MINUTES
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting
University of Alaska Library Building--- Anchorage, AK
December 13-14, 2006

Approved

DAY 1-Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Council Members Present: Sandra Key, David van den Berg, Scott Hala, Phil Driver, Suzanne McCarthy, Greg Beischer, June McAtee, Keith Tryck (departed at 1:40 p.m.), Susan Olson (joined meeting at 1:25 p.m. via teleconference). **Council Members Absent:** Denise Michels, Tom Crafford, Theresa Imm, Barbara Fullmer, Jim Posey, and Charlie Boddy.

BLM Representatives Present: Tom Lonnie (DFO), Ramone McCoy, Gary Reimer, Scott Billing (AFS), Danielle Allen, Leah Dailey, Sharon Wilson, Bob Schneider, Lon Kelly, Dave Howell, Ramona Chinn, and Jim Ducker.

Other: Noah Ashley and Tom Lohman [North Slope Borough (NSB)], Sharon Warren and Hans Neidig [Department of the Interior (DOI)], and Mary Patania (public).

Meeting **CALLED TO ORDER** at 1:25 p.m.by Chair, Sandra Key.

WELCOME: Key welcomed everyone and introduced the new BLM-Alaska State Director, Tom Lonnie. RAC members introduced themselves and housekeeping issues were addressed. Key notified the RAC of Charlie Body's resignation as Vice-Chair and encouraged the RAC to fill the vacancy. The RAC agreed to table the discussion until day two.

APRIL 2006 RAC MINUTES: Discussion. No corrections. Beischer motioned to approve. Van den Berg seconded. Approved and signed by Chair.

JULY 2006 RAC FIELD NOTES: Discussion. No corrections. Motion to approve by van den Berg. Seconded by Hala. Approved and signed by Chair.

VIDEO OF NPR-A SOUTH FIELD TRIP: Schneider gave each member a DVD. Field trip attendees discussed trip highlights and memories.

STATE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

I. Introduction: Tom Lonnie introduced himself and said he was interested in hearing what the RAC had to say. Van den Berg asked what Lonnie felt were his top 5 issues as the new State Director. Lonnie said he was a firm believer in the motto "Do good and avoid evil" and that he would be involved heavily in the following issues: the conveyance program, the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve (NE NPR-A) Supplement, the subsistence program, and the South and Bay Resource Management Plans (RMP). Lonnie also explained his philosophy of work: proper management of resources, good public service, and good work environment for employees. Key asked about the Research and Monitoring Team reports (RMT). Lonnie explained that monitoring in general is an agency wide concern especially with increased oil and gas exploration and the agency being under a continuing resolution. National groups are currently trying to decide what and how to monitor since energy companies do not pay for the monitoring. Key urged Lonnie to look at the RMT's work which included input from energy representatives. Van den berg asked Lonnie about his RAC experience and Lonnie said this was his first real experience as the Designated Federal Official (DFO). Lonnie encouraged the RAC to help him learn the ropes through teamwork. Allen asked about Lonnie's management style; Lonnie explained he likes to trust and verify,

and that the BLM has field/program managers for a reason. Lonnie also said he tries to not think out loud unless he has announced it beforehand and is eager to learn what the staff knows and thinks.

II. Minerals Resolution: Key, Beischer, and other RAC members expressed concern about the time it took for the Minerals Resolution to go forward from BLM-Alaska. Beischer explained that after initial authoring and minor changes, the unanimous resolution was signed by the RAC Chair on Sept. 13, 2006. The RAC's concern is that even as of today (Dec. 2006), the resolution is still not with the Secretary. Beischer also expressed a desire to know if the RAC's advice is valued, as in light of this situation, it seems like the RAC is being totally disregarded. Lonnie explained that he valued the RAC and expressed his belief that a unanimous RAC decision is VERY significant. Lonnie apologized for the resolution languishing in the Alaska State Office before going to the BLM-Washington Office. Lonnie stated that in addition to the resolution, a briefing paper detailing the impacts of the budget cut went back to Washington. Lonnie reassured the RAC that this would not happen in the future. Lonnie said the resolution was now at the office of the DOI Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals and would then go to the Secretary.

