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VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FALL MEETING

NOME, ALASKA

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Members Present:

- Doug Alcorn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chair
- Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resource Commission
- Frank Woods, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Dale Rabe, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Herman Squartsoff, Sun'aq Tribal
- Sandy Tahbone, Kawerak, Incorporated
- Lisa Kangas, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Fred Armstrong, Executive Director

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

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3 (Nome, Alaska - 10/01/2009)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: If everyone would take a
8 seat. We're down to agenda Item 10, the second item
9 under new business, harvest survey assessment time
10 table, Liliana Naves. Sandy.

11
12 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chair. The Bristol
13 Bay representative who is replacing Molly.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You're right. I'm
16 sorry. Frank Woods is going to sit at the table.
17 Molly had to leave. We also have Lisa Kangas here for
18 Mike Smith from TCC. We recognized her yesterday, but
19 she's also sitting in. So we're down to Item 10B.
20 Liliana, would you like to come to the microphone.

21
22 MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves, Fish and
23 Game. The discussion about this time table was to get
24 familiar with all the process or all the steps that we
25 go through doing a year of the harvest survey and the
26 different parts of the preparation for the survey and
27 data collection. This table describes timing for the
28 administrative procedures for setting the contracts for
29 doing the field work, the preparation for the field
30 work, the timing for the data collection, the review
31 and the release of information.

32
33 As we discussed in the work session, I
34 proposed we take a look in there and see if the marks
35 are in the right place on this table, how things should
36 be moved around. We discussed a little bit longer when
37 the original councils would be able to see the
38 preliminary estimates and when the report could be on
39 the agenda for adoption by the AMBCC. I don't know if
40 we can get a hold of Bob Trost.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I was able to talk to
43 Russ and I talked to him this morning. I'm waiting on
44 an email response. I asked both Russ and Bob Trost the
45 question about whether or not a spring or fall adoption
46 would accommodate the needs of the SRC and the Flyway
47 Council.

48
49 Russ's response was earlier would be
50 better because it would allow us ample time to consider

1 the survey report, the data, and to have that
2 information when they talk about the early season
3 regulations in their March meeting. He said, however,
4 I don't know of any incidence in the past that that
5 information has been used to influence the decisions
6 for the early season regulations. So he was thinking
7 out loud at the time when he was discussing it with me.
8 So he said a spring approval probably would be okay
9 because that still fits the schedule of the Technical
10 Committee and their deliberations for the late season
11 regulations.

12
13 I asked him to consult with Bob to see
14 if Bob agreed, because Bob is the consultant to the
15 Flyway Council, and they're going to send a response
16 back to me. I'll tell you right now if I have a
17 response. I don't yet on my Blackberry. If we would
18 like to -- if that's the only decision we need to make
19 on this, we can postpone a decision until we hear back.

20
21 MS. NAVES: Yes, uh-huh. I think for
22 the spring meeting we're probably much better for the
23 timing for the original Council meetings and if that
24 works for the Flyway Council, I think it's a better
25 position for us.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: For spring approval?

28
29 MS. NAVES: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: What's the will of
32 this group? We've got a couple options. We can go
33 ahead and do it, just approve the time schedule with
34 the spring approval based on the comments that we've
35 heard from regional members, that a fall approval makes
36 it difficult because of timing, folks harvesting and
37 subsistence activities in the fall. Winter delay would
38 allow ample time for review. We can make that decision
39 as a Council or we can postpone a decision until we
40 hear back from Russ and Bob, or we could approve it
41 with the caveat that we'll listen to what they have to
42 say and rethink it if we want to.

43
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. That
45 sounds good, or we could approve it by consensus and
46 wait to hear back from Bob.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: If it causes any
49 fatal flaws that we're unaware of, we would reconsider?
50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. That sounds
4 appropriate to me. Do you want to make that in the
5 form of a motion?

6

7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, no motion.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, it is an
10 action.

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Oh, it's an action?

13

14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's an action to
15 approve the schedule, so we do need a motion. Sandy.

16

17 MS. TAHBONE: So I'm assuming where it
18 says regarding the budgets and preparing the contract
19 modifications, that's all the previous year, right? So
20 if this was in place right now, this would be going on
21 for our 2010, correct?

22

23 MS. NAVES: Yeah, that's right. As
24 soon as the Federal fiscal year starts, today, the
25 original partners will start working with Donna to vet
26 the contract. I really would like to reiterate to
27 discuss the details of the contract so the language in
28 the contract reflects how your organization manages
29 survey (indiscernible).

30

31 If you have a winter survey that the
32 final date in the contract reflects the winter survey
33 just means that the contract needs to go into March
34 instead of the regular end date general, by the end of
35 the Federal fiscal year.

36

37 So the details of the contract it's
38 important to discuss it beforehand. If you need help
39 in submitting the total number of households that are
40 surveyed, let me know. I think it's very important
41 when setting the contracts, plus it will facilitate
42 things later on.

43

44 As for the field work preparation, we
45 will soon hear about the field coordinator training in
46 Anchorage. It has a tentative date for the week of the
47 17th of January. As soon as we have a final word on
48 the regions that are going to be surveyed, we will
49 contact the field coordinator and start work on that.
50 Lots of preparation for the training is going on.

1 The data collection section there, I'd
2 like to revisit the point that as the Harvest Survey
3 Committee worked on the calendar for data collection,
4 the Harvest Survey Committee adopted three household
5 visits that replaced the original four household visit.
6 I understand it's a little bit different from the other
7 surveys in regions where you go to the household once
8 and get all the data at that location, but the survey
9 has tried to do something that is closer to an in-
10 season survey as possible.

11
12 I would like to try to go with what you
13 have decided of going after the season of most harvest
14 that is spring in most regions or at least in the
15 regions that don't have a winter harvest. So the
16 calendar for the household visits is in there, but the
17 point is that the Harvest Survey Committee had decided
18 to do the two household visits for collecting data plus
19 initial household visit and we should try to do that as
20 hard as we can.

21
22 I will update this report, this time
23 table, so it has the cross there for adoption and the
24 spring meeting so folks that are doing data collection
25 can have it. Keep an eye on which time of the year
26 requires an action and the problems that are expected
27 by that time of the year.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So what's the will of
30 this group?

31
32 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chairman. So this is
33 what we're adopting as it is right here. You're just
34 waiting to hear back from the flyway?

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, we have two
37 options. One is to adopt it with a September approval
38 date or a fall meeting approval date or as she has in
39 parenthesis here a spring approval date of the annual
40 harvest survey report. That's really the only thing
41 at play unless there are some other things here that
42 I'm not aware of that would cause some problems for the
43 regions. I don't know that. You all would have to
44 tell me whether that's an issue.

45
46 MS. TAHBONE: So you're saying if we do
47 a fall, you're talking about this Council approving in
48 the fall.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Correct, that's the

1 question, whether we want to hold our feet to the fire
2 so that every fall we're prepared to have already had
3 the regional reviews and adopt the report or take
4 action on the report or if we want to allow ourselves
5 more time through the winter months and take action in
6 the spring meeting every year on the survey information
7 because we don't release that information for public
8 consumption.

9

10 Then the question is applicability and
11 utility of data. The longer we wait, the less useful
12 it is, but we're thinking that that four month, five
13 month delay is not going to negatively impact the
14 process. That's my thinking.

15

16 MS. NAVES: I have a couple comments.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Herman and then
19 Liliana.

20

21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, kind of my
22 thinking about this spring would be a lot better
23 because that way our regions have time to look over the
24 survey.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The reason we've been
27 having this discussion is because we've not had a
28 regular reporting for a long time. It took us a while
29 to get the reports out and that's why we ended up
30 having that suite of reports from 2004 to 2007 combined
31 into one report.

32

33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. The reason
34 to hold up on this too is because we switched the whole
35 new process. So we're looking forward to getting ours
36 going this spring.

37

38 MR. WOODS: I'd like to make a motion
39 that we approve the schedule for spring/April
40 reporting. This is for discussion. In our region, we
41 live in two different time zones where we have a fall
42 ends on August 31st and we have a winter hunt that ends
43 on March 31st. Some of that stuff wouldn't be done
44 until -- it would be done pretty fast because, at least
45 in our region, there's only like six or seven villages
46 on the lower end of the winter hunt.

47

48 So I'll restate my motion, that we
49 approve the spring schedule for us to review and
50 approve according to this time line, right?

1 MS. NAVES: That note there, field
2 coordinator send forms to survey coordinator line
3 there.
4
5 MS. TAHBONE: Point of order.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: She's trying to
8 explain.....
9
10 MS. TAHBONE: There's a motion. I'm
11 not sure what his motion is.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Bear with me. I
14 think what Liliana is trying to do is explain to Frank
15 the process so that he can clarify his motion. Right
16 now he's made a motion and he's looking at Liliana
17 assuming she's going to answer some of his unknowns.
18
19 MR. WOODS: Because it's going to
20 change. You're going to edit it into the spring hunt,
21 I guess.
22
23 MS. NAVES: Frank, as for sending data
24 for analysis and analyzing data, it doesn't change it
25 with changing the date of the adoption of the form
26 because we expect that all the data, including the
27 winter surveys, will be sent by the latest in July.
28 When people send the data in from the field does not
29 change that. The original Councils have a longer period
30 of time to analyze the data and to have their fall
31 meeting later on after the hunt and that kind of thing.
32
33
34 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Does that help you?
35
36 MR. WOODS: Yeah.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Do you want to
39 restate your motion so we understand before we ask for
40 a second.
41
42 MR. WOODS: I'd like to make a motion
43 to adopt implementation of the subsistence harvest
44 survey time line as presented.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion. Do
47 we have a second?
48
49 MS. TAHBONE: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a second.
2 Discussion. Let me make an observation. If we adopt
3 this as printed, there's an X indicating that the
4 approval period would occur in September and then
5 there's a parenthesis X in April for our spring
6 meeting, so that still does not, in my opinion, answer
7 the question.

8
9 MR. WOODS: I understand. That's why I
10 ask for the revision, I guess. Adopt this time line
11 with the revision to exclude the X for fall/September
12 and include the April.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That would require an
15 amendment to your motion.

16
17 MS. TAHBONE: I move to amend the
18 motion to remove the X that the AMBCC Council will
19 adopt the harvest data in September.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: To remove that X.

22
23 MS. TAHBONE: To remove that X. The
24 AMBCC Council will adopt the harvest estimates in
25 April.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Do I have a second?

28
29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm going to ask for
32 discussion on that amended motion.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Hearing none. Is
37 there anyone that opposes adopting the amendment to the
38 motion?

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I see none. So the
43 amendment to the motion is amended. Let me restate the
44 motion. The motion as amended is to approve the
45 schedule that Liliana has presented that is in our
46 binders with the striking of the X for September and
47 approving the X that is in the April time frame, which
48 then gives us a target of the spring approval for every
49 year. So everyone knows what the action is. Any
50 discussion.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'll call the
4 question. Anyone opposed to the motion as made and
5 amended.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I hear none. We've
10 approved this time schedule as amended. Liliana.

11

12 MS. NAVES: I'd just like to call your
13 attention to a thing we have not discussed too much is
14 that when the Ecological Service usually asks for the
15 data and there's nothing that much you can do as to
16 when they need the data and the Ecological Service asks
17 for this data between August and September. So no
18 matter when the AMBCC is going to adopt the data, it's
19 always before that. So you should be prepared for
20 that, that this is when they ask for the data. This is
21 important in the regulation setting process. This is
22 not never going to be the approved data. It's just to
23 raise the.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I understand.

26

27 MS. NAVES: So this should not be
28 considered as leaking of information.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's an internal
31 issue that I'm going to have to deal with with my boss
32 and my colleague that is over at Ecological Services.
33 It's a conundrum that we always face, that we have to
34 deal with. We have to analyze data. My argument with
35 my boss has always been that it is not for public
36 consumption until approved by the Council and if my
37 boss wants to override me and my opposition of using
38 that data, that's his prerogative. It's an internal
39 decision that we will make. I will commit my staff to
40 not making this information available until it's been
41 approved. We do not want to violate the trust of the
42 survey process.

43

44 MS. NAVES: So they will always have
45 the information from the previous year.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Correct.

