

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41

VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FALL MEETING

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Members Present:

- Bruce Dale, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Pete Probasco, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- John Reft, Kodiak/Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association
- Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
- Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
- Taqulik Hepa, North Slope Region, Barrow
- Joeneal Hicks, Copper River Native Association
- Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
- Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior
- Tim Andrew, Association of Village Presidents

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

Recorded and Transcribed by:  
Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-243-0668 - sahile@gci.net

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 9/24/2015)

(On record 9:21 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'd like to call us back into session. It's Thursday, day three. We concluded yesterday with a presentation from Eric Taylor on the status of various species that we hunt in the spring season. A couple of you have asked Eric to come back to the table for some Q&A. So, Eric, would you please join us.

DR. TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm Eric Taylor. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Why do I feel like I'm on trial?

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I'm going to turn the mic over to Gayla. You're first.

MS. HOSETH: I didn't have a direct question. We had one question. Tim was going to talk about it.

MR. ANDREW: Good morning, Eric. Can you state your full name and raise your right hand.

(Laughter)

DR. TAYLOR: I knew I should have taken that earlier flight.

MR. ANDREW: Truly a good morning. Thank you for your presentation yesterday. The email that you sent out regarding the Avian Disease Response Plan that the Service has. I read through the entire document and nowhere within the document was there a mention of AMBCC or any of the regional partners. If anything is going to happen out there, it's going to happen within the villages, within the true first responders. It's going to be the hunters or perhaps berry-pickers or somebody that's out there hunting and trapping and whatnot. You know, we have a lot of active people out there in our communities.

I don't know what the response time is

1 like with the Service or trained people that would  
2 respond to such mortality events, but definitely the  
3 people from the villages are going to be the first ones  
4 that are going to be out there. There is a pretty  
5 urgent need to educate our people out there. A lot of  
6 people don't have access to the internet, they don't  
7 have access to email. If they do have access to those  
8 services, they're often pretty slow and unreliable. So  
9 the education effort is going to have to be made  
10 amongst the regions and amongst the true first  
11 responders.

12  
13 DR. TAYLOR: You're spot on, Tim. That  
14 was on my last slide when I said the Service expects to  
15 train first responders in 2016. We just finished that  
16 report. It took a year-plus to revise it. That was  
17 the original Avian Influenza Response Plan. When the  
18 avian cholera event occurred two years ago on  
19 St. Lawrence Island, we were really caught unprepared  
20 and it was very evident. I think the people of St.  
21 Lawrence Island were disappointed in us, State of  
22 Alaska was disappointed the Service's response. It was  
23 one of those priorities that slipped to the side until  
24 we all of a sudden got caught. So this is the first  
25 step to correct that deficiency.

26  
27 The plan was just sent out in  
28 September. We have about 30 to 35 first responders  
29 right now. Some with USGS, some with Fish and Wildlife  
30 Service. There's a map in that document that shows the  
31 locations. I'm pretty sure that there's one on the  
32 Yukon Delta Refuge. But what our desire is, and I was  
33 just talking to Todd this morning and Brandon, our  
34 first desire is to get rural residents trained, a  
35 representative in all the -- particularly the coastal  
36 villages, but also some interior spots because, indeed,  
37 those are the folks that see the birds wash in, they're  
38 the ones who are hunting or see peculiar behavior that  
39 they haven't seen before.

40  
41 We want them to be both -- first off,  
42 the first objective, is to be safe. So if they see --  
43 and I think we defined an avian disease response, we  
44 have a number in there. So if you see one bird, it's  
45 usually not a situation that one gets alarmed, but if  
46 you see 10 and they're washed up on shore, that usually  
47 sets off alarms saying something is not right.

48  
49 So the first objective is to make sure  
50 people are safe, that they have the personal protection

1 equipment and the training, that if they want to  
2 collect birds, they do so in a safe manner. Secondly,  
3 they do so collecting the correct information, labeling  
4 the bird, storing the bird, freezing the bird or  
5 keeping the bird fresh frozen and then collecting the  
6 correct information.

7

8                   So our objective for 2016 is to hold  
9 avian disease and avian mortality first responders  
10 training session. It's about a four to five day  
11 course. It will likely be in Anchorage. We bring in  
12 people from the USGS National Wildlife Health Lab.  
13 Barb Bodenstern is our representative. We also bring  
14 in Kimberly Beckman, the veterinarian for the  
15 Department of Fish and Game. We bring in Bob Gerlach,  
16 who is the State veterinarian with the Department of  
17 Environmental Conservation, and then bring in others  
18 that have special skills in terms of describing avian  
19 disease or avian injury and then what to do.

20

21                   We expect to start to correct that.  
22 Whether we get everything done in 2016, we doubt it,  
23 but we certainly want to look at the state. We  
24 certainly, if there's a region or regions to say we  
25 have an ideal person that we want to send to this, that  
26 would be almost a ticket to Anchorage. There's nothing  
27 like people being voluntarily interested in this.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Eric, they would  
30 send that name to you?

31

32                   DR. TAYLOR: That's correct. My  
33 contact information is I'm the lead contact for Fish  
34 and Wildlife Service. I kind of serve as a  
35 distribution center because we have seabird scientists  
36 and waterfowl scientists. So if you see seabirds, the  
37 first thing I do is talk to one of our three seabird  
38 scientists and say, okay, what species could this be,  
39 what could be occurring, have you seen this before.

40

41                   2015, as I mentioned in that last  
42 slide, was a very unusual year. We had thousands of  
43 seabirds wash up onshore from Southeast all the way up  
44 to through Izembek, Bristol Bay, several regions.  
45 We've kept the National Wildlife Health Lab very busy  
46 this summer with sending carcasses back. No avian  
47 influenza, no avian cholera. It was starvation,  
48 emaciation. It was due to the very warm sea  
49 conditions, changes in invertebrate food distribution  
50 and birds could not find food where they normally find

1 it. So it was a very unusual year. In fact, I got an  
2 email yesterday from the National Wildlife Health Lab.  
3 Again, it was emaciation or starvation.

4  
5 So people don't know that. They see  
6 all these birds washing up on shore. There's fears of  
7 radiation, there's fears of contaminants, there's fears  
8 of rodenticide that was used on the Aleutians, there's  
9 fears of oil contamination from Shell in Chukchi.  
10 There's a myriad. Indeed, when you see a bird wash up,  
11 you have no idea and then you have no idea is this  
12 affecting healthy birds that I'm harvesting. So the  
13 quicker we can respond to this and assure people that,  
14 yes, the birds you want to harvest are still healthy  
15 the better.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik.

18  
19 MS. HEPA: I was just going to make a  
20 request, Mr. Chair, if Patty can remind us to send a  
21 name to him. If I go home, I might forget.

22  
23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Send what?

24  
25 MS. HEPA: A name. Just a reminder to  
26 send a name of someone from our respective regions to  
27 attend this important workshop.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I've got John and  
30 I'll go back to Tim.

31  
32 MR. REFT: Yeah, Eric, John Reft,  
33 Kodiak. My concern is I don't know if you guys are  
34 monitoring the bombing that has been going on in that  
35 Kodiak area on the north end by the U.S. Navy. The  
36 dead whales and what have you. Their response when  
37 they met with us at our tribal they said no, no,  
38 there's no damage, there's no problem with it at all,  
39 we've got it under control. Well, they basically just  
40 wrote us off face to face at the table with our  
41 concerns. They've already been kicked out of Hawaii  
42 and other places where they were doing the bombing and  
43 the sonar tests, but we don't know what they're doing  
44 to Kodiak. We have had dead whales out there that we  
45 never had before.

46  
47 Well, basically last spring we didn't  
48 have enough time to fight them and try to stop them.  
49 Now we've got an alliance with Eyak, Cordova, Homer,  
50 the Kenaitze Kenai, Kodiak, Port Lions, Ouzinkie. It's

1 going to be a different ball game next year. But I  
2 would just like to know from you guys if you're  
3 monitoring the damage that's being done out there.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 DR. TAYLOR: John, we were aware of the  
8 proposal for the bombing to occur in that area off  
9 Kodiak. One of our seabird biologists Kathy Kuletz  
10 commented on that. We do not have any monitoring  
11 associated with it. What I would recommend is the next  
12 time if they have any interest in repeating that  
13 operation and you are aware of it, this is something  
14 that our two programs, the Sun'aq Tribe and the Fish  
15 and Wildlife Service, should collaborate for us to  
16 provide you the monitoring that you desire or at least  
17 provide comment so that you can see our comment letter  
18 on the proposal by the Department of Defense.

19

20 I will tell you there was -- I think  
21 what NOAA calls an unusual event in 2015 relative to  
22 whales due to the numbers of carcasses of various  
23 species that reached a number where it did not fall  
24 within the normal variance of mortality of marine  
25 mammals.

26

27 Again, I'm not saying that was not --  
28 that the bombing could not have affected a whale or  
29 whales, but I do know that NOAA has already come out  
30 with a special designation. When they do that special  
31 designation, they kick in a series of research studies  
32 and monitoring associated with marine mammals. But  
33 I've not kept up with that, so I'm not in the best  
34 position really. I've not kept up with the Department  
35 of Defense's -- that was the Navy, is that correct?

36

37 MR. REFT: Yeah.

38

39 DR. TAYLOR: Their proposal and their  
40 operations to bomb off of Kodiak. I know that they had  
41 argued that they were offshore enough and in open  
42 water, that it was not a seabird concentration area  
43 near nor a colony, but I don't know anything more than  
44 that. But I do encourage you to feel free to contact me  
45 and we will make a better attempt to contact the Sun'aq  
46 Tribe when were commenting on something.

47

48 MR. REFT: Yeah, thank you, Eric.  
49 There is work going on from Eyak clean on to Kenaitze  
50 and Kodiak for next year. There is going to be a big

1 rebuttal on their blasting that they have been doing  
2 and where they've been kicked out and their denials.  
3 After this scenario was over, I happened to be down  
4 watching -- well, I watch it early in the morning, 5:00  
5 o'clock, National Geographic, where they were down off  
6 of California and blasting and they said that their  
7 sonar and their bombs -- and they were going to blow up  
8 320,000 to 620,000 pounds. That's what they do in  
9 their sonar test. But they denied it had any effect on  
10 the sea mammals whatsoever. They were very careful and  
11 everything.

12  
13                   When they were bombing, 70 dolphins  
14 from the area they were bombing just flew into this  
15 boat harbor and beached on the sands and people were  
16 running down there trying to get them back in the water  
17 to save them and seven of them died. He denied that  
18 happening, but we saw it right after he denied it. The  
19 next episode they showed on the screen was the effect  
20 it had on sea mammals. It just messes them up so bad.  
21 They don't know what to do in fear and they beach and  
22 they die or probably getting blown up. Like we went  
23 from nine to 18 whales out there where we are.

