May 16, 2012 9:00 a.m.

MAIN PURPOSES OF MEETING:

(1) Approve the Bylaws, (2) update on 2012 budget and studies, and (3) begin longer-term planning and prioritizing for the collection of baseline data

Members Present:

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<td>NSB Wildlife</td>
<td>Danielle</td>
<td>North Pacific Research</td>
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CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION:

INTRODUCTIONS:

OPENING REMARKS:
Taqulik: We have a great combination of wonderful scientists that are well known and a group of local hunters that can come together to say what the priorities are, so it is setting the priorities on the types of research needs that we think need to done to help make sure that we have baseline information on what the science says or the traditional knowledge says about specific topics and could be ice research on how the ice is moving in the Chukchi Sea or the currents. Currents have been a big issue, we hear from Wainwright that we need to understand better about the currents in the Chukchi Sea. So those are the types of responsibilities that you will have, is to help set the priorities.

Enoch: We have some field workers that taking some permission as we are going along and now we have a biologist that is collecting information for a very long time and probably the information that being from today is how our conditions are here from today and in the past and we got some field workers that are here too Right? We just talked with this gentleman here this morning, the tall gentleman, is probably working on how our ice formations and shapes in the Chukchi Sea or part of the Beaufort Sea and probably biologists have collected that data for a very long time of our conditions from year to year and migration of our sea mammals. Take very strongly what I say cause and I will state it again being native and with the cost of goods and what we buy out there from outside of Barrow and Wainwright, Point Hope. My meals come four times out of week will be provided from the ocean and the land and the short half of it comes from store bought food. The cost of living is getting too high because of remoteness.

Taqulik: So today to re-emphasis I think for the next day or two you would look and approve what the By Laws are to help set the foundation and the governing rules of this Body and then following the By Laws is very important. Looking at what was funded for 2012 and then help set the priorities and the funding for this research comes from Shell and so every year it is there hopes that they will donate $5,000,000.00 on a annual basis to help facilitate and fund research and this body here will set the priorities on what types of research will be completed. I think this is a very unique situation but it is also one that I think is going to be a great example on how we can move forward in filling in those research gaps in a the transparent way.

Ron: Even though it will impact the ocean alright to do this research some of it will impact the resources.

Robert: Well hopefully the research won’t have a huge amount of impact on the resources but sometimes that does happen.

Taqulik: You collect the baseline information and then the other part of it is to conduct research to help figure out what the right type of mitigation is needed. What kind of mitigation measures work, so that will be a part of it too….research to measure how effective the mitigation is.

Ron: Could we have a voice in our Chukchi Sea I think we are going to butt heads a little bit alright but meet half way will be understandable I hope.

Robert: One of the things Ron, especially since you are new and I should have had a little bit of an introduction about the committee I guess, is that there is an agreement in your packet so you can read some of the details of the Agreement between Shell and the NSB but one of the things
that this committee agreed on when we first met is that this committee is really unique in the way it is set up is that there is a heavy investment in having people from the villages up here from the communities to help tell the scientists what are the most important studies that need to be done and that’s really unique, most of the efforts that have occurred are mostly scientists from other places that don’t live here or managers that don’t live here and so later on this morning we want to talk about how we can improve the way we can get representation from the villages at this meeting so we have more input from the communities and so Pt. Hope and AIN and BRW have been pretty well represented to date but we need to make an to make sure we have other folks from Kaktovik and Nuiqsut coming regularly and you all helping us to make sure we get the right studies in place.

Enoch: I know we got the NSB Administration, I don’t know where you asked the Biologists here but we have other Administrators here that work in the office and they should be sitting at our table also to give out information cause they are mostly sitting there and gathering information and whatnot since our type of work that they do the NSB Fish and Wildlife and I feel that somebody should be sitting with us from the Administration in our meetings.

Robert: In terms of the NSB Mayor’s Office?

Enoch: No from our NSB Fish and Wildlife.

