

Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk AC Joint Meeting-No Quorum Met Meeting Start: 9:00 am

Upper Kobuk AC Members:

Frank Downey
Elmer Ward
Billy Custer

Members Absent:

Henry Horner Sr.
Glenn Douglas
Warren Douglas
Marvin Joe Cleveland
Melvin Lee

Lower Kobuk AC Members:

Raymond Stoney
Glenn Miller
Wilbur Howarth Sr.
George Sheldon

Members Absent:

William Zibell
Lonnie Tebbits
Leonard Brown
Clyde Ramoth
Larry Westlake Sr.-excused

Other Attendees:

Brittney Sweeney-USFWS
Susan Georgette-USFWS
Lance Kraemer-Northwest Arctic Borough
Willie Goodwin-NPS
Jim Dau-ADFG Biologist
Brandon Saito-ADFG Biologist
Carmen Daggett-ADFG Boards Support Section

11/25/13

Comments:

Jim Dau: Explains that would good to discuss these items and to know what you guys think about these things.

Carmen Daggett: I am still going to keep minutes even though they won't be officially submitted, but you can use them for reference when you meet individually.

Wilbur Howarth: There is a lot of fish this fall they are confused probably, as soon as the water finally freeze, we had fishing coming in all directions, I don't know if they are late going up. As soon as you pick them up out of the water they are squirting eggs everywhere. The whitefish were late this year usually they are up river by November. They are still getting them in Noorvik right now, I have had my net up for five days. I had fish going in both directions; usually they just go one way. I was wondering why or if there was just warm weather that confused the fish.

Raymond Stoney: Whitefish all these years have been the first ones to go down river. This probably has to do with a late fall. This has never happened for thousands of years.

Billy Custer: I wonder if the low shallow water.

Raymond Stoney: Is the high water temperatures is driving the changes?

Glenn Miller: The river was really shallow usually the salmon are up at Coal Mine and you can get into them pretty heavy and the salmon were not there this year. Then we had all this rain again it changes the dynamics.

Wilbur Howarth: The warm water will definitely kill the fish right?

Jim Dau: I don't know if it will kill them, but it can delay them when they come out.

Glenn Miller: The gray salmon you have to keep the eggs 2 degrees centigrade otherwise they don't make it. The warm water can have an effect on the population. I was flying home in October and there were still boats in the river. Usually by October 1st you need to have your boats out.

Jim Dau: It froze and thawed for like three weeks. I was walking around on Issac Lake and then it thawed completely open again.

Raymond Stoney: Requests information about the increasing temperatures in the Kobuk and Selawik rivers and how it might affect fish. We don't get much salmon this year.

Jim Dau: We had tons of fish down in Kotzebue.

Frank Downey: I guess the global warming is affecting not just us but our animals in the water.

Raymond Stoney: One thing that concerns me is the tags on the fish. The state put an antenna on the fish that create drag.

Carmen Daggett: They have a bunch of different types of transmitters. They only had about 15 transmitters like what you are describing on trout, but they had a whole bunch more on sheefish that are more discrete. They give you different information. I can arrange for you to talk to fishery biologists. They talked about what was going on with fish research in this area. I can't guarantee that they will be able to come to the next meeting, but maybe next year. I can try to arrange that.

Billy Custer: The sheefish are staying where the deep water is, hardly any sheefish are coming up the river because it was so shallow. Hardly anything was going up this fall. Maybe Elmer knows his cabin is up there.

Elmer Ward: Sheefish only go up as far as the mouth of the Reed River, Ma and Dad tell me that it is the truth. From there on up there is nothing. Mud sharks (burbot) only go up as far as Paw River in the winter time.

Wilbur Howarth: How far did the Sheefish go up the river this year?

Elmer Ward: The fish go up as far as Reed River. You can see on a map.

Carmen Daggett: Did you see anything different this year?

Elmer Ward: I wouldn't know too many channels?

Glenn Miller: It would be nice for those fish biologists to know. I know water conditions really affect the way that migrations are going to take place. If you look for the dolly varden on the Wullik River, with the marine migration, if the water is high they won't go up river they will just stay around the mouth. I can see the influence of the atmospheric changes and precipitation it is moving the fish and around and as a result the marine mammals too. Last year the fish are moving ring seals all over Kiana. There were ring seals coming way up river in the sloughs. These are major changes in the migrations of animals that haven't been seen before.

Jim Dau: When we were collaring caribou at Onion Portage there was a ringed seal that was still headed east. Nobody had ever seen them there before.

Glenn Miller: I look at changes that have occurred over time not an anomaly. The earth has only increased by one degree Fahrenheit. There are significant changes in the long wave terrestrial radiation and it changes the bubbles and changes ocean currents.

Raymond Stoney: We need scientists we see a lot of white backs and bellies on salmon and whitefish and the fish are unusable. They need to get samples so we can know what is going on, we let them go because we can't eat them.

Jim Dau: I know Brendan Scanlon is putting those transmitters in the trout. He came to talk to people in Noatak and Kivalina. I didn't even know about them until somebody caught one. Just so you know he is paying \$100 if you return those transmitters. He will pay \$100 to get it back.

Raymond Stoney: Floaters do a lot of catch and release of sheefish. I don't know if that is legal or not.

Jim Dau: It is legal. I know a lot of local people don't like it they say it is playing with their food.

Raymond Stoney: I don't know what that does to the fish..

Carmen Daggett: I think that would be a good question for Brendan Scanlon. I think James Saveride also has been working on Sheefish in the Kobuk River.

Brandon Saito: We did telemetry tracking on sheefish this fall, Jim and I did and they went as far up from Ambler to the Reed River, just like you said, they were in their normal spawning grounds. For sheefish and whitefish we do not use the big transmitters like you do for the trout. They do not affect the survivability of the fish and they are inserted inside the fish. They live for eight years.

Jim Dau: When I first saw these transmitters I called Fairbanks and asked them about the survivability of the trout. They only put them on the big trout and they don't really know how much it affects the fish, because this is the first time they have tried them on the trout, but he did say that they put the transmitters on fish and tracked them all of the way over to Russia and not just in Russia, but 200 miles up a river in Russia. It is not like we are putting these things on fish and then they die. They are going a long way with these transmitters on the fish. They are trying to do this at the mouth of the Aggy they just aren't getting many fish.

Raymond Stoney: I know those fish can travel a long ways, I watch people tagged those burbot in the Chena River and they found that burbot 25 years later off the coast of Barrow.

The people are asking about the fish are going through the water and sewer system. People are asking about the purity of the water from the lagoon and what effects this has on the fish. Nobody seems to know. We don't get reports from the water treatment plants on how clean the water is when it leaves the lagoon. I asked the engineers and public health service and they said the water is pretty pure. I said if the water is pure, get a cup of water and take a shot of it and tell me how you feel. He wouldn't answer my questions; he didn't want to do that.

Carmen Daggett: That is a dual group question system. There are people who work on treating the water and people who are dealing with the fish and animals that are dealing with what is coming out of it. ANTHC has done some work in Selawik to improve purification systems, I am not sure how much work they have done in the other villages to improve those systems. It is definitely a valid concern and I understand why you are asking that question.

Raymond Stoney: The water is contaminated.

Glenn Miller: That is just a bad design of a system.

Raymond Stoney: Last year we had problems with the system and it was frozen so they chartered a C130 to drop 10 drums of glycol was dropped to melt the system. Where did that run off go that was on top of the snow? The EPA was told about it, but they wouldn't say anything about it.

Frank Downey: The sewer was taking raw sewage to the river because the lift stations were getting too full.

Glenn Miller: We had that happen in Kiana too and Noorvik was screaming that we were discharging. It is just a design flaw in that system. It is trying to pump uphill along long distances.

Billy Custer: We kept telling the city what was happening down there. The lift stations are getting too full.