48

49 MS. NAVES: This year they had the 2008
50 data that had not been approved yet.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Correct.
2
3 MS. NAVES: So for next year what
4 they're going to have is the '08 data again?
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: If that's what we've
7 approved this coming spring, then that's the
8 information that's for public consumption.
9
10 MS. NAVES: I think it's important to
11 discuss this so that you are aware this happens every
12 year.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm keenly aware of
15 that issue. Herman and then Sandy.
16
17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'd like to thank
18 Liliana for reporting that and I think she's coming up
19 next. Thank you.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.
22
23 MS. TAHBONE: I'm just wondering what
24 that -- because that will be -- when we ask for our
25 tribes to consent to the research being conducted in
26 their communities, one of the things that we do is we
27 tell them how they can benefit and how it may harm them
28 or the risks that are involved. So I think it's real
29 important that you keep us in the loop regarding the
30 Ecological Services in order for us to provide that
31 information to the tribes.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Understood. Okay. We're on
34 to the next agenda item. Harvest Survey Report (2004-
35 2007 and 2008) approval. Liliana Naves. This creates
36 a little conundrum. We just took an action to approve
37 in the spring. Liliana, would you like to come to the
38 table and present your information.
39
40 MS. NAVES: So the discussion now is to
41 the 2004-07?
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The agenda has we're
44 going to take up the survey report for 2004 to 2007 and
45 the 2008 report.
46
47 MS. NAVES: Just for my own
48 clarification, I thought some folks had not had their
49 fall meeting yet.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's right. So
2 that's why I said we created a conundrum for ourselves.
3 But we will take them one at a time. Let's first take
4 the 2004. Sandy.

5
6 MS. TAHBONE: My understanding is some
7 of us already -- or we approved some of them. I think
8 there might be a couple regions that we didn't approve
9 for the 2004 to 2007.

10
11 MS. NAVES: I think so.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let her explain. We
14 thought this would work, but we need to have an
15 explanation on the record. So let her explain the
16 change that occurred. We did adopt the report last
17 spring for 2004 to 2007, but because of the combination
18 or recombining of some of the villages into other
19 regions based on geographic divides or biological
20 divides or political divides for regions, I don't know
21 the reason, but it changed the reporting on how they
22 were tabulated. Liliana.

23
24 MS. NAVES: Since 2004 we have had the
25 preliminary results, but have never had a final report
26 that describes how the data is collected or how the
27 data is analyzed. So when you come to put all this
28 information together, there are some patterns, things
29 that repeat year after year in the surveys. So we
30 figured out that it would be good to have a standard
31 way of analyzing this data across the years. The
32 numbers are different between the preliminary estimates
33 and here in the final report, but we believe they are
34 more correct now and it's not that much different from
35 the previous.

36
37 So we send this report out to inform
38 the partners that a final report is out and to let them
39 know not to freak if the numbers are a little bit
40 different. During the assessment of the survey in the
41 last year with the Harvest Survey Committee, we did a
42 bit of re-organization of the subregions and this
43 affected most the Bristol Bay area and the Interior.
44 So the estimates for those regions also reported the
45 reorganization of subregions, so you can compare things
46 along the years. As we have new reports coming on that
47 fall of the structure of subregions, the data will be
48 fully comparable.

49
50 The idea of sending the '04-'07 report

1 out for review again was more to inform these things
2 are going on and keep the process as clear as possible.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have two questions
5 for you. The first question is in retabulating this,
6 the overall statewide estimate does not change, is that
7 right?

8

9 MS. NAVES: We don't have statewide
10 estimates. The estimates in the report are still at
11 the region and subregion level.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay, I understand
14 that, but if anybody wanted to get the calculator out
15 and add up from all of the tables, that person would
16 end up with the same number?

17

18 MS. NAVES: A very close number.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So an insignificant
21 change. That's the point that I'm making.

22

23 MS. NAVES: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The second question.
26 You mentioned that by making these retabulation
27 corrections it makes the data more comparable from the
28 past use?

29

30 MS. NAVES: No, for the future.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Oh, for the future.

33

34 MS. NAVES: Yeah. Now we have the data
35 there since the beginning of the program in 2004 and
36 the data structure that the Harvest Survey Committee
37 adapted to start from 2010. So as the new data is
38 collected it can look at the data that was collected
39 since 2004. When you're looking at estimates for a
40 region or for a subregion, we know they're referring to
41 the same set of communities, the same proportion of the
42 households.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. So it will
45 make analysis of trends over time -- it will make
46 analysis easier.

47

48 MS. NAVES: Yes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Frank.

1 MR. WOODS: I think, number one, it
2 affects the Y-K Region, it affects our region. We're
3 minusing two villages and then adding to their
4 villages. I'd stick with the spring schedule we just
5 adopted for us to review and let Yukon, if they have
6 any issues with that -- because it does make a
7 difference, like you said. I'd like to table it until
8 spring. Also for this region, Kawerak, if the Yellow-
9 Billed Loon intensive study has any effect on the
10 numbers, they might be too high or over-inflated or
11 something, then we can adopt amendments and changes in
12 April, right?

13

14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.

15

16 MS. TAHBONE: Our Council adopted the
17 2004-2007 data at our last April meeting and we're not
18 involved in the 2008. We don't have 2008 data. So my
19 understanding is the numbers that we adopted or my
20 region adopted this last April, those numbers are
21 changed but there's not a significant change. When we
22 reviewed them, we saw they were elevated somewhat, but
23 it wasn't something that -- I mean it hasn't gone
24 before our council.

25

26 MS. NAVES: No, it's for your region,
27 Sandy, the changes were pretty much known. The changes
28 are mostly when the sampling information is incomplete.
29 So, for instance, when you don't have sampling
30 information that the data collection was based on
31 simple random sampling and the window of experience
32 that surveyors tend to talk to the harvesters, so we
33 really believe they have a tendency to inflate the
34 numbers. So one of the corrections we did for this
35 data is kind of not assume simple random sampling. So
36 if we don't have information at all, the data was not
37 included in there. So we think it would be better in
38 that we are avoiding making an assumption that would
39 probably lead to inflating the numbers. To clarify,
40 the new data from the '09 survey for Bering Strait is
41 not going to affect '04-'07.

42

43 MR. WOODS: Okay, that makes sense to
44 me.

45

46 MS. NAVES: It's new data, new survey
47 year.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: What's the will of
50 the body? The agenda item is to approve the

1 retabulation of 2004-2007 data. We've heard that it
2 does not affect in a significant way the overall
3 reports by region. It's a very minor change. The
4 reason this is even on the table is when Liliana and
5 the Harvest Survey Committee thought through the
6 conduct of the future surveys that this corrects and
7 makes consistent sort of as a baseline for comparison.
8 We felt that it was important that we put it on the
9 table for discussion so that the Council understood so
10 that if there are any of us that are prone to dotting
11 I's and crossing T's and detail oriented, they would
12 see a change and we didn't want that change to be
13 misunderstood.

14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. That
16 sounds good to me.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I would entertain a
19 motion to take action on this report 2004-2007.

20
21 MR. WOODS: I make a motion to adopt
22 the 2004-2007. Our committee passed it too. I would
23 just comment on that. But I think you're right. We
24 need to adopt it and move on.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have a motion to
27 adopt the 2004-2007 harvest survey report. Do we have
28 a second?

29
30 MR. DEVINE: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a second.
33 Discussion. Mike.

34
35 MR. PEDERSON: Our committee met at our
36 August meeting. The only comment they had was they
37 thought the numbers for our region were a little bit
38 too high and I just wanted to point that out.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: A comment from Sandy
41 and then we'll have Liliana.

42
43 MS. TAHBONE: I just wanted to say as
44 well that when we reviewed the data the numbers were
45 high according to -- when we receive the data back, we
46 retain a copy and we do our own data analysis. So the
47 numbers were high, too, but it's within reason, so our
48 council adopted it as well.

49
50 MS. NAVES: Sandy, the approach of how

1 the data is analyzed is at the end of the report. So
2 using this same approach we should get the same
3 numbers. This page long form is there at the end of
4 the report. It's the standard procedure to analyze
5 this clustered sampling in three or four levels when
6 producing estimates at the regional level, three level
7 is analyzing at the subregional level and it does
8 integrate the information.

9

10 It's not assumed for the sampled
11 communities, but it takes into account variation in the
12 sample communities to expand it to the known survey of
13 communities within a subregion and then at the region.
14 Assuming the surveyed communities do not arrive at the
15 same numbers, but using this approach to expand to the
16 known surveyed communities at the subregional level
17 first and at the regional level then, we should have
18 the same numbers.

19

20 As I heard from the North Slope and the
21 Bering Strait the numbers being high, when I sent the
22 report out for review and I follow up by telephone and
23 asking the question what the Council said, what are
24 their comments, if you think something is not correct,
25 you need to let me know and I'll check the data.

26

27 As for the Bering Strait in particular,
28 as this data has been the '07 data, I have checked back
29 multiple times, the data answer and the data analysis,
30 and I cannot find a problem. So I reviewed those
31 multiple times. The idea of having a report on all the
32 methods are explained, the formulas are in there, is to
33 make clear this process.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.

36

37 MS. TAHBONE: And that's why the
38 Council adopted it, because we understand they are
39 estimates. It's real hard for -- and I think it's
40 important too that we -- I know our budget is low, but
41 it would be nice even by teleconference if the
42 methodology and the expansion of how the data gets to
43 where -- how it comes before our Council, I think it
44 would be useful for our regional council anyway to have
45 that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I think that's a
48 reasonable request and we'll try to accommodate that
49 however we can.

50

1 MS. TAHBONE: I know that we were real
2 successful when we had Russ and Eric on the phone.
3 They provided us with a PowerPoint and we just did the
4 slides and they were on the telephone and that worked
5 well. It didn't require them being present at our
6 meeting.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We'll try to make
9 that happen. I don't want to speak for the Fish and
10 Game Department, but it is important that our region
11 understand how this information is collected or
12 analyzed and the estimates generated.

13
14 MS. NAVES: Yes. For sure we need to
15 put the simplified version of it together. Another
16 thing is that the most data collection to the standard
17 methods, the easier it is to do the analysis and the
18 more correct the estimates. When we don't follow the
19 standard method, we start making assumptions and we
20 start to use a mean replacement for the data that's
21 missing and there things start to get complicated. So
22 I would say that maybe 70 percent of the complication
23 of the analysis come in accounting for missing data and
24 for information that we don't have. So it's really
25 important that we follow the method for data collection
26 because that really makes the analysis much more solid.
27 There's a tendency to deviate from the standard methods
28 a lot. So the numbers are much more reliable as we
29 stick to the sampling method.

30
31 MR. WOODS: Question. Liliana, last
32 year when we were in Dillingham we digitalized our
33 household list so we knew exactly what the survey was
34 -- number of households and who was getting surveyed.
35 That process, is that included in the training and
36 implementation -- not in the survey, but in the process
37 of a survey?

38
39 MS. NAVES: Doing the household list is
40 a key part of doing the survey.

41
42 MR. WOODS: My question is, we can
43 digitalize it. We take all the guess work out, include
44 the State and their household list and we all know
45 which region.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let me interject
48 something here. I don't want a discussion about how to
49 analyze information or how to collect survey
50 information. That's a discussion that the Survey

1 Committee needs to have. This body has a motion on the
2 table to approve the report. We have a second. So we
3 should be discussing the motion, not the analysis.

4

5 MR. WOODS: Okay. I'd call the
6 question, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Any other discussion.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'll call the
13 question. Does anyone oppose approval of the 2004-2007
14 harvest survey report?

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Seeing none, it's
19 approved.

20

21 The second item on this agenda item is
22 approving the 2008. By the action we took preceding
23 this discussion to approve the annual report in the
24 spring meeting, I'm going to suggest we defer
25 discussion on that until spring unless there's
26 something that we need to know for our regional review
27 and agency review.

28

29 MS. NAVES: The only thing about the
30 2008 data is that I suspect there's some communities
31 from the Togiak Refuge that we don't have their survey
32 in yet. If I ever receive the annual surveys, I will
33 run the analysis again to include the data. It's not
34 that those communities are not taken into account in
35 the '08 estimates, but the data was expanded to those
36 communities. But if you have the real data to put in
37 there, I run the analysis again. If it does ever
38 happen, you may have a final set of numbers that's just
39 a bit different from what's in here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: My advice then for
42 you as the analyst is to coordinate with the region if
43 that information does come through so that that region
44 is cognizant of the change, that it's no longer an
45 estimate. It's using absolute data as opposed to
46 estimates.

47

48 MS. NAVES: Yes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The point is

1 communicate that with that region.

2

3 MS. NAVES: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Go ahead.

6

7 MS. NAVES: As for the '04-'07, this
8 is still a draft report. We're working on maps to
9 include in here, maps for the regions. Partners are
10 asking for maps. From here we'll have a final version
11 that includes those maps. Just to let you know this is
12 not the final version. The final version will be
13 coming in a month or so.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Understood. All
16 right. Thank you. We're to the next item, fiscal
17 report, 2009 expenditures and 2010 budget outlook, the
18 executive director, which is Fred.

19

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: Behind the yellow
21 paper, the first item is the expense report provided by
22 our fiscal person. Salaries for three employees were
23 bills for most of this fiscal year. They may look
24 unpaid because they're included. I think 34 percent
25 were fringe benefits.

26

27 Printing. Every time you get a rule
28 published they charge our account and a final rule
29 costs us almost \$19,000. Travel. It's a lot more than
30 what we had budgeted last year simply because we had
31 some conservation issues we had to deal with on the
32 North Slope. Office supplies are basically stuff we
33 get to put our binders together and things we needed at
34 work. Utilities is really the space cost. Each
35 program is charged a certain amount based on number of
36 employees and square footage. That's deducted and
37 charged to our account.

