

ALASKA NANUUQ COMMISSION
2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 30-31ST
Alaska Village Initiatives-Anchorage, AK

Call to order at 10:05 am by Chairman Charles Brower.

Charlie Brower: I will ask for a roll call please.

Christine Holi: Good morning everybody.

ROLL CALL-

Chairman: Charles Brower-Barrow-Present

Vice Chair: Enoch Oktollik-Wainwright-Present

Sergeant at Arms-Enoch Tooyak- Point Hope-Present

Treasurer-Harry Brower-Barrow-Present

Charles B: Good morning everyone for being here, we have quorum.

Motion by Chairman Brower: I would like to make a motion to approve the agenda.

Enoch T: Motion to make the agenda flexible. 2nd by Enoch Oktollik.

Charles B: I was wondering if we could do some of the action items before noon. I am scheduled to leave here around noon, all the action items. After we do the deputy directors report.

Charles B: Question has been called for by, all those in favor of approving the agenda that is amended, certify by saying I. Oppose? Hearing none, motion passed. Thank you. At this time everyone knows that our founder Charles Johnson just recently passed away. And at this time we will have a moment of silence for Charles Johnson.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Charles B: Before we continue, we had two memorial services for Charlie Johnson, one in Anchorage and one in Nome. I attended the one in Nome. There were six speakers in attendance. Mrs. Johnson stated that I was a hard man, I couldn't hold it anymore. I just broke down up there while I was making my speech. After the speech, Mrs. Johnson said" you are human after all". Everything went well.

Jack O: I attended the memorial here in Anchorage. There were quite a few people at Captain Cook. I just wanted to say that, the speakers who spoke on Charlie's behalf did a really good job on capturing his accomplishments. We are trying to help out the family. On behalf of ANC we are going to present a plaque to Mrs. Johnson.

Charlie B: Anyone else? I thank you. Introductions, I give the floor to Jack.

Jack O: Well I see you guys already know Rhonda; she has been the regional coordinator since/before annual meeting. We have added Mandy Ellanna who is our new office manager. They work great as a team and have been working together out of the Nome office. Mandy has college experience but also worked as a Manager at Credit Union 1. You will see in their reports on how much they have been doing. So that is my introduction for them and there were some questions about getting some other staff this year and I don't think that is going to happen. I think with the people we have in place we are going to be all right, so thank you.

Charlie B: Thank you Jack. ANC Executive Committee members, I believe we can go around and introduce ourselves.

Charles Brower, Chairman of the ANC; I represent the Native Village of Barrow.

Harry Brower: Treasurer at ANC, from the village of Barrow.

Enoch Tooyak: Sergeant at Arms, Point Hope, Council member.

Thomas Napageak Jr.-Secretary-Point Lay

Enoch Oktollik-Vice Chair-Wainwright

Jack O: Chairman, I apologize, we also have Hannah Voorhees here. Hannah worked with us during one of our studies, she took some of my duties last year and then Rhonda and her worked together on our TEK study. Hannah is still sort of associated with the Nanuuq Commission but she has accepted a teaching position, so she is fulfilling her commitment towards her PhD, she will be teaching at UAA this semester. She has moved into an advisory role for us and I depend a great deal on her insight. I would like to welcome Hannah.

Susi Miller: (FWS) - I have worked for the FWS in the PB program since about 1993. I work with the Nanuuq Commission mostly to set into place the cooperative agreement.

Deborah Pierce- I am the new chief of the Marine Mammals Management Program. I have been on the job for a little over a month now. I have started my career in regulatory work.

Charlie B: Welcome to Alaska. Hope we can work together. Thank you.

Eric Regehr (FWS) - Biologist with the PB project. I work mostly on the HMP with the ANC, also on some studies on the PB on the Chukchi Sea.

Todd Atwood (USGS) –New PB project leader. I have been on the job for about 2 ½ months now. Very pleased to come and meet everyone on the Commission. I think historically one of the things our project has not done particularly well is work with your group. I want to make that commitment today that we are going to do a much better job of working with you in the future. And thanks for the opportunity to come here.

Charlie B: Thank you Todd and Welcome aboard. And also I think as a PB Biologist, I think we will work closely together in the future and have a good working relationship.

Charlie B: Young lady,

Christine Holi: I am the Executive Assistant.

Charlie B: Thank you. Do we have any visitors? I thank everyone for being here.

6 Village Reports-

Harry Brower- Thank you Mr. Chairman. There were three bears taken late winter, early spring. One was during the seal season and the other two were in the whaling season. Ice conditions were different from the last few years. Some of the Polar Bears found whales that were stuck and lost under the sea. The PB smelled the scent of the whales under the ice. A few seals were taken during the season. Some captains said don't shoot anymore PB.

Enoch Oktolik-It is sort of hard for me to come to the meeting. We just lost a good leader. I learned allot from the meetings, how to manage and conserve. In Wainwright yesterday they landed a whale about ten o'clock. We like to share our food with others. At least 2 or 3 Nanuuqs were caught. Usually they are not seen unless something is harvested. Beginning one winter, one young bear, maybe about a 6-7 foot bear, keeps coming into town, we scare it. It was persistent. I don't know if they harvested that bear or not. When they start catching the whales they saw PB some 12-13 foot ones. They might have seen more than 20 PB around where they harvest the whales. Some have to be cautious because we have some young hunters that go out to the whaling camps. There are lots of bears out there. PB come in early in the morning. You can see the PB on the thin ice. They rest off shore and come into feed. Our hearts and minds in our community are with the Johnson family. Thank you.

Enoch Tooyak: This year we had six PB caught by hunters. Starting in December –April we had our PB watch out. In January and December they see PB on the on the outskirts of the village almost every night. We worry about our children that are walking to school early in the morning. As of now their transportation to watch around the village is the PB watch people we need to find some way to help them with their transportation to watch for PB. They have snow machines but they broke down. It is also hard to get parts, and to get the money to buy the parts for the snow machines. Sometimes we get help from the NSB. We sometimes use their company trucks to drive around the village and watch for PB. We even saw one that way down by the fish

camp. They have barrels of oil where they put their bearded seal skins for the boats. And the PB can smell that from miles away and they come up to investigate thinking it may be something to eat. And then they end up close to the village and our PB watch will scare them away. This past whaling season was very successful in PH. Five were caught. They were all butchered in one spot on the ice. We would have PB come swimming up to where we were. One night we saw twelve PB around. They were all healthy. There was one guy who took a picture of a PB that looked skinny. That was the only one I saw. Good seal hunting also. The only thing I worry about is the PB watch. The kids walk to school to practice Basketball; they get their early for that. Even today we still can see the PB because the meat is still lying around.

Susi: I was wondering if any of the PB that you saw around your village this year were females with cubs or families or groups.

Enoch T: Yes, both males and females with cubs.

Susi: Were they first or second year cubs?

Enoch T: probably first and second year cubs?

Susi: any really little ones?

Enoch T: No.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman I was hoping that Susi Miller from the FWS could address Mr. Tooyaks question about the ANC involvement in the PB deterrence in PH or within the NSB villages.

Charlie B: That could be done under the regional coordinator report.

Susi: Well just quickly regarding your concern about a dedicated vehicle for PB watch. I think you may or may not know the FWS also supports the NSB. We are in a cooperative agreement with them to help make sure there is adequate funding for all the North Slope villages and I know the coordinator in Barrow, Mike Pederson has ordered a vehicle. So you should be getting a good vehicle when the barge gets in. Because there are some villages that are not in the NSB that also have PB issues, for the last couple of years we have been working on trying to provide funding to the ANC.

The first project that Hannah and Rhonda were involved in was to try and identify what the needs were in each of the communities like Whales and others who are not covered by the NSB PB patrol. And that work was completed late last year.

