old
3 woman moves to an exclusive zone, I want to talk about
4 that. There's a need for her to go to the exclusive zone,
5 like Anchorage, for medical reasons and you bring all the
6 stuff that she needs to stay down there, that come from the
7 land and sea and air, if she gets caught going through the
8 security that she was bringing some (In Native) for
9 waterfowl through there, is she a criminal or is she a
10 person trying to take this stuff to the place for her own
11 need that offer nutrition while she's staying in the
12 exclusive zone, is there any way that we could fix some of
13 these kind of issues that will be coming around.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thanks for your comments,
16 Eli, and that is one of the issues that I think we decided
17 we needed committees to work on. Thank you.

18
19 Any other comments from the public.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay. We'll proceed here.
24 This morning we inserted an assignment section and one of
25 the things we need to do is decide on Flyway
26 representatives. In the past we've had, I believe two
27 people identified to attend, with one alternate to attend
28 Flyway meetings as well as representation at the SRC
29 meeting, which is the Service Regulations Committee meeting
30 at the end of the summer, is that the one we go to?

31
32 MR. ALCORN: Yeah, it's the last week of
33 July.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: To help represent the
36 Council's work in front of the group that makes the
37 regulatory decisions for the country, or at least
38 recommends them to the Secretary. So under Tab 9, the
39 current Council members or ex-Council members in that
40 position include Herman Squartsoff, Mike Smith and Gordon
41 Jackson, from Southeast as the alternate. Herman is no
42 longer a member of the Council and the other two gentlemen
43 are not here at this meeting, and so I'd entertain ideas
44 from the Council as to who to put in those slots for the
45 next Federal cycle of regulatory action.

46
47 Austin.

48
49 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Normally, we caucused but I believe that we could quickly

1 make some nominations here while we're on the record and
2 I'm prepared to do that.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That would be fine, go
5 ahead.

6
7 MR. AHMASUK: Okay, Mr. Chairman, for the
8 Standard Operating Procedures in place of Herman I nominate
9 Mitch in his stead. And for the Flyway Council Service
10 Regs Committee, Ralph Andersen in place of Herman
11 Squartsoff. And for the last, other Committee which you
12 mentioned, the Harvest Limitations Committee, Mitch in the
13 place of Herman.

14
15 Those are my nominations, Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thank you, Austin.
18 Are there any additions or other suggestions.

19
20 MR. AHMASUK: I second. You need a second,
21 right?

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Is that in the form of a
24 motion.

25
26 MR. AHMASUK: My nominations.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right, so I hear a
29 second. Those nominations are proposed, they're in front
30 of us. All in favor of those nominations signify by saying
31 aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, so that will be the
40 action of the Council.

41
42 Austin.

43
44 MR. AHMASUK: Just real quick, thank you,
45 Mr. Chairman. The Harvest Survey Committee listing should
46 be updated to Jacob Isaac in place of Gloria Stickwan, just
47 an update.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Who?

50

1 MR. AHMASUK: Jacob Isaac is an RIT from
2 Bethel.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom Rothe.

5
6 MR. ROTHE: Just for information, we
7 skipped kind of a Flyway briefing but it's not really
8 important. What I wanted to do is just for everybody's
9 notification on some dates here that will be important for
10 the Flyway reps. Pacific Flyway Technical Committee
11 meetings are July 16th through the 19th. The Flyway
12 Council meets July 20th in Salt Lake City. The Service
13 Regulations -- I should say in June, the Service
14 Regulations Committee will meet to consider Alaska sport
15 regulations and some other things, June 22nd, 23rd. Then
16 all Flyway Councils meet that week of July 16th through the
17 20th. The Service Regulations Committee meeting that will
18 address your proposals is now scheduled for July 27 and 28.

19
20 So those are the most immediate meetings
21 that will be coming up.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, thanks. And I
24 apologize for skipping over my note on that report.

25
26 Tim.

27
28 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
29 would like to add another person to the Exclusion Committee
30 and also to the Invitation Committee, if I may, Mr. Chair.
31 I would like to submit the name of Sky Starkey to those
32 Committees, and I so move.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: The Exclusion and the
35 Invitation Committee.

36
37 MR. AHMASUK: Second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Discussion.