38

39 The grants are 297,600 and that was
40 increased by 5,000 for most of the grantees and then
41 the survey contracts are pretty much what happened last
42 year. Those are the numbers that were provided to me.
43 These may change a little bit when we get our end of
44 year report from the fiscal person.

45

46 MR. SQUARTSOFF: A couple questions.
47 Fred, you said the utilities was space. I thought the
48 Feds owned that building.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: They don't own the
2 building?
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No. We lease it and
5 we pay \$22 and some change per square foot.
6
7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: And I see our harvest
8 survey is up a little bit for once. It's usually
9 around 330,000.
10
11 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right. And basically
12 the Harvest Survey Committee approved of a budget.
13 That increase is really the transition from the State
14 taking over the surveys and doing an analysis, adding
15 more to focus their attention on data analysis work.
16 For this year it was \$150,000 that we had to provide
17 them. So it was an increase.
18
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Okay. And then you
20 mentioned we went up 5,000 on our grants. That was
21 just for that one year, this year, right, that we got
22 it?
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That was to conduct
25 additional outreach.
26
27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right. But it will be
28 back down, right?
29
30 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. It was just a one
31 year.
32
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you, Fred.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Lisa.
36
37 MS. KANGAS: Just for my clarification,
38 when is the fiscal year beginning? Today is the end,
39 right?
40
41 MR. ARMSTRONG: Fiscal year begins
42 today, October 1st to September 30.
43
44 MS. KANGAS: For 2009.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's for every year.
47
48 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's every year.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.

1 MS. TAHBONE: You mentioned we had
2 increased travel cost because of conservation concerns.
3 Is that going to continue to have to come out of our
4 AMBCC budget or is the Service going to be providing
5 additional funds if issues like those continue to
6 arise? Did it come out of all our budget, the expense
7 for up north?

8
9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No, it did not. I
10 carved out \$150,000 from my budget to cover the added
11 expense of managing the North Slope Steller's Eider
12 conservation order.

13
14 MS. TAHBONE: That 150,000, that's not
15 including all the travel -- I mean all the.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's not affecting
18 that budget.

19
20 MS. TAHBONE: But I mean the 150,000
21 you're talking about, that's not including all the
22 salaries, right? Is that just the expense?

23
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The salaries are in
25 this budget. The work that Fred and I were involved in
26 came out of that additional pot of money. As a matter
27 of fact, we had \$107,000 that we got from an account
28 that the director keeps and it's called the director's
29 deferred account. At the beginning of the fiscal year
30 the director holds back half of one percent of resource
31 management funds in the entire agency. Our budget in
32 the agency is about \$1.25 billion for the entire Fish
33 and Wildlife Service and the director holds back a half
34 percent of the resource management account, which is
35 not the full \$1.25 billion, but it's a significant sum.
36 Then what the regional director uses that money for is
37 for each region to compete annually based on
38 justification.

39
40 MS. TAHBONE: So was that the first
41 time that you folks competed?

42
43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The first time I've
44 been successful getting money from the director's
45 deferred account.

46
47 MS. TAHBONE: I know because in recent
48 or past meetings I've asked and we've all stated the
49 need to be able to accomplish our task at the regional
50 level. The funding that we're provided is not

1 adequate. I know I've asked numerous times how can we
2 have better access to funds that are available within
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I think I was never
4 told that there was.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'll tell you on the
7 record. The way money comes to the Fish and Wildlife
8 Service, for lack of a better way, it's earmarked. The
9 phrase that we use is it's fund targeted. It's fund
10 targeted for specific work by program. We have money
11 that goes to endangered species. We have money that
12 goes to migratory birds, fisheries, ecological
13 services. We have money in multiple pots that stream
14 down in the appropriations language.

15
16 The appropriations bill says we're
17 going to give Fish and Wildlife Service and the
18 Secretary of the Interior this much money to do these
19 kinds of things and that is fund targeted from the
20 Washington office. So while it looks like a large sum
21 of money in a large pot, the fact is that the migratory
22 bird program gets about \$50 million a year, of which
23 that's divided between the Habitat Division and the
24 Management Division.

25
26 The Management Division is the division
27 that our money for the AMBCC flows through. In fact,
28 the money doesn't flow through for AMBCC. That money
29 was carved out of my base budget years ago when the
30 AMBCC was established. So while it looks like there's
31 a large pot of money, it is earmarked by the Congress
32 for specific outputs and outcomes. So we don't have
33 the prerogative to redirect or reprogram funding. Any
34 time that we do reprogram funding we have to get Senate
35 approval. Any time you redirect more than \$500,000 you
36 have to have Senate approval.

37
38 MS. TAHBONE: You said you're able to
39 scrape up or I'm not sure if that was the word, but to
40 carve out 150,000 to address the North Slope issue this
41 last spring.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The reason for that,
44 Sandy, is because we had an endangered species program
45 that said we cannot get to no jeopardy. So there will
46 be no hunt on the North Slope unless Mr. Alcorn does
47 something about it. So I left positions vacant, I
48 didn't conduct aerial surveys, there was field work I
49 didn't do in my program, in order to make that hunt
50 happen. Otherwise we would have said we can't open it

1 because we can't get to no jeopardy. This is not
2 something that's arbitrarily done. This is something
3 that's come from a lot of thought.

4
5 MS. TAHBONE: As a Council member, I
6 need to understand that. I need to understand the
7 processes that are in place regarding this whole ESA.
8 I know we've asked it to be provided to us. The more I
9 can understand, the more I can hopefully articulate it
10 to my region and be able to better represent them and
11 better able to understand the position you're in and
12 what our program needs to go through. Some of these
13 travel dollars that's reflected here in this report are
14 what was used to address that issue up on the North
15 Slope.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No, that's not true.

18
19 MS. TAHBONE: That's what I thought I
20 heard. You said you had increased travel.

21
22 MR. ARMSTRONG: No. Part of the travel
23 was used to address conservation issues. This travel
24 includes the flyway, the SRC meetings and the Regional
25 meetings that we try to attend.

26
27 MS. TAHBONE: When you said to address
28 conservation issues, that's what I was.....

29
30 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'll be glad to sit
33 down and talk with you at length and explain this, but
34 this is -- I've been in this business for 28 years and
35 it is a very convoluted and complex process to allocate
36 money in this agency and to obligate it and spend it
37 and account for it. I'm not sure that anyone can grasp
38 it in an hour discussion, but I'll be glad to sit down
39 and talk to you about it. I would prefer not to do it
40 on the record.

41
42 MS. TAHBONE: I mean you don't have to
43 do it on the record. I'm just saying when we have
44 issues of our need for funding and they're brought up
45 at every single one of our meetings and I'm not going
46 to rehash those. Like you said, you didn't fill
47 positions and I know we have several positions that
48 haven't been filled for several years. I know Bill's
49 won't be filled for like another year. When we know
50 that's not going to take place, then how are we going

1 to utilize that money? Is it at your discretion? Are
2 you going to identify how those dollars are going to be
3 used?

4

5 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let me comment on
6 that. There's two issues you raised. One is filling
7 the position behind Ms. Wentworth, who was our
8 coordinator for the survey, last fall when we were
9 talking about implementing the options for managing the
10 statewide survey. We are now contracting with the
11 State to do that coordination.

12

13 MS. TAHBONE: I understand that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's, at least in my
16 opinion, a more cost-efficient way to do that. So I
17 have no intention to fill that position.

18

19 MS. TAHBONE: I understand that, Mr.
20 Chairman. What I'm saying though is for a period that
21 position went unfilled, so those dollars were spent
22 somewhere is what I'm saying. So now we're in that
23 same situation now where Bill's position won't be
24 filled for an X amount of time, so those dollars are
25 going to be available to this program.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's where you're
28 mistaken. That's my prerogative as the senior manager
29 of the Fish and Wildlife Service to manage my assets,
30 to apply them to my highest priority needs. The AMBCC
31 is a high-priority need, but it is not the sole
32 priority need that I have, so I have that discretion.
33 It's the job that I have. I am funding the work in
34 this program based on the funding needs that we've
35 identified over time. When there are salary savings,
36 it's the prerogative of the manager to use those
37 savings to address higher priority needs or those needs
38 within the program. So I use those salary savings. As
39 a matter of fact, \$150,000 did not come from this
40 program. It came from Russ Oates' program. So I took
41 away from his program to fund the priority needs of
42 this program.

43

44 So it is my prerogative as a manager
45 within the Fish and Wildlife Service to apply the
46 resources that I have, that are limited, to the highest
47 priority need. So as priorities ebb and flow, I have
48 to apply those resources to those priorities and that's
49 the prerogative that I have and I'm not going to
50 relinquish that.

1 Frank.

2

3 MR. WOODS: Comment on the budget on
4 the survey contracts, your prerogative is to stick to
5 the treaty that we have agreed that we're not going to
6 be increasing the harvest, the subsistence harvest, in
7 that agreement, right? Now Bristol Bay, I've worked
8 second year exclusively on getting the surveys done,
9 adequate information, accurate information in a timely
10 manner.

11

12 We got approached by Fish and Wildlife
13 Service, Togiak Refuge, that the people that were
14 implementing that survey were glad to release them
15 villages that they were surveying to us because it was
16 way cost -- you're getting a heck of a bang for your
17 buck. Let's put it that way. To put it lightly, I
18 feel like I'm getting ripped off. We have a
19 responsibility as a board to make sure those surveys
20 get done and we're not increasing the harvest. But
21 you're right, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is getting
22 -- the value is almost 10 times what they actually
23 could be worth just in the Bristol Bay region. Not
24 only because it's so spread out, it's convoluted and
25 the staffing to do what I do is way under. I agree
26 with you.

27

28 I appreciate you're keeping the budgets
29 even and that's your responsibility and you've been
30 supportive of this whole project. Like I said last
31 year, what I see is that you're here to help support
32 us. We feel like, at least I do as a regional
33 representative, that we're getting ripped off. Number
34 one, for the work we're doing -- the person before me,
35 Haas Nicholson, did this project. He said he had a
36 heck of a time balancing out that whole survey process.
37 He warned me about the challenges of budgeting for them
38 to get the surveys completed.

39

40 I don't know how we request more money
41 if we're not meeting our needs and I can see it already
42 coming. Bristol Bay isn't going to get surveyed until
43 2011, which is a good relief for me because I've got
44 other things to do, but the survey projects, you know,
45 for people that do them, it's a hassle and it's a lot
46 of work. Supervising the research specialists and the
47 subsistence State, they know all about it. It's not
48 bad. It's just a lot of work.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let me give you an

1 idea of the cost efficiency of this survey, the Harvest
2 Information Program survey that occurs nationwide.
3 That entire nationwide survey costs about a million
4 dollars. For one state in this state it is such a
5 labor-intensive survey. We spend \$388,000 for one
6 state versus \$1 million for the entire nation.
7 Granted, we need more precision. Granted, it is a hard
8 place to do business because of logistics, but when I
9 go to my assistant director in Washington and express
10 my need for more money to conduct a survey, the
11 response is let's compare the cost efficiency of the
12 HIP survey with the cost efficiency of your survey. It
13 doesn't wash, Frank. That's the point I'm trying to
14 make.

15
16 I'm not going to sit here and defend my
17 management decision, but what I will tell you that I do
18 advocate for this program and I do ask for money for
19 this program and I have not been successful in large
20 scale. I have not been successful in convincing senior
21 budget allocators in the Fish and Wildlife Service that
22 we need more money. Basically all programs are being
23 told do more with less. That's the general mantra in
24 government for the past decade.

25
26 So I understand the difficulties, but I
27 would ask that you understand the difficulties of the
28 management situation I am also in. All I can do is
29 tell you that when it comes time to advocate for this
30 program, this gets more management attention by me than
31 any of my other divisions. I have two other divisions.

32
33
34 So it's not that I take this lightly
35 and it's not that I don't appreciate the work that we
36 all do. I do, in fact, appreciate the work that you
37 all do and the sensitivities of not having enough money
38 that we need. But when you compare cost efficiency, we
39 are more expensive than the national HIP survey.
40 Herman.