24  
25                   No, something's got to be done. It's  
26 got to be watched. When I told that guy from the Navy  
27 when he met with us, the tribal, I said why in the hell  
28 don't you go off of Russia and Japan and do your  
29 blasting. Get away from us. Leave us alone. We're  
30 trying to build up our sea stocks, you know. Okay, I'm  
31 sorry, but thank you very much.

32  
33                   DR. TAYLOR: You bring up another  
34 point. We'll also get our Marine Mammals Management  
35 Office in touch with you too relative to see if they've  
36 had any contact with the Department of Defense as well.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Eric.  
39 Tim, did you have another question?

40  
41                   MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chair. Is there any way that we can possibly develop  
43 planning and implementation plans, action plans,  
44 whatnot, within various regions? As we've gone through  
45 this entire process since the beginning of the AMBCC,  
46 one size glove does not necessarily fit in various  
47 regions in scope or magnitude or whatever and all  
48 regions are pretty unique.

49  
50                   Like, for example, for the last several

1 days we've been seeing presentations, whatnot, the  
2 major concentration of the summer breeding colonies,  
3 mostly in my area, and we have a number of villages, we  
4 have a number of wild beings, including birds of prey,  
5 scavenging birds and whatnot, predators that can be  
6 infected as a result of a large mortality event or  
7 disease event. So it can really effect a huge area of  
8 our ecosystem and our very lives as well.

9

10 So I'd just has the Migratory Bird  
11 Division to consult with our villages to the maximum  
12 degree possible and also keeping the regional  
13 management bodies well informed as far as how this  
14 process is going to go.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 DR. TAYLOR: Tim, we'd be happy to  
19 meet. I have given presentations to, as you know, the  
20 AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee and I would be  
21 happy the next time you hold that meeting. That was  
22 another very productive meeting where I had the  
23 opportunity to meet with elders from various villages  
24 on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and there's nothing like  
25 direct contact with people as opposed to just reports  
26 or emails or whatever. So you have my commitment that  
27 we will, myself or someone else from our division, will  
28 attend the next Waterfowl Conservation Committee and  
29 give an update.

30

31 I'm pleased to say that Neil Lalonde,  
32 the refuge manager at Yukon Delta Refuge, has  
33 reimplemented a more active Refuge Information  
34 Technician Program. We have two representatives here  
35 today from the Yukon Delta Refuge for the exact purpose  
36 that you would like to see. So I have given, for  
37 example, copies of my PowerPoint presentation to the  
38 Refuge Information Technicians and it's the expectation  
39 that they take my presentation out to the villages when  
40 they meet with rural residents.

41

42 So I agree with you and I stand again  
43 with my offer to attend any of your regional meetings  
44 and present -- in this case, when I went to Wainwright  
45 with Taqulik and Mike, I gave a very specific  
46 presentation for the North Slope Borough. In fact, the  
47 presentation that you saw yesterday did not contain  
48 many of the slides that I presented at Wainwright. The  
49 reason is, I geared it specifically for interest in  
50 that region. I will do so for all of your regions.



1 There's no sense of me talking about a bird that occurs  
2 in Interior Alaska if I'm out at Dillingham, for  
3 example.

4

5                   Between the Refuge Information  
6 Technicians and that program, between our offer to  
7 attend as many regional meetings as possible, I'm  
8 hoping that at least puts a dent in the communication  
9 problem.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Others. Go ahead,  
12 Jack.

13

14                   MR. FAGERSTROM: How many people are  
15 you going to train to be first responders from each  
16 region?

17

18                   DR. TAYLOR: We would hope that at  
19 least one person from each region. Again, when you  
20 look at the region, like perhaps the Yukon Delta or  
21 Bering Strait, Norton Sound and the numbers of villages  
22 or Bristol Bay, you're not going to have everyone in a  
23 location or a village where an event could occur, but  
24 if they know a point of contact and that person can  
25 jump on a local flight or jump on a four-wheeler or  
26 jump in a boat compared to me finding somebody from our  
27 office, putting them on a plane and getting them out  
28 there, it cuts travel and response time by at least a  
29 day to several days.

30

31                   So at least one person per region, but  
32 we would certainly consider more than that. There  
33 comes a point where you want about 30, possibly 40 for  
34 attendance because there's a field exercise, we go out  
35 in the field and we actually plant carcasses in the  
36 woods or a beach area. We train people to set up a  
37 transect system and then set up various zones that we  
38 call hot zones, warm zones and cool zones relative to  
39 if there's a significant risk for a contaminant, and  
40 then an area where you process a bird and then an area  
41 that is clean. So the last thing you want to do is if  
42 it was a contaminated area is to spread it to other  
43 areas.

44

45                   So it's a quite in-depth process in  
46 terms of training people, so we have to keep the class  
47 size relatively small, but the option is to hold  
48 several classes.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Gayla, please, then

1 I'll go to Tim.

2

3 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 Having one from our region would be difficult because  
5 that person would also have to hop on an airplane and  
6 travel to where that is and it's very costly to travel  
7 within our region and I'm sure it's the same in all the  
8 other regions. I would like you to consider maybe at  
9 least four or five, depending on the region size, then  
10 we can kind of break that out to our subregions.

11

12 DR. TAYLOR: We can certainly get to  
13 that, Gayla. I don't know whether it's going to occur  
14 in the first year or not. Considering the amount of  
15 effort and coordination it takes to pull off these  
16 training sessions, we have to bring people in from the  
17 Lower 48 from the National Wildlife Health Lab.  
18 Kimberly Beckman was instrumental in the first training  
19 session that we had, Bob Gerlach. So it takes a bit of  
20 a coordination to pull this together, but what I'm  
21 hoping for is at least one, possibly two training  
22 sessions and start to click away at that. Certainly  
23 that would be ideal to have people out there as many as  
24 we can.

25

26 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Tim.

27

28 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As  
29 I was flipping through the response plan, I couldn't  
30 help but look at the pictures. People were pretty  
31 dressed for pretty warm climate. Out where I'm from an  
32 event can occur any time. If it happens in the dead of  
33 winter or early spring, late fall, where we have to  
34 have heavy clothing, I see the face shields and the  
35 gloves, the latex. You know, those don't necessarily  
36 work when it's extremely cold and you put humans out  
37 there facing those elements. That's why I'm really  
38 pushing for region-specific planning and  
39 implementation. Definitely one size does not fit all.  
40 Our where John is from is completely different from  
41 where I'm from and things can happen at various times  
42 of the season.

43

44 DR. TAYLOR: That's a good point, Tim.  
45 We can try to make plans to address as many of those  
46 things as possible, but certainly there's always going  
47 to be the case of using professional judgment and  
48 knowledge that wearing latex gloves at -40 is not going  
49 to work. I lived in Fairbanks long enough to know  
50 that. I mean you're right.

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Okay.  
2 Eric, thanks.

3  
4 DR. TAYLOR: Thank you.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: At this time we're  
7 going to go back into the agenda and we're going to  
8 bring Neesha and Sarah or just Neesha up and she's  
9 going to give us a quick update on the Eider  
10 reintroduction. Okay. Thank you, Neesha.  
11

12 MS. STELLRECHT: Good morning. For the  
13 record, Neesha Stellrecht. I work for the Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service here in Fairbanks in the Fairbanks  
15 Field Office. I was asked to come today to give you a  
16 brief update on where we are with Steller's Eider  
17 reintroduction. I was here in April to give you an  
18 update at that time and told you guys that we were  
19 going to be doing a fair amount of field work this  
20 summer. So I thought it would be helpful to tell you  
21 what we did this summer and then kind of go on with  
22 next steps.  
23

24 So fieldwork in 2015 we spent about  
25 three months out in the field this summer. We're  
26 continuing to do wetland characterization, looking at  
27 pond structure, water quality, disease and  
28 contaminants. So we did a fair amount of that work,  
29 which completed our fieldwork at least in that respect  
30 for now.  
31

32 Then the other thing we did this summer  
33 was we did a pilot project and what we were looking for  
34 there is to test some of the husbandry methods. So a  
35 lot of the field husbandry, raising birds in captivity  
36 and seeing how that would go, so we set up basically a  
37 field facility and we had a captive rearing facility.  
38 We took Pintail eggs from a nest that was on the Delta  
39 that we found, 12 eggs. We incubated those, hatched  
40 them, raised the ducklings and released them and  
41 collected a bunch of data as you can imagine to see how  
42 that operation went.  
43

44 So that project took place on the Lower  
45 Kashunuk, so we worked closely with the village of  
46 Chevak. They helped us quite a bit with helping  
47 transfer gear. We hired some local people to help us  
48 set up and we basically went back and forth to Chevak  
49 to pull off that project.  
50

1                   So that was most of the fieldwork, all  
2 the data. We just came out of the field about a month  
3 ago, so all that data is still currently being analyzed  
4 and we're working through kind of next steps and where  
5 we want to go with next steps based on what we learned.  
6

7                   Then one of the highlights of this  
8 summer was -- I reported in April we had two gals from  
9 Chevak, two students, who worked with us in the summer  
10 in Barrow in 2014 on the Eider project. The promise to  
11 those girls was then they would get to take a field  
12 trip to the SeaLife Center to see the captive flock  
13 that we have there. So this summer we were able to  
14 pull that off. The two girls also with our staff in  
15 Barrow went to the SeaLife Center. They did a behind-  
16 the-scenes tour, learned all about the captive  
17 Steller's Eider flock, then came to Anchorage and did a  
18 presentation at the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional  
19 Office and then spent a little bit of time at the ANSEP  
20 building and learned a little bit about the ANSEP  
21 program.  
22

23                   So where we are now is basically next  
24 steps. We're continuing to analyze the data that we  
25 collected this summer. We're continuing to work  
26 closely with the impacted villages of Chevak, Hooper  
27 Bay, Newtok. We're still deciding release sites and  
28 methods. All the components of the projects are still  
29 being analyzed and worked through. So we'll continue  
30 to refine the program. We're planning to do a pilot  
31 release of Steller's Eiders in 2016. This fall and  
32 winter we're planning to go out to the villages and  
33 continue those discussions and continue to move  
34 forward.  
35

36                   That's all I have.  
37

38                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Neesha.  
39 An opportunity for Council to ask questions of Neesha.  
40 Appreciate the report. Patty.  
41

42                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Neesha.  
43 As I mentioned here earlier, the Council is interested  
44 on keeping updated on this project. It sounds like  
45 you're doing some exciting things out there.  
46

47                   I was just going to request if you'll  
48 be able to provide a copy of the results of your  
49 studies this summer to the Council members. It will be  
50 interesting to see how the study in Chevak what those

1 results show.

2

3 MS. STELLRECHT: Sure, we would be happy  
4 to do that. I think right now the SeaLife Center does  
5 a lot of that work. So what I could do is once we have  
6 the results and kind of our next steps and our plans  
7 based on what we learned we could definitely provide a  
8 report to the Council.

9

10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You can send them to  
11 me.

12

13 MS. STELLRECHT: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Follow-up, Patty?  
16 You good?

17

18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No, I'm good.

