

CAPE KRUSENSTERN SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Northwest Arctic Heritage Center
171 Third Avenue, Kotzebue AK 99752
February 24, 2025

Verified By Vice-Chair 3/31/2025.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday February 24, 2025 at 1:00pm by vice-Chair, Cyrus Harris. Commission members Cyrus Harris and Attamuk Shiedt were present in person. Members Enoch Adams and Hilda Booth were present via phone. Members Alex Whiting and Larry Westlake Sr. was not present and was excused. With four out of six seated Commission members present (Council has three vacant seat(s)) and thus the quorum was not established. This was a work-session.

Invocation - Moment of Silence

*Asterisk * identifies if present via teleconference.*

Attendees:

- Emily Creek, Western Arctic National Parklands, NPS
- Brendan Doucet, Western Arctic National Parklands, NPS
- Raime Fronstin, Western Arctic National Parklands, NPS
- Martha Fronsini, Western Arctic National Parklands, NPS
- Jim Hans, Western Arctic National Parklands, NPS
- Annie Carlson, Western Arctic National Parklands, NPS
- Eva Patton, Alaska Regional Office, NPS*
- Sarah Creachbaum, Alaska Regional Office, NPS*
- Kyle Joly, Gates of the Arctic, NPS
- Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Kotzebue
- Sam Kirby, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Anchorage*
- Wil Wiese, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, FWS
- Tim Smith, Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue

Approval of Minutes from past meetings.

Due to lack of quorum, Commission was not able to approve the meeting minutes from fall 2024 and will do so at their next meeting.

Park's Welcome and Review of the Charter and Commission Purpose – Annie Carlson, NPS

Park gave an update on the vacant Superintendent position.
SRC had no comments.

Review and Adoption of Agenda

Emily Creek: I suggest we add, in new business, the call for wildlife proposals. Also let the Commission know that Regional Director Sarah Creachbaum asked if she could address the Commission at 2:30pm.

Due to no quorum the change was agreed but no formal vote took place.

Commission Membership Status and Elections if Needed -Emily Creek

Emily gave update vacancies and interested applicants she's received. No other action needed at this time.

SRC Chair and Members' Reports

Cyrus Harris of Kotzebue: Good urguk season, bad ice at the start. But the summer had a lot of wind and high water. There were no salmon. Got one caribou in December.

Attamuk Shiedt of Kotzebue: Ice conditions during urguk season was bad, too much ice. Sisualik: saw one beluga, did not harvest it. Got one salmon, it was small. Caribou up the Noatak at Thompson's, extra shallow water. Concerned that Noatak is cutting off caribou too early in August. The trout at the Kugururok were plenty big. Too many bears. Seven wolves near camp and more further away (Abe's camp on upper Noatak). Hardly any salmon in Noatak, warm water up river. Heard about a caribou stolen from a boat at night. River is changing, the rocks in the Canyons (2 small ones) are gone, probably the ice. The salt lick is gone. There is one more near the mountains. This may be last meeting, health.

Hilda Booth of Noatak: On medical and didn't gather too much information at Sisualik. They got their urguk and whitefish put away. However the meat didn't dry well because of the bad weather, storm was coming so had to pack up and go home to Noatak to dry. The oil didn't really render. The salmon at Sisualik was also different, storms? Maybe they went north. Hunting did not really go well. Thurston couldn't get his belongings from Sisualik until fall time because of the storm. Didn't get too much trout, but now ice fishing they are getting some. Similar to Attamuk's observations.

Enoch Adams of Kivalina: Kivalina had a similar urguk season to Sisualik. Oil is good, but was hard to dry the meat inside the home. It was molding outside. Last few years they've got fish right before freeze up. Couldn't sein all summer because of the rain, not getting enough trout to make it though the winter. Ice fishers are successful right now. Caribou arrived after three years. They came by a different route than before. They are hanging around Kivalina, came from the north and late after the rut. Community is trying to avoid harvesting females and getting mostly the young males. Heard during the Whaling Commission from folks at Barrow that they've started seeing salmon in the Coleville River and at Point Hope too, water is colder.

Member of the Public, Tim Smith of Kotzebue: Tried a lot to get salmon but had little luck. 15-20 caribou around town.

Park Report: Annie Carlson of Western Arctic National Parklands gave a Park update to the Commission.

New Business

A. Caribou: Alex Hansen, ADFG. Kyle Joly, NPS.

Alex Hansen provided update on the 2024 census and ratios. Vice-Chair Cyrus shared what the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group discussed.

There were member comments on wolves, bears, and eagles predation on caribou.

B. Research Update

i. Western Arctic National Parklands Resource Stewardship Strategy Update: Annie Carlson

Cyrus Harries: muskoxen impacting berry grounds at Sisualik; erosion in Cape Krusenstern, People chose camps for a reason, how much erosion is there? Is the state gaining land because of it? Concern for old sites eroding away. Park should continue monitoring.

Enoch Adams: Too many beaver.

Cyrus Harris: Should study beaver in the Tukrok by Anigaaq.

Attamuk Shiedt: And pike expansion, invading lagoon system

C: SRC Chairs Update: Emily Creek

No SRC comments.

D: SRC Business, Fall meetings dates

Concern about migratory bird meeting mid-October and caribou hunting. Maybe later.

E: Federal Subsistence Board, call for wildlife proposals:

Emily Creek reads memo and hands it out about how people can submit proposals by April deadline. Emily also provides a draft proposal CAKR SRC Chair wrote. There was no quorum but the SRC did discuss.