Wilbur: The whitefish are nice and healthy this year. I got a bunch of the blunt nosed ones, have a huge almost square bodies, I am catching record fish. I like to talk to the elders about these fish and there are whitefish are huge. They are nice and healthy. There are some good fish right now. I don't know about the Selawik side.

George Sheldon: We are catching lots of whitefish in our nets in Selawik. This year we are getting more whitefish than normal and they are healthy.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires about how we can go about fixing the water purification systems? Who do we need to contact to fix those systems?

Jim Dau: That needs to be discussed with DEC and other organizations. It is way beyond anything what Fish and Game does. That is so far out of my league.

Glenn Miller: I remember doing experiments with kids and I would like to do some more research with fish biologists there is a large mixing zone between Kiana and Noorvik on the rivers in the mixing zones. They have a selenium release problem down at Red Dog mine and they were able to keep releasing it because of the mixing zone outside of Red Dog, but I wonder what would happen if you did research right after the selenium was released. I don't put my stock and trade in that.

Wilbur Howarth: We did some sampling along the river there was no harmful stuff that shows up from Kiana harmful stuff. We got samples right around the corner from Noorvik and we did some sampling up several bends up by the Melvin side. There was no harmful stuff there. Just to let people know that water can purify because of the current and the beach, it don't run right down the river the whole way.

Glenn Miller: Between Noorvik and Kiana there is a lot of sand that filters out the water, but as you get further up the river there are different mixing zones up river and where it is rocky it doesn't filter the water as well. Just like at Red Dog Creek there were different mixing zone, they couldn't discharge with the federal regulations, they are pretty stringent. They still haven't solved that selenium problem, it is a large molecule.

Jim Dau: Most of the stuff that is coming in the villages is organic and then you hear about the 10 drums of glycol and that is not organic and do you don't everything that is going in. It might be 99% organic. I think your question is good Raymond that shouldn't happen in this day and age.

Wilbur Howarth: There is a spot below Sivanilviq, there is a spot that is all oil when I got off the boat and got back, I went about 150 ft there in the marsh is a whole stream run that runs straight run across for a long ways it thick and deep in this water, it was like a channel, I wondered where it came from. The only person I asked was Frank my father in law to see if there was any drilling going on this summer. I was wondering if that chopper with the BBC –red and black was dropping off drums of fuel there. One of the guys say that chopper was there all summer hunting and trapping muskrats. That chopper was buzzing every day in that area. I don't know if they dropped off of drums of fuel off. My only concern is that chopper flying in that area. There is another name that's that BBC filming crew. They were in that area and that fuel were very close.

Billy Custer: We were cooking our whitefish last month there was a larva in my whitefish.

Jim Dau: There are lots of parasites that use fish as intermediate host. Those are called Tetrapyridium. There are parasites that normally exist and when they become more abundant is when people start noticing them. It used to be a tapeworm that happened in salmon. When we went to mostly sewer and water that mostly went away, but it used to be really common. I can tell you there are lots and lots of terrestrial mammals have fish as an intermediate host.

Raymond Stoney: One thing about caribou is that when they planted Kentucky blue grass over the lagoon the caribou liked it and they dug up that grass.

Jim Dau: Are they there this year?

Raymond Stoney: The point about this sewer system, I wonder what will happen. Even though we contacted the EPA, they said there is nothing we can do about it.

Jim Dau: I would start with DEC, that deals with permitting. I don't know anything about this stuff.

Carmen Daggett: I think I have a pretty good contact at DEC.

Raymond Stoney: I think wildlife and subsistence reports, unless you guys want to talk about fish all day?

Willie Goodwin: We got a permit to dump sewage because our lagoon was too small and it killed everything. After a year or so it replenished itself.

Glenn Miller: Those treatment systems are so expensive. The reverse osmosis is so expensive. It is not meant to work uphill and it freezes every year it is a mess.

Jim Dau: Shall we get onto proposals.

Proposal 29 Discussion

Jim Dau: There are a lot of people that are of the opinion that the antlers are going to waste we might as well make some money off of them. There were also a lot of reports of people calling in with boat loads of antlers going by with the bulls being stink and there is no meat. You used to be able to sell 5 bulls of antlers and you could buy a drum of gas. They used to pay by the pound and if you had particularly big racks or if they were pretty colors you could sell them for more and make some good money. There were connex vans full of antlers that were being transported. I was getting multiple expressing concerns that this was contributing to waste of meat. There were probably a small number of people that were wasting the meat, but the reality was that some people needed money to get cash in the bank. Some of the buyers would say they would not buy antlers without the meat being salvaged. The reality was when you are paying cash for antlers on the bank you can't tell if the caribou had been salvaged or not. People were really divided about this. People were saying that this was a good way to turn an unused commodity into money. The issue back then and the issue now, is this going to facilitate people being wasteful?

Raymond Stoney: One major issue is the buyer. They will pay us very little and then make a lot of money on the other end of the deal and sell it sky high. How can we control the sale of antlers? I know it is a difficult question to answer.

Jim Dau: I don't know how you can control market prices. They were paying reindeer herders \$30-35/lb for antlers. The Koreans that were buying the antlers were selling it for hundreds dollars/lb. They were asking the same question. How come they are making 10 times the amount of money that we are? They never came up with an answer. That is pretty much market driven. There might be some way to control it. I don't know if you were ever get government attention on this.

Raymond Stoney: They must sell them for a very high price. They charter a C130 to come get these antlers, they are making some serious money if they can afford to charter a plane for 20,000 to 30,000 for a C130.

Jim Dau: They are making money.

Glenn Miller: There is a guy from Kenai that comes up and collects them. I have a funny story about some boys in town that came over and stole a moose rack out of my yard and sold it to him.

Jim Dau: He is a little different because he carves his own.

Jim Dau: Back in the 80s and 90s people were taking antlers off of people's caches. There was a teacher up in Ambler whose house got broken into because people knew he has a couple of sets of antlers. The other thing you need to know now that was different than when it was in the 80s and 90s. People were really motivated back then. There was a pretty strong to get antlers then. The country side was scoured after about a year then people went looking for them in other places. The other thing that was different about the 80s and 90s was that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd was at a 13% annual increase. After 1990 it grew about 1-3% per year till 2003. That is when all of this stuff was happening there was not a biological issue then. People knew then and people could remember before that subsistence users were contributing to the decline. What is happening right now is the that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is in a 5-6% decline right now and the bull-cow ratio is slowly going down. It looks like we are just below 40 bulls per 100 cows. Back in the late 80s and early 90s we didn't have problems with the herd because it was growing like gang busters, but it was the concern about contributing to waste and that would lead to the decline in the herd. It wasn't Fish and Game or the Troopers that made the proposal before it was the Kotzebue Sound AC and made it legal for antlers that were naturally shed to be used as handicrafts. It has come up several times before, but each time the board maintains the status quo.

Raymond Stoney: There isn't much said in this proposal about want and waste. This proposal doesn't say much about local people. It doesn't say too much about taking the antlers from the big bulls and leaving the rest of the caribou. It is unlawful to leave unsalvaged caribou.

Jim Dau: Raymond is absolutely right; you have to salvage all of the meat from every caribou you get. I had this discussion with my director. He says this really doesn't involve Fish and Game because we have regulations that deal with want and waste. I can tell you what happened back in the late 80s through

the 90s. Troopers during that time if there was any waste they want to catch people; you can't hit any closer to home with a Trooper than waste. I don't think in the years that it was legal that anyone was sited let alone taken to court and convicted, but you can get a caribou, take its antlers and be back in the village in half an hour and there is only one trooper. The troopers were never able to get at the people who were wasting caribou. The waste was happening, I saw it from the plane, I saw it from the ground, it happened. It is damn near impossible to enforce in certain situations.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires if the federal subsistence board knows about this proposal. Inquires about the federal versus state jurisdiction.

Willie Goodwin: Explains the board knows about the proposal. The way it works now it is illegal to waste.

Raymond Stoney: So if this passes will the Federal system go along with the state system?