19

20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Thank you.  
21 John.

22

23 MR. REFT: I just have one question. I  
24 don't know what their main diet is, but do the ducks  
25 eat shrimp quite a bit in their diet or what?

26

27 MS. STELLRECHT: On the breeding  
28 grounds, the Steller's Eiders, from what we know, are  
29 mostly feeding on invertebrates. So chironomids,  
30 little kind of blood worms, is what we think. And then  
31 in the marine environment it's more of crustacean-type  
32 foods. I don't think shrimp is a big part of their  
33 diet, but I don't know that for sure.

34

35 MR. REFT: Yeah. Well, the reason I  
36 ask is because in Kodiak there were thousands of  
37 Pacific Eiders and Scoters, you know, the black/yellow  
38 bill. There were just thousands of them. Five minutes  
39 out of town in the skiff and, man, they were  
40 everywhere. Woody Island Straits, Long Island,  
41 everywhere. But then it seemed to me they overfished  
42 the shrimp fishery there and they closed it down and  
43 everything disappeared. We don't have tremendous  
44 flocks out there. I mean there are scattered ducks  
45 here and there, you know, but the amount of ducks they  
46 had to migrate somewhere, but they have left the  
47 vicinity of the Kodiak area like they used to be.

48

49 MS. STELLRECHT: Yeah, that's an  
50 interesting observation. Eric might actually know

1 better than I do. It probably depends too on the  
2 different Eiders. You know, they all have different  
3 diets, so depending on what they're feeding on.

4

5 MR. REFT: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Other questions for  
8 Neesha. Bruce, please.

9

10 MR. DALE: So what's your target for  
11 how many young you'll put out next year for Eiders?

12

13 MS. STELLRECHT: Yeah, that's a great  
14 question and we're still kind of working through that.  
15 What we did learn this summer from the SeaLife Center  
16 is that the Eiders were able to produce at least this  
17 summer up to 200-plus viable eggs. So we're starting  
18 to kind of rethink how we might want to -- what kind of  
19 methods we might want to use. The hope would be to put  
20 out as many as we can. So if we can make use of those  
21 200 viable eggs, that's what we would probably try to  
22 do.

23

24 MR. DALE: How do you protect them when  
25 you release them out there?

26

27 MS. STELLRECHT: Another great  
28 question. Those discussions are currently taking  
29 place. Some of the methodologies we've talked about is  
30 raising ducklings in captivity and rearing them where  
31 mom would be a human, but based on what we learned this  
32 summer we're thinking that that might not be the best  
33 approach, so we're in discussions right now thinking  
34 about surrogate species. If we were to do that, then  
35 mom would be a duck and would hopefully teach the  
36 ducklings predator avoidance, how to feed, all those  
37 kinds of things.

38

39 Again, those are very -- well, they're  
40 discussions that are taking place right now and we've  
41 just begun those discussions. We'd be happy to any  
42 time if you want a briefing or kind of where we are on  
43 our thinking, we'd be happy to do that anytime.

44

45 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So a follow up on  
46 Bruce's question. So somewhere in the neighborhood of  
47 200 possibly. Would this all take place at Chevak, in  
48 that area?

49

50 MS. STELLRECHT: We're working through

1 site selection, so currently the two sites are Kigigak  
2 or the Lower Kashunuk is where we are, but depending on  
3 the method that we use we may find ourselves at a  
4 different location, but it would all be coastal Y-K  
5 Delta or on Kigigak Island. So close to Chevak, Hooper  
6 Bay. If we end up at Kigigak, Newtok would be the  
7 closest village we would work with.

8

9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Neesha.  
10 Others. Jack.

11

12 MR. FAGERSTROM: In your shoreline pond  
13 study have you noticed anything unusual, shrinking of  
14 shoreline habitat?

15

16 MS. STELLRECHT: I'm probably not the  
17 best person to speak to that. We haven't noticed  
18 anything that I'm aware of. Based on what's been  
19 collected in '14 and '15, all those samples are being  
20 analyzed. I believe a report will be out probably by  
21 the end of this month if not by the end of the year and  
22 I think that will give us more information as to what  
23 we're looking at with pond structure and things like  
24 that. I don't even think they're looking at changes in  
25 habitat at this point.

26

27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay, Tim.

28

29 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do  
30 you have any idea of when the principal nesting time  
31 period is for Steller's Eiders? Is it as common as the  
32 other birds or within that same time period? What I'm  
33 concerned about is we gather a huge number of eggs and  
34 I don't know if there's going to be protocol to protect  
35 various colonies and various locations. Since you did  
36 indicate that the nearest communities are Chevak and  
37 Newtok or we're going to have Newertok with the new  
38 village.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. ANDREW: Can you give us an idea of  
43 what the nesting time periods are for the birds?

44

45 MS. STELLRECHT: Yes. So the  
46 phrenology is very similar to other ducks, other  
47 waterfowl on the delta, so we would be basically  
48 working at the same timeframe as when all the other  
49 birds are nesting. I think as far as egg collection,  
50 what we would do is work closely with the villages and

1 make sure people knew what we were doing and we would  
2 be out there also monitoring nests and ducklings and  
3 things of that nature. I guess I'm not too concerned  
4 that local people would be taking eggs that we might be  
5 putting out there.

6

7 MR. ANDREW: I'm not sure -- I know  
8 there's various camps that are based out there. Are  
9 those the two normal camps that the Service normally  
10 utilizes every summer or they'll give you new camps?

11

12 MS. STELLRECHT: I don't think that  
13 decision has been made yet. I think it would be a new  
14 camp. The camp we had this summer for the pilot study  
15 was the camp that we call RC, so it was formerly used.  
16 It was used by us this summer, but I don't think there  
17 was an existing Fish and Wildlife Service camp there  
18 anymore. So I think we would probably have a new camp,  
19 but probably in close proximity to existing Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service camps.

21

22 MR. ANDREW: That would be great if you  
23 were to come out here when we had a regional management  
24 body meeting prior to the camp installation.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. STELLRECHT: Thank you. Yeah,  
29 we're happy to do that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Anymore questions.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay, Neesha, I  
36 think on behalf of the Council, thanks. Maybe more  
37 updates in April what your studies have found, et  
38 cetera, and plans.

39

40 MS. STELLRECHT: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Gayla  
43 reminded me that for us staying here at this hotel that  
44 checkout is at 11:00, so my plan is to go right up to  
45 about quarter till 11:00 and we'll take a break and  
46 allow everybody to check out and then come back.

47

48 So we're going to move back to new  
49 business. It's 11(b) limited subsistence harvest of  
50 Emperor Geese. We did take action yesterday. Is there



1 any more discussion that the Council would like to  
2 bring or should we move on to the financial report?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. We will move  
7 on to the financial report. That's myself and Donna.  
8 Thank you, Patty, for passing out the information that  
9 Gayla requested. What we're looking at is a one-page  
10 document that says AMBC FY14 spending detail and FY15.  
11 Even though the date in the right-hand corner says  
12 September 23rd, this is the information that we  
13 provided last spring.

14

15 I know under the Y-K Delta Harvest  
16 Survey there's a number there 0. That is not accurate.  
17 In fact, we have provided funding of 60K that will be  
18 combined with the RIT process on the Y-K Delta.  
19 Liliana relies a lot on that to get her information. So  
20 that program is funded and it's ongoing.

21

22 So that's FY15. Any questions on that  
23 before I go to FY16.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So during the work  
28 session FY16 I provided a status report to the best of  
29 our ability. We're uncertain where we'll end up.  
30 Right now headquarters is anticipating continuing  
31 resolutions at least through December. If that's the  
32 case, we would look at funding similar to FY15. If  
33 there is a budget passed, the Migratory Bird Program  
34 nationwide is looking at a minimum of a 2 percent  
35 reduction. On top of that reduction Fish and Wildlife  
36 Service has identified some key project that funding  
37 will be dedicated to, such as the Monarchs, Gulf Coast,  
38 Sage Grouse, maintenance to the National Conservation  
39 Training Center, et cetera. Once you go through that  
40 process it equates to about a 9 percent possible  
41 reduction starting FY16.

42

43 Based on that scenario, I am still  
44 committed to the funding of Patty's office and the  
45 funding of all the regional council grants. That's a  
46 very important aspect. We also rely heavily on Alaska  
47 Department of Fish and Game as far as the harvest  
48 surveys and the information they provide. What that  
49 exact number will be I have no idea right now, but  
50 we'll be working on it. This is a priority not only

1 for Eric and I but also for Regional Director Geoff  
2 Haskett. As you can see, we try to keep our funding  
3 stable to the best of our abilities, but all of you  
4 guys have dealt with budgets and you know that plans  
5 can be changed based on the final allocation.

6

7 Questions. Taqulik.

8

9 MS. HEPA: I'm just curious. Do you  
10 have the flexibility to move funding within budgets?  
11 For example, Eric's programs with the research that he  
12 conducts. I don't know if you have oversight of  
13 Neesha's program like for that study that she was just  
14 speaking about, but can you move within programs to  
15 make sure that things are adequately funded or to set  
16 priorities at a broader level?

17

18 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Of course, I have  
19 no authority within Sarah and Neesha's budget, but  
20 within the Migratory Bird Program Eric and I work very  
21 closely together to identify the priorities. I can also  
22 say that when we get into situations where we see  
23 shortfalls and it's a regional priority, we sit down  
24 with Geoff Haskett and my counterparts from the other  
25 programs and we try to secure other funds. It could  
26 come from refuges, it could come from FES or Science  
27 Apps, but there is flexibility in moving money. It  
28 just depends on where it falls as far as priorities.

29

30 Others. Tim.

31

32 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
33 know there was a State contribution into the AMBCC  
34 project or program at some point. I was just wondering  
35 if you can elaborate on the State contribution, whether  
36 that's going to be sustainable or not.

37

38 MR. DALE: I made a note back in April  
39 to get a handle on that so I would be prepared this  
40 time and I didn't do it. I think Pete can help me out  
41 here, maybe Lili. Please, Lili.

42

43 MS. NAVES: Liliana Naves, Division of  
44 Subsistence. So a couple years ago the Division of  
45 Wildlife Conservation committed for a three-year period  
46 to an amount of \$80,000 per year. We are now on the  
47 second year of that agreement. This is the amount that  
48 shows as 80,000 there as AK State Fish and Game. So  
49 this is showing there in the budget.

50

1                   So the first line there that says AK  
2 Fish and Game 100,000, this is the money that Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service contributed to the coordination of the  
4 program and a part of that covers my salary. Other  
5 part of that goes to data management analysis,  
6 maintenance of the database and that kind of work to  
7 have the data available, the internet.

8  
9                   We have other people from the  
10 Information Management Unit that helps with that data  
11 entry, so there is a number of other people that works  
12 intermittently keeping up with the data entry,  
13 archiving and maintenance for the AMBCC. So this is  
14 the 100,000. The second line there, 80,000, is the  
15 money contributed by the Division of Wildlife  
16 Conservation.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Taqulik, please.