41
42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: We've been going down
43 to the flyway and SRC meetings, going to congressional
44 delegates. We've been doing this for 10 years and it
45 hasn't been successful getting more funds either.
46 We've been trying. Even with that approach we haven't
47 been making any headway, so hopefully one day one of
48 them will give a little more to us. I don't know how
49 we're going to get it, but we're trying.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Frank.
2
3 MR. WOODS: Liliana and the Harvest
4 Survey Committee, I think they've kind of streamlined
5 it. It will only get better. That's all I can say.
6 I'd like to make a motion that we pass this year's
7 budget.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Point of order. We
10 haven't even gone over this coming year's budget. This
11 past year's budget was a report of expenses. There's
12 no action required.
13
14 MR. WOODS: Okay.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's just a report of
17 information. We are going to consider the 2010 budget
18 now.
19
20 MR. WOODS: This is '09s?
21
22 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's the '09 budget
23 that you looked at.
24
25 MR. WOODS: Proposed budget for '10 is
26 what I'm looking at.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You're one page
29 ahead.
30
31 MR. WOODS: Oh, I see.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Now let's hear from
34 Fred on the 2010 budget.
35
36 MR. ARMSTRONG: First I wanted to
37 respond to Frank's concern about additional villages.
38 We did talk about it yesterday with Molly and Molly is
39 going to provide me with real time numbers so we can
40 try to accommodate them. The refuge had been surveying
41 three villages and they want to relinquish that and let
42 BBNA take over. So what we have to do is get those
43 refuge dollars that were going there and redirect them
44 to BBNA.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.
47
48 MS. TAHBONE: You have total expenses,
49 but you don't have the total budget. What's your total
50 budget for '09?

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: I don't have my '09
2 numbers, but it's always running \$1,012,000.
3
4 MS. TAHBONE: So this is over?
5
6 MR. ARMSTRONG: We went over, yes.
7 This year I'm -- Doug hasn't had an opportunity to
8 review this, but I've been in a budget request for
9 \$1,099,000.
10
11 MS. TAHBONE: What was your '09 budget?
12
13 MR. ARMSTRONG: \$1,012,000.
14
15 MS. TAHBONE: So you're over then?
16
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. And that's
18 something we deal with every year, balancing budgets.
19 Doug and I and Russ and Federal agents sit down
20 together to try to make our budget come out even. It's
21 a very difficult process.
22
23 MS. TAHBONE: And this is the '09
24 allocation that we're talking about. We're not talking
25 about mixing any other years in this?
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The '09 allocation is
28 now over. It's done.
29
30 MS. TAHBONE: So these are '09 dollars.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Correct. Now we're
33 on to the 2010 dollars.
34
35 MR. ARMSTRONG: 2010 is really no
36 different from last year other than the fact that the
37 surveys are getting more expensive and this year, based
38 on the Harvest Survey Committee's recommendation and
39 having the State assume the entire data management, the
40 figures go up to \$210,000 for this fiscal year. I was
41 talking with the Chair yesterday that we should try to
42 revisit the harvest survey figures and see how we could
43 try to get more bang for the buck so to speak and
44 redistribute more dollars into the field if we can.
45 Frank is taking an additional work load and the cost of
46 doing business is just more expensive. That was
47 basically the change.
48
49 Sandy did ask about being surveyed this
50 fiscal year and going out of rotation. That will be up

1 to Doug or not if he can redirect some of the dollars.

2

3 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, I was asked to
4 provide a multi-year projected costs under our current
5 contract that we have for data collection. I wasn't
6 prepared to do that, so I had to do all that work to
7 provide that so we have our '09, 2010, 2011, 2012.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You'll have to do
10 that.

11

12 MS. TAHBONE: We already have it. So
13 if funding is available.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's good to know.

16

17 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, if funding is
18 available, you know, so we don't have to resubmit it,
19 it's just a modification. There's a base year option
20 year one, two, three.

21

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's good to have on
23 record. We can just go look at it. If the priorities
24 change, as we did last year with North Slope where we
25 had to have them surveyed, that's the prerogative of
26 Doug.

27

28 MS. TAHBONE: So I'm assuming since we
29 adopted the schedule, I'm assuming within the next
30 month I'm going to know from your office whether or not
31 U.S. Fish and Wildlife is going to exercise option year
32 one, correct?

33

34 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. We'll start
35 working on the survey contracts the latter part of this
36 month.

37

38 MS. TAHBONE: It will just require a
39 modification.

40

41 MR. ARMSTRONG: Next month, November,
42 is when we try to get all our survey contracts.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let me qualify that.
45 Congress has not passed a budget for this fiscal year.

46

47 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's right.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The spending
50 authority that I have is not for the full million

1 dollars. Typically the way Congress -- when Congress
2 passes what's called a continuing resolution, it
3 basically says we're going to allow the government to
4 operate -- we're going to pass enough of a budget bill
5 to allow the government to operate for one month, two
6 months, three months or sometimes just days and they
7 give us authority to obligate money by percent of the
8 overall base from 2009.

9

10 For example, how it plays for the AMBCC
11 is we spent, let's say, a million dollars and they say
12 we're going to give managers authority to obligate in
13 2010 -- usually it breaks down to 8.25 percent by
14 month. So you have authority to obligate 8 percent of
15 your FY09 budget amount for FY10 until we pass an
16 appropriations bill.

17

18 So what that does is it allows me to
19 pay salary, it allows me to pay the rent, it allows me
20 to pay the heat, but it does not allow me to enter into
21 or obligate money beyond 8.5 percent of my annual
22 budget.

23

24 So your assumption I think is a fair
25 assumption, but it is contingent on having
26 appropriation from the Congress, a full appropriation.
27 Sometimes that doesn't occur until May. So that's why
28 sometimes these obligations come late in the year and
29 it's beyond our control or our authority to obligate
30 money.

31

32 So the commitment that Fred gave you is
33 caveated with the congressional approval and
34 appropriations. We will obligate that money when we
35 can, but the commitment that we're giving you on the
36 record is that we will fund the harvest survey needs as
37 have been expressed and approved.

38

39 MS. TAHBONE: So the time table that we
40 adopted, it seems like there should be little notes
41 there too.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's all caveated on
44 us having obligation authority.

45

46 MS. TAHBONE: There should be some
47 footnotes on our time tables because the way I'm
48 reading this, if I bring it back, it means that we can
49 expect by November or December a contract modification
50 whether or not.....

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's the goal or
2 the objective I should say. The objective is a date
3 certain to have you a contract so that you know what to
4 expect and you can prepare your work. Usually, in my
5 28 years, it is rare that the Congress doesn't obligate
6 at least the amount of money that we received in the
7 prior year. So it is very safe to assume that we will
8 fund at least at the level of the preceding year. It's
9 rare that we get budget cuts.

10
11 So even though we don't have authority
12 to obligate money until the appropriations bills are
13 passed, we can still, with 95 percent assurance, tell
14 you that you will have a contract so that you can make
15 plans to move forward. If you incur expenses, it's at
16 your own risk. Sandy.

17
18 MS. TAHBONE: We do have that provision
19 without our AMBCC contract. I'm not talking about the
20 data collection. But with that 90 day -- where it will
21 pay for expenses 90 days prior to signing.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm not sure how
24 that's relevant.

25
26 MS. TAHBONE: If we signed a contract
27 in December or January, I have 90 days prior to that
28 where I can bill you for those expenses.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Oh, 90 days prior you
31 can have pre-agreement costs, is what you're referring
32 to.

33
34 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Yeah, we can approve
37 that.

38
39 MR. WOODS: In your 8.5 percent a
40 month, add it up over -- you'll know by May. We could
41 expect to expend -- the contract will be signed with
42 that 8.5 percent a month for us?

43
44 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No. No. We do
45 not.....

46
47 MR. WOODS: How does that reflect our
48 contract and our expenditures?

49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I think Sandy touched

1 on the key. You can incur what's called pre-admin
2 costs. So that when we are relatively sure that we're
3 going to have a budget, you can go ahead and start your
4 work, but we just can't obligate and sign and finalize
5 the contract because that obligates the Federal
6 government to spend that money and we can't sign that
7 contract until we've been given the authority to do so
8 by the Congress.

9

10 MR. WOODS: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Fred is
13 walking us through that 2010 budget. This was a
14 request made a couple years ago by the board to have a
15 look at how the budget is allocated.

16

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Were there any
18 other questions? I think there was a comment made
19 about the grant agreements going back down \$5,000
20 because that was a one-year thing. The surveys are
21 based on the rotation schedule. If there are
22 priorities, then obviously that will change. I did
23 request \$10,000, \$2,000 more in travel from last year
24 simply because knowing that we're going to have ongoing
25 conservation issues, I have to budget travel to the
26 regions to work.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.

29

30 MS. TAHBONE: I have a question on the
31 salaries. When our current expenditures -- that's not
32 a reflection of the total expenses.

33

34 MR. ARMSTRONG: I should explain that.
35 This is basically three positions plus an additional
36 50,000 for what we call PCS move if we hire somebody.
37 If they're a new person and have to move to Anchorage
38 from the Lower 48 or from wherever, we have to allow
39 for that travel expense. So it is a little bit
40 inflated.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: As Fred mentioned
43 earlier, this is his proposal. It's not been approved
44 yet. He just put this together this past week. This
45 is just for your information to give you an idea of
46 relative amounts and expenses.

47

48 MR. ARMSTRONG: Exactly.

49

50 MS. TAHBONE: But I'm getting a little

1 confused because my understanding is we're not going to
2 be able to fill a position. We have to still carry it
3 like we're going to fill it?

4

5 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We're going to fill
6 Bill's position this year. The way we manage that in
7 government is through salary savings. We don't get
8 additional money to pay people to move, but when you
9 hire a government employee we pay them to move and it
10 can cost as much as \$250,000.

11

12 MS. TAHBONE: So you're.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: But we're not
15 budgeted for that, so how we pay for that, how we
16 manage for that is through salary savings. So you
17 approve that over the course of your fiscal year and
18 then you can apply it toward the cost of that move.

19

20 MS. TAHBONE: What I heard at this
21 meeting was that that position, because the job
22 description is under review and it's going to be
23 changed, that that process to change that job
24 description is going to take a year.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It won't take that
27 long.

28

29 MS. TAHBONE: Six months?

30

31 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Probably.

32

33 MS. TAHBONE: And then the recruitment
34 process. I'm not sure how long that takes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No, that's start to
37 finish. Development of the PD, the recruitment and the
38 selection of the employee and filling the position can
39 be as short as three months and take as long as nine
40 months. It takes time for all that process to go.
41 What Fred was giving you was the extreme case.

42

43 MS. TAHBONE: So I'm getting more
44 confused. The job description, my understanding is
45 that we would have an opportunity to review and because
46 that position description was right at the beginning
47 when this whole Council started and there's been a lot
48 of change since that time as to what that position will
49 be doing.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We have that input.
2 Herman said that a committee, I don't remember which
3 committee, provided that input to Fred and Fred and I
4 are taking that under advisement.
5
6 MR. SQUARTSOFF: We did that.
7
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: They provided me with
9 the input already.
10
11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. We did in
12 our Native caucus, Sandy, if you remember.
13
14 MS. TAHBONE: I know we received a job
15 description, but I didn't know that was.....
16
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: I was given a list what
18 the Native caucus wanted.
19
20 MS. TAHBONE: So the new job
21 description is now available?
22
23 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's not available yet.
24
25 MS. TAHBONE: I mean the proposed job
26 description is available?
27
28 MR. ARMSTRONG: There's several steps
29 involved in this process. I put a PD together and Doug
30 gets a chance to review it and it goes to our human
31 resources department where it gets classified. It's
32 got to be rated to determine what GS level it should be
33 at. Doug still has the authority to change the PD to
34 better reflect what he wants. Once it's classified and
35 approved, the recruiting process can start.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's a very long,
38 convoluted process.
39
40 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
41 Sandy, I think too what you're asking you want to see
42 what the final product is on the job description
43 basically, right, when it's done?
44
45 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah.
46
47 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Is that possible?
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's possible. The
50 way position descriptions are written the general rule

1 of thumb as you've described what the person is going
2 to be doing 80 percent of the time and 20 percent of
3 the time is kind of covered by a little caveat phrase
4 that says miscellaneous duties on the side. What it
5 does is prevents an employee from saying well you asked
6 me to do something that's not in my PD, I'm not going
7 to do it. So that is the process we go through.

8
9 MS. TAHBONE: We have that same process
10 at Kawerak where we always add that at the end, and
11 other duties as assigned.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I'm going to tell you
14 though, Sandy, that I have your input. I have the
15 input from the Council. We're going to maintain
16 fidelity. We're not going to blow this off. But I'm
17 not going to send it back out to the Council for
18 review. It will slow this process down unnecessarily.
19 Quite frankly, it's an internal process of the Fish and
20 Wildlife Service.

21
22 MS. TAHBONE: I understand that. But,
23 you know, that's my staff support. Those are the
24 people I look to out in the region because I don't have
25 a biologist on board. My budget is such as it is. The
26 contribution that Kawerak makes to this process is more
27 than we get from the Federal government to be involved
28 in the process. So my expectations of staff are to be
29 able to provide certain information and when they're
30 bogged down, if you will, with administrative work
31 versus biology, it gets really frustrating and I know
32 that staff have not been available to provide us that.

