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VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FALL MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Members Present:

- Bruce Dale, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Pete Probasco, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
- Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
- Mike Pederson, North Slope Region, Barrow
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Mike Hoffman, Association of Village Presidents
- Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

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

2
3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 9/1/2016)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Good morning,
8 everybody. Welcome to day two of the AMBCC fall
9 meeting. We're going to start off this morning with an
10 update on field season on Steller's eider release on
11 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta with Neesha Stellrecht.

12
13 While we're waiting for Neesha to come
14 up here we do have some additions to the agenda that we
15 wanted to point out. We figured under council and
16 staff comments we could do a signing ceremony of the
17 AMBCC Emperor Goose Management Plan. Also we wanted to
18 do some AMBCC recognition. So is everybody okay with
19 that addition on the agenda.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So we'll
24 add that under council and staff comments. Also while
25 we're waiting for set-up here we're going to pass
26 around Liliana's AFN sign-in sheet. Those who are
27 planning on going to AFN if you could help with the
28 booth and also your web contact information.

29
30 MS. STELLRECHT: Good morning. Neesha
31 Stellrecht. I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
32 Service, Endangered Species Program in Fairbanks,
33 Alaska. I'm going to apologize in advance. Things have
34 been really crazy, so I haven't had a whole lot of time
35 to think through this, but I'm going to do my best to
36 give you guys an update on the 2016 field season for
37 the Steller's eider reintroduction program. I've got
38 Dave Safine in the back who is going to help me through
39 the presentation if I need it.

40
41 Just as a reminder I was here in April
42 to give you an update on our plan for the 2016 season.
43 We had decided to use the surrogate approach, which was
44 using wild surrogate hens to incubate captive produced
45 Steller's eiders eggs and hatch, rear and hopefully
46 fledge them off the delta, so that's what we were
47 planning to do this year.

48
49 I'm just going to go through and tell
50 you kind of what we did and basically the results that

1 we have today and where we're headed in the future. We
2 had several learning objectives that I considered
3 somewhat basic just because we're doing this project in
4 phases. We're in the experimental phase. We're
5 testing methods. So everything from just getting our
6 camp deployed to breakdown, everything in between was
7 considered a learning objective, whether we could do
8 all these things successfully and where we could
9 improve.

10

11 So I'll just go through these kind of
12 in a series of how we went through the season and tell
13 you about each one of them. For deployment we had a
14 fair amount of help and support from the Yukon Delta
15 Refuge. They flew out most of our crew, but because
16 there was so many other things going on with other
17 projects and we had shortages of pilots and planes we
18 ended up working with Newtok, kind of a last-minute
19 thing.

20

21 We flew all of our gear out to Newtok,
22 hired a bunch of locals, they helped us get gear from
23 the runway to the river, loaded it up in their boats
24 and drove us to Kigigak Island where our project took
25 place, so that was extremely successful and we chose to
26 do that again at breakdown, which I'll tell you about
27 at the end here. We had several local hires. It just
28 worked out really, really slick, so that was a bonus of
29 the project.

30

31 So then we got to Kigigak Island. We
32 set up camp. That all went just fine. Began nest
33 searching. We found many nests. So the goal was to
34 use Common eiders, Northern Pintail and Greater Scaup
35 as our three surrogates, so we were looking for those
36 nests. We found hundreds of nests to use as
37 surrogates. This is just a breakdown of all the nests
38 we found. I don't remember the total number, but I can
39 get that if people are interested.

40

41 So then we had the surrogate nest. We,
42 of course, had to candle the nest, figure out the
43 timing, make sure everything was going to sync with the
44 eggs that were coming out. So then we went into the
45 egg transport phase, which was another learning
46 objective, so we had captive-produced eggs at the
47 SeaLife Center. They went through a pretty intense
48 disease screening process, then they were cleared to go
49 into the field. They were put into these pelican
50 cases, driven from the SeaLife Center to Anchorage,

1 flown on Raven out to Bethel and then we were picked up
2 by the Refuge and flown out to Kigigak Island. So
3 there was quite the process to transport Steller's
4 eider eggs.

5
6 Once they got to camp they were put in
7 incubators and candled after -- I think it was three
8 days to determine fertility and viability. Then at
9 about 10 days we placed them under the surrogates that
10 we had determined were at the right stage in
11 incubation. So we had a total of 86 eggs that were
12 flown out. Out of those 86, 34 were infertile or died
13 in the incubator before the swap. At the end we had
14 four eggs that we weren't able to use because of the
15 timing. We didn't have any surrogates to put them
16 under.

17
18 So the incubation at camp we had tried
19 that actually in 2015 with the pintail eggs that I
20 talked about last year. We didn't have any problems
21 with the incubators at camp. All of the incubation in
22 the field was successful.

23
24 So then we did what we called the
25 clutch swap. We had 48 eggs that were placed in nine
26 surrogates, five common, three scaup, one pintail.
27 Eight out of the nine surrogates returned and incubated
28 after the egg swap. So we basically walked out to the
29 nest, swapped the eggs and then we had cameras on the
30 nest and based on that camera footage we determined
31 that eight out of nine came back and incubated those
32 eggs after the swap.

33
34 So then about two days before hatch we
35 attempted to capture the nine surrogates. We had four
36 successful attempts. We capture three scaup and one
37 common and got transmitters on them. Two commons we
38 failed to capture and then three weren't attempted
39 because they had already been depredated prior to the
40 capture event.

41
42 So then we monitored. Three days after
43 they were supposed to hatch we would go back and check
44 to see. We learned that four had abandoned and
45 determined that they either abandoned two of them after
46 the capture attempt and two after the clutch swap. I
47 believe that was four Commons. I have that data here,
48 but I believe the four Common eiders abandoned after
49 the attempt or after the swap. One NOPI was depredated
50 by an Arctic fox and one I think -- or pintail, sorry.

1 And then I think another scaup was depredated by a fox.

2

3 Two of our scaup hatched the Steller's
4 eider eggs. One hatched four of nine eggs and one
5 hatched six of eight eggs. So we had little fuzzy
6 duckling on the Yukon Delta.

7

8 So then we monitored. We did some
9 telemetry. I forgot to mention we had a crew of seven
10 folks and one was Randall who was an ANSEP student. He
11 spent maybe a month and a half, two months with us and
12 then he went to work with the Yukon Delta Wildlife
13 Refuge on a couple waterfowl projects they had. He was
14 an absolute rock star. He's here at UAF studying
15 wildlife biology and mathematics. So he was a fun
16 addition to the crew that we didn't anticipate having.

17

18 So we monitored the birds. We had the
19 two scaup that hatched the eggs. When we went to
20 monitor we found one hen. We didn't find any of her
21 ducklings. She flushed pretty quickly, flew around.
22 They looked for her I think a day or two later and I
23 don't think found her again. We never did see her
24 ducklings. We only saw them on the camera footage. So
25 we think they probably survived maybe a day before they
26 were depredated.

27

28 The second hen that hatched eggs that
29 was six of eight we determined that they hatched by the
30 egg membranes. We never did find her ducklings. I
31 think they found her just one time in monitoring events
32 and then she flushed and we never did see her again
33 either. So we had ducklings, but they didn't make it
34 very far as far as we can tell. We're still reviewing
35 footage, so we don't have all the details on what
36 happened.

37

38 So there's a picture of the scaup with
39 the four ducklings and then a picture of the nest with
40 the egg membranes.

41

42 So once we had the final fate of the
43 final nest we broke down camp. We started I think
44 about May 17th and ended around July 27th. Again we
45 had breakdown. The Refuge was pretty busy with all the
46 projects they had going on, so we just did a call-out
47 to Newtok. We had several people that were willing to
48 help. It was pretty awesome.

49

50 We had two guys' boats that were just

1 perfect. They texted we're leaving on this day. They
2 went out, everything went slick, picked them up, got
3 all the gear in the boats, brought them back to Newtok,
4 helped us unload all the gear. We got Grant Aviation
5 to pick up all of our gear and fly it to Bethel. It
6 was slick. So I think in the future if we continue
7 we'll definitely rely on local help to get our work
8 done.

9

10 That might be all I have. So as far as
11 next steps go, like I said, things have been crazy.
12 Everybody just came back from the field. We're going
13 through data, doing debriefs. I just got back. We
14 went down to the SeaLife Center with the entire crew
15 and met with the SeaLife Center folks. Did a field
16 debrief, so we heard from everybody that was out in the
17 field about what worked, what didn't, improvements.

18

19 Then myself and Kate Martin, the Eider
20 Recovery Coordinator, met with Tuula, who is the Eider
21 Program Manager at the SeaLife Center yesterday and
22 basically just thinking through next steps, gathering
23 information. Tomorrow I'll head back to Fairbanks and
24 meet with the bosses and we'll continue thinking
25 through the information we have and where we're going
26 to head next.

27

28 That's all I have, I think. Questions.

29

30 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thanks. This is
31 Brandon Ahmasuk, subsistence director for Kawerak.
32 This reintroduction project, do you foresee any problem
33 with these ducklings when they grow up trying to mate
34 with their own kind? I've seen documentaries even with
35 gorillas, California condors, where they're raised by
36 people and they grow up thinking they're people. Is
37 that an issue that you foresee with this?