III. RAC Charter: Lonnie read from the RAC charter which stated that personnel and organizational issues are not to be addressed by the RAC unless they are part of a strategic decision. Lonnie stated that, arguably, the issues the Minerals Resolution addresses are strategic in nature. He also explained that according to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), there is strict guidance when sending an issue to the Secretary of the Interior. For instance, if the RAC decides the State Director is being arbitrary in dealing with RAC advice or counsel, then the RAC can go to the Secretary with a unanimous resolution. Key explained her concerns over this interpretation of the charter and the CFRs and asked for a legal opinion on this issue because, if true, this would be quite different from how the RAC in AK has historically operated. Olsen agreed. McCarthy explained that a unanimous RAC decision is additional support for a decision a State Director may forward to the Secretary if the need arises. Beischer stated that he really wants the RAC and the BLM to retain the AK Minerals Program and the John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) because they are in real danger of elimination. Beischer also asked how the BLM proposed to fulfill the requirement to do minimum investigations in Alaska under section 10-10 of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) if the aforementioned programs were eliminated. Lonnie said he understood employees are involved in these cuts and he had asked his staff to look at contingencies in case the President's budget is upheld. He explained that ANILCA authorizes these investigations but provides no funding. For now, Lonnie said the positive news is that the BLM is under a Continuing Resolution and funding is equal to last year assuring the jobs for now.

IV. Managing for Excellence Initiative Discussion: Lonnie said the BLM is involved in a futuring exercise called "Managing for Excellence." BLM-Alaska will forward to the BLM-Washington Office an organizational tier structuring proposal. The Bureau-wide initiative also centralizes functions such as the National Business Center, some personnel actions, and some IRM/IT functions. BLM-Alaska is considering some alternatives with other DOI partners due to location.

PLANNING DISCUSSION: Jim Ducker gave updates on planning issues.

I. Supplement to the Amendment for NE NPR-A: Ducker explained the recent court decisions and their effects on BLM-Alaska. Ducker explained that the judge's ruling was not based on BLM-Alaska making the wrong planning decision but that the process that the BLM followed was flawed. Van den Berg asked if environmental organizations had said beforehand that they were going to challenge BLM's plan. Ducker said not to his knowledge. Van den Berg asked what the BLM is hearing about the court decision; Ducker explained that

industry was definitely disappointed as seismic work to prep for the sale had already been done. Lohman explained that the North Slope Borough (NSB) had problems with the final plan and has requested Cooperating Agency status on the supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Schneider explained that a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was sent to the NSB earlier in the week once the decision was made to go forward. Ducker explained that with the supplement, the BLM does not need to do formal scoping; however, the BLM has asked for comments and specific concerns in a Notice of Intent (NOI) that was recently sent to the Federal Register. The BLM asked the public to inform the bureau about specific ways to lessen the environmental concerns and impacts on this area. Ducker listed the current schedule for the NE NPR-A Supplement: Draft—Mid June 2007, Final—Feb 2008, Record of Decision (ROD)—30 days after Final in 2008.

II. NPR-A South Plan: Ducker stated the hurdles for the plan right now are timing and funding. Ducker explained that he will no longer be the lead planner for the South plan; Mike Kleven will fill this role. Kelly's staff has been tasked with both plans, so strategies are being discussed to figure out the timelines for the plans. Ducker explained that the South plan might have to take second place in the interim. Ducker thanked the NSB for their participation in the South plan.