The Nanuuq Commission wants to be involved in trying to help all the villages reduce human bear conflicts. We do have a project that I will talk about later that we discussed earlier and that will be for your vote. So everybody recognizes PB come into the communities, you have a lot of natural attractants because of your hunting and the NSB are fairly well covered by PBP but there are also other things that can be done like attractive management and the Nanuuq Commission

and the FWS want to help identify the types of things that could be done and hopefully reduce problems like you have described, like early morning problems. Last commission meeting just to mention real quickly the commissioner you were one of them expressed interest in having a work shop specifically on deterrence, use of deterrence, non-lethal hazing. That is set up for December of this year when you have your annual meeting. Is that what you wanted me to address Jack?

Jack: Yes, the distinction and the cooperation ANC and the NSB.

Enoch O: Mr. Chairman I would like to add one thing here. I have a question to my Enoch.

To add the Wainwright report # 8, 11, 4 were sighted by whaling captains when they were out whaling. I am not sure about # 4. Those were the numbers that were sighted. They had a large number on them. One of the bears that were caught was skinny and looked like it was a recaptured bear. Those were the bears that were sighted by our whaling captain.

Charlie B: Thank you Mr. Oktolik. Jack.

Jack O: Sounds like we need to develop some sort of PB bingo.

Charlie B: Anymore questions?

Eric R: Enoch for your clarifications, so they were the PB with the numbers painted on them? Were some of those caught or just sighted?

Enoch O: Just sighted. I don't think they would catch a bear that's been tagged and marked.

Charlie B: I think for Barrow, Harry has stated what went on this last past winter and spring. At the same time we had an abundance of bear at the whale dump. I heard about 16 bears were out there all year round. This summer, this spring abundance of PB were seen out all over, big ones like what Enoch was stating. Twelve foot or more, they came across the ice. I know one of my nephews harvested one. It was fat and had a good amount of good meat. That was the first time I ate PB paws, pretty tasty. Before I left the other day there was one by the gravel pit. Most of the bears were large and healthy looking. It is common for us to see some without hair. When other people who see them they don't understand.

Susi: When you see it based on your lifetime observations, do you see that type of hair loss like every year or in cycles?

Charlie B: It depends on the year. It depends on what bears we see.

Harry B: Some of the discussion in the borough is the interaction with the sick seals that have been observed and the PB finding them much easier. And what development occurs from that. We don't know where the sickness is coming from. Where is the hair loss and sores coming from? We have not seen the sores on the PB. We see it in the ring seals, walrus. Not too much on bearded seals. Will the PB get sick from eating the sick animals? What is stopping them from not

getting it? I keep trying to tell the researchers about the sores, hair loss and the respiratory illness. When you try and approach a sick animal they don't move, the healthy ones take off right away.

Charlie B: Thank you for your village reports. I will move the floor over to Jack.

Jack O: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Tab number 4. We will have our second half of the report done at the next meeting. Our budget has been increasing the last couple of years. One of the things that we have been focusing on is reducing our costs, expenditures and so a lot of my work recently has been done in regards to that, but mostly making sure that we are going to come out of this audit here, which is going to happen at the end of the year without any major findings.

A lot of my work has been here out of Anchorage dealing with agencies and individuals making sure that we meet those requirements. One of the things we are doing like I said is trying to reduce costs and the reason why we are meeting here today is an example of that. We had originally scheduled to meet at the Captain Cook for two days and our costs were nearly five thousand dollars. This meeting room and our costs associated with it are somewhere near a thousand. Also we are looking at submitting a modification or request to the FWS to identify some funds under this current agreement to start to purchase some things we need in house. Another example is we just purchased this HD projector for around \$ 780. To rent one would be \$ 550 a day. It is just these little things like that that we have been trying to address. We would like some equipment in our Nome office because we are going to start doing some other things. We would like a large scale printer and some new software which Rhonda will be talking about in her report. One of the things that Mr. Johnson was talking about was the ANC and its staff, he and others before us have worked without any sort of health or retirement benefits. We are still working that way but Mandy our office manager has been in contact, we have asked the FWS for our budget. We would like to get benefits for staff here.

In Nome we are getting some new office space. We are still in the old federal building but we are increasing our office space. It will allow us for some storage. We can add more office rooms. We are asking it in our next year's agreement. Hopefully we are going to get it. Also another thing is that, because of the Commissions sort of wishes, we begin to sort of address PB deterrence or HB interaction. We have started to lay out plans for developing an internship, and that means somebody who is dedicated to working on deterrence and HB interaction on behalf of the ANC. HB interaction and deterrence, and developing a management plan for the villages on how to develop that and carry that on. That is a pretty specialized field, it takes allot of work. So rather than tasking the staff that we already have in place with that, we are all pretty busy. We think the idea on somebody to come in a write an objective assessment of current PB deterrence plans would be the first thing, the best way for us to start.

So and understanding of what's going on, what works and what does not work, and how to best implement it in our villages. That is sort of our plan for next year. Also this is sort of tied to; we

have been talking about developing a policy manual for staff and commissioners. We remember sort of what happened at our last annual meeting, we need to make it clear on what we expect out of our commissioners and our staff. Those are some of those human resource issues that we need to address, but there are legal issues that we need to address in regards to receiving federal funds and reporting federal funds.

So I hope that it is something that this commission will support and if I can, I like to sort of mention that we'd like to have our by-laws signed today. The one critical thing in there Mr. Chairman if I could, that has changed from the last time that these bi-laws were submitted was something that the previous director Mr. Johnson and other members of our commission ask that we do was that the executive committee here consider that the makeup of the executive committee contain at least one representative from the Beaufort Sea and one representative from the Chukchi Sea. I'm not sure if we consider that the North region, South Region or whatever but, our current make up now is people from the North Slope executive committee and we just felt that it would help us out a little more, to make decisions if we had representatives at least one from the borough and one from outside.

That is something to consider Mr. Chairman and so to make it easy that's inside, the language is inside the current draft of the bi-laws that we have, that we are hoping to get signed today.

Charlie B: I don't see any problem, any concerns from the commissioner's on the request to change the bi-laws to that standard.

Enoch O: I think in due time we will act on them.

Charlie B: Thank you. You may continue Mr. Jack.

Harry B: Maybe we need to clarify, Jack if you could. Make up a good executive committee in the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea. Barrow is right in the both of them. Are you indicating we need someone further south than the Chukchi Sea?

Jack O: Yes. Let me look at how it is written in here.

Charlie B: What we are looking at is to separate them to each of the regions, like Nome and farther down where the other folks are, cause when you look at it, I know we got elected by them to be their commissioners. At the same time I think it is appropriate to kind of inter mix the group to our fellow commissioners to our fellow Alaskans. For now we know most of North Slope concerns. Jack.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman you are absolutely right. We need to be specific in the language because you guys are sort of at the edge, and if we are talking about getting a Southern and Northern representative sort of the villages that we represent then the words from the Chukchi and one from the Beaufort are, don't really address that. So in here I have written the executive committee shall consist of one each from those regions. So when it comes time Mr. Chairman to

consider these by-laws, we will have to present that in some language to address that. Thank you, Mr. Brower.

Enoch O: I don't know how far the boundaries go on the Chukchi Sea, but I know where the boundaries are for Northern/Southern Beaufort Seas are. There is the Bearing Sea also right? Is the Bering Sea part of the Chukchi Sea?

Charlie B: No it is different.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman, maybe the way we do this is, South of Point Hope, so south of the NSB and one representative from the North Slope. I think is the proper language. One last thing is Susi maybe talking about it a little later on; we have got a parks service agreement in place to assist the Natives in Chukotka with 3 year study that is with ChAZTO. And within the last week we have been talking about developing or helping them with another study that will build on a study that they completed a couple of years ago and was presented to the bi-lateral commission in Moscow in July of 2010. We were really pleased that the study that they have done and the things that they have found out over there. Ok, so we are talking about implementing this management plan for the Alaska side. One of the first things of course people ask us is what are they doing on the Russian side? Those are one of the things that we don't know from a biological perspective; we understand that through a political perspective but we don't really know what's going on with the hunter's over there. So this project that they completed was sort of an assessment or survey of what subsistence hunters in Russia are doing in regards to PB. That was useful information, we hope that this new project that we are going to implement with them will sort of build on that and that will give us more insights on what the hunters are doing over there, that is about it Mr. Chairman.