33
34
35 I think it's real important that you
36 start looking at the need to put on a social scientist
37 because we really need to look at the local knowledge
38 that's available and start developing a program to
39 where we're annually acquiring that knowledge,
40 especially with climate change issues. We really need
41 to start developing our program to start pulling that
42 information in. I think it's going to be affecting our
43 harvest numbers and we need to start looking at how
44 that's going to be affecting our harvest numbers,
45 especially with the terminology that's currently used
46 in analyzing with the data we're receiving. So that's
47 why I was under the assumption it's still in the
48 drafting.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, I'll tell you

1 that that position is a biologist position, it's not a
2 socio-anthropologist or a socio ecologist or whatever
3 the title is. Fred and I have talked in the past about
4 that need and the way we've accommodated that need,
5 albeit it's not as comprehensive as we would like it,
6 but we've contracted out with sociologists in the past
7 to do ad hoc kind of work or assigned work. Dr.
8 Huntington has done some work for us when we were
9 considering adding communities and that's the way we
10 accommodated that need.

11
12 In general terms, it's about \$100,000
13 for a full-time employee, salary and benefits, and
14 that's a large sum of money, a big increase for this
15 group. I'm not sure we're going to be able to hire a
16 technical biologist with sociology skills as well. So
17 you're talking about potentially hiring two positions.

18
19 MS. TAHBONE: What I was saying, Doug,
20 my first thing was that the need that we have access to
21 technical support for biology. Then I said this
22 Council also needs to look at our need to have also a
23 social scientist. I'm not expecting that position
24 to.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: To do both things.

27
28 MS. TAHBONE: Right.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Herman.

31
32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I don't
33 think it was just you and Fred alone discussed that.
34 We did on the Council here too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Perhaps. My memory
37 fades over time.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: But the need wasn't
40 there constantly all the time, so that never did take
41 place. But we did discuss that before in the Council.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you.

44
45 MR. ARMSTRONG: Dale, did you have a
46 question?

47
48 MR. RABE: I'm just holding my head up.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let's continue on and

1 move forward with this presentation. This is a
2 presentation, it's not for action.

3

4 MR. ARMSTRONG: Just going over the
5 travel and then the next page is basically the proposed
6 survey projects that are to occur this year and below
7 that grant agreements based on 2008 totals.

8

9 MR. WOODS: I have a question for Fred
10 maybe. These numbers don't reflect the two villages
11 added on?

12

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: On this, no. What
14 Molly has agreed to do is provide me with those
15 numbers. We'd have to take that into consideration.
16 So you're looking at 2008 figures, 227,400. Granted,
17 they're not very much and doesn't cover for a full year
18 two meeting expenses. It's really difficult, but we'll
19 allocate what we can. These figures really came from
20 the Native caucus at the beginning. They haven't
21 changed them very much. The only changes we make are
22 based on what the Native caucus does.

23

24 So that's it. Any more questions?

25

26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Peter.

27

28 MR. DEVINE: I just had a question.
29 You said it cost like 250,000 to bring somebody from
30 out of state. Wouldn't it work to our benefit to
31 promote somebody from within the agency if they have
32 the qualifications to do the job? Somebody that's from
33 the State that's more sensitive to the region or the
34 state?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Yeah, that's sort of
37 a common sense approach and I agree. I guess we'll get
38 into details here. When we select a position, if we've
39 gone government-wide or nationwide, meaning anyone from
40 outside government can also apply. The government is
41 anyone within the Federal government or has rehire
42 status, like a veteran, can apply. You have to pick
43 the best qualified of the top three people when you go
44 nationwide.

45

46 You get a list of names and you have to
47 select from the top three or justify why you did not.
48 You cannot justify not making a selection because they
49 live in Florida. That's not justification. If they
50 are the best qualified, if they have the highest number

1 of years experience working in Alaska Native issues or
2 working in Native American issues, however they qualify
3 themselves, you have to say why you didn't pick the
4 best qualified individual or at least one from the top
5 three. So it's not the prerogative of the manager to
6 say I'm not going to pick you because you live in
7 Florida. We would be sued and we'd lose.

8

9 Herman.

10

11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. We
12 did knock some names around though, I think. Did we
13 give those to you guys, guys that had the interest that
14 were here in the state, some of our people?

15

16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It's their
17 prerogative to apply.

18

19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right. And another
20 thing, Fred, I don't envy you having to do this budget.
21 I know it's not an easy thing and to work on it and get
22 a zillion questions shot at you, so you did a good job.
23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thanks.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Herman.
28 Any other thoughts or comments? We've done this a
29 couple years now based on request
30 and I think we've done this in executive session in the
31 past because it makes it easier for discussion.
32 Something to consider.

33

34 All right. Let's move on to the next
35 agenda item. 2010 cooperative grants. Donna.

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: This should be short and
38 sweet unless there's a lot of questions. I've had some
39 questions in the past why people have gotten their
40 grant agreements in August and earlier. That was when
41 we had extra money from the previous fiscal year and we
42 had to do the grants early to accommodate using prior
43 year's money. So this year we didn't have any of that,
44 so nobody has received their grant packages yet. If
45 you think you're missing something, you aren't.

46

47 The grant packages will probably go out
48 sometime this month, so you should be receiving those.
49 The amount for the grant package you can see under the
50 FY10 column. The grants primarily is to be used for

1 the two regional meetings that you have within your own
2 region to outreach to the communities and then the
3 other thing it's primarily for information and
4 education to your regional folks. So getting the word
5 out and also getting their input back in.

6
7 That's pretty much it. As Fred
8 mentioned, we have two -- I don't want to call them
9 problem children, but two groups that haven't signed
10 grants for a couple years. Maniilaq actually hasn't
11 signed a grant in the past four years. Recently we've
12 had Southeast not sign last year and the year before
13 they didn't spend any of their money, so we just closed
14 the FY08 grant out a couple days ago. We gave them a
15 whole year to give us accounting, but they didn't give
16 us any, so we closed it out with a zero.
17 Unfortunately, because it was so late, we don't get use
18 of any of that money, so that 14,000 got basically
19 reabsorbed elsewhere. We can't access it.

20
21 Anyway, that's in a nutshell. Any
22 questions?

23
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a question.
25 Doesn't the grant agreement period expire for these
26 grants every year on December 31st?

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: No, they're fiscal year.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It ends in fiscal
31 year, but then they have 90 days to report, correct?

32
33 MS. DEWHURST: They have 90 days
34 technically.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The performance
37 period ends the end of the fiscal year. The grant
38 period expires December 31st.

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: Right. But then what I
41 found out working with our contracting office is if a
42 grant doesn't close out within those 90 days, there's
43 certain procedures you follow. They're kind of
44 laborious and it actually took us another several
45 months, almost six months, like in the case of
46 Southeast because they didn't close out.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Without getting into
49 the weeds, I'm going to instruct you and Fred -- I was
50 unaware of this. When this happens in the future, let

1 me know and we will turn it off quicker and we will do
2 it in time that we will be able to obligate that money.
3 That money has to be de-obligated and re-obligated by
4 the end of February every year.

5
6 MS. DEWHURST: Right.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So that gives us two
9 month. When a grantee is not performing, the grant
10 period expires December 31st, so that gives us two
11 months to reuse that money. That's the time that I
12 want to be made known so we can take action on that.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: The unique thing with
15 them, we've been sending communications both to Matt
16 Kookesh and Don Bremner, who both attended our meetings
17 in the past, and we send them certified and they just
18 keep getting returned. Nobody picks them up, nobody
19 gets them. I sent emails, we call them. It's kind of
20 a mystery. We have to research that.

21
22 MR. ARMSTRONG: We will do that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Thank
25 you.

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: Now Maniilaq, it's been
28 alluded to they've had a lot of turnover. I don't
29 think they've picked a new person to replace that
30 position yet.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Herman.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Donna, it looks good.
35 I know we won't see Tanana Chiefs in the red anymore,
36 so that's going to be another plus.

37
38 MS. KANGAS: I have a question. We
39 have 90 days to do a meeting in November, pay for it
40 and write a report.

41
42 MS. DEWHURST: No, you have 90 days
43 starting today to close out last year's grant to do all
44 the close-out paperwork and do any billing against last
45 years.

46
47 MS. KANGAS: So last year is over with.

48
49 MS. DEWHURST: Right.

50

1 MS. KANGAS: So I start out with 2010
2 funds?
3
4 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.
5
6 MS. KANGAS: Without a grant?
7
8 MS. DEWHURST: As Sandy mentioned,
9 there's a provision in there that you can charge back
10 90 days. From the day the grant is signed, you have a
11 90-day charge back period.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: What we try to do is
14 Donna has contacted a number of you and said we would
15 like to obligate, in the case of this year, 2009 funds
16 for 2010 work. So that allows you a signed agreement
17 to begin work earlier in the year and we do that and
18 that's used as a safety valve so we can obligate all of
19 our money. That then begs the question, if that's all
20 obligated, then that should leave us more money in the
21 next year.
22
23 The way Federal managers work is you
24 obligate money that's unexpended by a deadline.
25 Otherwise you lose authority to obligate it and that
26 basically allows you then to have more managerial
27 prerogative for funding when it comes in the succeeding
28 year. You do that when you have people that move and
29 leave. With a budget savings from salary, that's where
30 it typically comes from. There are 40 people in that
31 program, so people are always moving. If we have
32 salary savings or we have other expenses that projects
33 have come under budget, that rolls into us needing to
34 obligate about the middle of August every year.
35
36 MS. KANGAS: So would that go back into
37 my account?
38
39 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No, it does not roll
40 back into your account. You lose the authority to
41 obligate old money.
42
43 MS. KANGAS: Essentially I'm paying for
44 the 2009 meeting in 2010 funds.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Just the opposite.
47 You're paying for 2010 meeting in fiscal 2009.
48
49 MS. KANGAS: All right.
50

1 MS. DEWHURST: Actually none of the
2 grants were with '09 money this year they're all with
3 2010 money.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: FY10 money?
6
7 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh. We didn't do
8 any grants with '09 money.
9
10 MR. WOODS: She said there's no more
11 carry-over to allocate it.
12
13 MS. DEWHURST: Not this year. We
14 didn't do any carry-over.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. You have in
17 the past.
18
19 MS. DEWHURST: Yes.
20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you, Donna.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Donna.
24
25 MS. TAHBONE: I have another question,
26 but I'll just talk to Donna after the meeting.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. The next item
29 is executive director performance review. We had
30 intended to do this in executive session. I'm told by
31 your spokesperson from the Native caucus that he and I
32 will talk outside of executive session and off this
33 board.
34
35 MS. TAHBONE: So we'll take a break?
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Yeah, it's a good
38 idea. Let's take a break. Fifteen minutes.
39
40 (Off record)
41
42 (On record)
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Just so that you all
45 know, I'll kind of follow back on the earlier
46 discussions we've had today about the action we took to
47 approve the meeting at the spring to approve the annual
48 harvest survey. The note back from Bob and Russ is
49 that spring is best. So we did good.
50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Good. Thank you. Mr.
2 Chair.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Herman.
5
6 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 That's it.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You're welcome. We
10 are still on Item 10, new business. We're down to
11 discussion on September 24-25, 2009 meeting. What's
12 next. Mike.
13
14 MR. PEDERSON: Make a motion to approve
15 the letter that Patty gave out as our thing to move
16 further down.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: The white paper she
19 distributed two days ago?
20
21 MR. PEDERSON: Yes.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Motion to approve.
24 Second.
25
26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Mike.
29
30 MR. PEDERSON: I just want to thank I
31 guess the Service and the rest of the AMBCC people who
32 met in Anchorage the other week and I just want to
33 thank Patty for all of her work in making those simple
34 one-page questions into a nice reading.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: She did excellent
37 work and I thank her for it.
38
39 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair. I'll call for
40 the question.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Call the question.
43 Does anyone oppose adopting the white paper and
44 forwarding that on?
45
46 (No opposing votes)
47
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No opposition. This
49 motion carries. That was very easy. We're down to
50 2009 eider conservation on the North Slope report of

1 activities.

2

3 Let me give you the report. This was
4 on our agenda for last fall when we met in Dillingham
5 and we gave a presentation that suggested the
6 recommendation from the AMBCC for the 2009 season was
7 not going to end up in the 2009 regulations. It was
8 because of the Section 7 consultation process and
9 because of the need for additional conservation
10 measures. So we talked at length about that.

11

12 To report on activities from this past
13 year, I'm encouraged by the willingness of those
14 principal managers on the North Slope. It's the Native
15 Village of Barrow, ICAS, UIC and the North Slope
16 Borough. They were signatory to an MOU that we signed
17 with the Fish and Wildlife Service to work together to
18 get the message out to hunters that Steller's Eiders in
19 particular were in dire need of protection. As a
20 result, we had no report of hunting mortality for
21 Steller's Eiders.

22

23 So what encouraged me what the
24 willingness to sit at the table to discuss some very,
25 very thorny issues and issues that I recognize
26 personally as being very sensitive and not perceived as
27 being in favor of the hunting community. We recognized
28 that going in, but because of Mike's leadership and
29 Taqulik's leadership, Tommy Olamon, Dorry Lampy, Joe
30 Sage and Delbert Rexford, those individuals, in my
31 personal opinion, were exemplary in their leadership
32 and I want to take this opportunity to thank them
33 personally for that.