19  
20                   MS. HEPA: So you have the actual for  
21 2014, the current status for FY2015 and then for 2016  
22 did you say that you were going to request a status  
23 quo? The reason I ask is because I know that Colorado  
24 State is in the process of providing a recommendation  
25 or the results that they have from their analysis on  
26 the harvest surveys. So if the harvest surveys are  
27 going to go forward in FY2016, how would that be  
28 reflected in the future budget?

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: If I understand  
31 your question, Taqulik. So if you look at that same  
32 information provided in the middle of the document,  
33 under the Y-K Delta harvest survey and the Y-K Flats  
34 harvest survey, for FY16 going on the presentation Luke  
35 provided, we would hope by February of next year we'd  
36 have some idea what the survey process, if you will,  
37 would look like. So instead of that saying Y-K Delta  
38 harvest survey, Y-K Flats survey, it would say harvest  
39 survey for FY2016. So what that amount and what we  
40 will tackle is unknown at this point for '16. Go  
41 ahead.

42  
43                   MS. HEPA: I think what I was thinking  
44 that once Colorado State is done with their contract,  
45 that \$200,000 that is dedicated to them would that go  
46 to the surveys or is that a possibility?

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Most definitely a  
49 possibility, but not a guarantee. I'm hoping we get  
50 status quo, but keep in mind that I already qualified

1 that with a possible 9 percent reduction. So you could  
2 anticipate if that is indeed the case and looking at my  
3 entire Migratory Bird Program, we're going to have to  
4 deal with less dollars.

5  
6 The other thing, future years out, FY17  
7 and beyond, nationwide, the Migratory Bird Program is  
8 looking at restructuring. Region 7, if you were to  
9 compare us to the other regions, we have the largest  
10 program and understandably so because a lot of our  
11 birds nest and we do a lot of surveys.

12  
13 So Eric and I are uncertain where we  
14 will be in FY17 and beyond. Hopefully we'll know more  
15 after our meeting in Sacramento in early October.  
16 Right now there's a lot of uncertainty in our budget,  
17 particularly from '17 on. But AMBCC is not something  
18 that's sitting in the middle of our priorities. It's  
19 up on the top.

20  
21 MS. HEPA: Good. And I appreciate  
22 that, Mr. Chair. Thank you for that. You know, the  
23 reality is that at least with our regional meetings  
24 that we do have it basically funds one meeting a year  
25 and we've tried to make the most of it by attending or  
26 having an AMBCC regional body meeting in a different  
27 community every year. So we finally made that full  
28 round and we're back at Wainwright and it's been eight  
29 years since the last time we've been there.

30  
31 As Eric stated, it was a really good  
32 meeting and there needs to be more of it, but if they  
33 have to wait another eight years for us to come back  
34 because, you know, we do believe in true co-management,  
35 but connecting with the hunters is the key and I know  
36 that budgets are always going to be a problem. I just  
37 wanted to state that, that with the funding that we do  
38 have for co-management for migratory birds that it is  
39 meeting the minimal of what we can do to sustain this  
40 program.

41  
42 I do appreciate your comments and if  
43 there's anything that we can do to advocate, you know,  
44 if there is going to be true co-management and it's a  
45 working co-management regime, that funding is key. Co-  
46 management will actually provide a lot of benefits to  
47 the agencies that are managing these resources. So we  
48 are there to help and to work together. So thank you.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I like that,

1 Taqulik, and I appreciated the earlier comments  
2 particularly during the work session. You know, the  
3 Service is -- as I said, this is a priority program,  
4 but it's obvious in a current budget climate, the State  
5 of Alaska stepped up and provided the 80,000. That  
6 gave us some relief. But when we talk about work  
7 session and looking at future years, we might have to  
8 be more proactive and how can we leverage other  
9 resources to help keep this program where we want it to  
10 go.

11

12 Tim.

13

14 MR. ANDREW: Thank you very much. We  
15 can help. We have 10 of the 12 regions in Alaska  
16 represented in this room in this co-management body.  
17 As long as we have adequate time, warning -- like, for  
18 example, it looks like Region 7 is going to be cut to a  
19 debilitating amount where this program is in jeopardy  
20 or any other essential function of the Service in  
21 carrying out its responsibility in the regions, we'd  
22 like to know so that we can write letters and get  
23 resolutions drafted through AFN and various venues in  
24 trying to help achieve maintaining this program.

25

26 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good point. Good  
27 strategy. I'll put both Eric and I on the spot. If  
28 there is a continuing resolution after October 1 and we  
29 find ourselves in Sacramento, we will provide Patty a  
30 summary of that meeting and as it pertains to Region 7  
31 and this program. John.

32

33 MR. REFT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With  
34 the budget, it kind of ties the hands of Kodiak in a  
35 way of speaking. It costs so much to fly just to  
36 Kodiak as you know. You can fly to Seattle or Hawaii  
37 cheaper than you can to fly to Kodiak. All that goes  
38 into our budget. There is no monies to send like an  
39 alternate to come with me for a meeting so that he can  
40 meet, train and know what's going on instead of coming  
41 in here as an alternate and be cold turkey not knowing  
42 what's going on.

43

44 While I'm on this topic, I would like  
45 to say after all the years of coming here off and on  
46 from the beginning, recognizing Joeneal, Randy, some of  
47 the guys, Myron's not here, but this Council that's  
48 here now I am so impressed that every one of them that  
49 represents their village can speak out on behalf of  
50 their members and the food and their livelihood and

1 stuff that's in store to keep them alive. Before, it  
2 seemed to me that a lot of them just sat and listened  
3 to Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game, and basically  
4 dictation but no input. But now you're dealing with a  
5 more educated bunch of people here and I am impressed.  
6 I'm proud to be here and I want to compliment this  
7 Council.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, John.  
12 Any questions to Donna on the grants for the Councils?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Any other questions  
17 on the budget? Gayla first.

18

19 MS. HEPA: (Away from microphone).

20

21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Let's go to  
22 Taqulik, then Gayla, then Patty.

23

24 MS. HEPA: Yeah, just very quickly. I  
25 just wanted to thank Donna for her work in working so  
26 closely with all of our grant administrators. I know  
27 that we're in a time where it's very difficult to spend  
28 money, but if there's anything that we could do from  
29 our part to help with that transition because right  
30 now, at least the grant administrators that we have,  
31 are making it very difficult to spend money. I know  
32 that you want us to spend money. But just  
33 communication is very key and I just appreciate you  
34 working with Mike and others in our department to make  
35 sure that we spend the monies down. Any word that you  
36 can help to our administrators is very helpful because  
37 they -- like I said, they think that they're the  
38 bosses, but really you are.

39

40 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Taqulik.  
41 Patty just wanted to remind me, and I appreciate it,  
42 that in your pocket on the right-hand side is a summary  
43 that Donna put together on our grants for each of the  
44 respective regions. Gayla, please.

45

46 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
47 I would like to recommend that we have a Budget  
48 Committee meeting at our April AMBCC meeting so that we  
49 could go over the budget. At that meeting would we be  
50 able to have the updated budget to show how much was

1 spent up until that date, how much is remaining in  
2 April. Also, if we could get a little more detailed  
3 budget that outlines what -- not just the names of  
4 Alaska Fish and Game. Kind of like have a little, you  
5 know, indentation of what that pays for, how much for  
6 Liliana's salary, the internet stuff, for each category  
7 group that we have, please.

8

9 Also, one more question. Are we to  
10 approve this budget?

11

12 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: This budget is  
13 provided as information. There is no FY16. FY15 is  
14 going to be over next week.

15

16 MS. HOSETH: Right. I understand that.  
17 I guess I just really would like us to have input as to  
18 where money is going to go, how money is going to be  
19 divvied up, instead of it just being presented to us.

20

21 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Thank you.  
22 Other questions, comments.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. That will  
27 take us away from the financial reporting and we will  
28 go to other business. This deals with the first, 12(a)  
29 future potential proposals and new proposals received.  
30 Patty, why don't you give us a quick summary of what we  
31 currently have and then anticipation from the other  
32 Council members what we might anticipate from their  
33 respective regions.

34

35 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
36 Chairman. We talked briefly at the April meeting about  
37 the potential proposals that may be coming up in this  
38 next cycle. That includes the Cackling Canada Goose  
39 egg harvest on the Y-K Delta. I am working with the  
40 Upper Copper River regional management body to look at  
41 a proposal for more clearly defining the boundaries of  
42 the included area due to the issues with post office  
43 boxes and where people are physically residing. Then  
44 the addition of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek to the Cordova  
45 egg harvest. So those we did discuss in April.

46

47 We have received three new proposals  
48 since the April meeting and they came from the  
49 Northwest Arctic Regional Council for migratory birds.  
50 They're all regarding season date changes. So I'd like

1 to invite Mr. Jack Fagerstrom to discuss those if he  
2 wishes.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. FAGERSTROM: I think that's Cyrus.

7

8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, I'm sorry.

9 Cyrus Harris.

10

11 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Patty. These  
12 three new proposals were made up from our first  
13 regional meeting. It was asked for for some folks from  
14 other areas of Northwest Alaska. After looking at the  
15 regulation book and the timeframe that they experience  
16 hunting and fishing or egg gathering, we came up with  
17 three different proposals and they're mostly on date  
18 changes. One being egg gathering season for waterfowl.  
19 The other being seabird egg gathering and the other  
20 being a little extension on the spring bird hunt, I  
21 believe it was. Waterfowl spring hunt. It explains on  
22 these three proposals here the reason behind it.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Cyrus and Patty, so  
27 the new agenda you handed us yesterday morning, items  
28 12(a) (iv, v, vi) those capture Cyrus's proposals?

29

30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. I gave each  
31 Council member copies of those proposals and we also  
32 provided some on the back table.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So at this point in  
37 time we could anticipate at least six proposals for the  
38 spring meeting.

39

40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That is correct.

41

42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay, Council  
43 members, in addition to the six that have been  
44 identified, do any Council members expect other  
45 proposals and what do you think the topics will be?  
46 Gayla.

47

48 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 I had a question. Would we be able to do a proposal to  
50 address the State Duck Stamp issue?



1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: The AMBCC deals  
2 with the spring subsistence. The State Duck Stamp is  
3 under the State legislation, so we wouldn't have any  
4 authority. You guys could probably independently  
5 request that. Bruce.

6  
7 MR. DALE: Yeah, the State -- I'm  
8 looking at Natalie back there, but the State Duck Stamp  
9 is required by statute for waterfowl hunting, so it  
10 would require the legislature to change that.

11  
12 MS. HOSETH: I understand that our  
13 proposal process is for the spring subsistence hunt.  
14 Would we as AMBCC, if we're talking about proposals, be  
15 able to write a proposal from the AMBCC to no longer  
16 require a State Duck Stamp for our spring/summer  
17 harvest to legislature to change the statute?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Bruce.