38

39 MS. STELLRECHT: Yeah, that's an
40 excellent question. There are a lot of unknowns as you
41 can imagine. I don't think we -- I can't say for sure
42 that we know the answer to that question. The hope
43 would be that they know who they are and once they grow
44 up and fledge, if they do, that they would find their
45 molting and wintering grounds, but we don't know that
46 for sure. That information is not there. But that's
47 clearly the hope. We don't want them growing up and
48 thinking that they're humans or imprinting on humans
49 and things like that.

50

1 We did have once, it's not huge, but
2 when we did the project with the pintails in '15, we
3 raised them, you know, hatched them in the field and
4 humans raised them and reared them and fed them, then
5 we released them at two to three weeks and we did get
6 one data point that one fledged and flew to California
7 where it was supposed to go and was shot by a hunter
8 and the band was turned in, which is how we learned
9 that. So somehow that bird knew, which is promising,
10 but it's an N of 1.

11
12 I don't know, Dave, if you have
13 anything to add to that. I'm not a waterfowl biologist
14 I will admit. So if there's anyone out there that
15 knows more about waterfowl than I do, that's likely a
16 lot of you, feel free to chime in.

17
18 MR. DANIELS: Bryan Daniels, Yukon
19 Delta. I know with nest dumping in the Prairie Pothole
20 Region it's very common. They're raised by other
21 species and there's never been an issue. You know,
22 there is hybridization out there obviously, but for the
23 most part they know who they are, where they're
24 supposed to go. So I don't see an issue with them being
25 reared by surrogates and not knowing the innate
26 migration patterns and future nesting and partnering
27 from that end point.

28
29 MR. HOFFMAN: I have a couple
30 questions. It doesn't quite pertain to -- well, first
31 of all, I guess, would you consider it a success? I
32 know this is an introductory and we're trying to figure
33 out if it will work, so success?

34
35 MS. STELLRECHT: That's an excellent
36 question. I think personally I consider the field
37 season a success because of the learning objectives
38 that we had. At this stage of the project, and it's an
39 adaptive management project, so almost every year,
40 every couple years, we're going to revisit and see if
41 we want to keep moving forward with this project. So
42 we're at that stage right now. We're thinking of this
43 as an experimental phase where we're testing methods to
44 see if it's even a possible thing to do.

45
46 Given that, the learning objectives
47 were will the approach work. Can we even set up a
48 camp, can we get a crew together, can we do a project.
49 Based on those learning objectives I would consider it
50 a success because we learned so much. We didn't plan

1 to reintroduce Steller's eiders to the Delta this year
2 by any means.

3
4 So to not have any ducklings to follow
5 and monitor -- we were prepared to do that, we wanted
6 to do that, and I think in a lot of people's minds it's
7 considered not successful because we don't have any
8 ducklings to follow, but I guess I wouldn't say that.
9 That would have been a bonus. The team of people that
10 are doing this project I don't think really thought we
11 would have ducklings to follow this year. If we're
12 still doing this five years from now and we don't have
13 ducklings to follow, I think that's a problem.

14
15 So we're basically going in phases,
16 learning. We'll regroup, take all the information we
17 have. We have some decision models that have been
18 developed, so we'll plug some things into decision
19 models, see what those output are. We have a lot of
20 things to consider. We have the biology to consider,
21 the economics, the political issues, everything.
22 That's the next few months for us is to sit down, think
23 through all the cost benefits of all those different
24 aspects of a project like this and determine if we keep
25 moving forward.

26
27 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. The other
28 observation, of course, Newtok is eroding.

29
30 MS. STELLRECHT: Right.

31
32 MR. HOFFMAN: So as much as that
33 worked, you know, they're going to be moving over to
34 Nelson Island, so that could be an issue for you. So
35 transportation is going to always be an issue and how
36 you get to your camp.

37
38 And you talked about Randall, your
39 intern being your rock star out there. He is part of
40 the ANSEP program and there are many, many kids from
41 Newtok, Chevak, Bethel that are in that biology ANSEP
42 program that I would encourage if we can reach out to
43 them even more.

44
45 MS. STELLRECHT: Absolutely. We are
46 completely on board. We had another ANSEP student that
47 worked on our eider project in Barrow, Keith Ivy. He's
48 also from the Yukon Delta and he -- they're just
49 amazing. He was amazing and then he spent some time on
50 the Andraefsky Weir. I haven't actually met him. Both

1 of those kids were going to come to this meeting, but
2 they had class until 1:00. I was trying to present in
3 the afternoon, but Patty didn't let me. Yeah, we
4 completely support it 100 percent.

5
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Neesha, what kind of
7 funding do you have? Do you still have grant funding
8 that you have time left on those or do you need to
9 start looking for additional funds for the project or
10 where are you at with that part?

11
12 MS. STELLRECHT: Excellent question.
13 So we do not have funding through the CRI program
14 anymore. That ended this year. We do have a grant
15 with the SeaLife Center and there is some funding in
16 that agreement. Yeah, that's one of the considerations
17 if we move forward, where are we going to find the
18 funding. So we'll be putting in proposals and looking
19 for money if we decide to keep going.

20
21 MR. FAGERSTROM: Excuse me. Have you
22 noticed any environmental changes since you started
23 your project?

24
25 MS. STELLRECHT: You mean on the Delta?

26
27 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yes.

28
29 MS. STELLRECHT: You know, I'm probably
30 not the best person to speak to that. Clearly the
31 habitat is changing, but I personally have not spent a
32 whole lot of time out there. There are people in this
33 room that have spent way more time out there than I
34 have. So if anyone wants to talk about habitat changes
35 on the Delta, I would be happy to let someone else do
36 that. No one.

37
38 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yeah, I know it's
39 changing rather rapidly. Every fall we have storm
40 surges where I come from and it goes anywhere from five
41 to nine feet over mean low tide. We've been fortunate
42 -- they happen in the fall, but sometimes I can see a
43 big storm surge coming in like June and I just worry
44 what effect that will have on all them low-lying areas.
45 All it takes is one storm out of cycle and we'll be in
46 a world of hurt.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Anybody else.

49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
2 Neesha. That was good to see what's been going on.

3
4 MS. STELLRECHT: Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Moving on
7 our agenda. We have the 60-day finding on delisting
8 Steller's and Spectacled eiders and it looks like
9 information is available under Tab 7.

10
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Madame
12 Chair. The document under Tab 7 is the petition that
13 was sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service last January
14 to delist the Steller's and Spectacled eiders. The
15 response from the Service was due the beginning of
16 August and then it got delayed to the 25th and it
17 delayed again now I understand until September 15th.
18 So we were hoping to discuss this issue, but we don't
19 have the Service's response. So we talked to Pete
20 yesterday, but the Migratory Bird Division is not
21 responsible for that response. So if the Service can
22 shed any more light on that.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. PROBASCO: Not anything in addition
27 to what you just said, Patty, at this time.

28
29 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We don't know who's
30 writing it or when it's.....

31
32 MR. PROBASCO: As far as -- it's in
33 headquarters, but I don't know who that is. Do you
34 know, Eric?

35
36 DR. TAYLOR: No, I was unaware of it.

37
38 MR. PROBASCO: Dan.

39
40 DR. ROSENBERG: (Away from microphone).

41
42 MR. PROBASCO: I wouldn't know what
43 that process is, Dan. Never been involved in that.

44
45 MR. DALE: I can do it.

46
47 MR. PROBASCO: Go ahead.

48
49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: How can we find out
50 so I can get the information to everyone?

1 MR. DALE: So this is a 90-day finding,
2 right, Dan?

3
4 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Sixty.

5
6 DR. ROSENBERG: Sixty, I believe.

7
8 MR. DALE: Sixty?

9
10 DR. ROSENBERG: I've heard both.

11
12 MR. DALE: No, it's a 90-day finding.
13 So when you put in to take something off the list or
14 put something on the list, Endangered Species List, the
15 first thing they do is they find what's called a 90-day
16 finding. That means that the Service has 90 days to
17 look at what's in the petition. In this case a
18 petition to take eiders off the list. It's a
19 relatively low bar. If they think there's a reasonable
20 case that something should be taken off the list or
21 whatever, they'll find a warranted finding for 90 days.

22
23 Then they have 12 months to assemble
24 all the information, so staff from our agency and Fish
25 and Wildlife Service and others will provide
26 information. They'll do what's called a Species Status
27 Report. So they'll look at all the biology they can,
28 the latest science and look and see if the petition is
29 worth acting on. At that point they're supposed to
30 make a finding in 12 months. Then they make a finding.
31 If it's warranted to take it off the list, then 12
32 months later it comes off the list.

33
34 However, the Service has 450-some
35 petitions to deal with right now on 12-month findings,
36 so they frequently don't get these done on time. Just
37 don't have the staff. So they negotiate a settlement
38 for these 450 for a reasonable timeline because
39 otherwise they get sued for not making the timeline.
40 Recently there's been notice that old agreement from
41 2012 has now expired, so they're going to get sued
42 again according to the people who sued them last time
43 and they'll probably settle another agreement.

44
45 So when they get to some of these
46 things it's not clear. That's the process that's
47 supposed to happen, but it probably could very well
48 drag on. The 90-day finding they'll probably be able
49 to make.

50

1 DR. ROSENBERG: So when they come out
2 on September 14th, I think, that they're supposed to
3 come out with this again and it could get delayed
4 again. Of course it's had a history of being delayed.
5 It was my understanding, and correct me if this is
6 right or wrong, that we have 60 -- if they find it
7 warranted -- and it might be a low bar, but still if
8 they find it warranted in their Specs and their
9 Steller's, there's petitions to delist each one. So
10 they could find one warranted and one not warranted.
11 But I don't know what they'll find yet.