Charlie B: Any questions to Jack regarding his report?

Enoch O: What I did not see in this packet is the last Executive meeting.

Jack O: Yeah, the last Executive meeting minutes were accepted at our full Commission meeting in December. Our meeting minutes are done from our December meeting, but because of time, we didn't find out up until about two days ago where our meeting place would be, well last week. So in the interest of time I just decided that the Executive meeting minutes from this meeting and our last full Commission meeting's would be accepted or available at our next full Commission meeting.

Charlie B: Any more questions to Mr. Jack? So the question I have is on your modification on equipment. Hopefully you will bring this issue the OMB or the Wildlife Service in regards to additional funding for equipment and stuff on both Nome and Anchorage. That's in the making right now?

Jack O: Yes.

Charlie B: And so what is the status on your internship?

Jack O: Well the internship is based on funding for next year and we just submitted our budget for next year. That has not been finalized yet. But the idea is that I think that we are asking for \$ 35,000. And that will provide a college student; we are advertising at Haskell Indian Nations University down there. We want to provide one of the students down there with an opportunity, the \$35,000 is going to cover for them to study or work for up to 20 hours a week for 12 months working on our deterrence program that's also going to allow for some funding for them to travel up here to make a couple of meetings. So we are advertising. We hope to have somebody selected by October and begin work by November.

Charlie B: I think that is a good idea. The more we put interest in our young folks to commit themselves to conservation o Marine Mammals and putting one in for PB, I think it is a good idea. I know there is some interest out there but don't really have the funding to proceed to maybe advance themselves into marine biology or whatever that can help them in the long way. I think if we can get some help from Wildlife Service in regards to such funding it would be appropriate because we need more internship biologists and it would help us in the long run, I am grateful that you have joined us Jack. Thank you. Any more questions regarding the Deputy Directors report?

Motion: by Charlie to approve the Deputy Directors report.

Enoch O: so moved Mr. Chair, 2nd by Harry Brower.

Charlie B: Any other questions? Question has been called for. All those in favor of approving the Deputy Directors report signify by saying I. Oppose? Hearing none, motion passed. Before we continue let us take a five minute break.

BREAK

Charlie B: I call the meeting back to order, we are on item number A. At this time I will give the floor over to Jack.

Jack O: So Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. I have not got the language down yet but what we are thinking is that the makeup of the Executive Committee should read as: The Executive Committee shall consist of at least on representative from the Inupaiq/Inuvaluit agreement and at least one representative shall be within the Northern region, what we are trying to do was make it sensitize it with the two agreements, we have the INI agreement which represents the northern villages and then the bi-lateral commission agreement which represents the villages south of Point Hope. So I think that the way that will word it, if the Commission approves it, is that we will ask that at least one representative be from a village within those two agreements.

Charlie B: Motion called for by Charlie-I will motion for that affect, to be written down for bi-laws changed in our December meeting, but have the Executive Director prepare the bi-laws changes for that date but the wording that Jack just stated will approve that motion to be insured into bi-law changes at our annual meeting. Is there a motion to that affect?

Harry B: So moved.

Charlie B: 2nd by Enoch Tooyak.

Question by: Enoch O. On our ANC bi-laws these are drafts right?

Charlie B: We are going to amend. We are preparing for our December meeting.

Enoch O: I was going through the by-laws; I think we might have some typos on there. Like on Article 1-providing education.

Jack O: They are the exact copies of the by-laws that were signed in 1994, so I will make those changes.

Enoch O: Also on tab E. I think there are typos. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Charlie B: Thank you Enoch, any more questions? Question has been called for. All those in favor of additional amendment to be amended to the bi-laws for December meeting signify by saying I. Oppose? Hearing none, Motion passed. Thank you.

Jack O: We have already sort of touched on it but we would like to know whether or not the Executive Committee supports the drafting of Commissioner and ANC Executive Staff policies.

Charlie B: We don't have any problem; I don't have any problem with that. Are there any questions from the Commissioner's on that request?

Jack O: Well we would just start developing them and sort of have an outline or a draft at our December meeting.

Charlie B: I don't see any problem for the ANC staff to prepare for policies to be acted on at our annual meeting. Is there any concerns?

Harry B: Just a question. So you are looking to generate the policies at this time?

Jack O: Well we have some policies but they have never sort have been adopted or enforced and we would like to make changes to those. So for example at our last meeting we had paid out meeting honorariums and per-diems for people who showed up for maybe a half a day, we were never able to get any of that back.

Also in regards to SHMP we are going to be sort of expanding the role of perhaps of the Commissioners and staff. So right now staff has been operating under this idea of you know

what I think needs to be done and we have no formal job descriptions or thing of that nature, so we just need to get those things in place so we can be recognized formally as an agency or an institution.

Enoch O: You will have those printed out right?

Jack O: Well we will have an idea of sort of what we were looking at/or attempting to do at our next annual meeting. We just want the Commission to say whether or not that' something that we should pursue. The Executive Committee I mean.

Enoch O: I have no problem with that. I think it should be in place so every committee member could recognize who they are representing.

Jack O: And also one of the problems we have been having is there, were running into problems when it comes to reporting at the end of the year, say for instance we have no formal policy when it comes to the difference between per-diem or meeting honorariums, we have addressed it in our meeting minutes but when it comes to federal tax reporting and things like that and reporting to the federal government on how we spent our money those things are not clear and they get lumped together and it makes it difficult at the end of the year for us to figure that out. So if we have a policy or sort of a code that we follow there won't be as much confusion at the end of the year.

Charlie B: Harry.

Harry B: So I guess you need to differentiate the timing of the length of meetings.

Jack O: That is part of it. It is going to contain a whole lot. We sort of need to separate how things work. There needs to be a clear understanding what the difference between your position and mine. And also there needs to be a separation of money from my position, to the office manager, to the regional coordinator, to our accountant. All of that needs to be spelled out on how it's connected or disconnected. So there is no question about who is doing what and who's spending what and who's accountable for what. And that is what is essentially the policies are going to do. They are going to protect not only myself but each one of us; it will give us a level of protection when it comes down to federal money reporting.

Harry B: Mr. Chairman. Jack, Thank you. I think that we have something similar like with the AEW. Cause we have different levels of Commissioner's within our organizations. Some are employed and some are not. It works very well.

Charlie B: That is what he wants to write up for us to approve at our annual meeting. So we can have some clear direction. When it comes to our annual reports this would alleviate that question that arise from FWS for the audit firm. Jack need to write it up and so we can comply with it for our annual report.

Enoch O: One thing that maybe helpful Jack, from the committee members is that to develop a questionnaire to each committee member to justify to the FWS. If you could make a questionnaire, like with interaction with bears and what not. How they use their time and funding. We try to attempt to make a report to our village. I will give a report to them again. I think it would be helpful.

Charlie: Enoch T.

Enoch T.: Just to add on. I get questions from the Native village members on what we are doing here. Sometimes it is hard for me to answer their questions. I need something to help me. We need to keep in touch with each other.

Charlie B: I think in the long run, I think the staff is in preparation of making a quarterly news report like these to be sent out to the villages and their tribal members and who they represent. So they will get a summary report of all the activities that is happening within the ANC and there joint partnership with the Wildlife Service. If you ask question to ANC they can respond to your questions.

Jack O: Thank you both of you for those questions because that's really at the heart of some of the problems that we are trying to address. One, I will be speaking about it a little in our next year's agreement. But we have money set aside to address exactly that. Now sure it is great to have a written report like that but not too many people read them. So I will be talking about other ways that we are looking to getting that message out about what we do. And then secondly, to our Vice Chairman that's great. We have been wanting our Commissioner's to go back to their villages and spread the message about what the ANC is doing but we realize that it is tough cause the information is not readily available, and that is something that we looking into developing next year.