40
41 MR. ANDERSEN: I second that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, it's been moved and
44 seconded. Discussion.

45
46 MR. ANDERSEN: Question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question's been called.
49 Okay, so all those in favor of the proposal for Sky's
50 inclusion on the Inclusion and Exclusion -- or the

1 Invitation and the Exclusion Committee signify by saying
2 aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right. And I would
11 like to offer a suggestion as well at this point, if I may,
12 and that would be to include Jim Simon as a representative
13 of the State on the Exclusion Committee and also on the
14 Invitation Committee and the State, presently doesn't have
15 anybody on either of those.
16
17 MR. ANDERSEN: Second.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Oh, I take it back, we do
20 have a member on one.
21
22 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman, I not only am a
23 member, I Chair the Invitation Committee.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I'm blushing suitably.
28 Strike three.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Did I hear a second amidst
33 my confusion?
34
35 MR. ANDERSEN: I seconded it.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you.
38
39 MR. AHMASUK: Question.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Question's been heard, all
42 in favor of that nomination signify by saying aye.
43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed.
47
48 (No opposing votes)
49
50 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: So be it. All right, I

1 believe we have our Committees filled out. I do note I may
2 have missed Tom Rothe on the Invitation Committee but I
3 note that he's on the SOP Committee twice, so maybe that
4 makes up for it.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: All right, we're now at
9 the part that calls for Staff reports, and I understand
10 that Fred might want to say a few words. Okay, go ahead,
11 Bill.

12
13 MR. OSTRAND: I have just a couple of
14 things. First, I'm disappointed that Taqulik's gone
15 because I wanted to thank her, I really think she upstaged
16 us, the Anchorage crew, we'll never be able to compete with
17 this meeting. Yes, don't expect sandwiches when we meet
18 again in Anchorage.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. OSTRAND: The maps that you see along
23 this wall I put together for this meeting and I hope to be
24 able to bring them in the future, if you have comments let
25 me know and I'll update the maps if it's feasible to do so.
26 There's certain limitations of what I can do with the maps,
27 but I can try and improve them as you would like to see
28 them.

29
30 Other comments, I just want to remind you
31 that you're welcome and encouraged to take these white
32 binders home with you to keep a record. The black binders,
33 what we do is, in case you're new, is we keep these and
34 then have them on hand for each of the Council meetings.
35 So I know that they're handy references and if you don't
36 already have all the materials that are in the black
37 binders at your office, talk to me, I can loan you one of
38 the binders but we do need them back.

39
40 MR. SIMEONOFF: Can I take one home for
41 education purposes?

42
43 MR. OSTRAND: Sure, but I will have you
44 sign a form in triplicate.

45
46 MR. ANDERSEN: And leave a deposit.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. OSTRAND: Yes. But thanks to the

1 Council.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Bill. Fred.

4

5

MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, it's unfortunate that Taqulik had to leave because it's really difficult to try to put a meeting together, at least, logistically in another place when you're down in Anchorage, and we counted on her a lot to find meeting space, identify hotels, phone numbers, transportation, places to eat, stuff like that. So this is one of the better meetings that we've had and it's been outside of Anchorage and we're real thankful to the Borough for their help, Robert, please convey that on to Charlie and Taqulik, and of course Robert's been very helpful also.

16

17

When you guys get down to your date and place of next meeting, when you identify the teleconference, you're going to have to do two meeting dates now, the teleconference as well as your fall meeting. Last year you did your fall meeting the last week of September, first week of October, just to refresh your memory. Kind of stick to the teleconference date because we have to do a public notice for every meeting we have. Once that date is set we're going to go back home and do a press release right away because we're obligated to under the law.

28

29

The grants, if you know that you're not going to have any more meetings or any more travel, you know, I would encourage you to have your finance office close the grants out, that gives an opportunity for people like the Harvest Survey Committee or the Outreach Committee to tap into a few of the dollars to do something with them. Last year there was a bit of money that was returned again and we could have done a lot with the little bit of money that was sent back.

38

39

We're getting a little better in spreading the money. As far as the budget's concerned, it's still a lot to me, because every penny counts, and I think you guys know the crises the government's going under in reducing our budgets significant levels, that's really going to happen, so we need to show that we're using the monies and a good faith effort is done to do that, and I encourage you guys to stay on top of that.