BREAK at 2: 45 p.m. **RECONVENED** at 3:10 p.m.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY ON ALASKA ISSUES: Hans Neidig introduced himself and talked about his background. Neidig said his role in Alaska is to educate the folks in Washington, D.C. and to forcefully advocate for Alaska's unique budgetary and logistical issues. Neidig said the Secretary cares and wants to help people; furthermore the Secretary wants open communication. Neidig said that the Secretary believes that the DOI needs to explore every opportunity to say yes before it says no. Neidig thanked the RAC members for their involvement and said that he wanted to hear their views. Van den Berg asked if any BLM-Alaska lands are a DOI priority for conserving known surface values and what other DOI priorities existed for Alaska. Neidig said quite a few Resource Management Plans (RMP) are in the works and that the DOI needed to look at the feedback from the communities before it could make any substantive comments. Neidig explained that he is not the BLM-Alaska State Director's boss. Neidig stated that the Secretary believes strongly in the environment and conservation and that the DOI has also been tasked with some energy issues. Neidig explained that these were not mutually exclusive and that resources need to be developed using all technology in the best possible way. Neidig said when it comes to the big picture, no one wants to harm the environment. One priority does not preclude the other. The DOI has a responsibility to do it RIGHT by using all the information, science, and technology available.

NORTH SLOPE COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING UPDATE (Handout): Noah Ashley discussed how the NSB has become a cooperating agency for the South NPR-A Plan and how a formal MOU has been signed. This MOU lets the NSB review EIS pre-drafts before they become public and, by doing so, the NSB can provide scientific and cultural input and data the BLM may fail to consider. The NSB has consulted with other communities via funding provided by the BLM. The NSB wants to offer an alternative to the BLM that is consistent with North Slope community members' and stakeholders' recommendations and wishes. Per Schneider, the NSB is aware that their alternative may not be the alternative that is the BLM's final alternative. Ashley summarized the actions completed to date and explained the five-phase process. The NSB's first task was to engage the new Mayor and planning coordinator of the Northwest Arctic Borough. Currently the NSB is in phase two: the NSB has held public meetings, recorded and transcribed public comments for the record, and held mapping sessions to identify subsistence areas and potential areas that could be

developed. No formal alternative derived through community-based consensus has been developed at the present, but the goal is to derive one for the BLM's consideration by March 2007. The RAC asked Ashley questions about village representation and attendance. Ashley said a report summarizing community input would be available to the BLM by the end of 2007. Ashley also explained that the NSB is looking to include Human Health Impact Assessments (HHIA) in the EIS. The HHIA considers the potential impact of North Slope development scenarios on human health, and these impacts can range from diabetes and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases to substance abuse and domestic violence. Ashley said some residents are pro oil and gas as long as subsistence resources are not impacted. Additionally, there is strong opposition against coal and hardrock in most areas because of worries about impacts upon the Western Arctic caribou herd calving grounds, access to insect relief areas, and contamination of river drainages from open-pit mining. Ashley also presented maps that display spatial data gathered from the public meetings. Lohman said the BLM had recently hired a Barrow representative and the BLM needs to be present in the next round of meetings.