20  
21 MR. DALE: I believe that the State of  
22 Alaska would not be able to participate in that. A  
23 suggestion is that maybe the Native Caucus could send a  
24 resolution to the legislature and obviously take it to  
25 your local representatives. But Fish and Wildlife  
26 Service is probably in the same boat in terms of  
27 actively engaging in legislation.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Gayla, I think we  
30 need to touch bases first with the solicitor, even as a  
31 Native Caucus under the umbrella of AMBCC, what  
32 limitations do we have as far as lobbying. So I think  
33 we need to get that question asked. But I agree with  
34 Bruce that the Service couldn't participate as reasons  
35 stated by State, so it might be best under the Native  
36 Caucus. I think Patty and I will need to sit down with  
37 Ken Lord and revisit what we can do based on your  
38 question.

39  
40 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I do know that  
43 yesterday, talking with John Reft on the record, Kodiak  
44 area council may have a proposal and I will leave that  
45 up to you, John, to make contact with my office and  
46 we'll work with you on that.

47  
48 MR. REFT: Thank you very much.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Others. Brandon.

1 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Brandon Ahmasuk, subsistence director for Kawerak. I  
3 have a question on the State Duck Stamp. I'm wondering  
4 how the language reads for the State Duck Stamp. I  
5 mean you're saying by Alaska statute it's required, but  
6 is it required for just the sport season or is it  
7 required regardless?

8  
9 MR. DALE: I don't have the language  
10 before me, but our interpretation was that it's  
11 required for hunting waterfowl in the state of Alaska,  
12 so it's just blanket like that. It's an older statute,  
13 so it probably predated the AMBCC, so it wouldn't have  
14 specified a certain season.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Follow up, Brandon.

17  
18 MR. AHMASUK: No, I'm good. Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Go ahead, Bruce,  
21 then I'll go to Jack.

22  
23 MR. DALE: We'll provide that language  
24 to the AMBCC from the statute and clarify that and send  
25 that to you guys.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I think along with  
28 that maybe the interpretation on how that applies to  
29 the spring season. Jack.

30  
31 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thank you. How about  
32 if you're an elder and you have a permanent license, do  
33 you need a Duck Stamp?

34  
35 MR. DALE: The person who knows the  
36 answer couldn't hear the question, so I'll repeat it.  
37 If you have a permanent ID 60, you're still required to  
38 have a Duck Stamp, is that correct? No. So you're not  
39 required to have a Duck Stamp if you're 60 or older and  
40 have a permanent ID.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: All right. I want  
43 to be 60.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 MR. REFT: When you're 60, you don't  
48 need to pay sales tax. You should not have to pay the  
49 Duck Stamp either.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good question,  
4 Jack. Other questions for future proposals. I mean  
5 that doesn't preclude if something else comes up. I  
6 just sort of wanted to give everybody a heads up on  
7 what we're going to do. Taqulik.

8

9 MS. HEPA: Maybe just for the Native  
10 Caucus I think that we should in our next Native Caucus  
11 meeting, whether it's teleconference or face to face,  
12 that we should have a discussion about this to see what  
13 we can do to move forward to see if we can get an  
14 exemption for the State Duck Stamp for the subsistence  
15 hunt.

16

17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Patty and I  
18 will sit down on the Federal side with our solicitor to  
19 provide that information. Okay. On this topic, as far  
20 as future proposals, I think they've been identified to  
21 the best we can. Tim has his hand up.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, I was just thinking  
24 about the process in which we are going to be  
25 developing the Emperor Goose Management Plan. It's  
26 probably not going to be up until the 2017 season, so  
27 it's got to be a 2016 proposal that's going to be  
28 brought forth. I was just wondering which committee --  
29 is this going to be the Emperor Goose Committee or  
30 which committee is going to be taking on this endeavor  
31 to develop a management plan?

32

33 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good question. My  
34 interpretation would be it would still remain within  
35 the Emperor Goose Committee to work with Eric and Dan  
36 and Todd. I think our goal is to have -- looking  
37 towards 2017, by September have our geese in a row to  
38 have that hunt take place. I mean as a Council we can  
39 make changes, but right now that's how I was going to  
40 proceed with the Emperor Goose Subcommittee. Gayla.

41

42 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
43 Dan also said that anybody who is not on that Emperor  
44 Goose Committee can participate in the revision of the  
45 plan.

46

47 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: And Eric and Dan do  
48 the heavy lifting as far as the agencies. Eric.

49

50 DR. TAYLOR: Eric Taylor with U.S. Fish

1 and Wildlife Service. I'll address the Emperor Goose  
2 Subcommittee first. What I would encourage is that at  
3 the end of this meeting or toward the end of this  
4 meeting I think committees are reviewed. If there's  
5 interest by any of your regions to put additional  
6 people or substitute people on the Emperor Goose  
7 Subcommittee, I would encourage you to do so.

8  
9                   It's always tough to get folks together  
10 in terms of committees and whether they're in a formal  
11 sense committed to working on the Goose Management  
12 Plan. So what my recommendation would be is for this  
13 group to identify the individuals that you -- if you  
14 know that now. I mean it could always be altered, but  
15 ideally it would be nice, because this is on a fast  
16 track to get this done, to identify the people now to  
17 be on that committee so that at least Dan in the  
18 interim can have a list of people to contact and say,  
19 okay, we're going to have a teleconference on these  
20 dates to move that. I think that would help a lot. I  
21 mean it can always be changed, but ideally, if it could  
22 be done at this meeting, that would help.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So let's do this.  
25 Let's take the subcommittee list, take a look at the  
26 names there, either confirm, add, et cetera. Patty, do  
27 you have that list?

28  
29                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: The list is under  
30 Tab 10 in the binders. So the subcommittee Emperor  
31 Goose Management members are Dan Rosenberg, who is the  
32 chair, Chris Dau, Cyrus Harris, Myron Naneng, Eric  
33 Taylor, Peter Devine, Gayla Hoseth, Jack Fagerstrom,  
34 Brandon Ahmasuk and Sonny Squartsoff.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Gayla, you had your  
37 hand up?

38  
39                   MS. HOSETH: Yes, I did. Thank you,  
40 Mr. Chairman. Is there any way that, you know, as we  
41 go through this, doing a teleconference it is really  
42 difficult to do things on the telephone. As we get  
43 closer to it, would we be able to have face-to-face  
44 meetings? And if we do, how is that going to be funded  
45 for our travel and expenses?

46  
47                   DR. TAYLOR: There's no substitute for  
48 face-to-face meetings when it comes to working through  
49 a document, particularly when you get to a point where  
50 you have to have a discussion like population objective

1 or harvest strategy. I think it's more difficult to do  
2 over the teleconference, so I do expect face-to-face  
3 meetings. In terms of funding, Gayla, I don't have an  
4 answer. This is certainly a priority for both  
5 agencies. At least in our shop we will try to address  
6 the funding issue relative to travel.

7

8 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thanks, Eric.  
9 Donna, if we had funds and obviously the current funds  
10 wouldn't be sufficient to allow a face-to-face meeting  
11 for each of the Council reps, would you have to modify  
12 the grant agreements for additional dollars or is it  
13 just something we could throw at it? I know the  
14 answer, but I think people need to hear it.

15

16 MS. DEWHURST: There's two ways to do  
17 it. We could do it by modifying all the grants or the  
18 grants of the people that would be attending or what  
19 we've done at another meeting was we just actually paid  
20 travel for the attendees. We ran into some snags when  
21 we did that because in order for Paul to set it up you  
22 have to have Social Security Numbers and personal  
23 information to be able to put it into our system and we  
24 had an individual who was supposed to be attending, I  
25 can't remember what the meeting was but one of Eric's  
26 meetings, and he ended up not coming because he refused  
27 to give the personal information.

28

29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I do think it's  
30 doable, but I just wanted to put that out there that if  
31 we're going to do that, we need to do it early enough  
32 so we can go through the modification process to make  
33 it happen. Gayla.

34

35 MS. HOSETH: We could just modify one  
36 grant and that would be the Chugiak Regional Resources  
37 Commission. Our travel could be arranged through  
38 Patty.

39

40 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, Patty and I were  
41 talking about that. I think that is a possibility on  
42 things like this. That would be certainly simpler for  
43 me that we might be able to do it that way and have  
44 her, if she's willing, because it puts the onus on her,  
45 but it would certainly save my life a lot.

46

47 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good idea. Eric.

48

49 DR. TAYLOR: Can I bring up another  
50 topic besides -- are we off the subcommittees at this

1 point?

2

3 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Let's confirm the  
4 names first the best we can at this point and then  
5 we'll go to the next topic. Let's do that first.  
6 Names. Is there anybody that's not listed that would  
7 like to be placed on this? Gayla.

8

9 MS. HOSETH: I'd like to add Courtenay  
10 Carty, our alternate for Bristol Bay region, to be  
11 added, please.

12

13 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Can we add her just  
14 as a member then? Would that be okay?

15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I think so.

17

18 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Yeah. Courtenay  
19 then. Any objections? I see none. Any other names.  
20 Tim.

21

22 MR. ANDREW: I'd like to volunteer  
23 myself.

24

25 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I think you'd be a  
26 good member, Tim, so please. Thank you. Tim Andrews,  
27 Courtenay. Others. I'm looking at you, John.

28

29 MR. REFT: Basically, Mr. Chair, I  
30 don't know where I stand, so I don't know if I could  
31 volunteer. I'd like to, but the situation is that I  
32 have been an alternate filling in off and on for years,  
33 so I don't know what steps I could take right now to  
34 volunteer.

35

36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: You definitely  
37 could volunteer and I would suggest just because the  
38 knowledge, experience, et cetera, for the Kodiak  
39 Archipelago, I think it would be good to at least have  
40 your name on it so that we can provide that information  
41 and then you and Sonny can arm wrestle or whatever you  
42 want to do, but I think it would be wise to have you  
43 there.

44

45 MR. REFT: Thank you. Then I will  
46 submit my name.

47

48 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: I wasn't arm  
49 twisting.

50

1 MR. REFT: I'm not going to arm wrestle  
2 with Sonny either, but we're good friends.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good. Gayla.

5  
6 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 I have one more question. When do you anticipate the  
8 meetings to begin? When are you planning the first  
9 teleconference, I guess, to get things started since  
10 you said it is a fast pace?

11  
12 DR. TAYLOR: I haven't consulted with  
13 Dan. Dan has the lead on it, so he would be the best  
14 person. My expectation would be sometime in October  
15 next month.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. So in  
18 addition to the names that are printed we've added Tim  
19 Andrew, Courtenay Carty and John Reft. I think that's  
20 a great subcommittee.

21  
22 Thank you all.

23  
24 Go ahead, John.

25  
26 MR. REFT: Mr. Chair. Are you talking  
27 next month?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: As far as a  
30 teleconference, not a face to face.