47

48

The possession issue, I know you've heard from a couple of people in the audience and I wanted to emphasize to the Council that we need to move forward with

50

1 this issue, either, you know, assign it to one of the
2 Committees or have Staff start working on it and at least
3 we could keep the issue moving along.

4
5 Outreach, you know, it's incumbent on all
6 Council members to do outreach whenever they can. You guys
7 are the ones that are real knowledgeable about the program
8 and can convey a lot of the information to your regional
9 people and please keep that effort up.

10
11 Other than that, I really appreciate the
12 participation. I feel this has been a very productive
13 meeting and it's good to get outside of Anchorage and meet,
14 although there is -- you know, again, I hate to paint a
15 gloomy picture, but it puts a big dent in my budget, a very
16 big dent, it cost quite a bit to bring me and my Staff and
17 everything together to come out here, although I see the
18 positive sides of it, I also got to look at the other side.
19 The positive side is that we give the regional people an
20 opportunity to see the Council in action, to see what we're
21 all about, but there's also a price to pay.

22
23 With that, I appreciate the effort of my
24 Staff, they've been really diligent. You know, Bill
25 creates these maps out of, I don't know what, but he's
26 doing really a good job. Donna's work with the regs
27 handbook is -- you know, every year it gets better and
28 better and pretty soon we'll have it down to a science.
29 And Cynthia's work with the Harvest Survey is ongoing,
30 never ending. You know, they're all real committed and we
31 just appreciate your guys work in making it easier for us.

32
33 That's it, thanks a lot m Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Fred, and all
36 your people, we appreciate the stuff you're getting done.

37
38 All right. I need to go back up to the
39 Committee thing because I forgot to look at one of my notes
40 here and that is to formally talk about what the SOP
41 Committee is going to do. And the SOP Committee, for the
42 moment, is Mitch now, Tim Andrew, Mike Smith, Doug Alcorn,
43 Tom Rothe and Tom Rothe.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: As I said. So I think all
48 we need to do now is to formalize the assignment to work on
49 a process modification that the Council and eventually hear
50 from the Committee and adopt that would delve into this

1 problem of proposals that come to us on a faster track and
2 outside the proposal submission window that we've developed
3 for the normal process, which is that November and first
4 half of December window. For proposals that we merge for
5 reasons, a variety of reasons after that window, we need
6 some help from the SOP Committee on figuring out how to
7 work out a process that will not result in us being totally
8 swamped with late proposals just because people think of
9 things at a later moment.

10

11 Any other Council member want to talk about
12 the charge to that Committee.

13

14 Ralph.

15

16 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, is that a
17 motion?

18

19 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I suppose it is, I so
20 move.

21

22 MR. ANDERSEN: I second.

23

24 MR. HICKS: Call for the question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: There's no desire for
27 discussion. The question's been heard.

28

29 All those in favor of the charge to the SOP
30 Committee signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Any opposed.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, that's the charge to
39 the Committee. Thank you.

40

41 Now, moving down the list we are at the
42 opportunity for Council comments. Would anybody like to
43 take that opportunity.

44

45 Tim.

46

47 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I,
48 too, would like to thank the people in Barrow and Taqulik
49 and Robert and Charlie for hosting this meeting. They've
50 been wonderful hosts, and the accommodations in the

1 community and great food. I love the daylight. In fact, I
2 called my wife the other night, it must have been about
3 11:30 at night and I told her it was just like 12:00 noon
4 up here at that time and I said have a good afternoon.

5
6 But great people. Great place.

7
8 Thank you very much.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Tim. Doug.

11
12 MR. ALCORN: Thanks Mr. Chair. I would
13 like to say thank you not only to Taqulik, for the
14 logistical support and Staff for the work they've done, but
15 to all the regional representatives that came prepared to
16 talk about your proposals.

17
18 I think this was probably the most
19 constructive regulations setting meeting that I've attended
20 in my three and a half years tenure with the Council. And
21 I think the fact that we were able to go through these in
22 one day demonstrates the hard work that occurs behind the
23 scenes, so to speak. It's the Staff work that goes into
24 it, it's the discussions prior, beforehand, and it's the
25 preparation that goes into it, it's evident that we were
26 prepared and I appreciate the work and the earnest attempt
27 to address these conservation concerns by the regions.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Doug. Other
30 comments. Mitch.