Willie Goodwin: I am not sure.

Raymond Stoney: Thanks Willie.

Jim Dau: I think that the state would take jurisdiction in Kobuk Valley because it is navigable waterways.

Raymond Stoney: If this passes people in the villages should be notified that if there is waste that they can say something so people can be punished.

Glenn Miller: The rule is in the Kobuk Valley that the state would have jurisdiction over the mean average high tide and above that is federal jurisdiction. It will be interesting, the state is taking jurisdiction and the feds are giving up jurisdiction?

Jim Dau: Explains if someone shoots a caribou and takes the antlers and leaves the meat that a trooper is going to deal with that. Usually, the feds will call the troopers to deal with those issues and take the report.

Glenn Miller: Inquires about private land.

Brandon Saito: The only thing that is prohibiting the sale of antlers right now is state law.

Raymond Stoney: Does the Board of Game want to hear from both the Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk ACs?

Jim Dau: The state wants to hear from local people on this. Back in the 80s and 90s people were really divided on this issue. There were some people who were really excited about not being able to sell antlers. There were some people who said, this is my caribou I shot it and I should be able to do what I want with it. This is probably the most contentious issue we are going to talk about.

Raymond Stoney: We were talking about getting something beneficial instead of the antlers go to waste.

Jim Dau: What was talked about where individuals couldn't sell antlers, but an organization might be able to. Like a school could do it. We were talking about getting something beneficial instead of the antlers go to waste. Yellowstone Park where Boy Scouts go around Yellowstone Park collects thousands and thousands of antlers and sell them and they make money. The money goes to the organization and not the individuals. We need to talk about a way to get some benefit out of the antlers that aren't being used, while removing the 1-2% of the populations of people that only see this as a way to make money for them. You guys know as well as I do you have been around you know there is always cheaters.

Glenn Miller: I have an opinion. Red Dog is a great place and it took a lot of people with a lot of skills and moved a lot people from villages to the big city, it allows people to be able to move to Anchorage. We have a bunch of kids that have fall through the cracks, when we talk about no child left behind and all of the Mickey Mouse the government does. We have other kids that could rely on this other than what they do do which is try to sell alcohol and do whatever and make a buck. I have looked at these kids who fell through the cracks, they are not bad guys, they are just behind on the eight ball and we have to do something with them. Can we run this through the Kiana IRA council to allow these kids to make a buck, they sell it to what's his name from Kenai anyways showed up in my yard and stole moose rack? I told the boys all they had to do was come knock on my door and ask for the moose rack, I'll give it to you to make a buck, but don't steal it out of my yard. Some of these kids need a way to make a buck I am all for it, but not if it becomes want and waste issue. Maybe that is something the traditional council can run and manage it a bit, and have these boys make a dime. Most of these guys are good guys they just got behind the eight ball and no one will hire them.

Carmen Daggett: Explains the procedures used by US Fish and Wildlife to track and tag walrus ivory as a possible method for keeping track of antlers.

Jim Dau: The thing about the buyers is that usually they say they won't take antlers from guys who have left the meat in the field, but if someone shows up with 500 lbs of antlers, how are they going to know. They are just going to tag them. There is a difference between the numbers of caribou and caribou antlers and tagging them. There are thousands and thousands of caribou and we talk about Brandon Saito tagging all of those antlers? You are talking about spending hundreds of hours of work tagging these caribou.

Wilbur Howarth: Don't make a mistake now, I stack all of my antlers up in front of my house and when I get enough after about three years, I cut up my antlers and use them for sinkers on the bottom of my nets. Don't arrest me for having lots of caribou antlers.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires about when these comments are due.

Carmen Daggett: The on time comment deadline is the 27 th of December. There is a process after that for submitting them as a Record Comment at the meeting.

Glenn Miller: In a perfect world we make our own crafts. Gives an example of a guy who wanted to be a doctor, but had kids so instead he started making knives. Now he sells them for thousands of dollars to chefs. Wants to make crafts out of antlers with kids to start a business.

Jim Dau: There used to be something like that in Kiana Tom and Chuck used to do bend and make bracelets and things, but it never took off.

Glenn Miller: It might be a better time now.

Raymond Stoney: I am not sure what the rest of the committee think about it, I think I would be in favor of make it pass. I don't know about these guys.

Willie Goodwin: We had a lot of discussion on this, one the caribou herd is going down, I think we have potential for a lot of abuse. There were reports of boats going up river above Kiana with the meat not coming back to Kiana. That is the danger of this if it does pass. We might have boats coming up the Upper Kobuk by Dall Creek where nobody can see them. It affects our ability to keep the bull to cow ratio at the level where it needs to be, it is almost too low now. We have to think on that, bull horns are going to be sold. I am against this proposal personally. Even though it is an opportunity to make money it is not going to be used to get gas. They need gas to go get the antlers in the first place. The money is going to get used from something else. To take some words from elders that talked about this proposal before they said they are going to use the money to buy drugs and alcohol. It is the young people that are going to abuse it, not us, we don't. I hope you guys say no to this.

Billy Custer: I agree with Willie the money is going to be used for other things. The young people are going sell antlers and there is going to be lots of waste caribou just so they can make a little bit of money.

Jim Dau: Dan Montgomery was one of the buyers 20 years ago.

Frank Downey: I can see that this is not coming from us. Where is this guy who wrote the proposal? This proposal is not coming from us because we know better, than to propose something like this ourselves. We know what is coming we can see it, we have fought this before. Why bring it up again. I am against this proposal myself. There are better ways to make money, these caribou are not going to be around to get money every year. There could be a benefit some people if it was done right, but we know it is not going to work. There is going to be more damage to us and benefit this guy that proposed it not for us.

Jim Dau: This guy is going to make tens of thousands of dollars and you guys only make hundred or thousands. The problem has never been about the antlers because the animals are already dead. It is the abuse that is the problem. This guy will always make more money. I saw the waste happen. It is not just that I was hearing about it. I saw on the ground and in the air. There were lots and lots of people calling me. I believe them. To think it is going to be different from 20 to 25 years ago.. I don't think it will be different.

Glenn Miller: It might be worse.

Billy Custer: There is someone who is buying antlers out of the Kobuk Lodge who is buying them regardless of whether they are cut or shed.

Brandon Saito: These antlers are not just going to waste, they are part of the local ecosystem. Small rodents and mammals use the antlers as a source of minerals. They aren't just going to waste.

Jim Dau: The only way I could see this work is if we removed the profit from the individuals. Maybe have a school system, church, culture camp, some organization do it. We need to keep it under control at some profit. That is the only way I can see making this a good thing. It doesn't make sense when the herd is declining to give people a cash ticket to turn caribou into cash that is scary. Instead of tearing the region apart with some wanting the sale and some not; let's figure out a way to let it happen, but make it so that the profit goes to some good profit or organization. That is the only thing I can think of that will make this work otherwise it is just going to have some really big expenses here with antler buyers making some big profits.

Glenn Miller: Inquires about what the herd is going to do and the bull cow ratio over the next 10 years and the potential resilience of the herd.

Jim Dau: I think they will bounce back. Caribou are the ultimate survivors through the tens of thousands of years, they made it through the Pleistocene. Bulls tend to have a higher mortality rate than cows do and when times get tough that seems to be magnified. In all of the jaw data I am getting data it is rare to have a bull live 10 years, most live about 8 years. Cows routinely get cows that live 12-16 years and I have had two cows get to be 20 years old before they died. That is what contributes to the bull cow ratio and I think we are going to continue to see it slide. We have seen these patterns throughout other herds in North America. It is sort of the canary in the cage for the herds turning around. This ratio started to go down in the early 90s when the herd was still going up. It is an early indicator that I think that things are turning around. I don't think we are going to see the turn around like we did in the 70s with an 18% decline to a 13 % increase. I still don't see how that could happen. I think now the scary thing is we have the technology to keep them low if they are low and to fragment their habitat making it difficult to come back, even with restricted harvest. If they can't get to different parts of the habitat they have a hard time coming back. I can't think of any caribou herds that are on the road system that are greater than 100,000, none. There were two herds in Canada that were 800,000-900,000 and now they are down to 10,000-20,000 the George River and Leaf River herds. This herd isn't declining that rapidly, but hopefully it will do one of these numbers and come back up.