34

35 Just to let you all know that I don't
36 see additional regulations as the goal. That's not
37 what I see as the goal and I've made that clear in the
38 past. I see the goal to have hunting commensurate with
39 the traditions. That's the goal of this Council, to
40 manage the hunting activity so that the resource is
41 perpetuated. We have dual goals.

42

43 Knowing that it was less than desired
44 by the representatives of the hunting community up
45 there, it was a tenuous position that we were all in,
46 but it was necessary in order to get us to a place
47 where we could open the hunt. So, given that, I was
48 encouraged by the ability to work together.

49

50 What that means for 2010 is that you

1 will recall that in the spring meeting we took action
2 to approve based on the consent agenda process the
3 prior year's regulations unless there are additional
4 proposals that we are considering in the course of that
5 spring meeting. It was North Slope Borough's position
6 to revert to the 2008 regulations for approval. I
7 approved that in order to forward the recommendation to
8 the SRC.

9
10 In the interim, I met with Mike and
11 Taqulik and my boss, the regional director, in Barrow
12 and we talked about what we as an agency were going to
13 be able to support and to submit or take through the
14 SRC process. So the SRC received the recommendation
15 from the Council, which was to revert to the 2008
16 regulations for the North Slope Borough, the North
17 Slope region.

18
19 The Fish and Wildlife Service, Region
20 7, knowing that we had to take these regulations
21 through the Section 7 process, knowing that the 2008
22 regulations did not pass through the Section 7
23 consultation for 2009 and translated into changed
24 regulations, we recommended to the SRC that we repeat
25 the 2009 regulations rather than the 2008 regulations
26 as the AMBCC recommended.

27
28 Taqulik knew that that was going to
29 occur, so we made that recommendation and the SRC
30 adopted that recommendation from the Service so that
31 the approval that is now being vetted and, again, going
32 through the Section 7 consultation process is the 2009
33 regulations for the North Slope Borough.

34
35 That's what we are anticipating will go
36 through and be published as a proposed rule for public
37 comment. The AMBCC and the regional representatives
38 are at liberty to provide comment on that proposed rule
39 when it goes through. But the reason, again, that was
40 done was because 2008 regulations did not pass through
41 the Section 7 consultation process unaffected. Knowing
42 that they would not pass through 2009 process for 2010
43 regulations, we opted to streamline it and go with the
44 2009 regulations as a proposed rule.

45
46 So we are committed to continuing to
47 work with the hunters on the North Slope to continue to
48 convey information to that community and work with the
49 North Slope Borough representative to make sure that
50 this is as transparent a process, publicly known

1 process as can be so that public has an opportunity to
2 look at the proposed rule and to write to the Fish and
3 Wildlife Service when those comments are solicited and
4 provide their input.

5
6 So that's where we are and I want this
7 board to be fully cognizant of the process and where we
8 are and the position that Fish and Wildlife Service
9 has. So that's all I had for a report. Mike, did you
10 have anything you wanted to add?

11
12 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 As a result of all of our meetings, we have one last
14 meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss
15 what the next steps are for 2010. We came up with a
16 statement that I'd like to read for the record.

17
18 The Barrow Migratory Bird Task Force is
19 comprised of representatives from the Native Village of
20 Barrow, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope,
21 Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, the North Slope Borough
22 and subsistence hunters. The task force has worked
23 since September of 2008 on efforts to conserve
24 migratory birds and to continue the traditional hunting
25 practices that is the foundation of the Inupiat
26 culture.

27
28 The number of Steller's Eiders founded
29 in 2008 was not good. The task force and the local
30 hunters took leadership of developing a solution to the
31 problem by getting the word out into the community to
32 not shoot Steller's Eiders. Shooting those birds was
33 not good for their conservation and put at risk the
34 legal hunting season for other migratory birds on the
35 North Slope.

36
37 Members of the task force entered into
38 an MOU with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March
39 2009, commonly referred to as the Steller's Eiders
40 Protection Panel. This was done with a heavy heart as
41 the Inupiat have successfully regulated their own hunt
42 for millennia.

43
44 With the cooperation of local hunters,
45 the task force generated awareness regarding the
46 Steller's Eiders biological status and the laws
47 affecting the hunt. As a result of this effort, there
48 were no Steller's Eiders mortalities during the 2009
49 spring and summer subsistence season. There were only
50 four Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement

1 citations issued leading to the possession of lead
2 shot, all of which took place at the beginning of the
3 season.

4
5 The task force's goal is to build a
6 relationship of trust with the Federal Fish and
7 Wildlife Service so that ultimately control of the
8 traditional hunt may be returned to the Inupiat. The
9 task force and local hunters took essential steps in
10 this direction by participating in the 2009 MOU. In
11 recognition of this effort, the task force has
12 requested that the Fish and Wildlife Service return to
13 the regulatory regime in place to the August 2008
14 mortalities. The task force understands that the
15 biology and status of the Steller's Eiders have not
16 changed but conservation efforts in the North Slope
17 have.

18
19 The task force and local hunters will
20 continue to cooperate to conserve the Steller's Eiders
21 as well as the traditional subsistence hunt. As we
22 work toward development of the regulatory regime for
23 2010 on the North Slope, the task force invites the
24 Fish and Wildlife Service to acknowledge our
25 conservation efforts by working on a new MOU to better
26 address the concerns of the North Slope community. We
27 have some specific topics and questions that we would
28 like to discuss with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

29
30 Number one. What plans does the Fish
31 and Wildlife Service have for law enforcement on the
32 North Slope for the 2010 season?

33
34 Number two. What monitoring activities
35 does the Fish and Wildlife Service have planned for the
36 2010 season?

37
38 Number three. How will plans for the
39 above change if 2010 is a nesting year for Steller's
40 Eiders?

41
42 Number four. Can you clarify the
43 definition of monitoring for purposes of task
44 force/Fish and Wildlife Service cooperation? Is
45 monitoring merely a measure of biological indicators or
46 does it involve an assessment of hunter activity? For
47 example, examining or counting a hunter's catch. In
48 other words, how do you draw the line between
49 biological monitoring, monitoring hunters and law
50 enforcement?

1 Number five. How will the Fish and
2 Wildlife Service help enhance communication over the
3 winter and spring in planning for the 2010 season?
4 Specifically, how will communication be enhanced within
5 the monitoring, outreach and law enforcement
6 subcommittees?

7
8 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you, Mike.
9 This is read into the record, but I suspect this is
10 going to come to the Fish and Wildlife Service to
11 actually be asked to answer those questions.

12
13 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah. In accordance
14 with our last meeting with had with you all, you guys
15 gave us the opportunity to do this, how to work better
16 with you guys, so within the next day or two the mayor
17 will submit a letter to the regional director.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Great. Thank you
20 very much. So that's a report of the activities that
21 have occurred and you are now aware of how that
22 exchange is occurring and how management of that very
23 difficult and complex issue has occurred over the past
24 year and how we propose to continue to move forward,
25 which is work closely with that community to the degree
26 that we can so that we can have success. Success is
27 defined as eliminating or significantly reducing
28 incidental take of Steller's Eider. Herman.

29
30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
31 Sounds like you all made good progress this year.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Again, I'd like to
34 personally thank those leaders, including the mayor, I
35 failed to mention him, the leaders on the North Slope
36 and the various organizations that they represent. We
37 recognize as a management agency that we were not in a
38 good place for either side of the issue. The
39 conservation agency felt like it was not a great place
40 to be, nor the hunting community and their leadership
41 felt like it was a great place to be. It was a very
42 difficult situation and it remains difficult because
43 there are estimated to be fewer than 600 breeding birds
44 in Alaska, breeding Steller's Eiders, and that's the
45 population that is listed as threatened on the
46 endangered species list. Again, thank you, Mike.

47
48 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sandy.

1 MS. TAHBONE: I would also like to
2 acknowledge the work that the North Slope Borough has
3 done and the Service for working with the North Slope
4 Borough. It's going to make, I think, it easier for
5 our regional council to be able to work within the
6 process to address the conservation concerns with our
7 harvest.

8
9 I'm really thankful that the North
10 Slope Borough -- I'm not thankful that it happened or
11 that you guys had to be involved in it, but thankful
12 that the North Slope Borough does have resources that
13 they were able to fully engage themselves in this
14 process. I'm not sure how much they were able to
15 provide as far as their resources, but I know that
16 their staff within their game department have put a lot
17 of effort into it. I know they have legal resources,
18 so they're able to involve them.

19
20 So I'm really thankful to the North
21 Slope for providing the resources necessary to ensure
22 that their people were fully engaged in this process
23 and we're going to really look to what you folks
24 develop within your MOU and to learn from the mistakes,
25 if you will. Hopefully the Service has learned as
26 well, so the process will hopefully be not as
27 contentious or that everybody is on the same page and
28 that our hunters are respected, our communities are
29 respected and our traditions are respected.

30
31 So, again, I really would want to thank
32 the North Slope Borough for the effort they put in this
33 process.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Any other
36 comments?

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Let's
41 move to Item 11 on the agenda. Invitation for public
42 comments. We've completed our agenda, discussion of
43 the issues. Is there anyone in the audience that would
44 like to come to the mike?

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Seeing no hands,
49 we're going to move down to committee appointments and
50 assignments. I understand.....

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Native caucus.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALCORN:we need a Native
4 caucus for that. We'll recess for a few minutes for
5 the Native caucus and come back for the
6 recommendations.
7
8 (Off record)
9
10 (On record)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It looks as though
13 the caucus has returned. I'm going to call the members
14 back to their seats. We will wait until Herman sits
15 down to let us know the decision of the caucus.
16
17 Would anybody object to me just reading
18 these names? Okay, I'm just going to read these names
19 for the record. For the record, from the Native caucus
20 report, add Cara Bethe to the Technical Committee,
21 delete John Bacon from the Harvest Survey Committee,
22 delete Peter Devine from the Standard Operating
23 Procedures Committee.
24
25 MR. DEVINE: No, I'm staying.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Oh, okay. So we're
28 not deleting Peter's name from that. Add Frank Woods
29 to the Long Term Goals and Objectives Committee.
30 Replace Sandra Tahbone with Herman Squartsoff. It
31 doesn't say what committee.
32
33 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I'm sorry. To
34 serve as flyway council.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Oh, to serve as the
37 flyway council representative. Okay. Add Sandra
38 Tahbone to the Emperor Goose Management Planning
39 Committee. Delete Josh Bacon from the Exclusion
40 Committee. No change to the Harvest Limitation
41 Committee. Add Lisa Kangas to the Invitation
42 Committee. We have an Invitation Committee?
43
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Add Sandra
47 Tahbone to the Outreach Committee. Add Sandra Tahbone
48 to the Law Enforcement Committee. No change on the
49 Budget Committee.
50

1 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, take Sandy off the
2 Budget Ad Hoc Committee.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay, delete Sandy's
5 name. All right. No Council action is needed for
6 that, so we just take that under advisement. Herman.

7
8 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'll
9 give you a few that we know as chair of some of these
10 committees.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's a great idea.

13
14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: On SOP is myself,
15 Herman Squartsoff. Then Frank Woods is chair of
16 Invitation Committee. Patty is on which one you say?

17
18 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: For the Long
19 Term.

20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Long Term Goals is
22 Patty. Joeneal Hicks is chair on Law Enforcement.

23
24 MS. TAHBONE: Molly is chair of the
25 Harvest Survey Committee.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Do we have a chair
28 for the Emperor Goose Management Planning Committee?

29
30 MS. TAHBONE: There might already be
31 one, but I don't know. Tim Andrew.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: And the Exclusion
34 Committee?

35
36 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I don't know who that
37 one is.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I don't know that we
40 had one, but I was sort of functioning as the
41 coordinator to get the meeting going.

42
43 MR. DEVINE: Sounds good, Doug.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: For the Exclusion
46 Committee?

47
48 MR. DEVINE: Yeah.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That committee has

1 not met in a number of years because we've not
2 considered the issue of excluding the community until
3 we have a proposal to do so.

4
5 Harvest Limitations Committee, was
6 there a.....

7
8 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I think I ran that one
9 the last.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: You did, Herman?
12 Okay. Frank Woods is the Invitational Committee.
13 Outreach Committee.

14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Sandy?

16
17 MS. TAHBONE: I would suggest that be a
18 North Slope Borough representative since they have
19 knowledge and experience.

20
21 MR. PEDERSON: All right.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: We love volunteers.
24 Mike is a volunteer.

25
26 MS. KANGAS: Doug, can you add me to
27 the Outreach Committee.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Sure. Joeneal Hicks
30 chairs the Law Enforcement Committee, is that true?

31
32 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, he's the chair.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: We didn't take Mike
35 Smith off of that one. Lisa, do you want to be on that
36 one?

37
38 MS. KANGAS: On the Law Enforcement?

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Do you have
41 that, Fred, all the names?

42
43 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's okay. He's the
44 recordkeeper.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Does the State have
47 any suggestions or do you want to hold off?

48
49 MR. RABE: I'm going to hold off and
50 communicate directly through Fred.