31
32 MR. SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
33 just wanted to thank this Co-Management Council for
34 accepting my representation for the Kodiak Area Native
35 Association and the Kodiak Island. And just for FYI, I
36 also serve on the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory Council
37 on subsistence. And I'm also a board of director on the
38 KANA Kodiak Area Native Association.

39
40 And just thank you again and I look forward
41 to working with all of you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Mitch. We
44 appreciated your participation at the entire meeting.

45
46 Other comments from the Council members.

47
48 Austin.

49
50 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 This has been a good meeting. Thank you, Matt, for your
2 Chairmanship, you did a good job. Congratulations to the
3 new Committee appointments, as well as the new enforcement
4 committee that we created, so those folks can get down to
5 business.

6
7 Thank you to the community of Barrow for
8 hosting this meeting. It's certainly been a delight
9 meeting outside of Anchorage. And it's been a good
10 opportunity to have regional folks here giving their
11 concerns.

12
13 I wanted to introduce a topic, I suppose,
14 and have direction to Staff. We've mentioned several times
15 now the issue of lead shot. Our region has taken up the
16 issue. We've passed a resolution to have the stores not
17 sell it anymore and we've kind of heard a similar thing
18 here.

19
20 I would hope that Staff, between now and
21 next meeting could develop some materials for us to look
22 at, perhaps approve, that we can go forward with in terms
23 of engaging these stores in our regions to not sell lead
24 shot anymore. It's a continual subject, that people wonder
25 why, you know, it's being sold if it's illegal, you know,
26 people wonder why and so if there's anything that can be
27 done to alleviate costs with the Co-op of some sort, as was
28 mentioned yesterday, I think that would be a good thing.

29
30 So I suppose that's my comments and my
31 direction to Staff.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Austin. I
36 believe that dovetails with some of the Outreach Committee
37 stuff since lead shot appeared in the top five, almost
38 throughout that, and so perhaps that can get us part way in
39 that direction. But I agree it's an important issue and
40 the -- the cooperative buying of non-toxic shot angle is
41 something that the agencies, I think, should continue to
42 look at.

43
44 Thanks.

45
46 Fred.

47
48 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I was just going to
49 say that the Outreach Committee is well aware of the issue
50 and I kind of like to let them take the lead and not try to

1 duplicate the effort that they're going to do to see what
2 they're going to produce and probably have some stuff put
3 together for the Council at the next meeting.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom.

6
7 MR. ROTHE: Mr. Chairman. I think the
8 Outreach Committee is going to want to do some pretty good
9 work on that.

10
11 But aside from that, our Department of Fish
12 and Game hunter information people are working with the
13 Refuge's Division of Fish and Wildlife Service to continue
14 the rural hunter clinic program and we're just retooling
15 that to figure out where to go and where we're going to get
16 money and how much we can do in the next year. So if you
17 got some ideas for working in, you know, the Bering Strait
18 region, you know, we can talk about that but we've got a
19 few resources. We've got a lot of trained people out there
20 that can do clinics and we've got a lot of information,
21 like slide shows and handout packets that are available
22 now.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Ralph.

25
26 MR. ANDERSEN: I'd like to join everybody
27 else in thanking Taqulik, Charlie and Robert, and the North
28 Slope Borough Wildlife Department in hosting us up here.

29
30 It's good to be back up here, for me it is,
31 to come up and see, come back up here after being gone for
32 a little while and visiting old friends again.

33
34 I'd also like to also thank the Council for
35 this, I think we've come a long way. And something that
36 Doug mentioned that I really agree with, is that, we
37 cruised right through the agenda today. I think that
38 reflects on how we've come together as a group and how
39 we're able to work more closely together. Because I
40 remember a few years ago it would take us two days to go
41 three proposals, and we did five or six of them today in
42 just a few hours. And I think that shows, you know, our
43 growth and our coming together as a Council. And I think
44 we still need to keep working on some things, though.