Glenn Miller: It seems like this year they went way around the other side of Red Dog Mine. They didn't come across the road. Most of them went North East of the mine.

Jim Dau: Some of them did. The vast majority of them went around the road. Most of them came 2 weeks ago. Most of the herd moved through the area between Noorvik, Ambler and Shungnak. It was astounding and they went through in a 10-12 day period.

Wilbur Howarth: I haven't seen a stack of antlers in Noorvik since the guy that used to sell them passed away. The thing about the caribou and the hunting this fall. It was late for us. I was happy to see the enforcement boating and going up and down the river. It made me feel like there wasn't going to be waste anyways. I was talking with them and it was good to see them. I never saw any bulls out there being used for bear bait up there because they were there.

AC Member: Why were the caribou running late this year?

Jim Dau: My concern is getting collars out and we got delayed for three weeks. I went up to the North Slope to see what was going on and they were still being bothered by the bugs.

Wilbur Howarth: We still had mosquitos not too long ago still flying around.

Jim Dau: On the time scale of things they were running late. This was such a mild fall. We are the ones screwed up trying to mark our lives by calendars. They are still getting eaten up by mosquitos and flies so that is what is keeping them up on the slope.

Glenn Miller: I have a bunch of boys in Kiana that I can herd up and get a grant through KTC and get money to build a shop to put these boys to work and eliminate the middle man. We build stuff with antlers like knives and ulus. Would you look at this proposal differently then?

Jim Dau: You could still do that with regs the way they are now. Tom Cooper goes and collects antlers right now and carves them himself. You can get your boys to go pick up antlers and they can carve them and make things. You can saw off the antlers yourself right now and make them into a handicraft now with the regs the way they are because you are not selling the antlers you are selling the labor you are not selling the raw material and leave this proposal the way it is.

Glenn Miller: I am all for leaving it the way that it is then. Because greed is biblical.

Frank Downey: I think we should keep it the way it is. It keeps people from making a profit from selling antlers, but if the local people want to make things out of them then it is ok for us. We can't sell, when we make it legal it causes problems. There is a lot of material out there. Local hunters leave the antlers because we are more concerned about the meat.

Jim Dau: I like that idea.

Glenn Miller: We need to do something with these kids so that they can help them make things. Frank Downey: I wish there were more people like you in each village.

Wilbur Howarth: If you come into my bathroom, you can see I use antlers for lots of things.

Glenn Miller: It has been on my mind a long time. We have a really nice moose population from my eyes. I try to watch the cows rather than the bulls. There seems to be a healthy population of cows and calves. I think we should make these kids making something, do it through the church or the other churches in town. These kids need to do something instead of being up all night long, get them something to do and making a product. They don't really want to do nothing. They want to be productive. I talked with Tom Cooper about. Next time come up and knock on the door and haul them up ask. I am going to do something now.

Frank Downey: I am going to start a new church called Frank's last chance church.

Glenn Miller: I am upset that there isn't a hair dresser in town because it is a \$5000 turn to get a haircut in Anchorage.

Carmen Daggett: There is a sign for one in the post office.

Brittney Sweeny: Is it possible that any of those boys would be hairdressers?

Glenn Miller: Neh, they are good woodsman. When the government too control about exit exams the government forgot about the other group of boys that have to have other skills, which was not where their head was at. I think it has gone way astray. All of the girls go to college and the boys either went to Red Dog or they are stuck in Kiana and they are selling wood or doing a few things to make a buck.

Raymond Stoney: We need to move the discussion along. Asks about time check.

Proposal 25:

Brandon Saito: Explains hunt boundary Cape Thompson musk ox herd. The boundary original boundary was created at the time and encompassed the range of the herd. However, the herd's range has increased. The herd hasn't increased in size, it is just to take into account the change in the distribution herd. The new hunting boundary is to extend from the Kobuk Drainage to the North. It is not changing the number of musk ox that are able to be taken, it just extends the range.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires about the musk ox movement in the Kobuk drainage.

Brandon Saito: The musk ox are going South of the Noatak Drainage. There have been a few small musk ox groups that have moved out that way. There have been occasional sightings on the Kobuk. It is administered as a Tier II hunt.

Jim Dau: Not on the Kobuk only on the Noatak though not on the Kobuk. The ones you see in the village..

Raymond Stoney: I know that none of us hunt musk ox up river. We can still use them as memorial purposes. It was written 30 years ago that you can get one big game for funeral services. Could that be a musk ox? It says any big game. This will come effective after the Board of Game. We do see musk ox. There was one in Kiana in between the houses, in the front yard.

Jim Dau: Have you seen any recently?

Billy Custer: A few years ago I saw one in the Hot Springs area and I have seen musk ox up towards Selawik and towards Shungnak.

Jim Dau: I would like to have you sit down and put an X on a map.

Wilbur Howarth: You guys should have a name for the one over by Kiana.

Glenn Miller: There is one by Marina Camp and there is a lone one just outside of Kiana. There is one bull.

Jim Dau: I see him the spruce trees, not any other ones just him.

Wilbur Howarth: Is he lost or confused or what?

Jim Dau: he is at least confused.

Raymond Stoney: I wonder if Selawik wants to have this change.

Brandon Saito: it is doesn't change the hunting season on that it changes the boundary areas for the hunt. It is not increasing the number of permits; it is just changing the boundaries to try to increase the opportunity that people who have permits will actually get a musk ox. To North and west of the Kobuk drainage.

Jim Dau: Explains it includes the South side of the Noatak River Drainage.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires about the declining musk ox.

Jim Dau: Those are the Seward Peninsula Herd that goes all the way to Wales and down to Nome. This is for a different herd.

Brandon Saito: Explains the number of permits 6 available for a tier II hunt. This proposal just changes the area.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires about different Buckland Deering musk ox. Inquires about federal and state land on the tier II hunt.

Jim Dau: Explains the state and federal system. You're right Buckland because Buckland didn't have any federal land nearby so they needed a lot of state permits, but it worked well for Deering because they have that federal land nearby. The federal system balances out the permits they have more control over balance of permits between Buckland and Deering. The state permits are done though the computer and we have less control of it.

Brandon Saito: Do you guys have any thoughts about expanding the boundary.

Raymond Stoney: Inquires about whether you can get bulls or cows?

Brandon Saito: Explains you can only get bulls.

Jim Dau: The reason why we put this proposal in is because there has been a group of musk ox down by the mouth of the Aggy for the last twenty years and people are frustrated that they can't shoot them because they are on the other side of the river. If this proposal passed they would be able to hunt that group. Same with the Noatak River there is a herd that goes all the way up the Noatak, but if they cross on the other side people wouldn't be able to shoot them. We have seen a big expansion of the range of musk ox.

Lance Kraemer: Questions if someone gets a musk ox permit one year does that disqualify them from getting a permit the next year? It seems like there a lot of teachers who have been applying for so many

years. I would sure like to apply, but I won't get one because I can't compete with people who have already been getting them. You know when they get one does it go down the line to the next group of applicants.

Brandon Saito: you can apply every year. It is done on a point system. It is recommended that you apply because you are given a certain number of points for how many times you have applied for the hunt.

Lance Kraemer: What I am saying is if you have six teachers who have consistently applied and they always get them. It doesn't matter if I apply because they are always going to get them. There is never anyone new getting these permits.