Cyrus Harris: Would there be a proposal for helping out the 18 elders at elder care? Can we consider elder care home as a person that can get a permit?

Alex Hansen: It would have to be by individual, so each individual that is a member of that household could have a designated hunter through the federal system. State system is a bit more challenging but the elders would fit the bill.

Cyrus Harris: Family member?

Alex Hansen: Doesn't need to be family member. Maybe you can speak to it?

Cyrus Harris: So there's 18 elder, so each qualifies so each has access to a bull?

Alex Hansen: So they each need to get a hunting license and RM880, if that happened someone else can hunt for them as a designated hunter or proxy. They could harvest up to 15 individuals for that person.

Raime Fronstin: And for federal muskox that's what we do. We enter all their names and have you as the designated hunter.

Emily Creek: Yes, if the elders assigned someone as their designated hunter we can do that.

Cyrus Harris: So you need to do it in advanced before you go out and hunt?

Emily Creek: Yes, and both us and FWS can assist with that paperwork.

Cyrus Harris: Its good to think about this kind of stuff. The elders got us where we are today and should be respected and at the top of the chart.

Alex Hansen: And if you have interest in also doing this outside of federal lands, we can walk you though the process.

Emily Creek: Safest bet would be to get both state proxy and federal designated hunter so the hunter can legally harvest on any land.

Cyrus Harris: yes, good to be legal.

Emily Creek: Thank you for bringing it up, and it is good to remind folks that this option exists.

Alex Hansen: So just a note if they want moose, have them all get the RM880 while its available whether they use it or not, because if they don't have it, we can't do the proxy.

Attamuk Shiedt: I have a question about bird flu. Are you guys hearing anything about wild birds coming this way? I know in 1914 they hit Teller and Nome. I was told by elders from Nome, they already knew about it one time it hit.

Wil Wiese: Bird flu is an issue and we would expect that birds will arrive carrying some strain. Our advice always it to wear gloves and cook birds and wash hands after handling. If you see sick birds, birds acting abnormal, call us. There is a hotline. And if there is an outbreak we will respond.

Raime Fronstin: And be careful handling eggs as well. And cook them.

Emily Creek: Good question. In terms of emergency messaging would you recommend agencies use the radio to reach?

Attamuk Shiedt : IRA and city too. Radio is the best.

- i. **Ptarmigan season:** Emily Creek reads draft proposal by Chair Alex Whiting who was not able to be present.

Cyrus Harris: Fall is prime time. Didn't know there were different regulations

All: agreed that this would be nice so it's the same season on all the lands. Encourage other SRCs to look into it.

Old Business: Emily Creek facilitate

A. Park updates

a. Natural Resources: Raime Fronstin

Cyrus Harris: During your surveys, abundance of predation. You have got to run into something now and then?

Alex Hansen: We commonly see kill sites.

Annie Carlson: Do you mark them?

Alex Hansen: No, we don't collect that data.

Cyrus Harris: Was just curious if it was more or less, like what local people report.

b. Cultural Resources: Brendan Doucet

Enoch Adams: Are you going to be doing any work near the proposed road project at Red Dog?

Brendan Doucet: No, its outside of the Monument so its outside our purview.

c. Subsistence Resources: Emily Creek No comments.

d. Resource Protection: Jim Hans

No comments

e. Facilities: Emily Creek

No comments.

f. Interpretation and Education: Jon Nicholson

No comments.

B. Regional Office: Eva Patton and Sarah Creachbaum

No comment.

C. Other agency: none present

a. FWS: Wil Wiese, FWS Selawik National Wildlife Refuge

No comments

b. ADFG: Alex Hansen, Region 5 Kotzebue Office

Emily Creek: Shares the flyer for the Kotzebue AC meeting, March 11.

c. NPS Permitted Projects Update: Martha Fronstin

Attamuk Shiedt: Trying to understand, you said there would be a project at Anigaaq by the military?

Annie Carlson: Navy Seals will be doing parachute training into the ocean and then go onto the shore, no weapons or vehicles and watch the cabin as though it were a stakeout.

Cyrus Harris: What time of the year?

Annie Carlson: Aug 14-19

Cyrus Harris: Okay, that's when we are not hunting ugruk, that's fine.

Attamuk Shiedt: You know in Noatak on the river, they would probably complain about activity and let Noatak know ahead of time.

Annie Carlson: Since its outside of the Preserve, they need to be in touch with the community.

Attamuk Shiedt: Late August the kids go up and down all night, that's what I don't trust with the military. There will be conflict, they will complain if they don't know what's going on.

D. Public Comment: one member of public present. No comment.

Close out SRC business

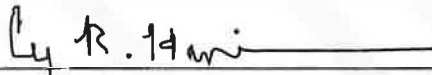
The meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm on February 24, 2025. No meeting tomorrow, business complete.

**EMILY
CREEK**

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EMILY CREEK
Date: 2025.03.26
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Emily Creek, Subsistence Coordinator
Western Arctic National Parklands

Eva Patten, DFO
NPS Subsistence Program



Cyrus Harris, vice-Chair
Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission

These minutes will be formally considered by the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission at its next meeting in fall 2025 in Kotzebue, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

Disclaimer: These minutes of the meeting of the Subsistence Resource Commission are NOT an official transcript of the CAKR Commission proceedings. Rather, the minutes serve as a summary of the topics discussed and actions taken by the Commission and as an index to the audio recording of the meeting. The official record of the Commission proceedings is the audio recording on file at the Northwest Arctic Heritage Center Audio Recording File name: *CAKR February 2025 Meeting*