SOUTH NPR-A SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Van den Berg suggested it may not be possible to get a RAC consensus on whether to include or not include hardrock and coal in the South plan. He suggested the RAC might resurrect the Beischer's Pros/Cons letter and present it to the BLM-Alaska State Director as a RAC summary of ideas for and against including coal and hardrock in the EIS. McAtee agreed that this would be a better approach as the RAC is a snapshot of society, and if the RAC is having trouble achieving consensus, this gives the BLM an idea of how society will view these proposals. Beischer suggested that the BLM may have already made its own decision about how to handle coal and hardrock in the EIS. Lonnie said that the BLM had indeed had discussions, but he wanted to hear what the RAC had to say. Lonnie further suggested that when planning for resource development, it is a hard call to for the BLM to expand into areas where it has no administrative authority to open the area for mineral development. Lonnie suggested a valuable piece of info is whether or not the RAC reaches an agreement! Lonnie asked if the BLM should add another layer to the already complex RMP/EIS process. McAtee stated that it is easy to disregard hardrock mineral resources in the Northern NPR-A areas as they have not been identified there; however, there are significant identified mineral resources in the South area. Lonnie said even if the BLM did consider the alternative to include the coal and hardrock and later Congress opened the area, the BLM would have to go through the EIS process again. Driver suggested that perhaps the BLM could state in the EIS that "if and when the ban on entry is lifted, then the plan is to do…." Key agreed that the BLM should discuss the option of coal and hardrock in the EIS but limit the discussion based on the current legislation. Schneider explained that doing as Key and Driver suggested could be accomplished in Chapter Three which details existing environment and resources. Schneider said the BLM could describe the resources in this chapter but not develop an alternative and impacts. Per Schneider, the alternative and impacts would be addressed in a legislative EIS if and when an area is opened. Beischer stated he believed the BLM needed to do as Schneider said as a minimum because mineral deposits of significant value may seem economically unfeasible, but things are changing; for instance, the biggest mining company in the world has a coal lease in the Arctic. Beischer stated the BLM has something potentially valuable it is responsible for administering and the responsible thing to do is to at the very least capture it in the document and not exclude it from future development. McAtee agreed that the BLM should not deny the research efforts and data collection that has already been done and paid for. The RAC then discussed the surface and scenic resources in the South plan and how these could and should be captured in the planning documents. Key suggested that the BLM had been hesitant to recommend conservation for any areas. Ducker stated that the EIS does not designate wilderness, but rather describes elements of the land like primitive nature, solitude, etc. Kelly

explained that the BLM discusses in the planning documents the things that Congress has directed the Bureau to discuss. After discussion, van den Berg made a motion to resurrect the draft pros/cons document. Hala seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Meeting **ADJOURNED** for the day at 5: 07 p.m.

DAY 2-Thursday, December 14, 2006

Council Members Present: David van den Berg, Scott Hala, Sandra Key, Greg Beischer, Jim Posey (departed at 2:30 p.m.), Phil Driver, Suzanne McCarthy, June McAtee, Teresa Imm (arrived at 8:35 a.m.; departed at 2:30 p.m.), and Tom Crafford (arrived at 1:30 p.m.). **Council Members Absent:** Susan Olsen, Charlie Boddy, Keith Tryck, Barbara Fulmer, and Denise Michels.

BLM Representatives Present: Tom Lonnie (DFO) Danielle Allen, Leah Dailey, Theresa McPherson (9 a.m.), Lon Kelly, Ramone McCoy, Gary Reimer, Dave Howell, Jennifer Hrobak (AFS), Ken Taylor, Scott Billing (AFS).

Other: Noah Ashley (NSB), Sharon Warren (DOI), Tom Lohman (NSB), Hans Neidig (DOI), and Mary Patania (public), Bobby Andrews (Aleknagiv Natives Limited), Melissa Blair (Alaska Coalition).

Meeting **CALLED TO ORDER** at 8:05 a.m.

FAIRBANKS DISTRICT OFFICE UPDATE (Handout): Schneider discussed four main issues:

I. Winter Exploration in the NPR-A: Several companies are working in the NPR-A this winter. Donna Wixon is the point of contact for the 2006-2007 Winter Exploration Program.

II. JW Well Plugging and Reserve Pit Clean-Up: This project is now completed and the clean-up team was one of five departmental award winners.

III. Alaska Railroad Extension: The BLM has a minor role; we have a reimbursable assistance agreement. Part of the EIS is being written by contractors with an expected draft release this summer.

IV. Tundra Hunters: Hunters drove their trucks into closed tundra to haul out game; the hunters got their trucks stuck and the vehicles are currently frozen solidly into the tundra. The BLM is conducting and Environmental Assessment (EA). The hunters were cited by BLM Law Enforcement, and in addition to fines and possible jail time, the hunters will have to pay for the EA.