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. That's your
2 prerogative to do so. I don't believe the Feds have
3 any changes to make. If we do, we'll consult with my
4 other division and notify Fred.

5
6 I do appreciate Council members
7 stepping up, identifying themselves as chairs, because
8 that is, in my experience, the best way we make
9 progress, is to have someone take ownership of that and
10 special interest. Thank you very much.

11
12 MR. RABE: Mr. Chairman. Can I ask
13 that even before the next meeting that we update the
14 document and distribute it to all Council members with
15 the chair positions identified so that interim
16 communications are facilitated.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. That's an
19 action we'll ask Fred to take.

20
21 MR. ARMSTRONG: When I get their names,
22 I'll update it and distribute it.

23
24 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chair. I know at the
25 previous meeting I discussed the need to have a
26 function and purpose statement for each of our
27 committees, responsibility. Like you mentioned,
28 there's certain committees that don't meet or that need
29 to meet annually, but they need to be in place in order
30 to address certain issues. So it would be nice if we
31 could have for each of our committees, since they are
32 standing committees, what their purpose and function
33 are.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. I think that's
36 a fair request. I don't think we need a motion to that
37 effect, but we can assign that to staff. To go back
38 through the minutes and to try to ferret out how and
39 why the committee was formed and what its charge was.

40
41 MS. TAHBONE: Correct.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Whether or not it's a
44 standing committee or an ad hoc committee.

45
46 MS. TAHBONE: Correct. For instance,
47 like with the Invitation, there might be some
48 direction, action, that the committees were directed to
49 work on and through either.....

50

1 MR. WOODS: And it would be great to
2 have as a chairman to have an agenda according to those
3 action items that we need to be acting on. So, thanks.

4
5 MS. TAHBONE: Like the Invitation
6 Committee, I know there's still work that's been
7 sitting on their table for at least a couple years. So
8 as they do go back through the minutes that they could
9 also pull out all the direction that has been given to
10 the various committees.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. And any
13 reports or any documents the committees have produced.

14
15 MS. TAHBONE: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
16 Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: A good way to
19 energize these committees again. Thank you. Council
20 and Staff comments. I'll first take comments from the
21 Council members. Any comments regarding the meeting or
22 regarding our actions of the past six months or pending
23 actions. Herman.

24
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
26 First of all, I want to thank Sandy for playing a good
27 host for us here in Nome and then the people here.
28 This is, what, your tribal now?

29
30 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, this is the Nome
31 Community Tribal facility complex.

32
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: They did great work
34 helping us out here too. And then everybody that made
35 it here. Our audience is not as big as it normally is,
36 but they were well accepted. Lili did a great job on
37 her reports and Dan. I want to thank Council. We did,
38 I think, a pretty good job. So thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Any other comments.
41 Peter.

42
43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Oh, I'm trying to
44 catch a 1:00 o'clock plane.

45
46 MR. DEVINE: I'd like to thank Sandy
47 for inviting us up to Nome and for throwing out a great
48 spread. The cook-out was awesome. I wish there were
49 more people that showed up. It seems like there is
50 very little participation, but I think it's important

1 for us to go out to the communities so that if people
2 do have concern, they could let us know.

3

4 As far as the hats, so people can
5 identify us as we're walking through AFN and all that,
6 they could also ask us questions and whatnot. I
7 thought this meeting went pretty good. I'm thankful for
8 being here. Now we'll be on our way.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. Any other
11 comments. Mike.

12

13 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Sandy. A
14 real pleasure to come to Nome again.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Dale.

17

18 MR. RABE: I just want to add to the
19 same. Thank you, Sandy, for an opportunity for my
20 first visit to Nome. I'm sure it won't be my last. I
21 think it was a good meeting. I'm particularly happy to
22 be able to be the State representative on the group. I
23 find the entire suite of things that we're discussing
24 both challenging and exciting in terms of the
25 opportunities that exist for everybody. I just want
26 that on the record.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thank you. And I'll
29 just echo the same thing. Thank you very much, Sandy.
30 This has been a wonderful venue and I think we've had
31 some good discussion and I think we made some good
32 decisions. I think our hunting community is adequately
33 and commendably represented by you all and I appreciate
34 that. Lisa and then Frank.

35

36 MS. KANGAS: Yeah, I thank Sandy for
37 the food and welcoming me to Nome. It's my first time
38 here and it's beautiful. I think this meeting went
39 pretty well. I have a lot to learn, but I'm looking
40 forward to learning it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Frank.

43

44 MR. WOODS: I'm just honored to attend
45 and thank you, Sandy, for all the traditional foods and
46 the dinner we had. I know how hard it is to put up
47 subsistence foods. It's a lot of work and it's really
48 grateful that you're sharing it. Not only your
49 personal stuff, but it looks like your husband is
50 helping out a lot too.

1 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I too
2 would like to echo probably everybody else in thanking
3 Sandy and Kawerak and Nome Eskimo community for
4 allowing us to come in for these few days. This is my
5 first time here too and it is a beautiful place and the
6 hospitality is awesome. So thank you so much, Sandy.
7 I appreciate it.

8
9 MS. TAHBONE: I have comments, of
10 course.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Final word?

13
14 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah. I've got a number
15 of them actually. I'd like to thank myself. No.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MS. TAHBONE: Just a number of things
20 with the harvest survey that was brought out. There's
21 some possibility or there will be some new funding
22 coming into the system to address climate change
23 issues. I think it would be in our best interest to
24 start planning for those dollars. Start identifying
25 the types of issues that we see out in our regions and
26 how climate change is affecting the habitat, migratory
27 birds migration patterns, timing of nesting. Just a
28 whole range of issues out there.

29
30 If we can get our foot in the door
31 first so we already have our issues on the table,
32 possibly start to develop the types of programs that we
33 would like to see, so hopefully the Service will be
34 sending out something to the Regional Councils to ask
35 us to do that.

36
37 Another thing is regarding capacity
38 building. Currently we have the ADF&G doing the data
39 management, but I really would like us to look at
40 starting capacity building out in the regions, those
41 regions that have that ability to assume some of that
42 responsibility. It might help speed up with our
43 ability to get the data before our regional committees
44 and this committee. So I'd like maybe the Survey
45 Committee might be able to look at that as a future
46 agenda item.

47
48 Then regarding the savings that this
49 program might see, whether it be through Staff or other
50 savings or other areas under your budget, Doug, I would

1 like to see funds be made available -- if possible,
2 when we do have our meeting out in a region, make funds
3 available to that hosting region that they're able to
4 bring in at least their executive committee to observe.

5

6

7 This was such a great opportunity for
8 my council to be able to come in. Unfortunately the
9 tribes that reside here in Nome were unable to attend.
10 We have some vacancies. Anyway, it would have been
11 nice to pull some from our outlying villages to have
12 them come into Nome to be able to observe. So I would
13 recommend that if those funds, if we do have any
14 savings and it's our fall meeting, the end of the year,
15 so hopefully funds can be made available to the hosting
16 region.

17

18 I did note that we did receive during
19 this meeting a resolution from the North Slope Borough,
20 which was dated August of this year. I'm wondering if
21 that's going to be on our next agenda for us or was
22 there just a form letter that went out in response to
23 that?

24

25 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I looked at the
26 resolution. I'm drawing a blank right now.

27

28 MS. TAHBONE: It was requesting action
29 from this Council.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I need to find it.
32 Herman.

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Didn't you say that
35 was just for information?

36

37 MR. PEDERSON: Well, you want us to
38 update our resolutions. It's always been an issue with
39 us. It requests the AMBCC to recommend an exception
40 for duck stamps and hunting licenses. In our trip back
41 east, Patty, Sandy and I met with a congressional
42 delegation and talked about some of our issues. Not
43 only this, we talked about the need for more money for
44 the surveys and other stuff that we had in our regions.
45 I'd like to thank Fred for setting up all those
46 meetings with the congressional delegation.

47

48 We just wanted to update our resolution
49 that we did in the past. Maybe we could just bring it
50 up at the next spring meeting to see how Sky Starky and

1 those of us that are working on this issue to get an
2 exemption, by then we should have an update of what
3 we've been doing.

4
5 I know Sky and them went to D.C. before
6 we did, so the congressional delegation was already
7 familiar with it. So more or less right now a point of
8 information, but I think it would be good to get an
9 update from the AVCP agent because they have been
10 taking the lead. We have been meeting telephonically
11 off and on since July.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: So the request is to
14 put it on the next meeting agenda.

15
16 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chair. It's
17 requesting action from this, so I think it needs to be
18 addressed by whatever the outcome is.

19
20 I would also like to encourage more
21 coordination with the resources that are available,
22 both at the Fish and Wildlife Service level and the
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A lot of the
24 funding that is out there for migratory birds goes
25 directly to the tribes. The tribes are privy yet to
26 those funds other than through the tribal grants. In
27 particular, with the ADF&G.

28
29 Looking forward to really developing a
30 really good gun safety program within our region, one
31 that's going to stick there throughout the years. It's
32 a really big issue with our people. They see the
33 opportunity provided in the urban areas and I think
34 that same opportunity should be afforded out in the
35 rural area, so I'm really looking forward to developing
36 a program.

37
38 The white paper that was developed, I
39 was kind of not sitting here when the motion was made.
40 I'm not sure if it was made a part of the record.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It was.

43
44 MS. TAHBONE:or was it just to
45 develop a letter from that?

46
47 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Well, it was. It was
48 to approve the white paper as written and distributed.
49 Mike made that motion. When I reiterated the motion, I
50 included to task the Fish and Wildlife Service with

1 developing a letter that would convey that and those
2 questions to the Service regional director and
3 ultimately to either the solicitor or the Flyway
4 Council.

5
6 MS. TAHBONE: So I would like to have
7 it a part of this meeting record.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: It is. It's in the
10 record.

11
12 MS. TAHBONE: In it's entirety?

13
14 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: That's a good
15 question. I don't know that we actually attach
16 documents and circulate it as part of the official
17 record.

18
19 MS. TAHBONE: If we need to read it. I
20 think it's a real important document that this Council
21 has produced.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Let me ask Joe. Is
24 it possible, Joe, that we provide you this and then you
25 could type it in?

26
27 REPORTER: Yes. Just say please
28 include this in the record.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. Let's include
31 this document in the record.

32
33 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chairman. I make a
34 motion that we include the white paper on the record
35 for this meeting.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have a motion. Do
38 I have a second?

39
40 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Second. Any
43 discussion. I'm going to call the question. Anyone
44 opposed to including the white paper that we've already
45 approved into the record?

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Seeing no opposition,
50 motion carried.

1 WHITE PAPER ON THE
2 FALL AND WINTER SUBSISTENCE HARVEST
3 OF MIGRATORY BIRDS
4

5 Submitted by the
6 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
7

8 History and Introduction
9

10 In the mid 1980's, Alaska Native Tribes
11 and Alaska Native Organizations began working with the
12 U.S. Government to legalize the traditional harvest of
13 migratory birds in Alaska during spring and summer
14 months. Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
15 Congress, and the State of Alaska resulted in an
16 amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty which authorized
17 the United States to establish a subsistence harvest of
18 birds, their eggs and down in any season for the
19 Indigenous people of Alaska. In 1996, the protocol was
20 sent to the United States Senate and passed as law in
21 1997. This prompted the State of Alaska, U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Service, and Alaska Natives to work together to
23 create the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
24 (AMBCC). The Council has worked for the past nine
25 years to establish regulations governing the
26 subsistence harvest of migratory birds and their eggs
27 during the spring and summer.
28

29 This is still a relatively new process
30 and as such, new regulations and amendments to current
31 regulations continue to be proposed to improve the
32 program. Since the inception of this co-management
33 body, the management of migratory bird species has also
34 improved as well as the accuracy of the harvest data.
35 Throughout this process, the co-management bodies have
36 received input from the hunters they represent
37 expressing a desire to legalize their traditional and
38 cultural practice of hunting migratory birds for
39 subsistence in the fall and winter months.
40

41 The current regulatory processes divide
42 subsistence hunting activities by arbitrary season
43 dates. Indigenous hunters follow the seasons of the
44 animal, not a calendar. They hunt birds while they are
45 present. The regulations affecting hunter activities
46 shift from a subsistence focus to a sport focus on
47 September 1. Sport focused regulations do not account
48 for efficient harvest techniques, customs, or cultural
49 traditions required to meet subsistence needs.
50

1 regulatory system to accommodate a fall
2 and winter subsistence harvest season?
3 Without legal expertise on staff, it
4 was difficult for the meeting
5 participants to devise a way to address
6 the situation that have not been
7 presented here, it would be helpful to
8 share them with the AMBCC and staff.
9 For example, the AMBCC would be willing
10 to become a voting member on the
11 Pacific Flyway Council. Although the
12 viability of this idea is unknown, it
13 appears to be worth pursuing for this
14 issue and other issues that may arise
15 in the future.