12
13 If they find it unwarranted, then
14 there's no opportunity to comment, as I understand, if
15 it's found to be warranted, then there's an opportunity
16 to comment and we have 60 days to get those comments
17 in. Is that correct?

18
19 MR. DALE: Yeah, there is a 60-day
20 comment period. But we will be working hand in hand on
21 this Species Status Assessment for 12 months probably.
22 At least the first half of the 12 months.

23
24 DR. ROSENBERG: Thanks. I just wanted
25 to clarify that.

26
27 MR. PROBASCO: Patty, I'm going to step
28 away real quick and give Mary a call and see if we can
29 -- but I apologize for not having all that for you.

30
31 Thanks, Neesha.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We'll come
34 back to that on the agenda if Neesha is able to get in
35 touch with Mary. We'll move on the agenda to a
36 presentation on shorebirds in Alaska. It looks like
37 there's information under Tab 6. You're John?

38
39 MR. PEARCE: John Pearce.

40
41 (Technical difficulties)

42
43 (Off record)

44
45 (On record)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Sorry for the
48 delay. We're having technical difficulties.

49
50 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, so we're having

1 difficulties with this computer too, so we'll just have
2 to work from the handout.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, really?
5 Okay. So we'll just go back to our positions then.

6

7 MR. PEARCE: Sorry for the delay.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Do we have
10 handouts in the back of this presentation? There is?
11 Okay. So for those of you who want to follow along
12 there's handouts on the back table if you don't have a
13 binder.

14

15 MR. PEARCE: I'll just get with a
16 general introduction about myself and the USGS. Thanks
17 very much for having me today. I don't interact with
18 this group very often and I'd like to change that, so
19 I'd like to find out more about how I can be part of
20 the agenda on a more regular basis. The USGS does a
21 lot of work in Western Alaska, so it would be nice to
22 be able to update this group about our activities.

23

24 MR. PROBASCO: All it takes is money.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. PEARCE: Okay. We'll have to talk
29 negotiations later.

30

31 MR. PROBASCO: No problem, John.

32

33 MR. PEARCE: But I regularly travel to
34 the North Slope and let communities and folks know up
35 there what we're doing on the North Slope, so it would
36 be nice to do the same thing for Western Alaska and
37 elsewhere where you all are communicating.

38

39 So I'm John Pearce. I'm the Office
40 Chief with the U.S. Geological Survey here in
41 Anchorage, Alaska at the Alaska Science Center. I've
42 been in Alaska since 1990. I mostly work in migratory
43 birds, but now I'm more of a research manager, but I've
44 spent a lot of time in Western Alaska as a field
45 biologist in the past.

46

47 So the USGS is the science agency for
48 Department of Interior, so we don't manage any
49 resources, we don't make management decisions, we just
50 conduct scientific research and provide that

1 information to the public and to science agencies that
2 are making decisions. So that's our job. So we
3 release all the information that we publish. Starting
4 October 1st it's required that that data gets released
5 to the public at the same time as publications, so that
6 will be happening on our website next month.

7

8 So today what I wanted to talk about
9 was a joint project we're working on with Liliana Naves
10 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game that seeks to
11 understand and gather more information about shorebird
12 subsistence harvest in Western Alaska and to learn what
13 local people are seeing in terms of changes in
14 abundance in shorebirds.

15

16 So this was a talk that was prepared by
17 Dan Ruthrauff in our office and he's not able to be
18 here today, so I'm going to give his talk for him. It
19 just kind of talks about what shorebirds are and kind
20 of some of the work that we are doing and that we're
21 going to be doing with Lili as part of her project.

22

23 The second slide just is an outline of
24 the talk. I just want to talk about sort of what we
25 define as shorebirds. I think there's probably
26 different definitions for different people, so I just
27 want to make sure we're all talking kind of about the
28 same thing. Some of the reasons why we're studying
29 them at USGS and other agencies are doing them for
30 similar reasons, and some of the assistance that we're
31 looking for in this joint project that we're doing with
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

33

34 On the next page there's a slide that
35 says what is a shorebird and then the next slide just
36 shows some pictures of the general group of shorebirds
37 as it's defined taxonomically in bird books. So these
38 are birds that are found mostly along the coastal
39 areas. They also breed though far interior in Alaska
40 in the summertime, but most often we see them on the
41 shorelines of Alaska and elsewhere. They often have
42 really long bills that they use for probing in the mud
43 and long legs and they're all kinds of different body
44 shapes, but these are kind of the general pictures of
45 what we define the shorebirds are.

46

47 On the next page it just gives some
48 general numbers for shorebirds in Alaska. There are
49 millions of individuals of these species in the state.
50 About 70 species have been observed in the state, but

1 there's only about 37 of those that are regularly
2 breeding in different parts of Alaska.

3
4 The next slide is one of the main
5 reasons why we have such high diversity of species and
6 huge numbers of these birds is just the incredible
7 productive ecosystems that we have in Alaska
8 particularly along our coastlines and that's what that
9 next slide is of the map of the state. These are
10 locations that have been recognized as qualifying for
11 different sort of regional or international or
12 hemispheric importance for shorebirds. You can see
13 that these are largely along the coastal part of our
14 state. So these are areas where huge numbers of
15 shorebirds congregate at different times of the year.
16 As a result of those large numbers, those have been
17 recognized as qualifying for these different
18 designations.

19
20 The next slide also shows sort of
21 Alaska's position within all these different migratory
22 flyways of the Pacific hemisphere. So you can sort of
23 see the Australasian Flyway, there's the Pacific
24 Flyway, there's sort of the Central Oceanic Flyway. So
25 that's another reason why we have such incredible
26 diversity in numbers of shorebirds in the state is that
27 we're sort of getting visited by shorebirds from all
28 these different countries and these different flyways.

29
30 That's also a reason that Alaska has
31 been really important for surveillance for avian
32 influenza and that's on the next page. So we have
33 shorebirds and waterfowl that come to Alaska not only
34 from the Lower 48 but from Asia as well, so it's sort
35 of an international mixing ground for all these
36 different migratory birds. After H5N1 broke out in
37 Asia in 2005, Alaska was sort of designated as really a
38 hot spot for surveillance sampling for birds for avian
39 influenza.

40
41 So the USGS and other agencies did an
42 awful lot of sampling in the state including
43 shorebirds. After sampling thousands of shorebirds we
44 only ever found one virus in shorebirds. Since then we
45 haven't been sampling shorebirds anymore as part of
46 surveillance plans. It's just not sort of worth the
47 effort and the stress on the birds to do that sampling.
48 We're not getting a lot of information about viruses,
49 so they're no longer a priority species. But they are
50 a priority species for understanding other things about

1 what's happening in our ecosystems. A lot of that
2 comes from the information on migration that we've been
3 studying at USGS.

4
5 So that map on the avian influenza
6 slide shows a migratory pathway of a Bar-tailed godwit.
7 So it goes from Alaska down south to wintering grounds
8 in New Zealand and then in the spring up through China
9 and then back to Alaska again. So incredible
10 migrations that some of these birds are undertaking.
11 You can see sort of the first leg of that in the Bar-
12 tailed godwit map in the next slide there.

13
14 The next slide shows sort of more
15 detailed picture of that same migration. To sort of
16 undertake these long migrations shorebirds really rely
17 on these high-quality habitats and coastal areas and
18 that's another reason why those international sites
19 have been designated because those are important places
20 for these birds to sort of refuel to undertake these
21 long migrations to wintering areas and then back to
22 Alaska.

23
24 On the next slide that's kind of one of
25 the main reasons why we've been doing work on
26 shorebirds in the state is because they reflect sort of
27 the quality of the ecosystems where they occur. We
28 don't have great population estimates for these
29 species. It's really difficult to count them in aerial
30 surveys like we do for waterfowl species, so a lot of
31 the information we have on species status is from
32 counts from areas where they congregate, so these
33 international sites that have been recognized people
34 can go there and count birds every year in those spots,
35 but that's about the best information we have in many
36 cases.

37
38 So from those counts and also from
39 counts elsewhere in the world we know that some of the
40 species in Alaska are in decline. We think some of the
41 reasons for that are loss of shorebird habitat in Asia
42 for some species, so that's in the next picture. That's
43 a photo taken by USGS scientists looking at habitat in
44 China. What China's been doing is reclaiming a lot of
45 these coastal wetland areas and pumping sand over the
46 mud flats to reclaim those for developing or housing.

47
48 The next picture you can kind of see
49 the changes that have taken place in some of those
50 coastal estuaries. On the left is a picture of China

1 in 1983. You can kind of see the tidal areas in sort
2 of the gray colors next to the yellow. In 2004, you
3 can see how those have been filled in up to a sea wall,
4 so there's really not any tidal flux there anymore onto
5 a mud flat and that's what shorebirds are really keying
6 in on as far as a place to forage to fuel migrations to
7 Alaska for example.

8
9 So we're losing a lot of those habitats
10 in Asia and that may be a factor why we're seeing
11 species declines in Alaska. So that's partly what this
12 joint project will be addressing is looking for
13 information on what people are observing in Alaska in
14 terms of changes in populations over time. So we'd
15 like to ask questions of people of sort of what you're
16 seeing in terms of changes in your area for different
17 species of shorebird.