31  
32 MR. REFT: Okay. Because 17th of  
33 October I leave. San Diego, then Sacramento and  
34 Stockton, then I'll be back the first of November.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: If I may, I think  
37 what Eric was speaking to the face to face is when we  
38 get more substance to where we're going to go to work  
39 on that, so it would be sometime later.

40  
41 MR. REFT: Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, John.  
44 Tim.

45  
46 MR. ANDREW: I have a question about  
47 the process or intended process of developing the  
48 management plan. If this is appropriate to ask while  
49 we have Eric here.

50

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Please do.

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Okay, thank you. There's  
4 a lot that goes into management plans. A lot of  
5 statistical information and a lot of surveys and things  
6 that need to be really clarified and documented and  
7 proven. I would like to ask the Service and the State,  
8 if it's going to be involved in the development of this  
9 management plan, that we be extremely transparent in  
10 communicating with the members that have a stake in the  
11 Emperor Geese to be open and honest as far as --  
12 there's no allegations of being dishonest, but be open  
13 and transparent all throughout the entire development  
14 process so that we have a plan that people can live  
15 with. People in the various areas.

16

17 The 80,000 population objective to  
18 allow hunting came from a Waterfowl Conservation  
19 Committee Goose Management Plan. To be quite honest, I  
20 don't know if that's a sustainable population that  
21 would allow for others to hunt in other areas. If we  
22 need to look at that area, we need to look at it along  
23 with various other aspects of the Emperor Geese,  
24 ecosystem, everything.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 DR. TAYLOR: Tim, I think I can speak  
29 for Dan as well. We will ensure a very transparent  
30 process and a process that engages all stakeholders.  
31 The report that Josh Dooley has provided to the Council  
32 is undergoing the highest scientific review possible,  
33 to the point where I'm actually allocating funds to pay  
34 or reimburse scientists at several universities and  
35 several institutions to ensure that they spend the  
36 time. Those reviews will be made apparent and  
37 available to the entire AMBCC. So I'm sure the report  
38 that Steve Fleischman, who is a very gifted scientist  
39 with the Department of Fish and Game, and Bob Stehn,  
40 their report will undergo probably a similar level of  
41 scrutiny, all of which will be available to all AMBCC  
42 members.

43

44 The management plan in this case will  
45 be a complex plan in some ways in the sense that  
46 there's a lot of information that has been collected.  
47 Josh's report, if you spend much time in it, you'll  
48 realize he has a pretty complex analysis that I want to  
49 ensure receives the appropriate attention that it does  
50 to make sure it's accurate.



1                   The plan is a little bit less complex  
2 in the sense that it's an Alaska plan. We don't have  
3 to involve the states of California, Washington or the  
4 country of Mexico or other flyway states, the 11 flyway  
5 states and the Pacific Flyway. So, in this case, that  
6 helps. It's basically the individuals around this  
7 table as well as people interested in the fall or sport  
8 season as well. So in that regard it makes it a little  
9 bit simpler.

10

11                   I will tell you the statistics and the  
12 analyses that you referred to are kind of the  
13 background of what the plan will be. The plan will be  
14 much simpler than that. For example, Josh's report  
15 won't be part of the plan. It will serve as a  
16 background for that plan. His analysis, as well as Bob  
17 Stehn and Steve Fleischman, as well as anything else  
18 that the committee deems as appropriate, will serve to  
19 help develop the harvest strategy, the population  
20 objective.

21

22                   So the number you refer to, the 80,000,  
23 it was set back in 1986. That may or may not be an  
24 appropriate number as that plan is revised. The same  
25 thing with the population objective. That was set at  
26 150,000. There was reasons for it. Some people  
27 thought it should be higher. Some people thought it  
28 should be lower. We used the best available  
29 information.

30

31                   We have new statistical methods that  
32 are out there. We have collected data for the last 30  
33 years. All of which helps us frame a better picture of  
34 what's the appropriate population objective and then  
35 what's appropriate harvest strategies. Not only the  
36 harvest strategies will incur or will incorporate  
37 subsistence hunt, but it will also have to incorporate  
38 a fall hunt, which we will work with the Department of  
39 Fish and Game obviously to say this is what is  
40 perceived as a reasonable fall hunt, for example.

41

42                   So all of that, everything is on the  
43 table and everything will be transparent. As Gayla  
44 mentioned, that's going to require multiple face-to-  
45 face meetings.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Time  
48 management is one of my jobs.

49

50                   DR. TAYLOR: One more thing. This is a

1 quick one. Fall proposals were being discussed. I  
2 just wanted to assure the committee that if you have  
3 ideas and you want to discuss them with our shop, we'll  
4 be happy to meet with you. By meeting with the Alaska  
5 Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service early in the process it increases the  
7 likelihood that your proposal will be successful in the  
8 sense that if we can provide you helpful information in  
9 terms of when birds occur, nesting seasons, things of  
10 that nature, we'll be happy to do so. Don't hesitate  
11 to call our shop or Dan's shop.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Good point, Eric.  
14 Thank you. So we're going to take a break and we're  
15 going to come back at 11:05. Time for everybody to  
16 check out and we'll finish up hopefully the rest of our  
17 agenda and then break for lunch and go home. Okay.

18  
19 11:05, please be back.

20  
21 (Off record)

22  
23 (On record)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Bruce is on his  
26 way, so let's get started. At this time I'd like to  
27 offer an opportunity for any of the public that would  
28 like to have closing comments before we go. Please.  
29 We've got Gloria. Anyone else after Gloria? Thank  
30 you, Gloria.

31  
32 MS. STICKWAN: Good morning. My name  
33 is Gloria Stickwan. I work for Ahtna on critter and  
34 subsistence issues. I just wanted to speak to the  
35 survey. I want to say that should include all regions  
36 because if you exclude regions that don't have high  
37 harvests, you'll be disenfranchising them from this  
38 survey. You know, I have a concern about that. Even  
39 though we have low harvest we still have a harvest  
40 there. We don't know what the egg take is because  
41 there hasn't been a survey done on it. I don't know.  
42 I don't think so. So I think it's important that you  
43 include all regions in the survey.

44  
45 I think the management plan should  
46 include a line item that includes a budget reduction  
47 percentage of 5 percent or 3 percent, whatever it is,  
48 be included in that. The budget reflects that 5  
49 percent as well as a line item budget that is set aside  
50 just for surveys every year. That needs to be

1 emphasized again and again when you do your budgets and  
2 meet with the SRC. If we're not included in the  
3 survey, we're going to feel left out. You know, why  
4 would we want to attend these meetings in the future if  
5 we're not going to feel like we're a part of the  
6 process. Why are we sitting here?

7  
8                   So I think it should include all  
9 regions and this line item with the 5 percent reduction  
10 should be included in the management plan. Stressed  
11 over and over again when you meet with Federal  
12 governments and SRCs and Pacific Flyways. I just  
13 wanted to point that out.

14  
15                   I just want to say thank you to Patty  
16 for helping to explain things to me in this Native  
17 Caucus. I was involved in this in the year 2000 when  
18 it first started and then Joe took over, so this is all  
19 a new learning process for me and it's been really  
20 informative sitting here listening to the process.

21  
22                   Native Caucus, I think you're doing a  
23 great job for all of our people and hope you continue  
24 to do the work for all of our people and all of our  
25 regions and stress to the government that this process  
26 is for all of the regions, not just a few. Don't  
27 exclude us, please.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Gloria.  
30 Any questions.

31  
32                   (No comments)

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Gloria.  
35 Next, please.

36  
37                   MR. HONEA, JR.: Don Honea, Jr. TCC  
38 migratory bird council vice chair. I just again want  
39 to reiterate what I mentioned yesterday about holding  
40 your meetings in different areas here. I think we're  
41 pretty thankful that we have a little budget where we  
42 can come up and attend this. We're lacking a few of  
43 our members.

44  
45                   I appreciate the opportunity for you  
46 guys to be able to have this here and for us to sit in.  
47 It's kind of a learning experience. I have to concur  
48 with John over there about over the years an educated  
49 board so to speak. I think you guys are pretty up on  
50 all the issues that you're confronted with.

1                                   And I have to concur also with Gayla's  
2 remarks yesterday about when we share our concerns  
3 around the table that they're not just being  
4 overlooked. They're not just out there for our  
5 information. That, indeed, something is going to  
6 become of this and I really like that. I like the idea  
7 that there's a follow up. She says or somebody says,  
8 hey, we're going to look into this and not just a  
9 matter of fact statement.

10  
11                                   Again, you know, we're working with  
12 vast territories. I was listening to our own  
13 presentation here on Monday about what's happening in  
14 the Yukon Flats area. Our area is so vast. Their  
15 decimation of certain birds and stuff is very different  
16 from mine. I'm in the Middle Yukon and I could be  
17 different from Yukon Flats, I could be different from  
18 Alfred's territory. So it's a really tough job we're  
19 facing out there.

20  
21                                   Looking at it from a RAC point of view,  
22 we hardly get into the migratory bird stuff. We're  
23 more into hunting and fishing issues. I guess maybe  
24 I'm not going to pose a question, but I'm just  
25 wondering what the correlation is between the funds  
26 that the Fish and Wildlife Service gets and how do they  
27 utilize it if it's mandated or if it's earmarked for  
28 migratory bird sections when maybe this body is taking  
29 care of those issues. So I guess I'm still kind of  
30 unclear as to that.

31  
32                                   I was told this morning that I think  
33 the primary reason for the RACs and stuff when an issue  
34 came about was to protect migratory birds also. We  
35 hardly go into that. You know, I have no problem. We  
36 work good with our Refuge, where we are with our Refuge  
37 manager. We have a good relationship.

38  
39                                   So, again, I just wanted to thank you  
40 guys. I thank you for the slide show yesterday. I  
41 mean the Trumpeter Swans we don't very often see the  
42 projectile of what's going on, so I appreciated that.  
43 I think overall I have to commend our personal chairman  
44 Randy for the amount of work that he put into it and  
45 the knowledge that he's gained through the years.

46  
47                                   Thank you.

48  
49                                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Don.  
50 Questions. Tim, please.

1 MR. ANDREW: I'd just like to make a  
2 comment. I've worked with Don over a number of years,  
3 working on fisheries issues and various other issues.  
4 Thank you for being here. Comments from people that  
5 are on the ground are really very, very important.  
6 Whenever we have public testimony we're hearing from  
7 the people that are being impacted by regulations that  
8 are developed by this committee and perhaps impacts by  
9 Federal and State agencies as well. I really  
10 appreciate you sticking around for the last couple  
11 days.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 MR. HONEA, JR.: I appreciate that.  
16 Also on our own RAC we have a couple of ladies on there  
17 and I appreciate it because they bring the vital points  
18 that maybe we overlook, we oversee. We don't like to  
19 bring that up. We don't like to make waves, so to  
20 speak. But they're speaking from a village standpoint  
21 of wanton waste and everything like that and everything  
22 in between. They bring up the tough subjects. That's  
23 what we're here for.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Don.  
28 Others.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Is there anybody  
33 online that would like to speak.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. Thank you.