Enoch O: To the people who do the presentations, we would like a hard copy. And do it on a timely basis. They take their time when I give them the papers to look at. It justifies to them what you are doing.

Charlie B: We thank you for that request; also they do make hard copy presentations. The only problem that we have is our funding. If you would like a CD, you can request it if it is possible.

Motion called for by Chairman Brower:

To authorize Alaska Nanuuq Executive Committee to develop and put into effect the policy. Is there a motion to that affect? Let the Executive Director to do so before our next annual meeting.

Enoch O: Motion by Enoch O. Is there a second? Enoch T. 2nd.

Charlie B: Any questions or discussions? Question has been called for by Harry. All those in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to give up and

quota justify by ANC policies? Signify by saying I. Oppose: Hearing none, motion passed.
Thank you, Gentlemen.

Charlie B: Item C- on Page 11.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman if I could, members of the Executive Committee, one of the first things that Charlie Johnson wanted on this agenda was the idea that he and I would ask the Commission to switch titles. I would assume the Executive Director position and he would assume the Deputy Director position or Director. So that was one of the first things that he wanted us to address at this meeting. And of course I leave that up to our Chairman and you members but that is all I have Mr. Chairman.

Charlie B: Thank you. Some time ago when Charlie kind of fell ill, we directed him to look for an intern to learn the trade of the ANC. He found Jack. We were astonished that Jack took the position. As our employee he has been with us ever since. We discussed this issue if anything happens, Jack be named to the vacancy and name him the Executive Director of ANC. I think he has come a long way in a short time with his commitment to work for the ANC and the conservation of the Polar Bear. And I don't have any problem with that, so you see my letter of May 25 in filling of that position and appointing him as Executive Director for the ANC. At this time I would ask for your blessing to approve this memo making Jack Omelak the Executive Director of the ANC.

Enoch O: So moved Mr. Chair.

Charlie B: Motion by Enoch O, 2nd by Harry B, any discussions or questions? Question has been called for, all those in favor of Appointing Jack as Executive Director for ANC signify by saying I. Oppose? Hearing none, motion passed, Congratulations.

Jack O: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Thank you Commissioners. It is with great honor and perhaps more humility that I'm considered worthy of this position following in the footsteps of Mr. Johnson so thank you.

Enoch O: Mr. Chairman, I have a question. I know that we have made a good choice of getting Jack as our Executive Director. Are we going to go in the chain of command if Jack should get ill or somehow can't attend the meeting and chose one of our staff members to step in?

Jack O: We are still looking for that person.

Charlie B: So we will have to fill it like everyone else. I have one more question, Jack # 10 Resolution one five twelve. We acted on that already?

Jack O: Yes. One more issue and Mr. Chairman actually a couple of things. # 1 would you like to take a lunch break at 12 noon or were you planning on sometime later?

Charlie B: I have to leave by 12.

Jack O: I understand that. I guess it would be up to the rest of the Executive Commission.

Charlie B: Once we take a break here after we are done with Action Item, I was going to call for a 1 hour lunch or 1 hour and 30 minute lunch and the Vice Chair would take lead.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman, I understand you have to leave at 12 noon, if I could make one request that we hear from Mrs. Miller or from the FWS about our next year's agreement that way we could have the Executive Committee approve that forecasted budget for next year. What I suggest is that maybe we talk about next year's budget first and that will give a few minutes to hear it and then after you leave we could talk about what we have accomplished under this year's agreement. We need to act on is whether or not the Executive Committee accepts our forecasted budget for next year. We don't have that resolution in the meeting packet but I think a simple vote would accomplish that.

Enoch O: It would be under our letterhead anyway.

Charlie B: I will give you the floor, Susi.

Susi: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am giving out a handout, the MMPA. (SEE DRAFT) 2012 Agreement will probably go into effect August. Most of the money and expenses will happen in 2013.

Charlie B: I can tell you one thing. This funding is appropriate because with the bi-lateral agreement that we have with Russia and the activities, is not really FWS money but under that bi-lateral agreement it is set aside for the activities so that the ANC go forward with the activities. So I know this is what is appropriate to our life.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman. So with you being excused what the Executive Committee needs to do is look over this next year's budget and approve it or not.

Enoch O: I have a question. What were you talking about, insurance benefits and what not? Will they be incorporated?

Jack O: Those are under project 1 under personnel costs.

Charlie B: I will leave the floor to the Vice Chair.

Susi: (See Draft). – ANC new website and radio ads. Rhonda is the main traveler with the FWS.

Enoch O: I have a question, on project 2 with the Russia. I know that U.S. has initiated the funds to spend all these projects here. Is there any way that Russia will help fund our program?

Susi: You mean have the Russians committed to helping fund the American side? No, not that I know of, it is usually the other way around quite honestly. It is a problem none the less. In what regards to what Charlie Brower said earlier, I know there is hardly any funds from them. In

regards to what Charlie said earlier about there is money for the U.S. and Russia bi-lateral agreement. It is an international treaty, you think that would automatically think it is going to be funded but I remind everybody that we are congressionally funded. So congress decides how much money will come to the FWS and that trickles all the way down to Alaska and there is some discussion at the regional level by our regional director for whom this is a priority. It is an election year and things like that and that does concern me. I always tell Jack and the others who he is working with, there is no guarantee that there is going to be money for the U.S./Russia Bilateral agreement or the Nanuuq Commission every year. I mean I will not ever tell you that or guarantee that. Nobody here will. I just wanted to make that clear. It is a priority, co-management with the Nanuuq Commission and the other marine mammal commissions is a priority and for our region and so is this international agreement but it is not a guarantee. That is the reality of it.

Rhonda: Susi I noticed on your brief summary of funding we received last year. We actually received \$ 20,000 for PH and PL and the \$ 64,910 was for verification processes. So I just wanted to update everybody.

Harry B: Question called for. Susie, with what you just stated, it is still pending. Not knowing that this 757,000 dollars is the total of what is being proposed, if items are going to be cut, are we going to have any heads up on as what items are going to be cut in advance? If, that is the case.

Susi: I'm sorry when I wrote that I put it together in the last day or so. What I mean by pending is pending your approval. This money has been approved by my supervisor Terry. That it is there, on the books. From the FWS this is ready to go, this is pending your approval and then we submit it. So we have the money this year, it is already there. It is just a matter of doing the paperwork, so sorry about that.

Jack O: Mr. Vice Chairman. Thanks Mr. Brower for that question. I want to put a quick note in here that we have been working very well since I came along with staff from the Fish and Wildlife and so we enter into these agreements with the expectations that we've got a pretty good understanding of what to expect in regards for funding for the next year. And so we go in hoping that none of these things will be cut out, it is just because of our good relationship that we have, that we are able sort of survive that process a little.

Jack O: Mr. Vice Chairman, if I could just add to that a little bit if I could. In regards to this internship the way we have been sort of doing things here the last couple of years. You see we've only got \$ 35,000 for one year. But we plan on making this a multiyear project, for this one year we are just going to build a foundation on our understanding. But the way the things have been going mostly because of Rhonda and Hanna's work is that we get these little projects like this funded for one year and they do so well that other people, agencies say "we would like the Nanuuq Commission to continue that study" and they usually provide us funding the subsequent year. This year of \$ 35,000 is just to get our foot on the ground with it and we expect it to do so well that it will become a multiyear project, that's the idea.

Enoch O: I have a question, would it require traveling and lodging?

Jack O: Well that's, for the first year we are only what is called a literature research. So what the person is going to be doing because they are still going to be in college is they are going to be spending time researching, reading, writing, contacting people or places that have deterrence so they are just going to be reviewing sort of what is out there. Then in year two they will have some travel to the villages, depending on what they find out in year one. But we're expecting that it be multiyear continuing project.