18
19 There's also a lot of gaps about how
20 shorebirds are used in subsistence harvest and in
21 culture and also just sort of an understanding of what
22 people call different shorebirds. I think that's been
23 identified by Lili and others in the subsistence
24 harvest surveys that they'd like to get more
25 information for. So that's something that we're hoping
26 to work with Lili and with folks that you all know
27 about how we can get some more information on these
28 questions.

29
30 The next slide is some bullets that
31 Lili provided us with. Basically there's a very low
32 percentage that we think of shorebird in the harvest,
33 but the species composition is poorly known, so those
34 are some of the other things that this harvest survey
35 is going to address or some of those just general
36 understandings but also some of the gaps that we have.

37
38 The next slide just sort of restates
39 that question I said already about just trying to
40 understand what people are observing over time in
41 shorebird species in their local areas.

42
43 So that's really all I had today. Lili
44 is here as well and can answer specific questions if
45 you have them about the project that we're going to be
46 helping with. Materials like this that I'm presenting
47 today are some of the materials I think that would be
48 presented to folks as part of the questions about how
49 people understand shorebirds or what they know about
50 them, but some other material is gong to be developed

1 with our office and with Lili's and we can certainly
2 run that by you all ahead of time if that's of
3 interest. I think she's already presented about the
4 project too.

5
6 That's all I had today and I'm happy to
7 answer any questions about this work or anything else
8 about USGS work.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Does anybody have
11 any questions. Go ahead, Mike.

12
13 MR. HOFFMAN: The difference between a
14 Bar-tailed godwit and a Hudsonian godwit because in the
15 Bethel area we're seeing a lot more Hudsonian godwits
16 in there. Is that the same bird?

17
18 MR. PEARCE: No, those are two
19 different species and they have very different color
20 patterns. So a bird book would be the best way to tell
21 the difference.

22
23 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. We're seeing more
24 and more of those godwits around Bethel there.

25
26 MR. PEARCE: Okay. Lili would be
27 interested in that and I think probably the folks of
28 the Refuge would be and we certainly would be as well
29 because we know -- there are some folks actually here
30 in Anchorage that have been studying Hudsonian godwits
31 just across the inlet near Beluga where there's a
32 breeding area there.

33
34 Thanks.

35
36 MR. DALE: Thanks for the presentation,
37 John.

38
39 MR. PEARCE: Sure.

40
41 MR. DALE: I had a question about the
42 godwits too. On page 5 there, is that a single bird or
43 do they just.....

44
45 MR. PEARCE: Those are multiple.....

46
47 MR. DALE:return to a single
48 place in Alaska?

49
50 MR. PEARCE: Those are multiple birds

1 that were marked and so that's the southern migration
2 away from Western Alaska down into the wintering areas.

3

4 MR. DALE: My question is are they more
5 broadly distributed than that or is that just a place
6 where you happen to mark them? Because it looks like
7 they all go back to like one little spot.

8

9 MR. PEARCE: Yes. So this is just the
10 southern migration away from Alaska in the fall, so
11 that's just one location where they were marked and
12 where those birds ended up going for winter.

13

14 MR. DALE: Do you know if they're
15 fairly broadly distributed along the coast of Alaska?

16

17 MR. PEARCE: They are, yeah. So, yeah,
18 they go up into Seward Peninsula, so they're more than
19 just Western Alaska.

20

21 MR. DALE: Okay. I've got another one.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Uh-huh

24 (affirmative).

25

26 MR. DALE: Thanks. So on page 4 there
27 you have the maps of the wetlands, I think, or at least
28 shorebird sites. I was wondering who ranks those. Is
29 that IUCN?

30

31 MR. PEARCE: I don't know exactly the
32 international group, but it is an international group
33 that has criteria for a designated site for these
34 different criteria. So these are sites that meet these
35 different qualifications in the state. This isn't a
36 map of ones that have actually been designated, I don't
37 think, but these are sites that would meet those
38 criteria if they were to be designated.

39

40 MR. DALE: (Away from microphone).

41

42 MR. PEARCE: Those are -- it's probably
43 a list that has an actual number for that location.
44 This probably comes from another publication that Dan
45 took this from. And some of these areas are designated
46 as those kinds of sites. So that's one reason why we
47 have shorebird festivals for example in Cordova and
48 Homer area. Those sites have actually been designated
49 along these criteria because of the large numbers of
50 shorebirds that occur there.

1 MR. DALE: Thanks.
2
3 MR. PROBASCO: John, back to that graph
4 on the Bar-tailed godwits, that's their southern.
5
6 MR. PEARCE: Right.
7
8 MR. PROBASCO: So when they return it's
9 a different route, correct?
10
11 MR. PEARCE: Right. So they go through
12 Asia, the Yellow Sea area, up along the coast of Russia
13 and then across the Bering Sea back into Alaska.
14
15 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks.
16
17 MR. PEARCE: Yeah.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for the
20 good information. It's interesting to see and learn
21 about different species in the shorebirds and looking
22 at how far they travel is amazing, 7,000 miles nonstop.
23
24 MR. PEARCE: Right.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think we could
27 capture it on the agenda and invite you back again with
28 information for future meetings.
29
30 MR. PEARCE: That would be great.
31 Yeah, I'd appreciate that.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for the
34 presentation.
35
36 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, you're welcome.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: We have one more
39 quick question.
40
41 MR. HICKS: On page 8 you have a
42 knowledge gap for importance of shorebirds for Alaska
43 subsistence and culture. I haven't seen anybody hunt
44 them in 38 years. You know, they're so small. I mean
45 we don't target them. If you're too close when you
46 shoot, you don't get much but feathers.
47
48 MR. PEARCE: Right.
49
50 MR. HICKS: It's just not something

1 that we utilize in our area. We see them, but, like I
2 said, they're too small to even monkey with.

3

4 MR. PEARCE: Okay. Yeah, and even -- I
5 mean that's great information. I think other
6 information would just be sort of what you do see over
7 time. What you've been observing for the last 38 years
8 like you said. So new species or species that you
9 remember seeing but haven't seen in a while that would
10 be great to know.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Liliana.

13

14 MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves, Division of
15 Subsistence. So talking about the knowledge gaps is
16 also -- a part of a knowledge gap is maybe that birds
17 are not a big deal here as a subsistence resource or
18 that they're used in specific areas, that there is some
19 localized harvest. From the surveys it seems that
20 there is some harvest of godwits in the Y-K Delta and
21 that matches with the distribution of the species.
22 There has been lots of interest of what's going on with
23 those birds because there's documentation that a number
24 of populations are going down big time.

25

26 So I get lots of data requests about
27 that and people working on the Asia Australasia Flyway.
28 There is a big problem of harvest there. People put
29 mist nets, old fishnets, they stretch them and they are
30 harvesting those birds down there and they sell them in
31 the markets. So this is a big conservation concern for
32 populations that are going down.

33

34 And then people keep asking what's
35 going on in Alaska. We know that there's no target
36 harvest here, but getting this information out there is
37 important too so people know what's going on here
38 because I think a big part of the gap is that it's not
39 widely known what is going on here. Part of this
40 project is to make this information available.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. HARRIS: For the record, Cyrus
45 Harris. In our area these -- I'm not too sure exactly
46 what you call them, but we call them tratrak (ph) or
47 from what I see before like the Eskimo curlew, the
48 bigger ones with the curved beak. Those are the ones
49 we'd target. As children growing up, that would be the
50 first migratory bird that we practiced to hunt. It's a

1 really tasty bird to put on the table. Is there any
2 more information on that Eskimo curlew or what we call
3 tratrak. I understand we don't see them very much
4 anywhere.

5
6 MR. PEARCE: So they think Eskimo
7 curlews are extinct. I don't think anyone has seen
8 them since the '80s, but there's another bird that
9 looks really similar to that called a Whimbrel, so they
10 often are confused with Eskimo curlews, so that might
11 be one that you're seeing. Then there's another
12 curlew, Bristle-thighed curlew that looks similar as
13 well. So those probably wouldn't be in your area, but
14 Whimbrels might be.

15
16 Again, that's something I think Lili
17 wants to do with the survey is to understand what
18 people call them and sort of what the western names are
19 for them and sort of figure out if maybe you are seeing
20 things that we're not and what our names are, the two
21 names are. So that would be great to know.

22
23 MR. HARRIS: Whatever they are they
24 sound like (bird sound). Does that sound familiar?

25
26 MR. PEARCE: Yes. So that's a
27 Whimbrel, yep.

28
29 MR. FAGERSTROM: Jack Fagerstrom,
30 Kawerak. We get Whimbrels where we come from and
31 pretty much that's the only egg-eating snipe that we've
32 ever run into.

33
34 They eat eggs from other bird nests.

35
36 MR. PEARCE: Uh-huh.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.
39 Anybody have anything else.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's always great
44 to learn new things. Thank you for bringing the
45 conversation to the table.

46
47 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, thank you very much.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Now we're
50 down to financial report. Pete and Donna.

1 MR. PROBASCO: We'll make this real
2 short unless there's a lot of questions. I had our
3 budget person, Angie Larson, run the summary of where
4 we're at with FY16 funds. This is as of August 29th.
5 What it shows is by each entity what you were awarded
6 and the amount of money that's been drawn down and what
7 the balance is. So you can just take a look at where
8 you're at. So this is a summary for '16. You can see
9 that there's still, for some of the councils, a fair
10 amount of money still on the books.