45
46 I mean it could be kind of -- I think it
47 wouldn't be very responsible for any of us to get too
48 comfortable with each other.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. ANDERSEN: I think it's a good thing to
2 keep each other in check. Keep each other on our toes, and
3 I think we've -- and, you know, we're good at doing that.
4 I mean it doesn't mean that we're not friends or we don't
5 trust each other it's just that, you know, we put each
6 other through the paces, and I think it's a good exercise.
7

8 Something along the lead shot that I kind
9 of feel conflicted with. I mean first of all, it's not
10 illegal. It may be illegal for migratory birds but lead
11 shot is not illegal for other things. And it's hard to --
12 it would take more than telling stores not to sell them. I
13 mean if we really want to make a meaningful contribution to
14 the health of the birds and other things, I think we need
15 to go past stores, above the stores, and go to our
16 Congressional Delegation because that's where it would
17 really need to take place. Because you're not going to
18 stop free enterprise in a capitalistic system, I mean
19 you're just not going to stop it. If it's going to mean
20 money in people's pockets, if it's going to affect their
21 bottom line, for any of these commercial operations, then,
22 you know, letters aren't going to be doing anything, laws
23 will. But I mean that was what I was thinking anyway.
24

25 Anyway, again, I'd like to thank the
26 Borough and the Council members.
27

28 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Ralph. Ben.
29

30 MR. BEN G.: Yes, I'd like to thank the
31 people of Barrow for inviting us up here and thank Fish and
32 Game and all the people that work under them, and the
33 Council itself. I learned a lot. I can see it's an ongoing
34 thing to protect the animals, the birds, and to get all
35 this information and to your people. I think it's a good
36 idea to have these meetings in these different communities
37 so people can see what we are doing.
38

39 I hope you all have a safe trip home, thank
40 you.
41

42 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, Ben. Joeneal.
43

44 MR. HICKS: Same thing. Thank you. Thank
45 you. Thank you. In my language, I say, (In Native).
46

47 But, anyway, yeah, really, thank you to the
48 Staff, AMBCC. Welcome on board the new members here.
49 People of Barrow. And thank you for coming all the way up
50 here from Fort Yukon, I appreciate that, I was glad to see

1 that. And everybody else, thank you, thank you, thank you.
2
3 You know, we've still got a long road to go
4 and there's still a lot of issues that we need to work out
5 but I believe that if we work together we can do it.
6
7 So thank you. And this is my first time to
8 Barrow, too, so I came from 60, 80 degree weather to -- I
9 didn't expect it to be like this, so -- but, thank you.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thanks, Joeneal. Enoch.
12
13 ATTAMUK: (In Native) You'll translate
14 that, right?
15
16 REPORTER: Yeah, right.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 ATTAMUK: I'd like to thank the people of
21 Barrow, Charles, Taqulik and Robert, for wonderful hosts.
22 And I'd like to see that in another village somewhere where
23 we're going to impact our people. And I would like to
24 thank the agencies and the people here, it was a very
25 productive meeting.
26
27 Like Ralph said, we are learning, we're
28 getting faster, and I'm looking forward to another meeting
29 like this, and I thank everyone for all the input on the
30 birds that our people depend, all the way from the chain to
31 the top of the world, and thank you all.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Fred.
34
35 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, just to the guys in
36 the back, thanks for coming, you know, Ray from Nuiqsut,
37 and Atqasuk, I hope you guys learned a lot. I know that
38 it's a totally different thing from the RAC Councils, and
39 there's always questions from the RAC Committees on our
40 program and I hope that you can answer some of their
41 questions in the future.
42
43 And thanks to David James and the Refuge
44 employee, I'm kind of at a loss for names right now, but
45 appreciate you guys coming all the way up and conveying
46 your concerns because it's only those -- you know, when you
47 bring those messages that we learn a little bit more about
48 how we can overcome some of these outreach issues that
49 we're dealing with.
50

1 Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Thank you, everybody. I
4 think it's down to me now and I'm going to have a hard time
5 not just sounding like I'm repeating what everybody else
6 has said because I'm going to repeat what everybody else
7 has said.