GLENALLEN FIELD MANAGER UPDATE (Handout): McCoy discussed issues relevant to the Glennallen office such as the East Alaska RMP, the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD), the John Babel Cabin, and the MOU with the Yakutat-Tlingit Tribe. McCoy also explained that the Glennallen Field Office was utilizing Benefits-Based Planning in its planning considerations for the Delta Wild and Scenic River and that this planning strategy had also been used for the TLAD. Van den Berg asked for clarification on Benefits-Based Planning and McCoy said she would get him information. McCoy stated the Gulkana River Implementation level plan was finalized and the office was working on user education.

ANCHORAGE FIELD MANAGER UPDATE (Handout): Reimer discussed three main topics:

I. Bay RMP/EIS: Alaska is currently in the public comment period for this plan and has been conducting meetings. Currently the comment period will close on Jan. 5, 2007 but a request to extend the comment period by 30 days has been submitted because the BLM has not been able to visit to New Stuyahok. Van den Berg asked what the preferred alternative was for the Bay Plan; Riemer stated it was Alternative D. Reimer said that although some of this land is currently in the process of being conveyed, his best guess was that the BLM would manage 1.5-1.6 million acres after conveyance. Beischer said many residents are afraid a mine will spring up on every plot of land when in reality; little area is conducive to mining. Reimer discussed alternatives and invited comment/advice from the RAC about the Alternative C ACEC around New Stuyahok and the Carter Spit ACEC in Alternative C & D.

II: Ring of Fire RMP/EIS: Reimer stated that BLM-Alaska has received protests from the Alaska Coalition and Lynn Canal and resolution to the protests will be made by the BLM-Washington Office. Reimer stated this planning area is huge: the distance from Ketchikan and Adak is equivalent to Seattle to Boston. Reimer stated that the recent progress in land conveyance is clarifying what land the BLM will manage and used a map reflecting the evolving land pattern around Haines.

III. Field Trip Location Discussion: Reimer presented alternatives for the RAC field trip in July 2007. He explained that Dillingham would be a good choice due to the Bay planning issues prior to the ROD. This area also has D1 withdrawals and conveyance issues to address. The second choice presented was Nome. Reimer explained that this area was a good choice because there would be no transportation issues and includes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), fish research areas (Arctic Char), and is territory for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The RAC discussed avoiding the Bay area because the public might confuse the BLM issues with the controversial Pebble Mine project in the area. RAC members agreed to revisit the topic later on the agenda after considering available options.

TOUR of Alaska Resources Library Information System (ARLIS) & **BREAK** at 10:05 a.m. **RECONVENED** at 11:02 a.m.

ALASKA FIRE SERVICE PROJECT PRESENTATION (Handout): Jennifer Hrobak was introduced by AFS Director Scott Billing. Hroback, a student in the Environmental Careers Program, has worked for the BLM for the last four summers with Fire Ecologist Randi Jandt. Hrobak gave a presentation about the AFS's efforts to monitor response to fuels and vegetation as a resource with prescribed fire. More information about this project can be found at: htttp://fire.ak.blm.gov/afs/organization/mgmtplan/effects.phs. Billing mentioned that RAC members could visit a fire monitoring area during the summer 2007 RAC field trip to Nome. Key said farewell and good luck in retirement to Billing on behalf of the RAC.

WORKING LUNCH with presentations.

NORTH SLOPE SCIENCE INITIATIVE (NSSI) (Handout): Taylor addressed the RAC about recent NSSI happenings. He mentioned that BLM had hired Adam Mehlhorn as an assistant to work on the NSSI program; Mehlhorn has been updating the NSSI Web site. Taylor reviewed activities of the recent Science Technical Group (STG) Oct. 2006 meeting where three study subgroups were formed. Imm stated that she believed progress had been made at the Nov. 2006 meeting of the Oversight Group as the group came to consensus on program direction and is defining processes for future proceedings. (Imm is a member of the NSSI Oversight Group). Taylor announced a Jan./early Feb. 2007 NSSI staff contacts meeting focusing on prioritizing issues and funding. Driver asked how the NSSI decided on research subjects. Taylor explained that the BLM's RMT identified several priorities and that