Jim Dau: We have bringing this up for 12-14 years. The first guy that shot a musk ox established a history and he was able to get a permit every year after that. There are 9-10 people that keep getting the same permits over and over and we brought this to the board, but they said there is a constraint because it is a statewide system and they can't change it. What your saying does apply to the sport hunts. If you are drawn for the sport hunts you can't get another one the next year. That is exactly what needs to be done here. What this proposal does it open this section of the code for discussion. This is a time that you could submit an amendment for this code. There are people in Noatak and Kivalina that will out score you because of the cost of gas and food. You are absolutely right that is a flaw in the system. You should talk about this in your meetings to adjust this code.

Glenn Miller: So that would be an amendment that we could submit? That is like the wrestling program in Kotzebue where you show up with four guys and unless they all pin their guys I wasn't winning where Peacock with show up with 50 guys. I am not winning.

Raymond Stoney: This year the musk ox was in between the houses for several days in between the houses right.

Jim Dau: I am hearing you right that you guys would like an amendment.

Wilbur Howarth: I am ok with it.

Glenn Miller: I can imagine sitting on the North side of the bank looking at the South side at musk ox and not being able to shoot them. I would support this proposal to cover the whole drainage. The problem I have is the way the structure the permitting because the same guys get them all of the time and once people get them they should move them to the end of the line.

Wilbur Howarth: It is one person getting all of the musk ox?

Glenn Miller: One of the things it is contingent upon research. How is the herd doing?

Brandon Saito: The herd hasn't been declining in any significant amount.

Brandon Saito: The herd has been moving north further into unit 26.

Jim Dau: The musk oxen are hard to see in all of the trees up in the Lower Kobuk.

Glenn Miller: He, the musk ox, is confused.

Proposal 26: Reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in Unit 23.

Brandon Saito: This is a reauthorization that has to take place every board cycle, actually every year. For this one we need to reauthorize the antlerless moose season to keep that hunt. November 1st-31st. For the last 20 years this hunt has allowed for the harvest of antlerless moose, the average take over the last 20 years has been just 10 moose under this every year. The department agrees and in support of this proposal. Even though the moose population is low, we don't feel that the take of ten moose is a huge problem for this herd.

Frank Downey: Personally I don't feel comfortable supporting or opposing these proposals without a quorum.

Carmen Daggett: Explains that these minutes are not going to be officially submitted. These are not official decisions. They are just for your reference when we have the next AC meeting to discuss these proposals. This is not an official AC meeting.

Frank Downey: I thought the point of this meeting is that we can see what the Lower Kobuk and Upper Kobuk ACs think about these proposals. Instead of us trying to decide in our each individual area. It is best to have meetings together. That was my understanding was that both ACs were meeting to do business. We should have a quorum for both ACs.

Brandon Saito: It is good for us to see what you guys are thinking.

Frank Downey: We should make sure that we have a quorum before we travel. We shouldn't have a meeting.

Carmen Daggett: I completely agree with you that the ideal situation is that both ACs have quorum and when I called everyone last week both ACs did have quorum. I guess you can decide whether you want to participate in this conversation or not. The point of being that this is just a discussion, these are not official votes and the meeting minutes are not going to be submitted to the board. I guess you are not ok with that, I don't know if we want to can the meeting today or if you want to continue the discussion and make use of Jim Dau and Brandon Saito's time and take what was discussed by the Lower Kobuk AC back to the Upper Kobuk AC meeting referring back to the notes that I am taking right now so you can remember everything that happened and use that information to discuss and vote on thing with the Upper Kobuk AC.

Raymond Stoney: The proposals are affecting the entire game management unit 23. Like Frank said we were supposed to discuss this as Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk ACs, a lot people won't like what we have just done. I don't know if it would be best if we just table the proposals for a quorum meeting?

Frank Downey: Even when we have our own meetings it is hard to get a quorum. So we should try our best to get a meeting, and not running late on the deadline.

Carmen Daggett: That is certainly something I strive for with every meeting. As I said before, I can hound you guys as much as I want, but ultimately you are the one that has to get on the plane. I can't walk out there and hold your hand to get on the plane. All of you got the meeting information at the same time. Some of you made it and some of you didn't.

Wilbur Howarth: I think what is going on right now is fine with these guys here. I have to stay here all day anyways my son has an appointment at the hospital. I could spend the whole day here.

Carmen Daggett: I guess you guys can have a vote and decide whether you want to stop talking and having a meeting right now. It is possible you will lose the ability to meet jointly. It is up to you guys.

Frank Downey: Since we are here and there is nothing much we can do, we might as well meet and talk, but in the future be more careful about making quorum and guarantee a quorum.

Jim Dau: I think we all agree with you, the thing you guys can do is remind the other guys to come. You guys have a lot more pull than she does to get people to come. You guys can get people to come.

Frank Downey: We need to a quorum.

Jim Dau: I agree with you. I thought the whole discussion about antlers helped me and Lance's suggestion for an amendment was good for the musk ox stuff. It is too bad we don't have quorum because I wish those suggestions could be heard and count. Let's do with we can with what we can do.

Glenn Miller: I have question about moose surveys. I have noticed that a lot of the animals are up high in the valleys in the hills. I don't hunt in the winter so I don't have an opinion, but I don't want to shut someone else's hunting down if they need an antlerless moose in November and December. Explains that the moose both bulls and cows look good around Kiana.

Wilbur Howarth: I didn't even know they hunted November and December until one of my buddies called me up and asked me if I was ready to go.

Brandon Saito: In the federal hunt the antlerless moose hunt extends into March. It is the same permit as the state for the federal or the RM880 permit.

Jim Dau: The federal season is August through March on federal land. We tried to make it easier on the federal side on the state side you need a RM880 permit.

Frank Downey: What do you mean by antlerless moose, does that include females? Small bulls without antlers too?

Brandon Saito: A cow without calves or anything without antlers. This proposal has been reauthorized since 2004. Some of the things were coming up against, when we have a huge caribou decline, we can see from those surveys up on the Lower Noatak we have seen a 35% reduction in the moose population.

Moose numbers are nothing like it used to be. The bull cow ratio is another thing we look at. We are seeing a healthy number of bulls to cows 30-40 bulls to cows. It is one of the other ways we regulate outside hunters coming in. It allows people to kill cows if they aren't getting enough caribou to fill their freezers with, you know if they don't go out there to get a bull before they go into rut it allows them to get a cow. Cows are more susceptible to winter harvest because they hang around the villages. If you are killing cows, it can have a pretty huge impact on the population. If you are killing the cows you are also killing the calves that are going to be born. This has been passed before; the department doesn't have a problem with it. I just want people understand that if we continue to have a low caribou problem we don't have a limit on the number that can be taken so this could sky rocket and could change. If you have any concerns or ideas?

Glenn Miller: Inquires why the calves and cows are not doing well on the Noatak Drainage. There has to be one.

Jim Dau: There are ideas. You can't talk to people without them saying there are lots of bears and wolves. I think bears are knocking the bejesus out of moose calves. I have watch these bears walk up on the calves and they don't even run they just take the calf and eat it. I think wolves work on them during the winter. I think wolves are having a bigger impact on caribou and bears are having a bigger impact on moose.

Wilbur Howarth: There are lots of bears this fall, right around our caribou.

Glenn Miller: I have seen a lot more big packs of wolves. I saw 21-22 wolves. I was watching some caribou and just beyond them I saw a pack of about 25 wolves. They weren't spooked, they were just watching. I am seeing a lot more of big packs of wolves.

Jim Dau: We just saw four wolves outside of Noorvik on Friday.

Glenn Miller: We need to get after these wolves a little bit more and the bears.

Jim Dau: we are going to talk about bears.

Brandon Saito: Does anyone have any ideas about how to reduce the moose take. This proposal was original set up to help people reduce the season and the take. A moose is a moose to a predator. Cows and calves are a little more vulnerable.

Glenn Miller: I saw a cow moose take on a bear and how the moose defended the calves was she just turned herself broadside and she didn't live through that, but the calves ended up starving without a mom. The bulls seem to do better, they are equipped to defend.