11
12 I think the take-home message on this,
13 and we're working with the affected councils, is just a
14 reminder. Once the funds are awarded, technically you
15 can't draw them down until the activity is planned.
16 Where you see that there's some that have zeroes, we're
17 working with that group to help them with their
18 budgeting practices so that they don't immediately draw
19 those funds down right off the bat. If you recall with
20 your grants there's specific things that you have to
21 follow through.

22
23 Anyway, this is the latest as of August
24 29th like I said.

25
26 So any questions.

27
28 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Pete, and
29 thank you for your email about draw-downs and when
30 regional management bodies shows their balance and some
31 of the stuff that you guys have to go through. I'm
32 wondering if Donna could send an email to our grant
33 administrators to let them know about the process and
34 how it works so that we won't be in situations where
35 when we request additional funds from you that we
36 understand the process as well. And some of the
37 deadlines that you guys have to obligate unused funds.

38
39 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, Mike, that's a very
40 good point. Donna is nodding her head. She works
41 fairly regularly with the budget people for the various
42 grants. In fairness to Donna, the rules change on her
43 as well. You know, we're going with how we've done it
44 in the past and all of a sudden we find for the fiscal
45 year some other step is required. So it requires us to
46 constantly work with you.

47
48 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Pete. I
49 totally understand what Donna goes through because I do
50 the same thing. You talk to Contracts and Grants one

1 time and it's one thing and then the rules change the
2 following year and going from a one-year grant
3 agreement to a five-year grant agreement. It is very
4 confusing.

5
6 I know we had talked about this a
7 couple years ago to have the Contracts and Grants
8 people come to the AMBCC meeting. Maybe I can explore
9 inviting them to the work session and maybe just having
10 a little training on the types of information they
11 need, when they need it and how we can help streamline
12 the process.

13
14 MR. PROBASCO: Patty, I think that
15 would be a great idea because this is our last year of
16 this grant cycle, correct, Donna?

17
18 MS. DEWHURST: (Nodding affirmatively)

19
20 MR. PROBASCO: So we'll be going into a
21 new grant cycle. I'm sure there's going to be some
22 changes, so that would be a good plan.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: One thing about
25 going into the new grant cycle and the changes that we
26 could see is an increase in our requests that we're
27 going to have to make with having our meetings during
28 the summer per diem rates. Usually we've had our
29 meetings in t September when we go to the winter per
30 diem rates, but with the per diem rates being so high
31 to come to these meetings it costs quite a bit of money
32 for the travel costs and for per diem rates.

33
34 The per diem rate for Anchorage is
35 quite high. It's like \$404 a day for per diem, the
36 government per diem rate. So it's spendy. So we'll
37 have one winter -- you know, where we fall under the
38 winter per diem rate and one under the summer whereas
39 before we were falling under winter per diem rates. So
40 make sure you guys keep that in mind when we go through
41 that budget cycle and asking for money.

42
43 Also with the education and outreach
44 portion that's going to take place, we need to
45 incorporate that if we're going to be traveling out to
46 the villages and doing education/outreach. Make sure
47 that we figure out how we're going to incorporate that
48 into our budget as well as new information is given to
49 us to provide that education and outreach in our
50 regions that we make sure that we have adequate funds

1 to do that.

2

3

Anything else on budget?

4

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MR. HOFFMAN: I'm trying to wrap myself around. Are these carryover funds too as of October 1? Are they the Federal grants? I'm looking at 9/30 at the end date.

MR. PROBASCO: What we do with these if there is a balance, we forward fund it to the next year. In other words, it's not added to -- so let's say you had a balance of 18,000. We would carry that over to fund the next year.

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Any other budget/financial questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We'll move down to 2017 plans for harvest survey data collection.

MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves for the record. We are now working on implementing the 2016 survey and we have not started talking about the 2017 yet. In 2016 we are doing the pilot survey and soon after end of data collection we are hoping to wrap up all data collection by end of January. Well analyze that as soon as possible.

Then CSU team will come in play again and they will run a bunch of other analysis on that data and see how the new survey design performed compared to the objectives that were laid out by the technical working group. That will lay down the ground for discussions for the 2017. Would we keep with the same or would need adjustments to the proposal sampling design.

It's too early yet to start talking about the plans for the 2017, but the idea is to keep with the five regions and we may see some fine tuning between this pilot year and the next year.

But we're operating under the agreement that was done with the Fish and Wildlife Service that set a standard and fixed amount of funds for the survey, so I think that gives us more of a stable landscape to operate the survey. So I think that

1 carries over.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Would you be
4 working closely with the Harvest Survey Committee
5 through this process?

6

7 MS. NAVES: Yeah, the Harvest Survey
8 Committee is part of the Technical Working Group. Most
9 people from the Harvest Survey had representation or
10 has representation on Technical Working Group.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay, great.
13 Thank you. Any questions regarding the survey.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you,
18 Liliana. Next is grant report for 2016. That you'll
19 find under Tab 8. What you just handed out, Pete, is
20 that an update of this same thing? It looks like it's
21 a more up to date -- I mean like to date.

22

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: This is from the
24 beginning to now. That's just to date.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, okay. So
27 what's in your packet under Tab 8 is from 2002 to 2016
28 of how much money was spent for each entity and then
29 what Pete just handed out was this year's, where we
30 were effective August 29th, correct?

31

32 MR. PROBASCO: Correct.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: So does anybody
35 have questions on any of that.

36

37 MR. HOFFMAN: I have a question. Are
38 these five-year grants or three-year grants?

39

40 MR. PROBASCO: Five.

41

42 MR. HOFFMAN: Five? Okay. Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Lili.

45

46 MS. NAVES: On this page that was
47 handed out today, I worked with Donna to figure out
48 what was going on to funds to Fish and Game. I think
49 that there's some glitch there. We get 100,000 a year.
50 There may be some double counting there because there

1 was two lines, but I worked with Donna to figure out
2 that. Thank you.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. We're
5 going to take a five to ten minute break and then we'll
6 come back and finish up our meeting.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Continuing on our
13 agenda. One of the additions that we had to the agenda
14 was the State of Alaska Board of Game proposal. I can
15 let Bruce highlight on any topic points that he wanted
16 to bring up, but we will probably form a committee to
17 write the Board of Game proposal regarding the Emperor
18 goose harvest for the fall.

19

20 Is there anything you wanted to add to
21 that?

22

23 MR. DALE: So the proposal will be in
24 the form of an agenda change request and we'll help
25 with that agenda change request because it's a
26 statewide regulation and the upcoming meeting is not a
27 statewide meeting. The next meeting will be in Bethel,
28 so it's Region 5, which is all Northwest Alaska. In
29 addition, there will be a meeting on Interior.

30

31 The process will probably be the agenda
32 change request has to be drafted and submitted to the
33 board by November 4th and then they have to act on that
34 60 days before the first meeting. If it's accepted,
35 which it very likely will be because, as Jim Fall
36 pointed out, one of the criteria for an agenda change
37 request that I'd forgotten about is that the Board can
38 make an agenda change to make Federal rules and State
39 rules match up. So this fits right into that because
40 by that time or about the SRC will have made a decision
41 or very close and this will be a placeholder if nothing
42 else if they do in fact pass the flyway framework,
43 which we hope they will.

44

45 Then it's very likely that it would go
46 to the Bethel meeting and that's a good place for it to
47 be discussed because, of course, a lot of spring and
48 fall waterfowl there. It would be quite likely that
49 they would defer a decision on it until the Interior
50 meeting to get additional public input at that meeting.

1 So the deferral wouldn't be a bad thing. That's a good
2 thing. They would just be trying to get more people
3 involved. It's hard to say how that will go down.
4 They might just pass it right there. It should be
5 looked on very favorably by the Board, I think.

6
7 The agenda change request won't be the
8 end of the process. The Chairwoman is going to put
9 together a committee that will help write the agenda
10 change request that will have basically a proposal in
11 it. Everything may not be worked out by then. So
12 between then and the January meeting in Bethel the
13 committee will want to continue to work to refine what
14 they want the Board of Game to do and how exactly they
15 want those regulations to look.

16
17 So the final part of it will be
18 somebody from AMBCC -- probably won't be the Chair at
19 that point because it will be me, so it would be good
20 to have somebody else, one of you folks, to go and
21 testify before the Board and help them with that
22 process, that decision-making.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Pete.

25
26 MR. PROBASCO: Bruce, you said the ACR
27 is due November 4th. At what meeting would they act on
28 that ACR?

29
30 MR. DALE: So they will have a meeting
31 by teleconference 60 or 65 days before the first
32 meeting. Is that right? Something like that. So
33 they'll have a separate meeting by teleconference and
34 they'll address the ACRs and there's already a few that
35 they'll be addressing.

36
37 MR. PROBASCO: So you'd be the lead on
38 the ACR or do you need somebody presenting that? I'm
39 just thinking of my Board of Fish days, so I'm not
40 sure.