much of the initial focus of NSSI reflects those. The NSSI is developing a database of 500+ current projects which will enable researchers to quickly determine who is doing what and where and will facilitate collaboration. Additionally, Taylor announced dates for the upcoming Caribou Workshop in Anchorage (Feb 21-22, 2007). Driver asked Taylor how caribou were monitored; Taylor said primary monitoring is through the use of transmitters and GPS devices but secondary monitoring is also accomplished via survey of habitat, weather, and infrastructure. Driver inquired about forage studies, and Taylor said the Park Service and the BLM were conducting studies.

KOBUK SEWARD PLANNING UPDATE (Handout): Jeannie Cole discussed deadlines, comments, and plan revisions. RAC members discussed issues about the plan. Imm explained that the caribou are migrating to different routes because of the increased hunting and recreation in the area and thet Natives with allotments along the Squirrel River were frustrated with the changing patterns. Schneider explained that he, too, had heard of the frustration in the area through talks with the Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough. The Mayor explained to Schneider the tremendous hunting pressures in the area and the impact on hunting/subsistence costs when folks have to travel further to reach subsistence areas. Schneider said one planning option was to get a special area designation and then address the situation in a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). The RAC discussed inclusion or exclusion of the issue in the plan vs. a RAMP as well as how the BLM would deal with specific issues based on comments from the public, mineral potential, and D1 withdrawals. Van den Berg asked about the total amount of D1 lands in the plan that could be withdrawn, and Cole said it was less than one percent of the plan, maybe even less. Beischer asked if a D1 withdrawal is imposed, could the BLM replace it with a new withdrawal. Cole said this could be accomplished through a public land order. Van den Berg asked what the total ACEC acreage was for the area and Cole said it was about 3 million acres that could be managed through Required Operating Procedures (ROPs).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD at 1 p.m.

I. Melissa Blair of the Alaska Coalition (Handout): Blair's said she would like the BLM to institute better quality control on the information it disseminates at public meetings and in planning documents as she had found discrepancies in information. Blair suggested that presenting inaccurate information is a potential National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) violation and she would like the situation remedied. Blair suggested that BLM-Alaska contact all that were present at the public meeting to notify them that they had received erroneous information. Key asked if BLM-Alaska could notify the people. Reimer responded that he would see what he could do and he could also use the opportunity for point-specific comment. Blair further stated that the BLM should not recommend lifting withdrawals but should wait until the Pebble Mine project is completed and then get data on watershed management issues. Blair feels residents are concerned about the Pebble Mine and feel threatened that the Bay Plan is happening simultaneously. The people see the Bay Plan as a BLM recommendation that another million acres of land will be available for mineral development. Blair also mentioned that most of the public comment on the plan asked that D1 withdrawals be addressed. Beischer suggested that although the Bay plan may seem like bad timing, Alaska has waited 25 years for this plan. According to Beischer, this plan also gives the BLM the ability to designate special areas and to put permanent protections on some areas previously unprotected. Beischer stated that the sooner the issue of ownership is resolved, the better Alaska will be.

II. Bobby Andrew, Board of Directors, Aleknagib Natives Limited (Handout): Andrew presented two resolutions from different non-profit organizations that supported designation of lands in the Bay Plan area for subsistence use only. Andrew explained that many residents of the Bristol Area testified at a recent Fish Board meeting in Dillingham.