Brandon Saito: without the cows you don't have recruitment. They use up their whole reserves in the rut and they are just wasted and susceptible.

Jim Dau: The bulls are just stupid when they are in the rut, they don't run away from anything?

Brittney Sweeny: Inquires if there is a consistent decline in the Kobuk and the Noatak? Is it steeper in the Noatak than the Kobuk?

Brandon Saito: Explains techniques for surveying moose in this region. The Upper Kobuk was last surveyed in 2006 and the Noatak is the most recently survey.

Frank Downey: If we want to protect moose and caribou we need to increase the hunt on wolves and bears. We need to increase those two areas to protect our moose and caribou. The wolves and bears eat.

Raymond Stoney: Good point Frank. We get 25 wolves in Kiana every night.

Glenn Miller: We should introduce a bounty on these wolves. We should get some of these boys out hunting.

Raymond Stoney: Explains we should go back 55 years ago for \$50 bounty hunting.

Jim Dau: I think there are lots of people in the state that agree, but I don't think that there is a snowball's chance that that is going to happen. I am not disagreeing with you. The days of bounty hunting are over.

Glenn Miller: The problem is optics, politics.

Jim Dau: There are people who are absolutely opposed to do bounty hunts. Explains the state predator control. They don't have to get the state to say they are going to stop, they just make a lawsuit that delays the bounty and it works. The state has just stopped trying to do bounty hunting. That is why the state spends hundreds of thousands of dollars doing predator control. The collar a wolf and track him, they call them Judas bulls and then they kill everything in the pack except a few of the collared ones. That is a tremendous expense to the state. That has been decades in developing. That goes back to the 70s and 80s. There are board of game members that would love to do what you are talking about, but it won't happen.

Brandon Saito: The proposal was just about reauthorizing antlerless moose hunts.

Wilbur Howarth: The moose have been really healthy in Noorvik and the cows and calves look really good, nice and red. I have seen quite a few calves.

Brandon Saito: The Lower Kobuk area is good, there is a huge gathering area for cows and calves. That is a lot different than the Noatak Area we are seeing 50:50 bull to cow ratio where on the Kobuk River the bull: cow ratio is 80% cows to 20% bulls.

Jim Dau: How are the moose on the Upper Kobuk?

Billy Custer: Moose are really good by the hot springs there are hundreds. You go further up by the Hot Springs there are more bulls, there of cows, lots of moose by Shungnak hot springs they are always in one area.

Jim Dau: How are they up the Reed River?

Jim Dau: Inquires about them further up river.

Billy Custer: I haven't been up to the Reed.

Jim Dau: The Lower Kobuk is the best area for moose. Around Noorvik and Kiana you guys have the mother load of moose.

Glenn Miller: We have perfect moose habitat. We have these layers of willows and these shoots that go up into the hills and they won't stick their heads out until it is time for the rut. The Noatak is different, it braids out and it is kind of open and rocky and gravel. There is just not like Noorvik and Kiana.

Jim Dau: Yeah the Noatak habitat is just not as good for moose like Noorvik and Kiana.

Billy Custer: A few years ago we had moose right in town in Ambler around the school and we were chancing them away. We are not sure why there are so many moose in town. Because of wolves?

Jim Dau: When I got here in the 80s I heard a lot of people say that moose would come into town and I thought year right, they are going to come into town and deal with dogs and people and snow goes? But I think you are right. We see way more calves close to villages.

Wilbur Howarth: There was a wolf that was shot and wounded outside of town and a moose came right into town.

Glenn Miller: I was talking to my wife last night and she told me there is a cow and calf right in town in Kiana, with all of these wolves on the Squirrel River. The dogs bark all night last night about the moose. She will stay there all winter. We should collar her, I wonder if she is the same one.

Wilbur Howarth: I would pass this..

Glenn Miller: I feel like I have to swing with you guys. My opinion is no opinion, you guys make that decision.. You know what the numbers look like.

Brandon Saito: The moose populations are going down.

Glenn Miller: If there is more permits..

Brandon Saito: It is not the number of permits. 10 is just the average number of cows that have been hunted.

Glenn Miller: I don't hunt cows it is too risky.

Brandon Saito: We just wanted to know what your feelings are. If there are moose management decisions to be made the cow hunt would be the first to go.

Jim Dau: We are just trying to make you guys aware of what is going on, and create a safety valve cause if the caribou still keep going down.. If we think moose are going down we might be coming to you guys to shut this down.

Brandon Saito: Shall we have some lunch and come back and talk about bears?

Wilbur Howarth: Where are all of the ptarmigan this year?

Glenn Miller: Ptarmigan are tied to the wolverines.

Proposal 27: For hunting season and bag limits for brown bear proposed by the National Park Conservation Association and reinstate the Brown Bear tag fee.

Brandon Saito: Limits brown bear harvests based upon the population estimates from the National Park Service, but they haven't produced those estimates yet. What are your guys feelings.

Glenn Miller: Number 1 is what is their data? We realize we have a predator problem not only wolves but bears. I don't think that many people hunt bears. We have a problem with bears.

Wilbur Howarth: I know the guys in Noorvik, hunt bears.

Brandon Saito: The biggest group of people that report harvest are Alaska Residents outside of unit 23 which take 40%, the Unit 23 residents are the next largest group and then out of state residents are the smallest number of permits available total. The reason why the nonresident harvests are so small is because they have a limited number of permits. Last fall there was a survey done in the Red Dog area for bears because they wanted to see if there were impacts from the mine on bear populations. What they found in 1987 was one bear for every 25 miles, in 2008 the Park Service and Fish and Game did a survey and estimates were over two bears per 25 miles. That shows that the numbers of bears have at least doubled. Explains data regarding brown bears. The Red Dog area was where the survey is.

Raymond Stoney: Was wondering if the Lower Kobuk has been surveyed.

Brandon Saito: The Park Service was trying to figure out a way to use bear scat and find the populations of bears, I don't know where they are with that. All of the information from the hunters and guides and the reports are that there are lots of bears. This would severely limit brown bear hunting in this area.

Glenn Miller: The resident is going to have to pay a brown bear tag fee? Is that right? We are going to end up paying in the area and subsistence hunters if there is a good number of bears we should be able to hunt bears without regulation. I don't know how many guides there are in our area. I think we should be able to harvest bears as local guys as a subsistence hunt instead of paying a lot of fees all of the time.

4:05:15

Brandon Saito: The regulations are complicated enough. We want to have good bear harvest data. It is what we can use to make good management decisions. We try to get as much data as possible.

Glenn Miller: Have you been to the Salmon River, there will be a bear every square foot there. I don't know if you have ever been there, but if you go there you should be ready like you are going to Afghanistan because they are there and they will be coming. It is the perfect storm and the right amount of fish. If we are going to be subsistence hunters we should be able to hunt bears without exemption. How much is the permit fee?

Brandon Saito: The fee is \$25. Proposal 28 deals with the resident tag fee. This proposal just suggests that that tag fee should be renewed. I take it you guys are opposed to this? The one good thing about this proposal it opens the log book up for amendments. The advisory committee could suggest that there could be instead of one bear every four years it could be four bears every year. This can be used.

Glenn Miller: Can we have an amendment for one bear a year as a subsistence hunt for indigenous people?

Brandon Saito: The state doesn't recognize the difference between indigenous and non-indigenous people. They only distinguish between residents and non-residents. The way that limit to local people for the RM 880 is they make people come get the permit in Kotzebue. This means they have to take a separate flight to Kotzebue get a permit.

Glenn Miller: Are we going to have problems getting them in Kiana?

Brandon Saito: you can get them in the villages too.

Glenn Miller: Sometimes they show up late or not at all... I don't like proponent of being nickel and dimed by the state and feds. Now we have to pay for a boat tag. It like owning a snow machine that keeps nickeling and diming. There are lots of bears up the Salmon River.