Taqulik: What I will say though is because we want it to be an open transparent process it is a public meeting(s) so people can come in but the Steering Committee was well thought out on the number of people and which representatives would be there. We don’t want it to be over influenced by the NSB or by Shell or by the Coastal Communities so we are trying to find a balance so it is like an open process and we tried to make sure that everyone around the table has equal say. If we had our staff here it would be a little bit lopsided and what I look forward to hearing is from Robert and others and through Malissa how the meetings goes and what you guys decided on and I don’t think it would be fair for me to sit through the meeting or for Jason because we were not selected as a steering committee member. That is why we have two people from the NSB and two people from Shell, the four independent researches and then the coastal community members.

Robert: I think that is really appropriate Taqulik and that the group that makes decisions is well balanced but I take your point too Enoch that I think we should do a better job of sending out invitations to other organizations and maybe the Chairman of the Fish and Game Management Committee would be a good person to have attend and sit here and offer advice or comments but that person wouldn’t necessarily be involved in decision making. Hopefully we will have Jason here tomorrow so he can talk about his projects but Danielle is here from the North Pacific Research Board to learn more about what we are doing and we are just starting to learn how to walk so we haven’t advertised very broadly because we are trying not to have too many people laugh at us when we fall on our face while we are learning to walk but I think as we get going here that trying to get more people into the room and offer advices is going to be worthwhile and important.
Enoch: What I was getting at is advice for me and Ronald we are not too educated, the terminology of some of the language that is going to be spoken and whatnot in this meeting.

Craig/Robert: Please stop us when you need to. If we use words that you don’t understand don’t hesitate to stop us but I would also like to object. Maybe you guys didn’t go off and get lots of degrees but you guys know more than probably all of around this table about what is happening out on the land and on the ice and on the water and so that is why this group is so much local involvement is because you guys see more than any of the rest of us. You have more of a pulse on what is happening in field. You can offer really important insights and recommendations for where we go.

Enoch: I already told Taqulik that before every season tells its own story.

Taqulik: Good luck you all and if you need me I will be working at my desk today.

Break for 5 minutes

Sue: I would like to reiterate that one of reason that at least that I am here is as a biologist that has visited here but not lived here the way you do and for me this is a really unique opportunity to hear from people living here what is important to you, what are you seeing just like the gray whales you were discussing during the break. I find that very interesting, I go to a lot of meetings but not one like this, that we can hear directly from people who live here and what is going on.

Robert: Go through the minutes for June and September.

Sue: Motion to approve and it was Seconded.

Discussion: Enoch: My question would be why weren’t the minutes sent to us for review?

Robert: They were distributed but I believe it was before you were appointed. Anybody oppose, hearing none the June Minutes are approved.

Robert: Motion to Approve September Meeting Minutes, September 8th and 9th 2011. That meeting was held at the Dr. Albert Conference Hall at NARL.

Motion to approve, so moved. Second? Seconded.

Robert: Open for discussion. Any comments.

Enoch: Couple of questions

Robert: Questions have been called for and because we are working on consensus is there anybody opposed. Hearing no opposition, the September 8-9, 2011 minutes are approved.
Robert: We have three main purposes for this meeting as Taqulik mentioned one is to approve the By Laws, so we have some guidance of how we are going to operate. We want to talk a little bit about 2012 Budget, the Studies that are planned for 2012 and then tomorrow we would like to talk more about how we go about planning and prioritizing studies for the longer term. In the last couple of years we have just done it in an Ad Hoc way and so I would like for us to think about and talk about how we might be able to this in a more systematic or deliberate fashion. One of the things I would like to do today is trying to get the people from Kaktovik and Nuiqsut more involved in this group is something that is really needed and so I am looking for advice on how we go about doing that. Taqulik and I have talked a little bit about it but we definitely want to get people from the villages here on a more regular basis. How can we do that?