Susi: I know that this estimate did include attending that workshop this December, so you would meet this intern in December.

Harry B: If there is no further discussion.

Motion by Harry: to approve the estimated budget, expenditure for 2012 co-operative agreement.

Enoch O: Any further discussions? Question called for, all in favor say I. All appose? Motion passed.

Susi: The budget has been approved, there is not too much to say. Project # 1 and # 2 are the most important ones that we are working on. Outside of the Nanuuq Commission there is a bulletin in the back on what we are engaged in. Conservation plan, we are taking a break from research this year, but will resume next year. We will be continuing to monitor the number of bears in the Beaufort Sea along the coast line in the fall. We will work with the PBP along the NSB, Kaktovik with the tourism issues and the viewing and guiding issues that have become pretty big in the last few years. We help with education and outreach issued to anyone who asks. There are a lot of people including young kids who are asking. People care, the role of the Commission right now more than ever PB face challenges now that they have not in the past. I just think this is a really good agreement that we have and a good working relationship, I think it is going to be really important to the Bears.

Enoch O: Any further questions? Thank you. Susie. It is 12:20 right now and we should go to lunch right now until 1:30pm, on break now for the record.

Enoch O: Call back to order at 1:49 pm. We will move on to item # 8.

Item # 8 Regional Coordinator Report (See Draft)

Rhonda: Susie and Jack touched on a little bit of the things that I was hoping to talk about. I will just revisit and maybe add some input. The T.E K. study update and verification of funds. Hannah and I have completed our draft report of the T.E.K study. Those villages included our Point Hope, Point Lay, Shishmaref, Gambell, Savoonga and Wales. I also finished up our draft, map computations and have submitted those to our specialist. And he is working on digitizing and finishing those up for us. Next do village travel for the summer. Cost for T.E. K was \$ 134,000.

Hannah: We thought it was important to travel back to the villages in person. We did the interview individually to keep their privacy. With these verification trips we meet with everyone in a group so we can make sure the information is something what everyone can develop a consensus around. We are trying to bring in some biological input to from James Wilder. There are two reports here; one is the deterrence report and the T.E. K report which we are going to combine as our finished product. They will be verified before put out.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman if I could add. I think we are ready to move on from the T.E. K study report. We are always talking about how important integrating local observation or ecological knowledge is into current scientific management strategies. This is an example of that very thing taking place. We have been very successful with Rhonda and Hannah leading this project and they put together a draft report that is very well done and it is going to make a difference in the management strategy of Polar Bears. As a result we got some initial funding for it and because of the success of this project Rhonda and Hannah were able to receive more funding to go back to the villages and so this is a concrete example of the Commission saying this is what we are thinking and it is important and staff and members, our partnership with the FWS saying we think it is important and funding these projects. I would like to introduce Jim Wilder. He is a staff biologist with the FWS and another member of the Polar Bear program.

Jim W: I will be traveling back to the village with Hannah and Rhonda.

Jack O: So we will have a final report here at or by the end of the next full commission meeting.

Rhonda: Moving on to the NPS update- Elizabeth Shea at our Annual meeting stated that we received a three year approval for our T.E.K study with ChAZTO. Our funding is \$ 47,000 for each three years. It is a similar study to what I and Hannah did here in the villages.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman if I could also add out of respect for Charlie Johnson, one of the things that we have sort of had evaluate and not forget about that he is gone is we still need to honor and maybe even strengthen our Native to Native agreement between the ANC the people we represent and the Natives of Chukotka. We have another project next year that is working with ChAZTO but also this parks service thing. Because we understand that this Native to Native agreement/partnership will help both parties on each side sort of accomplish the things that are important to the Native people of both sides. So this is an example of sort of how we are trying to continue that relationship and even build on it.

Rhonda: So Jack and I have taken lead on the National Park Service as well and been in close contact with Edward. We want to have a December deterrence meeting. Also have them take that information to the villages and spread the word.

Jack O: So we know from the villages we represent that deterrence and bears coming in to town, the welfare of the villagers plus children going back to school is important. We learned that during these two studies in the field work and what people tell us. So we understand that's something that the ANC should be addressing so Rhonda is sort of taking the first step towards bringing the discussion to the Commissioners, villages and the people we represent by holding this deterrence workshop which is going to be new for allot of us, staff included. But then keep

in mind that this is part of a larger, multiyear project. One of the problems we see happening to often with our Native agencies is it is purely damage control. Only the things they have to respond to. And they throw resources and time at it for a month or a year and that information doesn't get built on it just sort of gets shelved and people forget about it and so the reason why we are talking about this is we are looking at a longer term sustained approach to deterrence and management, we don't just want to throw money, resources and time at it and not have it be productive five years down the road. So we are really taking this step by step approach to it and Rhonda is taking the first steps. The first part is getting us together in December and saying what is happening, what are the ways to address it?

Rhonda: So the WWF is helping us bring over our Russian counterparts.

Jack O: One of the things that we have always talked about here since I have been here, is we need to be careful of who we partner with, we have been very cautious in partnering with the WWF and other groups but we understand this deterrence thing is important. The reason why we've sort of partnered with the WWF is because they work pretty well the Chukotka people. The group that is running it over there is essentially a grass roots effort to keep Polar Bears out of the villages. When Rhonda and I sort of looked at all of the types of deterrence that are out there across the world in regards to Polar Bears, the ones they implement over there most likely the closest to what we would be doing over here. That is sort of why we decided to invite them over.

Harry B: FWS, funding, projects. How well are the two sides communicating? It covered my comments when I was listening to you all speak. Our funding is slowly increasing. I think that is a good thing. I heard from Mike that funding was approved for a vehicle. I see it as a positive thing.

Rhonda: The December meeting, we want to put everyone is on the same page and get the information out there. In the April meeting we had a chance to sit down. We attended a human bear conflict in Montana. At lease there should be a baseline.

Jack O: And just to let everyone know to tie this back to the other things that we are involved in, we are talking about implementing this management plan for Polar Bears in the Chukchi Sea. Now we all know that it is going to be difficult if we go out and tell our hunters, this is what is expected out of the Alaskan hunters but not have any information on what the Natives are doing on the other side. That is one of the first things that they ask us is what is Russia or Russian Natives doing over there? So in these two projects, project # 4 for next year on top of the NPS study it's going to give us insight and perspective under what's going on the Russian side so we have an answer for that. Because this is a shared population, it's not only our responsibility.

Rhonda: The ones that will looking to invite are the ones that don't have a formal patrol or training. They are Shishmaref, Gambell, Wales, Savoonga. We wanted to provide input from Kaktovik because they are the leading village that has allot of Polar Bears problems so they are up to date on what's out there and what works. 11 communities will have representatives will be there to voice what happens in the villages and bring the information back. Some of the people want maps. That would help them out.

Jack O: Rhonda is being modest. She took the initiative and said Jack, we really need GIS services. There are very few people who are skilled enough to do that type of thing. There are a couple of people in Kotzebue but it is a specialized field so Rhonda signed up for the classes and is learning how to do it. So we are going to have a person that is capable of doing that. In our own office we are contracting those services out. As we all know GIS is going to be a big important field for subsistence hunting but Alaska Native rights in general, and too often we are having to seek out outside help for that type of stuff and then we will have one of our own that is going to be capable of doing it.

Susi: I would just point out to that I think there is a real application for that information in the regions that are going to have allot oil and gas development like in your region and Wainwright and the shipping. Alerting people who are not residents about where important habitat areas are.

Jack O: And so just to summarize it up, we are very thankful for what the ANC has given us. Me, I just got this position today but it has allowed Rhonda to do these types of things to. And so what we are doing is we are creating or fostering professional Native people inside the region that can come back and do those types of things we need. So we are sitting here today in this annual meeting talking about our operating budget or our scopes of work for the next year but really what we are talking about is continuing in this foundation of fostering young Native professionals. And so these are all examples of that sort of thing.