41
42 MR. DALE: So there won't be public
43 testimony at that meeting. At that meeting the ACR
44 will be brought up by the Board. They'll say let's
45 look at that ACR and then it will come to Fish and Game
46 for the staff report on that ACR. We'll go through it.
47 It will likely be Lem Butler, the Assistant Director.
48 He'll go through the pros and cons and what the State's
49 position is on it and then they'll vote.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: So we should form
2 a committee to write the agenda change request because
3 we'd have to meet before the deadline of November 4th.
4 We'd have to meet either in September or October to --
5 we could even do that by the phone or through email.
6
7 I guess we could form the committee.
8 Who would like to be on that committee?
9
10 Jim Fall, okay.
11
12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You can put me on
13 there.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Patty.
16
17 DR. ROSENBERG: You can put me down as
18 a placeholder for whoever will be in my position.
19
20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, we're calling
21 you.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Lem, okay.
26
27 MR. PEDERSON: And the North Slope
28 Borough also as a placeholder.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: You want to be on
31 there?
32
33 MR. PEDERSON: Just put North Slope
34 Borough.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: North Slope
37 Borough, okay. And this is -- Peter, do you want to be
38 on that one?
39
40 MR. DEVINE: What committee is this?
41
42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: This will be the
43 -- I guess we're going to call it the State of Alaska
44 Board of Game Proposal. I mean it's just going to be a
45 committee to write the Board of Game Proposal for the
46 fall/winter hunting season for Emperor geese, so that
47 really applies to your region and your area.
48
49 MR. DEVINE: Yes, I'll be on that
50 committee.

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: And I'll be on
2 there.
3
4 MR. PROBASCO: We'll stand by for any
5 info needed.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.
8
9 DR. ROSENBERG: A question if I may.
10 Jim, do you have a copy? The form, does it actually
11 have to have specifics in it or is it just to get on
12 the docket and the specifics will come later?
13
14 MR. DALE: There has to be a
15 justification of why the Board wants to do it. That
16 justification should be compelling enough, which would
17 include the reasons that it needs to be addressed. Now
18 does it actually have to contain this board's
19 suggestions on what the seasons and bag limits should
20 actually be? Not necessarily. The closer we can get
21 to that, the better.
22
23 As I was trying to point out, once it's
24 been accepted we still will be able to have time to
25 refine that and submit comments to the Board and then
26 as well as oral comments to the Board. So testimony to
27 the Board plus written comments saying the AMBCC
28 submitted this ACR, it was accepted and we'd like this
29 framework in place for the fall and winter season.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Mike, it would be
32 good to have you or somebody from your region on there
33 as well.
34
35 MR. HOFFMAN: Just put a placeholder on
36 that one for AVCP.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.
39
40 MR. DALE: If I may.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.
43
44 MR. DALE: I think probably the most
45 expedient route will be to -- if you trust us to, we'll
46 draft the initial draft and send that to the committee
47 and we can work from there. It won't contain any
48 specifics other than lay out some of the basics and
49 that will jumpstart the whole process so that we don't
50 have to do the initial draft by committee.

1 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Brandon,
2 do you want to be on that committee? Jack is saying
3 yes.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. AHMASUK: I have a question.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead.

10
11 MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk,
12 Subsistence Director for Kawerak. I have a question
13 first. This is different from that ad hoc committee
14 yesterday.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yes.

17
18 MR. AHMASUK: Okay. Yes, I could be on
19 it, this one.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Patty,
22 you're keeping track of our ad hoc committees?

23
24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Uh-huh
25 (affirmative).

26
27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So I think
28 that will be good. We look forward to the draft ACR
29 and we'll meet sometime -- I guess should we wait until
30 after we see what happens at the SCR meeting in
31 September -- no, that would be in October. It would be
32 too late. I guess we could get done before then.
33 Yeah, we'll get it going in draft format.

34
35 Okay. Is there anything else on the
36 Board of Game Committee. Peter.

37
38 MR. DEVINE: I was going to say, you
39 know, if we're going to reinstate our monthly meetings,
40 we could probably address it that way or get it out to
41 the groups.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Yeah, that
44 would be good too. We're not going to meet in
45 September since today is September, so we'll have our
46 first meeting on the first Wednesday of October for
47 Native Caucus. So we have a monthly teleconference and
48 we'll keep you guys informed.

49
50 Go ahead.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: First Wednesday, is that
2 during AFN?

3
4 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: No, the first
5 Wednesday of each month and then we're going to meet at
6 1:30 teleconference.

7
8 MR. HOFFMAN: Oh, I see. Okay.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. That's
11 just for the Native Caucus. Moving on. We have other
12 business. We have future potential proposals, Cackling
13 Canada goose egg harvest Y-K Delta.

14
15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Madame
16 Chair. These two proposals were discussed at the last
17 meeting and actually the definition of included area
18 boundaries by the Upper Copper River has been discussed
19 in their region for the past year. These are on the
20 agenda so that we can get reports from the two entities
21 to find out what their intentions are for the proposal
22 open period November 1 to December 15 in case we needed
23 to help assist them with their proposals.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Do you
28 have any information to share with us regarding the
29 Cackling Canada goose egg harvest proposal?

30
31 MR. HOFFMAN: No. Just kind of wide-
32 eyed here right now except for just the numbers that I
33 saw here today or yesterday on the 600,000 of them. I
34 will have something for you guys here the next meeting.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. It will be
37 something that we'll keep on and we'll bring it up at
38 the spring meeting. We could talk about it too in our
39 Native Caucus.

40
41 Joeneal.

42
43 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 As I had reported at our last spring AMBCC meeting, we
45 discussed at length at our regular regional meeting and
46 the regional committee has decided to withdraw both
47 proposals given the fact that they do not see it as a
48 concern at this time.

49
50 They did say that they would like to

1 have the option to bring forth the proposal again
2 should the issue become more of a concern let's say.
3 They also felt that the definition on page 2 and page
4 19 in the booklet regarding residency was good enough
5 for now. So, again, they felt that the issue was not a
6 concern at this time, so they wanted to withdraw both
7 proposals.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. How would
10 that work? Because I know that Joeneal stated that the
11 last time it went through the proposal process even
12 though they wanted to withdraw it was here, so what do
13 we do with that now at the AMBCC level?

14
15 MR. PROBASCO: Madame Chair. The whole
16 purpose of this, these proposals have been acted on, so
17 there's no action taken on those proposals. So why
18 Patty has them on the agenda is for the AMBCC -- the
19 Native Caucus from these affected areas, do they want
20 to resubmit the proposals for action.

21
22 So on the definition of included area
23 boundaries, when Joeneal reported that, that proposal
24 didn't go forward for action. So the group took no
25 action on those proposals at that time, but that
26 doesn't mean they can't be acted on in the future.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So then
29 for the egg gather -- hold on just a second. Okay. So
30 then we can take off the included area boundaries for
31 the Upper Copper River. You guys chose to not have
32 that, so we'll not follow that anymore for old
33 business. We'll leave the Cackling Canada goose egg
34 harvest. According to our notes, I guess what we
35 needed -- you'd have to submit a new proposal or would
36 we have to amend this proposal for the next call for
37 proposals of when you wanted the 30-day closure for the
38 egg gathering. Patty could work with you guys on that
39 proposal.

40
41 Do we need to take any actions on
42 these?

43
44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: (Shakes head
45 negatively)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Just so
48 that we're all on the same page. Okay. Now we are
49 down to one of the favorite parts of the meeting again.
50 We have invitation for public comment. Is there

1 anybody who would like to come up to the table for
2 public comment.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Hearing none. We
7 will move on to Council and Staff comments. So this is
8 another good part of the meeting where the Council goes
9 around the table and gives closing statements and
10 comments regarding the last two days of the meeting and
11 who would like to go first.

12

13 Joeneal.

14

15 MR. HICKS: Thank you. I'm just trying
16 to think of what to say. I think these last two days
17 were very productive. I think we took one giant step
18 forward in regards to the Emperor goose proposal. I
19 believe we had good discussion. Have a great summer.
20 Good hunting.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Peter.

25

26 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 Council, Staff. After 17 years I get to go home and
28 say we get to goose hunt next year. That's going to be
29 awesome. I need to find a little shotgun for my
30 grandson. It's been a pretty long process to try and
31 get this goose hunt and now I feel like we're finally
32 getting somewhere and hopefully we can be conservative
33 and keep this hunt going in the future.

34

35 That's all I have.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you.

38 Randy.

39

40 MR. MAYO: Thank you. Yeah, I enjoy
41 coming to these meetings. It's pretty important. It
42 could be long and drawn out, but things do happen here
43 and kind of gives me hope. I'm kind of anxious to get
44 out in the field and do some of the stuff that we've
45 been here all week talking about.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Randy.

50 Mike.

1 MR. PEDERSON: Which Mike?

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: This Mike.

6

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you guys for being
8 patient with me in this first meeting here. What you
9 guys have done and I can see all the heavy lifting that
10 everyone in this room and around this table have really
11 done for Emperor geese and all that. It's been
12 educational for me. I appreciate always learning
13 something. With where I'm from and what I do, just
14 like all of you, it's all about our way of life. It's
15 not our lifestyle, it's our way of life.

16

17 I do get around enough to make sure
18 that everyone knows that when I put this position on,
19 it's standing fast with our culture, our language, all
20 of that. There's a very fine line that we have to deal
21 with with economic development and how we work with
22 people coming into our region. Randy, that was as
23 passionate as I ever heard. We take that every day to
24 work at AVCP. We will protect our language and all of
25 that, our culture, everything, but we understand the
26 need for some jobs and economic development, but not at
27 the risk of our habitat and everything that we do out
28 there.

29

30 Again, thank you guys for having me
31 here.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for
34 coming. Peter.

35

36 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 I forgot to mention we wouldn't be where we are if we
38 didn't have help from Myron and Tim on this. I mean
39 pushing the YCC proposal forward. I think that got us
40 to where we are today. So thank you Myron and Tim.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you for
43 that. Bruce.