38 Oh, go ahead.  
39

40 MS. CARTY: Mr. Chairman, this is  
41 Courtenay. I just wanted to (microphone malfunction)  
42 so having the ability to participate telephonically is  
43 very much appreciative.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you,  
48 Courtenay. Others online.

49  
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Okay. So at this  
2 time that will conclude the invitation for public  
3 comments. I will now ask before we conclude our  
4 meeting to have comments from Council members and/or  
5 Staff. Why don't we start with you, Jack.

6  
7 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thanks to Randy.  
8 Thanks to the Staff. May we all work together better.  
9 Thanks.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thanks, Jack.  
12 Cyrus.

13  
14 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
15 Good meeting. This seems to be getting better all the  
16 time. This is a great group of people to work together  
17 on certain issues. Maybe focusing within our regions  
18 but yet helping out other regions.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Cyrus.  
23 I'm going to have you go last, Randy, since you're our  
24 host. So I'll go to Taqulik.

25  
26 MS. HEPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
27 fellow Council members. I thought this was a good  
28 meeting as well. I'm glad to be here. I want to thank  
29 the people from the different regions that were able to  
30 participate. Brandon from the Interior. That were  
31 able to participate and share their knowledge and  
32 observations and concerns to this group. We do take  
33 your concerns very seriously.

34  
35 I look forward to working together in  
36 the future related to migratory birds. I just want to  
37 thank Michael Pederson and Todd for their staff support  
38 as we get in these meetings.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you. Tim.

43  
44 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 And, Randy, thank you very much for hosting this up  
46 here. I really appreciate it and the wonderful  
47 hospitality that people have shown for this hotel and  
48 their management in accommodating our last-minute  
49 appearance here. And thank Patty for all the  
50 coordination and all the work that goes behind a

1 successful meeting like this. It's been a while since  
2 I've sat as an AMBCC member. I thank Myron for  
3 allowing me to be his alternate too.

4  
5 The dialogue that occurs between the  
6 various members and Staff and also the public is really  
7 critical and important for the management of birds that  
8 we hold in common to keep the birds going for our own  
9 use and also for future generations as well. The  
10 actions we've been taking I truly believe that we have  
11 moved in that direction to make sure that we have the  
12 use in this generation and also for future generations  
13 as well in the sustainable harvest.

14  
15 One thing that I learned from this  
16 meeting and also various meetings that we've held in  
17 various other areas is that when we go out into the  
18 regions, we get a feeling that you're closer to the  
19 people that you're impacting. I know we had a meeting  
20 in Barrow at one point and their management body came  
21 and attended the meeting. We have the majority of our  
22 meetings in Anchorage where we've seen primarily  
23 Service staff and State staff and maybe a few people  
24 from our villages actually show up to that. But every  
25 time we come out to these rural areas we get more  
26 people and more testimony. I think that's really,  
27 really valuable.

28  
29 If we could possibly accommodate a  
30 meeting to occur -- I don't know if it would be  
31 economically feasible to do a rotation around the state  
32 of Alaska, but it would be great so that people are no  
33 longer asking what is AMBCC, what does the AMBCC do,  
34 why is the AMBCC doing this. At these meetings it's  
35 been discussed around the Native Caucus that you learn  
36 a lot more at the AMBCC meeting than anything about the  
37 species that we have in common in various areas.

38  
39 So I think it's really important that  
40 at some point in the future we develop that rotation in  
41 various areas and I think that's critically important.

42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Tim.  
46 Maybe a comment on the rotation. Maybe when we look at  
47 our budget collectively we can establish within those  
48 dollars for AMBCC what priority we have. We know it's  
49 not cheap to fly around Alaska, so we have to look at  
50 our overall mission and go from there. Go ahead, Tim.

1 MR. ANDREW: If I may do a quick follow  
2 up. Gloria really brought up an important point when  
3 she came up and testified. There's areas that I don't  
4 know a whole lot about. Copper River is one of those  
5 areas. I know it's beautiful up there. I know there's  
6 a lot of moose, perhaps some caribou. Sorry about  
7 that, Joeneal. You know, because of the Katy John  
8 issue we know there's salmon, but I don't really know  
9 too much about the birds or what birds are in the area  
10 and what the habitat is like, but, you know, you learn  
11 these type of intimate things about regions when you go  
12 to those various areas.

13

14 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Joeneal.

15

16 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
17 think Tim was reading my writing here.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. HICKS: Just reiterated just what I  
22 was going to say here. Anyway, I wanted to reiterate  
23 also what Gloria said. Our region lacks surveys.  
24 Because of that, I mean, we can't make good sound  
25 decisions. That's the bottom line. I'm concerned over  
26 that because there's just no data available. So I  
27 would support a statewide type of survey. I also  
28 understand that there's limited dollars and you've got  
29 to give or take. Anyway, I do support what Gloria is  
30 saying.

31

32 The other thing too is that -- and I do  
33 support what Tim is saying here, is that we do need to  
34 move these meetings around. We do need to get the  
35 public involved. We do need to get AMBCC recognized,  
36 noticed out there so people can see who we are and what  
37 we do. Migratory birds is a subsistence issue and it's  
38 more about food and hunting and gathering and stuff  
39 like that. It's an important topic that everybody  
40 should know about and learn about. Moving these  
41 meetings around gets that information out there to the  
42 public. It gets village involvement and tribal  
43 involvement at that particular level and I really  
44 encourage that to happen. I might even suggest that we  
45 have our next meeting maybe next year in Kodiak.

46

47 MR. REFT: Man, that would save us a  
48 lot of money in plane fare.

49

50 MR. HICKS: I'm just throwing that out.



1 I haven't been there and I think that would be a good  
2 opportunity. Again, I want to thank Randy also. Thank  
3 you for this meeting. I thought it was very good.

4

5 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Joeneal.  
6 With that segue we will now go to Kodiak. John.

7

8 MR. REFT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. John  
9 Reft. Like Joeneal said, basically we're here for our  
10 members in the villages to feed them, to protect them.  
11 The food that they are used to is wild and there are no  
12 jobs in the villages like you have here, like I had in  
13 commercial fishing where you can get a good check every  
14 two weeks, buy what you want, live good, raise your  
15 families, education, school.

16

17 It's very hard out in the rural areas.  
18 I can say that because I watch National Geographic on  
19 the Yukon and my heart goes out because of the strife  
20 and the pressure that they go through just to feed  
21 their families for survival and this is what we're  
22 doing here, protecting our villages in any way we can.

23

24

25 We have lost so much in Statehood.  
26 When we were a territory, it was beautiful. We never  
27 had problems on going out to hunt to feed our families  
28 and that's the way we were raised. That food source  
29 was put in us for survival then because there wasn't  
30 many jobs, even in Kodiak. When we were a little 500  
31 village. We hunted and fished and everything, stored  
32 up everything we could for the winter to survive.  
33 Well, it's no different now, but it's harder because  
34 the prices of gas and stuff is so tremendous,  
35 especially the coastal, rural areas that they go  
36 through for five gallons of gas, makes my heart bleed.  
37 When I'm here, I will defend them as much as I can.

38

39 Sure, I made great money commercial  
40 fishing as a captain for 50 years until the doctors  
41 made me get off of the boat, but I have donated my time  
42 into Sun'aq since then, 17 years, and we have done a  
43 long ways. The main thing is we still have pressures  
44 coming from the Feds and the State and stuff and we  
45 can't afford to lose any more than what we are allotted  
46 since Statehood. We have to feed our families and  
47 protect them as much as we can and that is the wild  
48 game and birds and stuff that we are allotted. That's  
49 why we're here to try to work together with you guys to  
50 come out with an agreement that's suitable that we as

1 Native people can survive and exist with.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, John.

6 Bruce.

7

8 MR. DALE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Those

9 guys took all the good stuff. I'm still kind of new

10 here and I really appreciate working with this group.

11 It is very insightful and how much knowledge there is

12 and how well it works. It's just really neat and a

13 pleasure and I really enjoy coming here and I plan to

14 continue to do so.

15

16 Thanks, Randy. Fairbanks is always a

17 great venue. It's good to be back here. This is my

18 season. I really like this. I was in Tucson last week

19 and that didn't work out very well. This is much

20 better. So appreciate that.

21

22 Then I just wanted -- besides all the

23 great work that the Council members do, do their

24 homework and get ready, the Staff does a great job from

25 both agencies. Division of Subsistence and Division of

26 Wildlife for us and the Fish and Wildlife Service

27 crews. It's really great and it's amazing with all the

28 hiccups that this thing comes off so smoothly. A

29 meeting like this is a testament to their capability.

30 They really do a great job.

31

32 You know, we've got a heavy lift ahead

33 of us with this Emperor Goose plan. It's going to

34 probably be really challenging. I've only been around

35 for a little bit. We did handicrafts and we did the

36 salvage parts at the last meeting and I think that's

37 not near the challenge that this management plan is

38 going to be for us. So we really need to stick

39 together and do our best to keep our minds open and

40 work hard going forward on that because it's going to

41 be tough. It's going to be a lot of work. But, you

42 know, this is a great group. If anybody can do it, we

43 can. So thanks to all of you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Bruce.

46 Gayla.

47

48 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49 I think that a lot of us around the table here have the

50 same feelings and the same comments. I'll probably

1 reiterate a lot of the things that have already been  
2 said. This has been a great meeting. A lot has  
3 happened this year. It's been amazing with the Federal  
4 Duck Stamp no longer being a requirement, our wanton  
5 waste language, handicraft language and it was exciting  
6 to follow the Emperor Goose harvest potential. A lot  
7 has happened in a positive direction. I just want us  
8 to keep going in a positive manner.

9  
10 Sitting in this chair and not bouncing  
11 back and forth was also a huge learning curve for me.  
12 To bring issues to the table is rather difficult  
13 sometimes. I want to thank the Council for being here.  
14 By serving our people and being the voices for our  
15 people -- I don't want to start crying. I always start  
16 crying. Being the voices for our people we have a lot  
17 of sacrifices that we sacrifice in our families and I  
18 just want to thank everybody for being here and being  
19 gone during hunting seasons and leaving your families  
20 behind. Hold on just a second.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: You're fine.

23  
24 MS. HOSETH: Courtenay is probably  
25 listening to me, thinking, you know -- I cry easy  
26 enough.

27  
28 MS. CARTY: She's always crying.....

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MS. CARTY: .....(indiscernible). You  
33 always know who the healer in the room is because the  
34 healer is the one that cries.

35  
36 MR. REFT: Get it together, Gayla. You  
37 and Patty have so much to contribute. Just when you're  
38 ready, do it.

39  
40 MS. HOSETH: All right. Thank you. It  
41 always helps to laugh, so thank you, Courtenay, for  
42 helping me through this. That's just it, is we help  
43 each other. We stand together. We do things that are  
44 in the best interest of the people that we sit on this  
45 Council for, for the people that we are serving.