Enoch O: I don't know for PH. Wainwright has collected data from the Natives from what we have harvested, Marine Mammals and birds. So if you go north you can see the map. You can see where they harvest.

Rhonda: In November, Jack, Hannah and I went to attend a subsistence mapping conference. So we were able to sit in with Kawerak.

Kawerak was doing a study on Walrus and Ice Seals. The North West Arctic Borough was actually looking to doing a four year study plan and documenting all of it. GIS is the main software used. I'm pretty sure that the ChAZTto is going to use something similar.

Harry B: I am glad you are getting into that Rhonda. It is a field on its own. I was doing that work before. With Beluga Seals we have learned over time that the movement of the Beluga's going into the 100 % ice covered areas. Where are the breathing holes? It even goes up to 72 degrees up North. It is pretty amazing on what you learn from those kinds of studies, like overlapping pictures.

Jack O: We are at # 9. I just detailed one but I am sure she has more than the tax liability to talk about. It is about our 1099's and reporting and all that.

Mandy: My name is Mandy Ellanna. I have been with the Nanuuq Commission since January. So I am sort of still getting my feet wet with everything about what ANC does. My part is more of the operational/financial part of ANC in a different capacity of what Jack and Rhonda does. But what I have been trying to do is sort of streamline ways for us to keep track of our money. There were already processes in place. I am just trying to prove those. I keep track of 1099 forms.

Jack O: We just had issue in our annual meetings and so essentially, so what we have been learning on the fly about some of this stuff that has to do with our new requirements for federal reporting because of the audit and that is where the discussion of this policy came out so we were informed on April 18th one day after April 17th when the I.R.S. taxes were due. That came from our accountant that we should have been providing certain individuals within our agency the 1099 Federal reporting forms. That is something that surprised we were able to send those out without penalty up to ten days after the Federal reporting requirement. And that is just the sort of thing that we need to be on top of. I will let Mandy finish but essentially Mandy's role is to be the direct line of communication between staff and our accounting agency in letting us know where we are at in our spending, whether or not Mandy allows us to do something when it comes to spending and reporting requirements. That will help us out in the long run. I will go ahead and turn it over to her.

Mandy: Like Jack said, basically just trying to figure out where we were at since I started in January which was almost half of our fiscal year. So I sort of had to back track because the direction that I wanted to take are book keeping and accountability for what we are spending for what was in place before. It has been a little difficult to transition the information that was being kept. I have made some forms, I adjusted the travel form that Jack started so that we can keep better track of how much we are spending for travels and specific trips. Today is my first meeting. The other side of it is our operational expenses. I have been working with our accountant to keep track of our spending. I did my own report based on events, other than that, just the basic day to day operations.

Jack O: Just to add, we have also been working with a bunch of different agencies to sort of streamline our spending and one of the good things about having Mandy there is now we have real time accounting for where we are at in spending our money rather than collecting the little receipts at the end of the year and trying to rectify them going backwards now we have real time. But most importantly I think that the best thing about having Mandy is having somebody there that actually enjoys and takes pride in what they are doing, that's really difficult to find. So not only she is very professional but she takes great pride in working for the ANC and that makes things real well. Another good quality is she doesn't let anything slide. When she notices something that doesn't seem right she calls me or Rhonda. We respond to her and that is exactly what we need.

Rhonda: The most recent thing that I got out of here is what Jack mentioned this morning is working to get insurance and benefits, which ANC has never offered. I am hoping to get a real price quote by the end of this week I hope.

Enoch O: I think that it is a good move to keep your employees longer.

Rhonda: When things really start picking up our implementation, when villages call into the office Mandy and I have already developed kind of a process for gathering information.

Enoch O: Rhonda I will tell you one thing with the NSB on human bear confrontation with the Polar Bear patrolmen, we deal with two animals, the PB and the fox. We try and tie them

together and try to find some ways of help. Because I know that fox always be out there. We try and throw the towel to the NSB in trying to get some help. We try and put the PB patrol with the fox patrol. We had a lot of foxes this year come into the community and we try to get help from NSB and try and tie them together but it was impossible, if we can get help from FWS that would be helpful. We tried to hire some people but it was too much of a liability.

Point Hope: We deal with it in the summertime allot.

Enoch O: Just have problems for the kids getting to school. I got off the subject.

Harry B: Two species are managed by two different ways. When we try to include another animal it can't work. It is not so simple.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman we are ready to move on to the FWS staff reports.

Enoch O: We will take a seven minute break before we continue.

BREAK

Call back to order by Enoch @ 3:55 pm.

Enoch O: We are on item # 10 FWS report

Jack O: You don't have anything more for us budget wise for next year?

FWS: Not at this time.

Susi: I believe I have covered everything, the committee is done.

Eric R: See draft.

Harry B: Something is wrong with the communication you provide in terms of the Russian side. Hunt is not legal in their Government. We have an agreement between the two Governments. There needs to be an explanation on this agreement. If I was going to make a bunch a noise about this it would set it back. First of all you have an agreement with the government that says no removal of bears and yet the removal of bears continues. I don't see anything in place for penalties yet it continues. I hope this does not continue.

Eric R: I think those are good points. The point is we have an agreement with Russia on the management of this PB population. Harvest is illegal in Russia but there is still some level of harvest and we don't know what it is. Those are the points that motivated Charlie Johnson and others on the Chukotka side. It is certainly a concern.

Harry B: I have to look back at other agreements that I am involved in.

Eric R: I think there has been recognition absolutely of that, if this is a shared population what can we do to conserve it? If we didn't have the bi-lateral agreement we would have no ability to support studies. We hope to lead by example.

Susi: Back when this agreement was first entered into by the Nanuuq Commission and the others, the whole point of it, before we even thought there was a problem for PB or that we would end up have some sustainable number, I mean I think the Nanuuq Commission founders, their motivation to help Chukotka Native hunt. It was taken away in 1956. In 2000 when this treaty was signed that gave them the right to hunt but there must be a regulated harvest system in place. There must be a way to account for how many bears are taken, report as well. There must be punishment. All of that has got to be worked out between the two countries. And that is what we have been doing all this time. Russian side is a lack of support. Political and funding is an issue. We are making progress.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman if I could, thank you Mr. Brower. I am going to try and summarize what I think Mr. Brower is getting at, correct me if I am wrong. But all I think he is really saying is in regards to the ANC we need to be vigilant and critical about how we proceed in this thing and not just sort of sign off on anything that the other side proposes. There is a process that is through the bi-lateral commission; Charlie Brower and I are going to be the new representatives but what I think he is saying is we just need to be careful about how we proceed with this thing. We need to have some sort of understanding oh what's going on over there. Not sort of sacrifice everything that the ANC is about to just let this thing just slide through the other side.

Enoch O: Maybe you can elaborate on the field work, how they are compensated and stuff like that.

Jack O: If can add a little more. We just kind of just glossed over the projects that we are talking about; we didn't want to bore you guys with the details. So earlier if you can recall that I had mentioned that we are using these projects to sort of strengthen our Native to Native agreement ok? So as you already know they don't have that much funding, the funding for these projects is coming through us and the FWS. But essentially what these projects are doing is empowering them. I guess if you are talking about the fine print what we are talking about as the ANC is we want some sort of a reporting requirement back from them if we are going to be funding them the money so we want to know exactly how they are spending their money along with what's going on over there grounds. All of this sort of ties back to the Native to Native agreement. They are going to provide us much need information in exchange for us, I guess in return for helping with these projects. So we want a detailed report from the villages, what the hunters are doing, plus we also want detailed budgets. And so we won't have those understandings till later because we are just now in the beginning stages of putting this relationship together.