44

45 MR. DALE: Yeah, we all echo that.
46 It's a good catch, Peter. I too really enjoy coming
47 and working on this council. I was remarking earlier
48 today about how it's really transparent. It's just
49 people putting their shoulders to the grindstone trying
50 to solve problems. That's not always the case in all

1 the things we do with wildlife management and it's
2 really refreshing to see here.

3
4 It's extremely difficult because of the
5 dual management systems and the statutes and laws and
6 everything that complicate it. Sometimes common sense
7 is the last -- you know, you don't even consider using
8 common sense because of the quagmire of things we have
9 to work through.

10
11 Despite really enjoying to come here, I
12 have a little bit of trepidation over the next year
13 because I'm afraid I might be exposed. I have to take
14 the gavel from Gayla. I've been taking notes the whole
15 time here because I wasn't paying attention to how Pete
16 did it.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. DALE: So a little bit nervous
21 about that. I'm really worried about being exposed
22 without -- see if I can do it. It will be a little bit
23 of challenge without the steady and really capable
24 hands of Dan helping out behind me and preparing me for
25 these meetings. This might be his last meeting. We're
26 still working on him, you know. Considering things
27 like blackmail and stuff like that. So if you've got
28 anything, please see me.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MR. DALE: But I hope you'll all join
33 me in congratulating him for a really impressive career
34 and what incredible dedication and service he's
35 provided to this council.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Bruce.
38 Pete.

39
40 MR. PROBASCO: Very well said. Myron
41 and I go way back, along with Mike. All the way back
42 to college and hockey. Mike did both hockey and
43 basketball. Many times I'd find myself sitting across
44 the table from Myron, but he always brought a
45 dedication representing not only his people but the
46 issues of what's important to Alaska, so he's going to
47 be missed.

48
49 Sometimes we battled pretty hard. If
50 you go back to the False Pass fishery days and that

1 kind of stuff, but I have a tremendous amount of
2 respect for Myron and Tim as well. I just wish them
3 the best.

4

5 Dan, it's been great working for you.
6 I don't know if you've made the final decision yet.
7 You're sort of like me. It's kind of hard to make that
8 final decision. I know both the State and the Service,
9 when we work on issues, sometimes we have to make
10 compromises and sometimes we do butt heads, but I think
11 the product that we got at this meeting, not only with
12 the State, but also the Native Caucus is reflective of
13 how hard we worked at it. I think this Emperor
14 Management Plan is a testimony to that hard work and
15 product. I'm going to miss you, but hopefully you'll
16 stay involved one way or the other.

17

18 I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize the
19 hard work of both Donna and Patty putting these
20 meetings on. A tremendous amount of work behind the
21 scenes. I want to thank Donna. I also want to thank
22 Eric and his staff. They worked a lot behind the
23 scenes and also in front of us dealing with Emperor
24 geese. So thank you.

25

26 Thank you, Gayla.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Pete.
29 Cyrus.

30

31 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 Being second to the last on this table will make it
33 easier for me. I pretty much echo everybody that spoke
34 already. I'd like to thank Dan for all the hard work.
35 It made it much easier on us for this Emperor goose
36 decision. This AMBCC went a long way. This so
37 happened to be one of my better meetings that I
38 participated with. I'm not only involved with
39 migratory birds, but ice seal, beluga and caribou. So
40 this so happened to be one of my favorite meetings.

41

42 A lot of good information shared. I
43 thank everybody here that participated this past
44 several days and the past meetings. Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Cyrus.
47 Jack.

48

49 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thanks to Staff. I
50 think we all learned something. We can butt heads but

1 in the end it's not for us, it's for the future.
2 Thanks to Dan's staff and everybody who put a lot of
3 work into this. There were times when people were very
4 angry with each other and disgusted, but it worked out.
5 That's just hard work. People bending like a willow
6 and not breaking like a tree.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. I'll
11 end with closing comments and I will really try hard
12 not to cry. I won't cry this time. I wanted to thank
13 everybody for being here and to coming to the meetings.
14 I think I said it in the past and after a while we come
15 to these bird meetings and all of our feathers are
16 really nice when we first get here and sometimes our
17 feathers get ruffled and some of us leave with no
18 feathers left, but I think all of our feathers still
19 look nice this meeting.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I don't think
24 anybody got too ruffled. It was a really good meeting,
25 a lot of hard work went into the Emperor Goose
26 Management Plan. Thank you everybody for all the work
27 that went into that. Everybody's input, going back to
28 your regional councils, presenting the information.
29 It's a lot of information to absorb, bring to the
30 people in our region, have them understand it, vote on
31 the issue, bring it back here, let the voices be heard
32 and try to get everybody to understand our point of
33 view throughout the state of Alaska.

34

35 So I just want to thank everybody here
36 sitting around the table bringing forward that message
37 that we have to bring to these meetings. It's a hard
38 job. It takes major dedication. Just remember that.
39 Sometimes it's a lot of weight to bear when we come
40 here and you have the past hurts from different regions
41 like Cyrus talked about in the past and to bring that
42 forward. We do have historical trauma in a lot of our
43 regions, but we look at the positive and we look at the
44 positive changes that we can make to let the voice be
45 heard and also to better serve our people out living in
46 rural Alaska and the Native Alaskans here.

47

48 So I just want to thank you with that.
49 You know, just continue on your -- we don't only fight
50 birds, we're protecting our lifestyle. Mike and I were

1 talking outside. That's what we do. We are protectors
2 of our land and just keep up the good work, keep up the
3 hard work. Even though it can get discouraging
4 sometimes, just remember why you're put into these
5 leadership positions.

6

7 I wanted to thank you guys for the
8 confidence in having me sit here. It's a real honor
9 and I am very grateful to all of you for having that
10 confidence in me. I'll do my best to represent you
11 guys really well as we make decisions in future
12 endeavors throughout this next year.

13

14 One thing too is, you know, Myron was
15 here for a long time and he's laid a lot of the
16 groundwork and I just want to put on the record, you
17 know, thank you for all the hard work that Myron Naneng
18 did for AMBCC since he was here from the beginning of
19 when it started and the groundwork that he's laid.
20 People will come and go from different regions and
21 we'll see new faces.

22

23 As people come here, it's the
24 groundwork that was laid down from the leaders before
25 us. I just want to recognize Myron for that leadership
26 and your past leaders from your guys's regions and the
27 people who have sat here. So we'll continue on that
28 effort. Remember where you come from.

29

30 Also, in speaking of where we come
31 from, Tim Andrew was really instrumental in all of this
32 as well and he was really great to work with and we had
33 a lot of good conversations and side conversations and
34 a lot of good laughter. So we're going to really miss
35 working with Tim. He sat in Myron's place a lot of
36 times, so we're just glad to have gotten to know those
37 two very well and we will really miss them, but we'll
38 be working with them I'm sure in the future on other
39 issues that we fight throughout the state of Alaska
40 here.

41

42 And thank you, Patty, for everything
43 that you do in holding us together. I know sometimes
44 it's hard to get everybody to answer emails and get
45 back who's going to be available. It's a lot of work
46 gathering information from everybody. So thank you for
47 bearing with everybody and for all that you do. You do
48 a very well job and we want to thank you for that.

49

50 Also Donna, thank you for being there

1 too and answering our phone calls and questions that we
2 have throughout the year. And Jim Fall for
3 subsistence.

4
5 Thank you for all you do for us, and
6 Lili.

7
8 Especially, Dan, we're really going to
9 miss you and we really look forward to you being our
10 public, maybe our one public participant for future
11 meetings. I hope that even if you do retire and leave
12 that you'll come back and see us when we're here in our
13 meetings. It would be great to stay in touch. You
14 worked really hard and thank you so much for sticking
15 with it and staying to see the Emperor Goose Management
16 Plan be finalized. So thank you so much for everything
17 that you've done and we will miss you. It will be
18 great to see what you do in your retirement years.

19
20 I made it through without crying, so
21 I'm proud of myself for that. We'll turn to Staff
22 comments and we'll start with Patty.

23
24 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Why don't you ask if
25 anybody else wants to first.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, okay. Does
28 anybody else from Staff have any closing comments.
29 Dan.

30
31 DR. ROSENBERG: Do I have to go on the
32 microphone?

33
34 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Please do. State
35 your full name.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 DR. ROSENBERG: Dan Rosenberg. I just
40 want to thank everybody for your kind comments and for
41 having the opportunity to work with everybody here. I
42 can't tell you how much I've appreciated it. I can
43 remember back to my first meeting and I wasn't so sure
44 I'd have these things to say at this point in time.
45 Being new to that process, I kind of went through an
46 indoctrination at that time. It was very good for me
47 in the end.

48
49 But it has been a very rewarding
50 experience and I just am glad that we could accomplish

1 some things together. I think we've come a long ways
2 in this process and I'm glad to see that that will
3 continue. I've enjoyed working with everybody here and
4 I've learned a lot from this group and I thank you for
5 that. And a lot from working with everybody behind me.

6
7

8 Again, I don't like having my back to
9 everyone back there, but I do want to thank everybody
10 for I guess most importantly their patience with me.
11 We have butted heads at times over different issues,
12 there have been frustrations, but none of those were
13 personal and everything I recognize was everybody
14 trying to do what they thought was best for everything
15 involved in this process.

16

17 Most important what I'll take home with
18 me is just all of you and having the opportunity to
19 work with everybody and getting to know everybody
20 individually. Just, yes, getting that opportunity to
21 get to know you all and I appreciate that most
22 importantly.