46  
47 I want to thank Randy again for having  
48 us come up here to Fairbanks. When I was flying into  
49 Fairbanks, I was really excited. I've been to  
50 Fairbanks before, but I looked at it through different

1 eyes this time. I was flying in here and I was  
2 thinking of the challenges that the people that live  
3 here, the tribes that are here and the challenges that  
4 they have to face with all the resources that they are  
5 trying to harvest for their people and their  
6 traditional ways. I came in thinking that when I was  
7 landing and it impacted me differently. You see things  
8 differently.

9  
10 Being here and hearing Randy talk at  
11 our meetings for the last three years that I've been  
12 attending these, hearing him talk and actually coming  
13 here and seeing it, you could kind of see what he's  
14 talking about. I think that's why it's really  
15 important for us to make it available to where we do go  
16 to different regions for our meetings. Not every  
17 meeting, but that we budget for that, that we do go  
18 out, we connect with the people.

19  
20 I'm really happy to see that Gloria,  
21 Alfred and Don were here and Brandon, you know, of the  
22 public and providing public testimony. I'm a real  
23 advocate to allow for a public process. I would like  
24 that we always have the telephonic communications open  
25 for people to call in and that is set up right at the  
26 beginning and we don't have to really get people. I  
27 would like to have my Regional Council call in to the  
28 meeting and have everything available. We should have  
29 a lot of people on the telephone.

30  
31 Let's see, what else did I have. Also  
32 when we do travel to regions it bonds everybody closer.  
33 Not only the Native Caucus bonding together closer, but  
34 also the agencies that are here working here because  
35 we're not in our home and we kind of connect on a  
36 different level. That's what it's all about is  
37 building relationships. We might not agree on topics  
38 or we might not agree, but I think that we work well  
39 together as a Council. I look forward to continuing  
40 our relationship.

41  
42 I think that I have covered just about  
43 everything, so thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Gayla.  
46 You'll get last work, Randy, after I'm done. I first  
47 want to thank you for bringing us to your home and  
48 hosting this meeting. I really want to echo the  
49 comments that I heard from a number of you on the value  
50 of going to other locations. I used to be the ARD for

1 the Office of Subsistence Management and that was part  
2 of our goal and objectives was to go to rural  
3 communities. I think Tim captured it very well on what  
4 we can gain. So I would challenge when we get to  
5 agenda item 16 that we look outside of the box when we  
6 get to that.

7  
8 Co-management, I think we're in a much  
9 better place. We still have a way to go, I think, but  
10 I think this summer when you saw how they worked, both  
11 agencies, the State, Dan Rosenberg, the Service, Eric  
12 Taylor, Todd Sanders and our executive director Patty,  
13 on taking an issue that I had no idea it would be  
14 before us, the Emperor Geese and the possibility of a  
15 hunt in 2016. Got a little work to do. I think Bruce  
16 captured it very well.

17  
18 To me, I don't think that would have  
19 been possible a few years ago to have that happen down  
20 in the Lower 48 in Reno before all the other states.  
21 So my hat is off to that hard work. Then you go to  
22 D.C., Falls Church, and we've got Mike, Joeneal and  
23 Patty before a group of individuals that are very  
24 unfamiliar with Alaska, and the ground that they gained  
25 there I was very proud of all three of them at that  
26 meeting. We need to continue that.

27  
28 So thank you. This is a great group.  
29 Being a long-time coach, I see a good team here. I  
30 think we take our bowling shirts off and we work very  
31 hard and that's how we're going to be successful. When  
32 I saw my old friend John walk in the door, I just --  
33 John and I go all the way back to the Kodiak days of  
34 salmon and king crab. I'm on one side of the table,  
35 he's on the other, but he's always been a great leader.  
36 He was one of the leaders during the commercial  
37 fisheries days. It's good to see you again, John.

38  
39 MR. REFT: Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: So, with that,  
42 Randy, I hand it over to you.

43  
44 MR. REFT: Excuse me. One second, Mr.  
45 Chair. I would like to make one statement. That when  
46 there is legislation involved and we need something  
47 really that we believe in, is that we don't text, email  
48 or anything, make requests, we go to D.C. and confront  
49 Don and Lisa. Well, Mark's not there and that makes me  
50 sad. But face to face and talk to them and explain why

1 and what we need and that's how things are done. If we  
2 can do it face to face, it's a lot better. I know.  
3 I've done it many times. Even the Pentagon. Just  
4 don't be afraid to talk, speak your heart out and  
5 they'll listen.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, John.  
10 Randy, please.

11

12 MR. MAYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
13 think everybody said it all here. I had a two-hour  
14 speech prepared, but it went out the window here.  
15 Well, you know, once again, on behalf of the 43 tribes  
16 of our region, I only regret I couldn't have been a  
17 better host. Traditionally, we would have had our  
18 traditional chiefs here allowing this meeting to happen  
19 and be sitting here giving us guidance.

20

21 This region here, Dena'Ina, our  
22 homeland here, we look all around us. All of these  
23 words, you know, even for this river here,  
24 traditionally what this river's name means is good  
25 hunting river, right here. All around us, like  
26 everybody else's homelands, we've been here for  
27 thousands of years. People hunted and fished and  
28 gathered even right in the middle of this town here.

29

30 At this time of year in our area is  
31 when the winter songs can start. At this time in our  
32 tradition is when the creation stories can start being  
33 told around our home fires. For the first initiation,  
34 four days, then thereafter the winter songs after that  
35 can be sung.

36

37 It really helps me to make sense of the  
38 world we live in now and meeting all of our challenges  
39 to carry on our way of life, you know, through the  
40 paperwork and whatnot. I'm pretty thankful for this  
41 co-management body. It's a forum for both worlds to  
42 continue to work to meet in the middle to ensure that  
43 this resource will be available for our grandchildren,  
44 great-grandchildren, long after we're gone.

45

46 So I'm really thankful. I've been  
47 participating here for the last few years. Came to  
48 know people on the board, the Staff. It can be  
49 challenging, but at the end of the day, you know, like  
50 today, I feel good. Work through some of these issues

1 and work toward that ultimate goal.

2

3                   Once again I welcome you guys to our  
4 homeland and wish you guys have safe travels home to  
5 your families, every one of you.

6

7                   Thank you.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Randy.  
10 I'd be remiss if I didn't mention two individuals that  
11 really make this meeting possible, along with our host  
12 Randy May, and that's Patty and Donna. They work very  
13 hard on behalf of the Council and I want to thank you.  
14 Patty, do you have any words?

15

16                   MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Chairman. I'll be brief, don't worry. I just wanted  
18 to thank everyone for participating and working through  
19 these difficult issues. It has been an awesome year.  
20 We've gone through a heck of a lot of issues. We've  
21 been able to work through many of them. The Emperor  
22 Goose is I have to say the most challenging issue we've  
23 ever dealt with at the AMBCC level.

24

25                   I look at each and every one of you as  
26 my teachers and I have learned so much through this  
27 process, through this week, over the year. I think  
28 that we've all made mistakes and we're willing to just  
29 shake it off and come back to the table and I think  
30 that is really important in striving to preserve the  
31 true co-management process that we've been working  
32 towards all these years. So thank you all for  
33 continuing to participate and teach me ways of looking  
34 at things that I had not looked at before. So thank  
35 you.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN PROBASCO: Thank you, Patty.  
38 So at this time I get the honor of passing the gavel to  
39 our Native Caucus. Gayla, you get to complete the  
40 meeting. So there you go.

41

42                   CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: Thank you. This is  
43 an honor to do this. What I would like to do is if we  
44 could get a group shot of us here at the table. Todd,  
45 would you mind taking the Council's picture. It would  
46 be nice if we could get kind of a group shot of  
47 everybody that's here. It's a lot to sit through a  
48 meeting and I would like to have things documented as  
49 we go through our meetings and stuff and have good  
50 pictures of everybody. I think it would be really

1 beneficial.

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: Do you want the public  
4 behind us?

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: We could get a  
7 Council and then we could get kind of a group shot with  
8 everybody. I think that would be something nice.

9

10 MR. PROBASCO: What have you got, John?

11

12 MR. REFT: Excuse me. I had forgot the  
13 people that aren't mentioned and really noticed and  
14 always there, a lot of work in the background. I'd  
15 like to commend Donna and thank you for all your work.  
16 You're always there at teleconferences, stuff for us  
17 and Sun'ag really appreciate you. Also, Eric, I really  
18 enjoy your presentations. They're thorough,  
19 informative and thank you very much. Thanks.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: So the date and  
24 place of the next meeting. Has everybody had a chance  
25 to bring their calendars. Patty, do you have any dates  
26 in particular in mind that you're thinking of?

27

28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Normally the meeting  
29 is held like the first week in April, around the 6th,  
30 7th, somewhere around there. So I don't know if we want  
31 to continue with that consistency. We start there and  
32 then people tell us what their schedules are.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: Thank you. With  
35 the SRC, are they changing their schedule? Is there  
36 anything that's going to affect our schedule?

37

38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: So, with that being  
41 said, does anybody have any suggestions as to the dates  
42 of the next meeting?

43

44 MR. REFT: I don't have any objections  
45 with April because that weather gets very nice for  
46 flying then.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: Okay. So do we  
49 want to say the first week in April and we'll have --  
50 do you guys like starting on Monday with our meeting



1 and then having maybe on Wednesday and Thursday, the  
2 6th and 7th of April? Does that work for everybody?

3

4 (Council nods affirmatively)

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: And the place.

7

8 MR. REFT: Madame Chair. Maybe it  
9 would be possible. I don't know if it could be done due  
10 to funding, I'd like to see the meeting moved to  
11 different regions. I don't know if that can happen  
12 this next meeting, but go to one of the places like say  
13 where there's issues going on, like the Emperor Goose  
14 issue. It's just an idea I had.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: So maybe Bethel.

17

18 MR. ANDREW: Sure.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: Would that be  
21 something that could be feasible that we look at?

22

23 MR. PROBASCO: I would say when you  
24 look at communities like Bethel, Kodiak, Fairbanks,  
25 Nome, Barrow, you're getting into hub communities,  
26 those are much easier than some of the more remote  
27 communities. We've held a lot of meetings in Bethel,  
28 so let's go with that.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: Okay. So I'll plan  
31 on Bethel for April and we can see how things go. Does  
32 that work for you, Tim?

33

34 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. I'll notify Myron  
35 and we'll make a note.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: Okay. So if there  
38 is no further business, is there a motion to adjourn.

39

40 MR. REFT: So moved.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: We have a motion.  
43 Do we have a second.

44

45 MR. HICKS: Second.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: It's been moved and  
48 seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1                                   CHAIRWOMAN HOSETH: Thank you. This  
2 meeting is adjourned.

3

4

(Off record)

5

6

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)  
) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 110 through 160 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 24th day of September 2015 in Fairbanks, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of October 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires:9/16/2018