Eric R: Follow up on Jack's explanation. CHAZTO did do a pilot study of these interviews last year and so we have something good to start from. They went out to 8 villages and talked to about 80 hunters and village members on the Russian side to get an idea of how many bears were being taken in those villages and that was the first time anyone has done that over there. So were not just jumping in blind, it's to support something to produced tangible results.

Harry B: Mr. Chairman, Eric and Jack just the way, the information you just provided you know I kind starts throwing me backwards. How we get the information to them. Where is the Russian Government? Why don't we have a copy of it?

Eric R: We agree on that and we are working toward it. That is the purpose of it. Under this agreement the Russian's are much more rural in Chukotka than in Western Alaska. They have very difficult transportation issues. They don't have law enforcement there. The only way to do these things there and the right way to do these things anyway is through co-management over there. Co-management with the Native groups, the Federal groups is a much newer idea over there. They don't have the successful history that the U.S. has. This treaty and what we are doing and the process is pain staking slow. I know it is for me sometimes. If we are not there in 5 years the frustration level will increase but I think we are making concrete progress.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman, if I could add to that. I would just like to restate that the process that we are now involved in the drafting of this management plan, is we are asked to develop a plan for the American side and their tasks is developing a plan for the Russian side. Where we are at in this thing is developing our own. There is no way we are going to allow the Russians to say "develop your plan this way" so we are not doing the same to them either. In short the reason why we haven't talked about any penalties yet is we are still in the process in developing our plan, there is no way that I don't think the Nanuuq Commission would want to talk about enforcing penalties on our Alaska Native hunters just yet. That is why there is no mention of penalties yet in our draft and so we haven't really gotten to look at what the other sides plan is. But when the time comes when both countries have their draft plan developed is when it goes before the Commission and then it gets worked out then. That is why there are no penalties yet in the Management Plan. It's just not something that we feel we need to talk about just yet because we've done a pretty good job in managing ourselves recently.

Eric R: At the last meeting like Jack said, one of the best things we can do is lead by example on this side. We passed the same draft of the SHMP on the U.S. side that was looked at by the Nanuuq Commission. In December we passed it on to the Russians for review. That is something they are using as an example to model their HMP. So I think it is another sign of progress.

Harry B: I guess I need to learn more about the process.

Jack O: If I could add one more thing, that's the reason why the other projects are so important. Those Natives over there can tell the ANC and the American side things that they can't tell their own Government. That is why we think this Native to Native agreement needs to be strengthened, because they are much more comfortable sharing information with us than people inside their own country.

Eric R: That discussion covered a lot of what I was going to cover. Maybe we can make this quick. A lot of these issues will be updated in June.

(SEE DRAFT)

Jack O: Eric was that in response to the idea of that harvesting more bears on the front end of the multi-year quota would result in more reproduction rates later on?

Eric R: Yes, let's assume for the multi-year quota, the block quota so if it is 29 bears a year x 5 years that is like 145 bears. And so to give you flexibility take those 145 bears, but it lets you take more than the 29 in the first year.

Jack O: Eric if I could just add for our Commissioner's sake one of the problems we are having at the bi-lateral Commission level was that there was some resistance to our proposal to implement a multi-year quota. There were some resistance saying that a multi-year quota wouldn't be beneficial to its conservation because we would be taking too many bears out of the reproductive cycle if we harvested over 29 bears within the first couple of years. There were people saying that would be best for the bears, conservation wise when for us it was important because we did not want to run into penalizing our hunter for taking more than 29. That is how this graph here was developed. Because of Eric's efforts, Eric really works hard towards sort of fighting for things that the ANC wants in its bi-lateral Commission meeting. So what essentially what he does is because we don't have biologist on our staff is we tell him what we think is important and he relays it and he comes up with biological and scientific models like this that explain our arguments to those other scientists at the full Commission level. Essentially he makes our arguments for us with scientific data. I thought this is going to be one of the things that we were really going to have a problem with. It's what we wanted at the ANC, it's what our hunter's and our villages wanted, was a multi-year quota. But we are having resistance from the other side and it was with Eric and the rest of the staff with their help that got us past that meeting.

Enoch O: The harvest reports from the American side, how is it going? Are we catching more or less bears?

Eric R: That is a good question to add. So we are not implementing this limit yet but we all know the limit. Jim and others are keeping up to date. It looks like we are a little over 30 PB this spring for Western Alaska for this harvest management region. So we would be right at, you know if this was a, if we had this system in place we would be right at the limit all ready.

Like Jack said, I think this multi-years system doesn't mean go away from the limit; it makes it flexible and make it work for people. Because recognizing it historically depending on what the ice does, the numbers of bears that are accessible to the hunters change. The long term concern is the ice. In the NSB there has been a negative impact on the cub production. That is the biggest concern from the scientists. In Western Alaska we see going into this research project there was a lot of unknowns from the science side because the ice rate changed a lot. This study and what people are seeing is the bears are ok.

Harry B: Just looking at the females in the population, is that 500 an estimate from the research that has been done over the years or is it just an estimate from current?

Eric R: That is a good question Harry. If there were 500 how would the harvest numbers change in these two levels? That is not an estimate, that's just if there were. That was an assumption.
(SEE DRAFT AGAIN)

Jack O: Mr. Chairman, this is a good time for me to add some specifics. So earlier we talked about information between the FWS, ANC and the Villages. We understand how important accurate and timely information would be when it comes down to reporting harvest numbers. If you look at those two separate things within next years planed budget that had to do with education outreach, let me give you an example. Some of that money is going to be going to a person out of Nome who just got back from services abroad. Her specialty is developing real time and data transfer. So what does that mean? We have real time information. How do we get it to our villages, hunters and I.R.A's within a matter of minutes? So just to give you an example of when the USGS came across the issue of hair loss within a couple of Polar Bears, the USGS contacted the ANC and we have this information. How do we get that immediately to the people who we represent? We went to our updated emails and phones and tried to call I.R.A's and Commissioners. Most of the contact numbers resulted in a dead end. What we have decide for our next years, that we are going to develop a way for the ANC to talk to the I.R.A's, communities and the Commissioners to provide real time accurate information through the exchange of electronic media. We will have a continuous list of people, organizations so information can get sent out. We are looking forward to developing it here next year.

Enoch O: Will all the material and pamphlets be in place?

Eric R: We currently have in place of MP taggers in place. And they are collecting the baseline information. We are going to build off what we got. Maybe offer additional incentives for the hunters, The New Idea.

Jack O: Now what Eric just said, we have had some difficulty proposing that idea as well. We all know how much effort it takes just to address these things out and on top of that provide samples for the reports. For two long we have been doing this. We have the opportunity to get some compensation for it. But there has been some resistance to that, but you probably know that there is this argument coming from other groups that say that if we provide more incentives for hunters for providing samples for us that is going to make them more willing to take a bear. We all know that it is crazy for someone to go out and shoot a bear for \$ 40. And these are some of the arguments that we have had to deal with here and so we are addressing in these real tactful ways here and so these are really critical elements of us getting those things done in this bi-lateral Commission.

Jim W: I was just going to follow up on your question on kids and stuff. If this came about we would put together sampling kits for the taggers and hunters to take them out on the ice with them with instructions.

Harry B: In regards to, we already have the marking and tagging program there. We have people already set up to take the samples.

Eric R: No, the marking and reporting taggers maintain their function. Then again there is that fine line that Jack mentioned earlier. In my perspective with the FWS it is very important if this is something that the Nanuuq Commission believes could be important and be good they would receive a clear input about that. It is something we could further into doing.

Susi: The FWS did, Tom Evan did try and get bio monitoring study going on PB for many years for contaminants purposes. It was not successful other than when the bears that were taken were close to the villages so in those scenarios where you are out on the ice, you have got to think I might get a bear. Make sure the primary hunters in this communities understand why the samples are important and maybe given kits. Even if they don't take one that year maybe they will take one next year or something like that. It is going to have to be a more proactive outreach effort to make is successful.