23

24 With that I will stop. Thank you very
25 much.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Dan.
28 Any other Staff closing comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Patty.

33

34 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. In just a couple minutes we're going to be
36 signing the Emperor Goose Management Plan and so even
37 though it isn't the final final step in the process, it
38 is a huge, huge step for us at the AMBCC. I think we
39 have a lot to celebrate.

40

41 So all the thank-yous have been said.

42

43 I echo everyone's comments and
44 sentiments.

45

46 I have probably called on each one of
47 you at some point in time over the past year for
48 questions and help and you've all been very, very
49 responsive, helping me, giving me your information and
50 stepping up to the plate when we needed hands-on help

1 and I appreciate that.

2

3 I did want to recognize Mike Hoffman
4 for stepping up to the plate. Although I was, yes,
5 persistent, I was really, really glad that you were
6 able to come. AVCP, as people have said around the
7 room, has been key to this process. Myron Naneng and
8 Tim Andrew have been great leaders for us. I've
9 learned a lot from them and I'm really glad to see AVCP
10 has continued to be engaged in the Alaska Migratory
11 Bird Co-Management Council.

12

13 We have a lot of work ahead of us in
14 the next year and I'm looking forward to calling on
15 each of you at some point or another. So thank you
16 very much.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you, Patty.
19 It looks like we have a lot of work to do with our
20 committees that we formed and it will be good to tackle
21 the next things that we need to tackle. Does any other
22 Staff have any closing comments.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: No. Any other
27 public comment.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. So moving
32 on we're going to do the signing ceremony and AMBCC
33 recognition. Patty.

34

35 MS. DEWHURST: (Away from microphone).

36

37 MR. PROBASCO: That would be better.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Thank you,
40 Donna. So we'll come back to the signing ceremony and
41 we're going to do the date and place of the next
42 meeting for the spring. Your calendar for reference is
43 under Tab 9.

44

45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We've historically
46 set the date for the first week in April, but any date
47 is fine. Whatever works for everyone.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Go ahead, Mike.

50

1 MR. PEDERSON: Yeah, I recommend that
2 either the first two weeks of April are good for my
3 region.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Yeah, I
6 think the first week would be good. I don't know if
7 people have plans before Easter Sunday. If we keep it
8 for the first week of April, does that.....

9
10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: When is Easter?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It looks like
13 it's on April 16th. I guess for the place of the
14 meeting we were talking about having a meeting outside
15 of Anchorage. I know with the budget situation that
16 having it in a regional location might be difficult,
17 but it doesn't hurt to always try and look to see what
18 costs will be for all of us to travel to a location.

19
20 I know we were going to try to have our
21 fall meeting in Bethel and with all the budget cuts and
22 stuff a lot of Staff wouldn't have been able to attend
23 the meeting in person, so that's why we chose to have
24 the meeting here in Anchorage. It would have been
25 great if we could have been in Bethel, especially
26 discussing the Emperor goose, but I think that we came
27 a long way.

28
29 Does anybody have any ideas that we
30 could look into for the place of the next meeting? I
31 know Taqulik said somewhere around -- I mean it would
32 be really nice if we could -- I don't know how much a
33 plane ticket to Barrow is.

34
35 MR. PEDERSON: Eight-twenty round trip
36 from here.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Oh, from here
39 it's 800. So that would be a significant cost increase
40 for a lot of us that have to travel into Anchorage and
41 then go to Barrow. I don't think we would be able to
42 do that, which we would love to come up there.

43
44 Any other ideas of places. It's
45 expensive to come out to my region, so I wouldn't
46 recommend Dillingham. It's a \$700 round trip ticket
47 there as well.

48
49 MR. HOFFMAN: I think it's cheaper to
50 go to Hawaii. I'm not suggesting. I'm just saying.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Yeah, then we
4 could have our meeting outside. Do you guys want to
5 look at Fairbanks again? How did you like having
6 Fairbanks for a meeting place in the spring? Randy, do
7 you think you guys would be able to host us there
8 again?

9

10 MR. MAYO: Yeah, if the board wants to
11 go back there, I can work with you and Patty on it with
12 TCC.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: It's just an
15 idea. I'm just trying to think. I mean it's great to
16 come into Anchorage. Well, I can't believe I just said
17 that. I mean I hate coming into Anchorage. I guess
18 we'll look at the budget and see what we could do in
19 the different regions. I know that things are
20 expensive. Do you guys want to stick with the week of
21 April 3rd, 2017?

22

23 MR. HICKS: I'm open.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay.

26

27 MR. DEVINE: Good for
28 Aleutian/Pribilofs too.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Okay. Let's
31 shoot for the week of April 3rd and then the place to
32 be determined.

33

34 MR. HARRIS: Madame Chair. You're more
35 than welcome to do our research for Kotzebue. April
36 tends to be a great place to be in Kotzebue, but it
37 depends on what the budget really looks like, but
38 you're more than welcome to do the research.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Thank you. All
41 right. So now we'll move back to the signing ceremony
42 and AMBCC recognition portion.

43

44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We need to have the
45 Council members and Staff come to the table.

46

47 (Signing the Emperor Goose Management
48 Plan)

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: Well, that was a
4 historic moment in time. The signing of that plan is
5 really great. So we're on to the next item on the
6 agenda where I transfer the gavel to the incoming
7 Chair. So I'm going to give the gavel to the State of
8 Alaska, Bruce Dale.
9
10 CHAIRMAN DALE: Thank you. Without
11 further ado I'll adjourn the meeting.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRMAN DALE: Do I give the gavel
16 back? Was that my turn?
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 CHAIRMAN DALE: I'm okay with that.
21
22 MS. HOSETH: I'm sorry. We forgot
23 recognition. Do I take the gavel back?
24
25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You already passed
26 it.
27
28 MS. HOSETH: No, we passed it. You
29 could.....
30
31 MR. PROBASCO: You can do it.
32
33 CHAIRMAN DALE: I didn't expect a
34 disaster to start really this quickly.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We did pass cards
39 around, as all of you know, for Myron Naneng and Tim
40 Andrew and we really do appreciate all the work they've
41 done for the AMBCC on behalf of the subsistence hunters
42 in not only Western Alaska but across the included
43 area. So I will make sure that they get these cards
44 and know our heartfelt gratitude for the work that
45 they've done. Their leadership has been phenomenal.
46
47 We'd also like to take the time to
48 recognize Dan for all the work he's done on not only
49 the Management Plan, but everything else that we've
50 addressed over the past several years. So I have been

1 asked by Mike Pederson to say a few words and Gayla,
2 Pete, Bruce. So I'd like to turn the mic over to Mike.

3
4 MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Patty. For
5 those of you here at this table know the work that Dan
6 has done, but I also have another view of him
7 representing the State and doing the work that we do
8 here before we go to the SRC and that's at the Pacific
9 Flyway Council meetings.

10
11 So Dan, over the past eight years or so
12 that I've been going to those meetings, has been really
13 helpful on our efforts and you guys don't see the work
14 that he does over there, but he's always been there for
15 us, always writing the recommendations to the SRC, to
16 the Pacific Flyway Council over the years in passing
17 our regulations that we talk about at our April
18 meetings.

19
20 So I just wanted to mention that
21 there's another Dan that we really don't see but he
22 does do the work on our behalf and we have morning
23 meetings at breakfast, we have dinner meetings at night
24 and sometimes we meet until 8:00 or 9:00 at night just
25 to make sure that we're covered at the PFC level before
26 we go to the Service Regulations Committee meeting.

27
28 So I just wanted to mention that and
29 bring that up because that's a tough part of his job
30 that he has done in the past, talking to other flyway
31 council people on the working groups that we do meet
32 with over there and I just wanted to mention that
33 little part that we normally don't see. When we sit at
34 this table, we normally don't see the stuff he works
35 with with other states in bringing our issues to
36 fruition.

37
38 So thank you, Dan.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR HOSETH: I think I said my
41 thank-yous in my closing council comments, but I can't
42 thank you enough for all the hard work that you have
43 put in over the years. Thank you so much for
44 representing us at the Pacific Flyway Council and
45 carrying our voices that you gather here to the Pacific
46 Flyway Council meeting. So you will be greatly missed,
47 but it's a friendship that will be for life.

48
49 Thank you, Dan.

50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: So Dan, do you want
2 to come up. We have a little gift for you. I actually
3 got help from a couple members of the Native Caucus to
4 put this together. Jack Fagerstrom and Mike Pederson
5 had a hand in this gift, so you can thank them if you
6 like it, blame them if you don't like it.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I personally want to
11 say thank you to Dan. He's been always there when I
12 needed help, when I had questions about any of this
13 process or technical questions from the reports that
14 I'd been reading. He sat with me many times explaining
15 and re-explaining and I really appreciate his
16 dedication to these issues and his heart is in the
17 right place for the job that he's done for us. It's
18 meant a lot to me over the years. Thank you.

19

20 And believe it or not, I found an
21 Emperor goose at the Native Hospital Gift Shop. It's a
22 carved ivory Emperor goose. Jack and Mike put together
23 the habitat for it.

24

25 DR. ROSENBERG: (Away from microphone)

26

27 (Applause)

28

29 CHAIRMAN DALE: It's going to become
30 more and more apparent to you guys as it has to me how
31 easy they made this chairmanship stuff look. Thank you
32 both for your efforts.

33

34 With that, we're adjourned.

35

36 I'm not taking it back this time.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