Andrew suggested that the BLM and the State of Alaska are impacted by choices of land owning Native corporations. Andrew stated that he would like the BLM and the RAC to proceed carefully and to address the issues at hand. He stated that if the land in the planning area is opened to mineral or oil extraction, it will affect subsistence. Beischer asked how many hunters from outside use these lands; Andrew suggested that hunters are competing for moose, caribou, and renewable water resources (fish); however, Andrew said the village corporations could not stop outsiders because of the economic benefits to the villages. Beischer reiterated that most of hunting pressure is on the state owned-land and based on a recent experience, guides were looking for animals by airplane, marking the spot by GPS, and then taking the hunters to those animals. Beischer agreed with Andrew since he believes hunters will be moving to BLM lands and be in competition and that a subsistence priority might be useful. Key agreed that hunting activities were on the move. Schneider and Reimer said they have seen hunting activity migrating to BLM lands and had testimony about use conflicts. Biescher asked if there is precedence for doing this. Reimer explained that this is not in the range of alternatives right now and that he was not sure if it was legally possible but that he would research it. Beischer then asked about the possibility of creating a step-down plan and Schneider explained that BLM-Alaska can manage wildlife in Alaska because of Sec. 8 of ANILCA whereas this can not happen in other states as it is specifically the responsibility of the State. Kelly agreed that BLM-AK had never conceived that we could manage an area of land for a specific subset of the public. Beischer agreed that getting a subsistence priority might be difficult but the BLM has some other prescriptions such as the "Special Area" designations that might be useful.

III. A third member of the public commented via the email submission below:

21 Dec 2006
From: sgumlickpuk@knw.swrsd.org
Subject: Bay plan
To: sandrakey8@msn.com

Hi, my name is Sally Gumlickpuk, Stuyahok Limited President. We, as the Stuyahok Limited Corporation would like to keep the BLM lands closed to mining and the oil and gas leases. We are VERY interested in learning more on the Bay plan and would like presentations done in the village to keep us and our people informed of what is going on at BLM. The people would like the BLM lands near our village to remain closed because they don't want any harm coming to our renewable resources and subsistence to be lost to our future generations to come.

We had discussed these BLM lands of possibly being opened during our Town meeting with the shareholders and these again were discussed at our New Stuyahok Tribal Council Annual meeting and the responses are always the same. Keep the lands closed because the Elders and people want to keep the renewable resources and subsistence safe. They stressed that very loudly in both meetings.

The people were wanting to testify at the BLM meeting that was supposed to happen December 4 but was cancelled due to the funeral. They are happy to get their opportunity on January 15. Thank you for your time and understanding on this sensitive subject.

QUORUM established at 1:30 p.m. upon the arrival of Tom Crafford.

INTERIM ELECTION: Key reiterated Boddy's resignation as Vice-Chair. Key made a motion to nominate and elect Beischer as the Vice-Chair. Seconded by Imm. All in favor; none opposed. Greg Beischer elected as Vice-Chair.

DISCUSSION ON MINERAL ENTRY IN SOUTH NPR-A: Beischer's Pros/Cons of Mineral Entry in South NPR-A document was resurrected from previous meeting files. Key called for thoughts on rewriting it and proceeding as previously discussed. Key wanted the BLM to proceed with caution based on the early data collected by the NSB. Crafford said mineral entry issues are the issues and that the BLM should not develop an EIS based on simplicity. Van den Berg reiterated earlier suggestions from Ducker about including mineral

entry in Chapter Three, the discussion about the physical environment. Imm stated that ASRC was not in favor of mineral entry in the South NPR-A since there is not enough understood in regarding other issues across the North Slope. She suggested that the history of NPR-A speaks for itself—there was no activity in NPR-A for 20 years and now there is leasing and exploration occurring from the Colville River to just south of Barrow. Imm suggested that the Artic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and others are just trying to catch up with recent lease sale issues in the NE and NW NPR-A and are evaluating the changes. Some of the concerns about opening the southern NPR-A are not only with the pipelines, but serious consideration needs to be made with respect to open pits, roads, etc. that would come if the areas was opened to coal and mineral leasing. Van den Berg suggested that Imm was saying that the ASRC's stand was to go slow and that he would add that position to the letter. Van den Berg will rewrite the letter to delineate the issues; the letter will then be transmitted to the BLM-AK State Director. December 25, 2006 is the deadline for comments.