Jack O: We had considered that there. I guess it a question we should ask now that we are on the subject. One of the things we thought about doing was combining this sample kit with a safety kit that the hunter can take with him every time they went, now depending on the size of these things. But that is essentially what we thought about doing.

Enoch O: Maybe the whaling captains can do something like this. Not everyone takes a bear when they go out. It is illegal to sell the hide.

Harry B: Just a review of this, Correction on the data sheet here, what can they do in that short amount of time? What are the items that they really can collect? Like the measurements.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Brower, the reasons why we are showing this information here is because we want direction from you guys. These are things we need to think about and we are not ready to put all of this down in stone just yet. We need to think about that until we go to the next meeting. The reasons why we are talking about this we need your insight. Eric are you ready to move on? If you look at # 1 there, I think originally the compensation for that was forty dollars.

Eric R: Yes in the original version, it was a lot lower.

Jack O: Eric and I made the decision that it should be increased to a hundred dollars, because for this very important point. Under this bi-lateral plan, every Polar Bear that is taken that doesn't have sex positive identify part to it would be counted as a female. The more we can positively identify what has been taken; they are only allowed a certain number of females under this management plan. I think it was 9 out of 29.

Eric R: 1/3.

Jack O: So it is absolutely critical we adhere to this female to male ratio. We figure if we increase by sixty dollars, the compensation for bringing back that it was a male that would help us conservation wise and help us out by staying in within this goal. These are just some of the thing we have been talking about.

Susi. (USFWS): I have a question for Eric or Todd. If the muscle that is for genetics analysis, could you not take hair?

Eric R: My understanding is tissue samples, like muscle is better for genetic analysis. You need some of the follicles, the tip of the hair. But the bigger point is the input from Mr. Brower about which of these things are practical, from a USGS it would be nice to have the ten things but have the priority among them, and how does that mesh with what hunters can and will do? We boil this down to a list of one, two or five or whatever. Finding the sex ratio is very important. Now that will be built in.

Rhonda: I was just going to mention as far as samples goes. Eric, myself, Jack and Jim have all been talking. I have been given this study that Hannah and I did. From the hunters point of view it proved useful information. It helped us justify and rank what more likely is something available to hunters. Hannah can help record so we can have something to look at.

Enoch O: Your collection will provide them some help. You have to go out to the people and communicate with them.

Harry B: I mean just for hunting, as hunters we try and use the entire animal for food. We don't take the liver or kidney. We don't open the inside.

Eric R: It is a volunteer thing.

Jack O: Just real quick, if we go along with the process that already is in place with the NTRP program that is fine. We don't have to do any of this other stuff. This other stuff is just to help us make better management decisions in the future. I think we all want that, we also want to compensate the hunters a little more.

Harry B: Just like you said Jack, you need to show that as an example, so the hunters will be able to understand what we are talking about. Also show how it would help them with their management practices.

Enoch O: You have to go to the Communities. Let them know your intentions.

Eric R: That is the next phase of this implementation, what Rhonda and others are going to spend a lot of time and effort on. We are developing outreach documents now; you know the things to give to people that break it down the way people can relate to, the increased role of the ANC, the local Commissioners in helping be part of the group of people getting the word out. The FWS does plan to do some of the research again off the West coast off South of Point Hope next year. We plan to resume those studies now that we have made progress on analyzing the information also making plans to involve the staff members of the Commission in our field efforts this year.

Enoch O: We are on Action Item # 11 Other Agency Reports

Jack O: Mr. Chairman, I think we have another item in regards to the appointments in regards to the bilateral Commission. Jim, are you going to speak on that?

Jim W: No.

Jack O: Just a quick note, somebody mentioned it earlier that just to formally recognize with the passing of Charlie Johnson who was the bilateral Commission representative, we just went through the process as appointing Charles Brower as the new representative, and Me as the alternative. So we just wanted to make the Executive Committee aware of.

Enoch O: Is there a motion on it? Or has it already approved?

Jack O: As the Chairman, Charles Brower was the alternate under Charles Jonson. So as the Chairman, I guess we just made that decision but certainly we can have someone entertain a motion to ratify that.

Harry B: I had seen a letter to that effect in the packet.

Jack O: So I think that would be the best way to do that. It is on tab 9. And the reason why we did it that way is because we were approached and asked to do that rather quickly within a matter of a couple of days, because it need to be submitted and go through the process.

Enoch O: Tab # 9. (Reading off the letter)

Harry B: Motion to approve the letter dated April 20, 2012.

Enoch O: Motion by Charlie, do I hear a second? Second by Enoch. Any further discussion?

Harry B: Call for a question.

Enoch O: Question has been called for. All in favor say I. All appose? We will take a five minute break.

Break

Enoch O: Call back to order at 4:31 pm. Mr. Atwood you have the floor.

Todd Atwood: Thank you again for the opportunity to come here. I wanted to give you an overview of what we have been up to this last spring. I put a copy of this on my desk top here. I will email a PDF version of it so you can have it.

Jack O: Todd if I can real quick. I did bring some copies of this, so we will hand them out now.

Todd A: (See Draft)

We also added Karen Rhode, a research Biologist, Stapleton as a temporary with us from University of Minnesota. Scott came on board in January as a computer programmer who will help us redo our Polar Bear data base. We finally the go ahead to hire a T.E.K. social scientist.

This is something our program has been wanting. The goal is to have this person on by the end of the year. Some things are going to change and some are going stay the same.

We have added on studies that we are going to add on over time, based on our data bears maybe staying on land more often in the summer due to the summer. We are devoting more of our budget to research and development of these tags. We are getting larger battery charges. Snags are put in the NSB near the bone pile which are non-invasive.

Eric R: There has been some concern from the communities about the wire. One that they have taken to is really kind of neat. Most bears just step right over it. I think that is a neat way to collect samples. We don't need a helicopter. The cubs would play on it.

Todd A: This technique of using bobbed wire to snag hair has been used in bears ever since the mid 90's. It is a well-established technique. If it did not work that well we would have heard something by now.

Rhonda: Out of the 130 visitors, 300 samples are they good?

Todd A: The dropout rate of the DNA is much higher in hair than in tissue. For hair generally about 35% of the samples we collect don't amplify, they don't yield any DNA. But what I suspect is that they are probably accounting for all the individuals. They are just missing the peak visits by multiple individuals. If you look on the screen you can see the bone pile. This is a really good project for us. Something we will be looking into this summer is the unmanned drones. At this time we can't use this in the U.S.

Hannah: Given the amount of information you were able to get from the hair samples. So the biopsy darts what additional information are you getting from them? Does it tell you about the fat?

Todd A: Generally we are getting a little bit of fat, skin sample and not much hair at all. The hair is not good for DNA. Right now we are in the information and gathering mode. The hair snag work is more toward on shore work.

Harry B: Follow up question to that biopsy question. How does it affect the animals?

Todd A: These would be bears that will be, will have some opportunity to recapture as we biopsy later in the years. The gages of the needles are really small. We just had a paper come out in May. It carries out long distance events are becoming more. The movements were twice as fast on the ice.

(See Draft again) Thank you for the opportunity.

Jack O: Mr. Chairman. We appreciate the USGS spending time with us.

Enoch O: Do we have any other Commissioner comments?

Harry B: Taquilik said she would be here at the bilateral meeting in June. Did I write that down somewhere?

Harry B: I wanted to congratulate Jack for his new position, also all the staff for your hard work. Thank you.

Enoch O: We should make some sort of presentation for Charlie's family. If you have any pictures we can put up in the building, any other comments?

Jack O: Just wanted to thank the Executive Committee for acknowledging all the hard work that, not just the Nanuuq Commission staff also the FWS. I really appreciate your confidence in me to take over for Charlie. I will work hard for what is best for our Native subsistence hunters so that's all. Thank you.

Enoch O: Moving onto item # 14

Harry B: Motion to adjourn. All in the favor stand up and move.

Enoch O: Meeting closed at 4:49 pm.