Brandon Saito: We are really worried about this proposal, because what we are seeing and hearing is that there are bears everywhere and this proposal has the potential to severely limit the harvest in this area, and protect moose and caribou populations. That is our goal.

Glenn Miller: I have a question, so the data came from Red Dog. So you have the Wullik River and the Red Dog creek. They are a totally different drainage then let's say the Lower Kobuk. They are two different worlds. I spend a lot of time at Red Dog and there are a lot of bears but they are hard to track because they are around Red Dog and then they shoot up the valley and get lost in the hills. They didn't take the data from the Kobuk, but apparently they went by the Salmon River, but have you ever been in there.

Brandon Saito: The reason we are using the Wullik River data is because that is the only study looking at brown bears in this area to justify the sightings that all of the people are seeing. We are looking to harvest more brown bears not less, the state opposes this proposal. One thing we are looking at is increasing non-resident hunting because non-residents will pay money to come up here and hunt. There are not a local people who are interested in dealing with bears and skinning them. But non-residents will come in pay money to be here, put money into the economy and deal with the bears. A

lot of guides say they have people chopping at the bit to do that. So opening up a limited non-resident hunt would deal with the bears.

Glenn Miller: I don't like the feds coming in and regulating things. I think that the state should regulate their own resources and not the federal government. The problem with the federal government is being influenced by other parties that are associated with it. For example the river projects with the EPA, they are going to shut down everything. I think lot of what goes on the state should be controlled by the state and who lives there. I don't want the federal government regulating things. The polar bear things that used to be done by the federal government, I can't do that no more because I can't be in a helicopter with a fuel bladder according to the FAA. So I am out getting to get to take part in that. I'll stick with you on the state, get rid of the Feds.

Raymond Stoney: The thing with brown bear and a number of things were asked. If there is someone camping and they get attacked by a mother with two young cubs that are not more than a month old. If they shoot the mother, what happens in a situation like that? The owner of the camp has no choice to get all three. But you don't want to shoot the mother and leave the two cubs by themselves. There are no regulations for dealing with a situation like that. If there is a mother with cubs in the spring there is no regulation to allow the take of the cubs.

Brandon Saito: Explains that that would be covered by defense of life and property. If you are threatened or your property is threatened you have the right to kill that bear.

Raymond Stoney: You can't take the two cubs.

Brandon Saito: If the sow was charging you, you could shoot it, but you would have to leave the cubs.

Jim Dau: I have never had somebody kill all three. Explains when there is a sow with cubs. Usually when we get a report of a sow with a cubs getting killed usually we end up sending a trooper out to get the cubs. I have told people in the past to kill all three. When Joe Harris was having a problem, I went over there and of course the cubs weren't around. I told him to shoot all three without getting trouble. Usually, people from the lower 48 with satellite phones call and they don't know what to do. Sometimes you can't find the cubs and they are going to die. If it is defense of life and property you have skin the bear and give the skull. If you kill the cubs you have to do it for all three. If you get the bears you can keep the meat and eat it. The state doesn't really need the meat.

Raymond Stoney: I don't think that this is in the reg. book.

Jim Dau: This isn't in the reg. book which is why Brandon was looking at me. We should really talk to Justin McGinnis about this. I can tell you from my perspective and I think at least from Brandon's that if you shot all three we thank you because it saves us from having to come out and deal with it. It is the trooper you have to make sure you are square with that.

Raymond Stoney: It would be good to have this information to the IRA and to the local people.

Jim Dau: Suggests that it should be in the regulations book under DLP. If you have to kill a sow with cubs, kill all three. I don't think it is there. That is where it should be.

Brandon Saito: The probably don't say that because in places like Anchorage they probably take the cubs and put them in Zoo's around this year it is the transit time and cost, it isn't cost effective. The idea with DLP is that you are doing as limited damaged as possible while still protecting yourself. You killed the sow because she was attacking you. Usually the cubs wouldn't be a factor.

Raymond Stoney: So the person who shoots the bears has to salvage them, or we can call Fish and Game and you guys come skin them?

Brandon Saito: Under DLP the law the person who shoots the bear is responsible for skinning it out and returning the hide and skull.

Raymond Stoney: According to our elders, we don't want to leave the cubs because our elders told us that if we don't kill the cubs those cubs will know who you are if you kill the mother they will come back to get you.

Brandon Saito: We will talk to the trooper about how he wants to handle this situation.

Glenn Miller: Who is the National Park Conservation Association anyways?

Jim Dau: I don't know.

Brandon Saito: We can get you a membership form...

Glenn Miller: No thank you. I am sure their lawyer is sitting in San Francisco looking out the window saying we should really take that out of there. That is who they really are.

Carmen Daggett: Justin McGinnis will be at the Kotzebue AC meeting tomorrow and we can ask him then what he thinks about this issue.

Jim Dau: He took over for Eric Lorrington.

Glenn Miller: If they say there is a conservation problem I don't a decline in numbers.

Lance Kraemer: Inquires about the proposal for brown bear exemption fee Proposal 28. Would that open the books for adding more numbers of bears that we can take too?

Brandon Saito: Proposal 28 is about, you can have the tag fee we don't want your money sort of thing.

Jim Dau: Although this proposal seeks to restrict the brown bear hunt you can offer a proposal for this to be amended to do the opposite. This proposal doesn't have a snow ball's chance. Explains how an amendment works?

Lance Kraemer: Inquires about how proposals and amendments work.

Jim Dau: Explains how amendments and proposals work at the board of game meeting.

Glenn Miller and Lance Kraemer: We need to make an amendment.

Willie Goodwin: The first time this proposal came through the NPS was silent we haven't talked about this, but they will probably be silent about this. They have helped the National Park Service somehow. They funded some research up here years ago in Noatak.

Glenn Miller: They are like a lot of environmental groups in San Francisco.

Lance Kraemer: I think we should make an amendment for two bears a year even. One bear a year, there are not enough people hunting bears right now. If I could get two bears a year I would do that to help out because not enough people are going out and getting them. I would like to see the sale of brown bear hides. I think we can start to sell bear hides. You will be helping the moose population out and making some money, kind of like the wolf bounty except it will be like a bear bounty were you can sell bear hides for \$500. That is something I would like to see sometime in the future.

Glenn Miller: My question is how we do this amendment, because it needs to be done. Do we go to this meeting on January 10th. Someone at this meeting needs to draw up an amendment and bring this amendment up at the meeting in January? Is that what needs to happen?

Jim Dau: In your comments in your official meeting when you make comments at an official quorum meeting, you can do this. Send your comments to the board of game saying we oppose what proposal 27 is saying, but we have a friendly amendment

Brandon Saito: Local harvest is not the biggest thing. Residents of Alaska that are outside of unit 23 are getting bears. There were a number of guides who said that nonresidents would get a bear.

Jim Dau: The guides say we can make a real dent if they are allowed to get a permit and drop some money. You can't get people to kill bears. The only groups of people that want to get bears are non-resident hunters.

Lance Kramer: Explains his suggestion for amendments. Could you make it the sale of hide legal?

Jim Dau: You can put anything you want, but I think it is a different part of the code. You can do that just to make the point that you are really interested in having more bears hunted.

Brandon Saito: Can you still sell the hide if claws are removed?

Jim Dau: Brown bears and sheep are the two hardest things to get them to be ok with the sale of things. I don't think you will be able to get the sale of bear parts legal. This has been like a 20 year long thing. You can propose it, but I wouldn't bank on it passing.

Lance Kramer: If you can't sell the hide idea, Can you still do the rest of the amendment?

Jim Dau: Explains that it makes the point that you want brown bear populations to go down. Explains the subsistence use of brown bears. They really don't want to allow the sale.

Glenn Miller: So we reject proposal 27 and then come back with an amendment to go to two bears a year and eliminated brown bear tag fees and suggest making the sale of brown bears hides legal.