CONVEYANCES UPDATE (HANDOUTS): Ramona Chinn discussed FY07 targets and Native allotments. She stated that there are currently 75 villages that need to file their final priorities. She discussed dual selections by ANCSA and the State. Chinn stated there are 12 million acres to convey to the State of Alaska but the State is last in line for precedence.

2007 FIELD TRIP AND YEARLY MEETING PLANNING DISCUSSION: Pros and cons of each proposed field trip location were discussed. The majority voted for Nome. Key and Reimer will call RAC member Denise Michels since she is also the Mayor of Nome. Key suggested that the BLM-Alaska office pursue the possibility of a conveyance signing ceremony in the Nome area in conjunction with the field trip. RAC members agreed to pursue Barrow as the location for the Feb. 2007 meeting as long as lodging and transportation is available.

WORK PLAN DISCUSSION: Key suggested that the JRMIC remain an action item for now but eventually become an information item; wildland fire management will now become an information item. Key suggested that a written Solicitor's Opinion on the roles and process of the RAC in regards to sending unanimous resolutions to the Secretary be added as an action item; Allen and Wilson assigned as leads. Beischer and Crafford will investigate the history of the RAC's belief that all unanimous resolutions go forward to the Secretary by contacting Tom Hawkins and Gary Gustafson. Crafford will review notes from his attendance at a nationwide RAC meeting. Key said McCoy had invited the RAC to Glennallen and suggested the RAC go to Glenallen in for its May 2007 meeting.

Motion to **ADJOURN** by van den Berg. Seconded by Driver. **ADJOURNED** at 4 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

This document is a fair and accurate summation of the BLM-Alaska Resource Advisory Council meeting of December 13 & 14, 2006.

Sandra Key 2/8/07

Sandra Key
Chair, BLM Alaska RAC

Date

Handouts and Presentations (source in parenthesis)

RAC Agenda, Dec. 13-14 (AK912)
GFO Highlights, Fall 2006 (Ramone McCoy)
BLM Anchorage Field Office RAC Update, Dec. 2006 (Gary Reimer)
Fairbanks District Office End of Fiscal Year 06 Report (Bob Schneider)
Resource Advisory Council Minutes, Feb. 2006 (AK912)
Technically Recoverable Undiscovered Oil Handout (Bob Schneider)
Bay RMP/EIS-Sept. 29, 2006 (Anchorage Field Office)
RAC Resolution 06-03, Alaska Minerals Program (AK912)
NPR-A South Field Trip Photos (Suzanne McCarthy)
DRAFT Pros and Cons of Mineral Entry in NPR-A South Letter Apr. 2006 (AK912)
North Slope Science Initiative Update, June 15, 2006 (Ken Taylor)
Talking Points Paper for FDO Update (Bob Schneider)
BLM-Alaska Fire Service Projects Handout (Jennifer Hrobak)
North Slope Borough Community-Based Planning for South NPR-A (Noah Ashley)
Alaska Major Issues, Dec. 2006 (AK912)
Memo: Info Request Pursuant to Summer Field Visit to South NPR-A (Bob Schneider)
Federal Register Notice for Supplement to NPR-A NE Plan (AK912)
South NPR-A Planning Timeline (Bob Schneider)
South NPR-A Field Trip Video CD (Bob Schneider)
RAC Field Notes, July 2006 (AK912)
Briefing to BLM RAC on Kobuk- Seward RMP (Jeanne Cole)
BLM Denali Highway Priorities Map (Ramone McCoy)
RAC Conveyance Briefing FY07 Targets (Ramona Chinn)
Bristol Pay Planning Area Map (Gary Reimer)
Sign In Sheets

Items from Public Comment

Board of Directors of Stuyahok Limited Resolution 06-03 (Bobby Andrew)
Board of Directors, Aleknagik Natives Limited Resolution 2006-3 (Bobby Andrew)
Email Comments (Melissa Blair)
Email Comments (Sally Gumlickpuk)