16
17 4. What operational procedures and
18 processes/mechanisms does that AMBCC
19 need to have in place in order to
20 address issues related to a fall and
21 winter subsistence harvest season?
22 Although the Protocol to the Migratory
23 Bird Treaty and the By-Laws of the
24 AMBCC authorize the AMBCC to address
25 migratory bird issues outside of the
26 spring and summer seasons, the
27 Procedural Regulations appear to be
28 uncharacteristically restrictive.
29 Short of amending the Procedural
30 Regulations, are there other documents
31 that need to be amended in order to
32 legally authorize the AMBCC to work on
33 this issue?

34
35 5. Given current processes, what
36 options does the AMBCC have to engage
37 policy makers (the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
38 Service, its Service Regulations
39 Committee, the Flyway Councils, and/or
40 U.S. Congress) for the fall and winter
41 regulatory process to meet the needs of
42 the subsistence users? This question
43 reiterates earlier questions about
44 processes for amending current federal
45 law and regulations. Various options
46 were discussed at the Special Meeting,
47 including: a) establishing a new
48 organization comprised of Tribes and
49 modeled after the Alaska Eskimo Whaling
50 Commission, b) address the situation

1 through the government-to-government
2 consulting process, c) change the
3 Procedural Regulations to broaden the
4 scope of the roles and responsibilities
5 of the AMBCC, and d) submit fall and
6 winter harvest subsistence regulations
7 through the Flyway Council process.
8

9 In addition to the legal questions
10 surrounding this issue, discussion also centered on
11 utilizing the existing process to accomplish the goal.
12 Technical staff suggested submitting proposals species-
13 by-species to the Flyway Council, while others
14 suggesting submitting proposals in the same way the
15 earlier spring and summer proposals were submitted
16 (region-by-region). The big unknown is how the Flyway
17 Councils (specifically the Pacific Flyway Council)
18 would address proposals regarding a fall and winter
19 subsistence season, as well as the reluctance the AMBCC
20 may face by understanding of all the challenges
21 surrounding this endeavor, the following questions have
22 been devised for the Flyway Councils.

23
24 1. What is the process for the AMBCC to
25 submit a proposal through the Pacific
26 Flyway Council that addresses
27 subsistence harvest needs in the fall
28 and winter? Currently the AMBCC
29 consults with the Pacific Flyway
30 Council on spring and summer
31 regulations. These regulations are
32 submitted to the SRC directly from
33 AMBCC for approval. This question
34 focuses on providing an opportunity for
35 the AMBCC to affect regulations
36 regarding fall and winter harvests by
37 going directly to the Pacific Flyway
38 Council rather than the Service
39 Regulations Committee.
40

41 Summary and Other Considerations

42
43 It is clear that amending the current
44 regulations to allow for a fall and winter subsistence
45 harvest is not a simple endeavor. The next course of
46 action for the AMBCC will be to take action based upon
47 the responses received from the Department of Interior
48 Solicitor and the Pacific Flyway Council. Other points
49 to consider and keep on the agenda if and when they
50 become relevant are as follows:

1 1. If the Pacific Flyway Council is
2 able to entertain proposals for fall
3 and winter subsistence regulations from
4 the AMBCC, we will need to find out a)
5 if we can submit them as a suite of
6 proposals (region and region) or b) if
7 a better strategy would be to submit
8 proposals species by species.
9

10 2. The other consideration is that of
11 the State of Alaska and its
12 constitutional requirements to provide
13 hunting opportunity for all residents.
14 With this restriction by the state
15 representative on the AMBCC and the
16 AMBCC's voting policy of consensus, can
17 this issue be addressed by the AMBCC?
18

19 All things considered, it is very
20 important for all members of the AMBCC to remain
21 committed to this endeavor on behalf of the subsistence
22 hunters of Alaska.
23

24 MS. TAHBONE: Lastly, I would like to
25 thank Staff for again putting all our materials
26 together, realizing that they do have a lot of
27 responsibility with just a few on board and with all
28 the other issues that have come up this past year, so I
29 really would like to thank Donna for her hard work.
30 I'm used to going to Bill and now it's Donna. So I'm
31 really feeling for her, the number of hats that she's
32 having to use right now. I'd like to thank Fred for
33 the work that he's doing and yourself, Doug, and your
34 Staff.
35

36 I'm really looking forward to being
37 engaged and our region being engaged in the process
38 regarding our conservation concerns in our region. I'm
39 looking forward to seeing the Fish and Wildlife Service
40 in action.
41

42 I'd really like to thank Nome Eskimo
43 Community. They've done a really fine job hosting us
44 in their building and if we could send them a thank you
45 as well from the Council for the work that they're
46 doing. Tissy Barengo (ph) was the executive director.
47 The gal that was tasked out to help us was Lynn
48 Kamuktok (ph).
49

50 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Would you provide

1 those names and spellings.

2

3 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, I sure can. I was
4 hoping we would have had a representative from AVCP at
5 this meeting. But I'm glad for everybody who came and
6 they enjoyed themselves hopefully. Those of you that
7 are not going to be catching tonight's flight we'll
8 have the best fun. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Thanks, Sandy. I
11 think all the Council members have spoken. Fred, do
12 you have anything to say or Donna?

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: I just appreciate Sandy
14 and the tribe. One thing as we leave I would really
15 encourage the committee chairs to contact us and remind
16 us when you're going to meet. Donna and I have a lot
17 of things on our plate on a daily basis. We need to be
18 reminded that some of these things are outstanding.
19 That would help us out immensely. I appreciate that.

20

21 As far as the harvest survey contracts
22 and the grant agreements, we'll try to keep the Council
23 abreast of progress in that regard. That's it, Mr.
24 Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Donna, do you have
27 anything that you wanted to say?

28

29 MS. DEWHURST: We trying a new format
30 on the notebooks.

31

32 MR. DEVINE: I like the old ones
33 better. Oh, those ones are nice.

34

35 MS. DEWHURST: These. It's saving us
36 about \$75 doing it this way versus the other way. I
37 wanted to see the Council's opinion, did this work for
38 folks or do they like having the notebooks better.

39

40 MS. TAHBONE: I prefer the old method
41 because when we do get additional paperwork, it's
42 easier for me to get that three-hole punch and just
43 slip it in versus trying to -- and it's easier for me
44 to duplicate copies.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I keep all of my
47 binders. I have them dating back to 2000 on a shelf
48 and I label them. You're right, it's easier to insert
49 stuff. So that is my institutional memory on a shelf.
50 So when they're bound like this it's much more

1 difficult to insert these. So I personally prefer the
2 binders, but I understand the difficulty of moving
3 boxes of binders versus one box of these things.
4 Herman.

5
6 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. No, I like
7 this because it is easier than having the big binder
8 and then try to take it all out of there. It gets
9 messed up. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: All right. Any other
12 thoughts on that particular topic. Sandy.

13
14 MS. TAHBONE: (Away from microphone)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Maybe there's a way
17 to accomplish both. That is to bring these unbound,
18 three-hole punched and when you go back, if you prefer
19 a binder, we can get you a binder, or if you go back to
20 your office and have a binder, you can stick it in a
21 binder. That sort of accomplishes both needs the way I
22 see it. A binder is not expensive. To me, it's not a
23 cost issue for \$75 twice a year. It's logistically
24 getting a couple, three boxes of these things out to a
25 meeting and back.

26
27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Bulky.

28
29 MS. TAHBONE: So, Mr. Chair, I'm
30 expected to bring my binder to the next meeting?

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: No, when you get back
33 home.

34
35 MS. TAHBONE: I'm just kidding.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay. The next item.
38 We've had enough of that. Pass the gavel to the
39 incoming chair and I will hand the gavel to Herman. He
40 has one order of business. Excuse me?

41
42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: We want to get a
43 picture.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay, handing him the
46 gavel.

47
48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Read my shirt at the
49 same time. Can you read my shirt?

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I like to
2 (indiscernible).
3
4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pagook (ph). Do you
5 know what that means?
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: I have no idea.
8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: That means borrowing
10 on the basis of no return.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALCORN: Okay, I like to
13 receive.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: I'm sorry you
16 won't see this again, neither will Dale. So we have
17 this. I've pagooked it. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chair.
19
20 MR. ALCORN: You have an order of
21 business. We can't adjourn yet.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: Right. Next item
24 on the agenda, date and place of next meeting. I would
25 suggest we have it in Kodiak, our spring meeting. Doug
26 did mention it's easier to have it in Anchorage with
27 the Staff and everything else, but weather-wise Kodiak
28 in the fall time is a little tougher getting in and out
29 of there than it is here.
30
31 We could pick a time. I guess the only
32 calendar thing we have in here is April.
33
34 MS. TAHBONE: Mr. Chair. I know one of
35 the biggest concerns is budget and I would rather see
36 those funds that we would have to expend sending all
37 the staff that's required to be at our spring meeting
38 -- I'd rather see those funds used elsewhere. If we're
39 going to see any savings, I'd like to see those savings
40 come back and used for the regional. It would be nice
41 if we could just make it a tradition, if you will to
42 have our fall meetings out in the regions. Because
43 there is a fall meeting, there's a possibility that
44 there might be savings that could be used to bring in
45 Council members from that region for observation. That
46 would be my position.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: You have a good
49 point there, Sandy. I was just thinking weather-wise.
50 I don't know what the other Council members feel, but

1 you're right on that too.

2

3 MR. ALCORN: These meetings do cost
4 about twice what a meeting in Anchorage costs because
5 of the additional airfare associated with it. The
6 spring meeting is such a critical meeting for us that I
7 have a lot of my staff attend from the other division,
8 the Migratory Bird Management Division, and the
9 Ecological Services and Law Enforcement programs also
10 attend. So it would significantly raise the cost of us
11 meeting in locations for the spring.

12

13 I like Sandy's idea of a fall meeting
14 traditionally in the regions. I think it's very
15 important that we do meet regularly in the regions to
16 give opportunities to participate and understand how we
17 do business. I do prefer that as a tradition. I did
18 like your idea of maybe getting additional funding for
19 Council members to attend. I think it would really
20 benefit them and us and a good exchange.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: Thank you, Doug.
23 Dale.

24

25 MR. RABE: Mr. Chair. I concur with
26 the thoughts about the spring meeting being in a
27 central location like Anchorage, although the State
28 probably doesn't invest quite as much, but there are a
29 lot of Staff that attend that and a central location is
30 important.

31

32 In terms of the invitation for the
33 fall, if there's flexibility within the Council to make
34 it a little earlier because of weather issues, that
35 might be something we could consider too.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: Thank you. Doug.

38

39 MR. ALCORN: If we do agree to meet in
40 Kodiak in the fall, there is a standing meeting of the
41 Association of Fish and Wildlife agencies that always
42 occurs usually the second and third week in September
43 every year. So it would be difficult for me and I
44 presume you too, Dale, to have an earlier meeting
45 because of the conflict of that standing national
46 meeting that we regularly attend.

47

48 MR. RABE: Unless it preceded it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: The first week of

1 September? Would that be better?
2
3 MR. ALCORN: I could do that.
4
5 MS. TAHBONE: Point of order. We're
6 talking about our next meeting.
7
8 MR. ALCORN: Our next meeting is the
9 spring meeting.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: Anybody else have
12 any comment? It sounds like Anchorage. Can we look
13 for a day. It looks like the only calendar month we
14 have in front of us is April. I don't know when Easter
15 is this year. That's the only conflict I have and I
16 need to be there.
17
18 MR. RABE: Mr. Chairman. I have a
19 conflict through the 13th of April, so any time after
20 that I'm available.
21
22 MR. WOODS: APRIL 15.
23
24 MR. ALCORN: So perhaps the week of the
25 19th in Anchorage. That works for me.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: I'll try that.
28 I'll look at my calendar with the church thing and see
29 where we're at there. The 19th would be a workshop.
30
31 MR. ALCORN: Tuesday, the 20th, would
32 be a workshop.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: So you want to do
35 travel on the 18th?
36
37 MR. ALCORN: Travel would be on the
38 19th. The workshop would be on the 20th. The AMBCC
39 meeting would be Wednesday and Thursday, 21st and 22nd.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: Everybody pretty
42 much agree on that? Does that sound okay, Mike?
43
44 MR. PEDERSON: April 19th and 20th?
45
46 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: Yes, 19th to the
47 21st and then travel back on the 22nd.
48
49 MR. PEDERSON: That will be fine.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: Travel on the
2 19th, workshop will be the 20th, 21st and 22nd will be
3 the meeting, then head back out on the 23rd.
4
5 MR. PEDERSON: So, Mr. Chair, Doug and
6 Fred. I remember the last time you guys had issues
7 when we met because (indiscernible) regulations and
8 we'll do that for 2011? Is that right?
9
10 MR. ALCORN: No. No.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: All right.
13
14 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chairman. Move to
15 adjourn.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: The motion has
18 been made to adjourn. Second.
19
20 MR. RABE: Second.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SQUARTSOFF: So moved. We're
23 adjourned.
24
25 (Off record)
26
27 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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