Carmen Daggett: Makes the suggestion to do two amendments, one that includes the sale of brown bear hides and one that doesn't. They will not know the discussion that we are having right now and the context of the discussion. Really what you guys want is to increase the amount of brown bear hunting and it would be nice if the sale of hides is allowed. Having two amendments might allow you to more accurately represent what you want.

Glenn Miller: Where the data? I feel like how can you propose something if you don't have new data support this. Can't we just say we would like to see the data? They are not going to produce anything.

Brandon Saito: They are using old data talking about skull size decreasing. We have data that skull size has been going up.

Glenn Miller: Do what Lance says and just amend it and have another possibility.

Jim Dau: I am curious what you guys have to say. Right now all of the non-residents are on a draw, what would you guys think about having it be a registration hunt with a quota? I think it would bring the populations down. There are lots of hunters that want to come up and do combination hunts. They want to get a caribou, moose and bear, but right now they can't because they are all on a draw. This would be real change what we have done in the last 30 years, where all non-residents have had to get a drawing permit. We are considering as an amendment getting a non-resident registration hunt, they would still have to have a guide, they still have to have a permit, they still have to pay \$500, but they wouldn't have to draw, there would be a quota and there would be a two year sunset. Try it for two years and if they got to many bears it would be over after two years. It would keep the hunting from getting away from us. What I want to hear from you guys because it is a liberalization of non-resident hunters, I want to know what you guys think about that. Would you support something like that to bring bear numbers down?

Lance Kramer: I would.

Wilbur Howarth: Yup

Lance Kramer: It would help the moose everywhere.

Glenn Miller: We don't see to many hunters in Kiana. There used to be hunters in Kiana, but I don't see too many anymore.

Wilbur Howarth: They are landing in Noorvik. There are lots of people coming in to hunt in Noorvik.

Glenn Miller: If there is money coming to the region it is always a good thing. I am all for it. They are getting dinged.

Wilbur Howarth: Do you have a thing about how many guides are in the villages? Do you know who guides moose out of Noorvik? There are Cabelas guys out of Noorvik and there are so many of those?

We need somebody to come out to Noorvik during the fall and get to see all of these hunters that come in.

Lance Kramer: There must be somebody taking them illegally.

Wilbur Howarth: That is what I think. Whenever I had a chance to chat with Lorring, I used to talk with him. I would like to see one person stay in Noorvik because there are so many people that jump in a boat and take off. I know we don't have any guides in Noorvik that are legal.

Brandon Saito: Are they getting bears?

Wilbur Howarth: We don't see what they have when they come back. They are all in totes and boxes when they bring it back.

Jim Dau: I know there are lots of local people that can hire out their boats and take hunters. You can't get paid for that though because it makes you a transporter, but you can go as a friend. The only local guide we have is Johnny Walker, Art Field's died he used to guide for decades.

Glenn Miller: I haven't seen him for a while, he used to come up to Kiana guiding brown bear hunting.

Jim Dau: He used to hunt the Squirrel pretty hard, but now he doesn't.

Frank Downey: How many individuals are guides in Unit 23.

Jim Dau: Lists off guides there are about 20 for all of Unit 23, Bob Hannon in Koyuk around Granite Mountain, Jake Jacobson, Phil Driver, Johnny Walker, Preston Kelly, Matt Owen, Pat, Joe Hardy, Joe Aldirdge, Brad Salsaa, Dave Leonard, Wayne Taylor. Some of those are Mom and Pop operations. Others are more sophisticated.

Wilbur Howarth: Are we ready to move on?

Proposal 28: Change the bag limits of coyotes in Unit 23 to no limit.

Raymond Stoney: The last time we saw a coyote was 500 years ago.

Glenn Miller: With the wolf population we have around here if you are a coyote that shows up you are crazy. We get you down to the Wrangel-St. Elias area and better be quick.

Brandon Saito: There have been occasional sightings of coyotes.

Glenn Miller: Bill said he saw a coyote.

Raymond Stoney: I saw one but it was the size of a wolf. It was red colored.

Brandon Saito: The department's stance, the department supports this for more opportunity makes regulations simpler and it won't reduce any number of coyotes significantly. The first sightings in the 1940s and it is thought they are expanding their range.

Raymond Stoney: Where are they coming from?

Glenn Miller: There were a lot around the Wrangle-St. Elias area. There was just a not a lot of wolves in that area. Usually wolves and coyotes don't work well together.

Wilbur Howarth: I would be in support of this one.

Glenn Miller: Explains that the sheep would have taken a beating with the ice storm.

Brandon Saito: That is the last proposal that specifically deals with Unit 23. The rest are sheep related. I don't know if you guys want to get into these or not.

Wilbur Howarth: Just give us all a permit.

Glenn Miller: Are you going to go take a look at the sheep habitat up in the Emericks because they have to be taking a beating with all of these storms.

Jim Dau: Yeah we are going to go take a look, the ice is easy to see up high because it reflects the light as long as it isn't covered by snow. I was worried about caribou over the last couple of weeks, there was no ice layer by the caribou the direction that the caribou are migrating. The rain must have fallen on the vegetation and on the ground and soaked in.

Glenn Miller: It only rained on snow by us and created a crust. There are spots where there are ice pockets it is really dangerous travel conditions. Who knows what is underneath there.

Jim Dau: I hate to hear that stuff.

Raymond Stoney: There is still going to be sheep for subsistence? Inquires about sheep hunts.

Jim Dau: Explains the permits for sheep hunting. They are open for subsistence users. Explains subsistence hunts with fly in versus non-permits. You can hunt in the Baird Mountains or The Delongs are free, the state and park service manage cooperatively. The state subsistence hunts are registration permits. On the state side you have never been able to use an aircraft to hunt, on the federal side you can. The use of the aircraft and where you can use your permit is the major difference. Federal permits are good for the Emericks, there are none for the state. There are both Federal and State permits for the Delongs. They are free, there is no limit on the permits, but there is a quota. The state system and federal system co-manage the Delongs with certain quota. The in state isn't involved in the Emericks.

Glenn Miller: We go down to the Eli and then up the Kiptik on the chute right before you drop into the Noatak Valley.

Jim Dau: Inquires about sheep around the Timber Creek?

Glenn Miller: On Cleary Creek, I have seen females, but the males are down in the timber. They are harder to find.

Jim Dau: I don't see rams, they are hard to see in the winter.

Glenn Miller: Over by Cleary Creek I have seen females, I should have jumped up there and go to Timber Creek right before you get to the headwall. I saw wolves.

Jim Dau: It looks like it would be really steep going through.

Glenn Miller: It is not back getting to Timber Creek, I go through Martin Slough for the access to Timber Creek. That is the way I used to go. I used to get up at 4:00 am chasing wolves before daylight, back when I was gutsy. I should have had Raymond with me.

Raymond Stoney: Is sheep hunting still legalized for non-resident hunts?

Jim Dau: Yeah, it has been legal after the early 1990s. It was closed for a few years before that.

Jim Dau: Back in 1992 we left the Delongs open and after three weeks at the end of the season we closed it. We lost about 60% of our adults in two years because of icing conditions.

Glenn Miller: I think it is going to be bad up there. It is really bad weather.

Wilbur Howarth: Are we done?

Carmen Daggett: That is up to you guys. The dall sheep proposals are more regionally dependent instead of GMU. We could cover it in individual AC meetings. Do you think there would be some benefit for having these proposals talked about jointly with the Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk versus just one or the other? I am wondering if there is much more value in having this discussion jointly.

Glenn Miller: I don't know what is there for the sheep proposals.

Jim Dau: What we have been told is these same guys have submitted these proposals to every region, the state is talking about taking them up at the statewide meeting versus individual regions. We were being told not to spend a lot of time on them. Most of the hunts are designed to residents a jump to establish a bow season and to restrict non-residents.

Brandon Saito: In this region there are already quite a lot of restrictions and a short window for non-residents. So few sheep. They are not worth it.

Wilbur Howarth: Are we done?

Jim Dau: I am.

Meeting Adjourned 11/25/13 2:05 pm