8

9 I'd like to thank our hosts for a wonderful
10 venue today and a good place to have the work session
11 yesterday and a lot of assistance behind the scenes, as
12 Fred mentioned, to put the meeting on. I'd like to thank
13 the public for sitting patiently and contributing yesterday
14 when we'd allow it, and a few times today when it was
15 appropriate, and just for your attention for watching this
16 process go on. And thanks to Staff for preparing us to be
17 here and helping answer questions and doing the Committee
18 work, and thank you to the Council members. I think this
19 was a very constructive meeting.

20

21 We should realize that we continue to have
22 issues that we're going to have to wrestle over. But the
23 way we've addressed things at this meeting, I think, is a
24 healthy constructive way, whereas in the past there have
25 been some moments where it's not worked quite as well as it
26 has this time. So I hope that's growth of the Council, and
27 is something we need to remember in the future when we do
28 get to some of those issues that we'll have different
29 positions on.

30

31 So thanks to everybody.

32

33 But before everybody walks out happily
34 here, we have a few last items of business to take care of.
35 We have two dates to determine, the first of which we
36 should talk about is the teleconference, special meeting,
37 that will handle a couple of items that we pushed just for
38 a couple of weeks, and with the Flyway Council meeting
39 being in mid-July, and you should have calendars in front
40 of you to work off of, so in June sometime is when we need
41 to have the meeting. And I would throw out as a first try
42 here sometime during the week of the 13th, is that
43 acceptable to Staff in terms of the time to crank things
44 around.

45

46 MR. ARMSTRONG: I wouldn't go any later
47 than that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Tom, the week of the 13th
50 okay with you for the teleconference meeting, which would

1 then lead into the Flyway?
2
3 MR. ROTHE: I think so.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I think we need to set a
6 day now if we can.
7
8 MR. ROTHE: For the teleconference.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I'll propose, just to give
11 us a day at the beginning of the week to get our act
12 together and get other things taken care of, how about
13 Tuesday the 14th, as a date for the teleconference.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Seeing no objection, that
18 will be our teleconference date.
19
20 MR. ARMSTRONG: 10:00, morning or
21 afternoon?
22
23 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Let's do it in the
24 morning, mid-morning, 10:00 o'clock is fine with me. 10:00
25 o'clock for everybody.
26
27 (Council nods affirmatively)
28
29 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, 10:00 o'clock,
30 Tuesday the 14th.
31
32 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Doug.
35
36 MR. ALCORN: And the purpose of that
37 teleconference is to take up the proposals that Mitch
38 mentioned from KANA; is that right?
39
40 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: That's correct. Was there
41 another issue?
42
43 MR. ARMSTRONG: There was two proposals
44 from Kodiak.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: We had the TCC -- oh, the
47 Delta issue, that's right. Okay, well, that worked easily.
48 Then the next date to set is the fall Council meeting and
49 as Fred mentioned, in the past that's either been the last
50 week of September, first week of October. Are there any

1 suggestions that people want to make based on their
2 schedules -- Tim.
3
4 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just
5 for your information, the first week of October, from the
6 4th to the 6th, both myself and Myron will be busy with the
7 AVCP Convention.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay.
10
11 MR. ALCORN: How about the 26th?
12
13 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, that will work fine.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, so the suggestion
16 now is during the week of the 26th of September, Tuesday
17 the 27th through Thursday the 29th, assuming a one day work
18 session and then two days of meeting.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Okay, so September 27th
23 through 29th is what we'll go for for the Council meeting.
24
25 MR. ANDERSEN: Where?
26
27 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I believe Anchorage is the
28 preference of the guy who's running the money part of this.
29
30 MR. ANDREW: Mexico.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: Anchorage will be the
33 site. Okay, we've taken care of the next two meetings, I'm
34 down to the very last part of the agenda.
35
36 Is there any other statements, comments,
37 problems from Council members before we end this thing?
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: I would be interested in a
42 motion if anybody would like to make it.
43
44 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I move to
45 adjourn.
46
47 MR. HICKS: So moved.
48
49 MR. ALCORN: Wait a second.
50

1 MR. HICKS: Second.
2
3 MR. ANDREW: Third.
4
5 MR. ALCORN: Wait a second, I second the
6 motion.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN ROBUS: We stand in adjournment.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 (Off record)
15
16 (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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Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/05