Enoch: Write a letter to the tribe and the city that we need a committee member from their communities and have them post it and find a person to sit on the steering committee.

Robert: Enoch that has worked well in AIN, Pt. Lay and Pt. Hope and less well in Barrow and it hasn’t worked at all for Nuiqsut and Kaktovik. Taqulik and I have talked about traveling to both of those villages and meeting with the councils and say we really want and need your help.

Tom: It is my understanding that they have people that were appointed to serve and they haven’t been able to come because it has been a matter of their schedules or we don’t know.

Robert: They don’t respond to letters, e-mails or calls typically.

Tom: I think maybe a visit by at least you two and I wonder if maybe if schedule a meeting in one of those communities. I realize it will probably much more cumbersome in terms of travel arrangements but if people saw what we are doing and trying to do it might buy into it.

Sue: Rather than schedule a meeting, which is a fine idea too, but I think it might be more compelling if this groups decides on some work that would be of interest to these communities to have maybe a smaller subgroup, I think a visit is a good idea and then you could explain in person what we are trying to do here and I think that is what is missing from letters and things like that.

Robert: I like that idea a lot and when we put the budget together one thing that we tried to do is to put in some additional travel and money to have the representatives from the village help get information back to the community about what this group is doing and so I think that there is enough funding available to do that. Because Wainwright is so involved in what is happening in the Chukchi Sea it may be worthwhile to try to get to AIN at some point or another here in the near term or maybe Pt. Hope as well, since there is so much concern in Pt. Hope. One of the difficulties that we have had in these meetings is getting people to travel to Barrow.

Enoch/Ron: I think that is a good move to bring the meetings to the villages.

Michael: I would echo that and certainly there are two approaches to get an input and I think it has been a bit frustrating that we haven’t got the level of input that we would like to have. I that from all the village visits we do it ends up unfortunately Shell talk 98% sort of thing and
answering questions but not getting the advantage of ever suggestions from the local people. I think maybe putting Shell on the background, and a couple of evening workshops or meetings where people come and sit down and state their concerns and we would like answers to these questions.

Robert: There are two issues: 1) trying to get Kaktovik and Nuiqsut more engaged. Taqulik and I can commit to going to those villages and recruiting people but more that going to the villages to get feedback as well as providing information I think that is a really good idea and it is something we kind of talked about but really from the Agreement we talked about getting information back to the villages to show what are projects have accomplished but maybe it better right now to go to the villages and say here is what we are thinking ….. Now what do you what us to do? If the committee is in favor of us working toward that then we will take it down as an action item.

Sue: Yes I think it is very important and that it is the only way to generate interest. Actually talking with people making clear what we are trying to do. Before we launch off on a project making sure that is something the people are interested in.

Enoch: Fully blown community involvement.

Robert: Yes to a degree as much as people want to provide recommendations and suggestions.

Hajo: An important selling point from my prospective is that these projects that have been approved are only going forward because of support from the villages.

Enoch: Some person worked real hard to try to make this happen to get it funded, the past North Slope Borough Mayor, is he getting this information?

Robert: That is a good question and we haven’t gone and talked to Edward about that, I think he has been enjoying not being Mayor and relaxing for awhile but I think that is a good idea and we should talk to him and see what his thoughts are as well.

Victoria: I heard that the NSB sometimes have the science lectures for everybody, I wonder if at the same time we could share some of the data or give examples of thinks of scientific data.

Robert: For the information exchange meetings what do you think about how many people should go or a contingent should look like? Obviously we are not going to be able to get everybody to go but how would you like us to approach it. Do you want us to send out an e-mail or what kind of approach would you like us to take?

Hajo: I think that it would be important to maybe take the projects that are currently supported and ask whoever is working on the project to 1) provide a very brief summary. 2) Relay that information to the different communities and ask what might be of most interest to them. Then you could go and visit and present an overview of everything that is going on and at the same time try to bring somebody along that can speak a little bit more to the topic or project that is of most interest.
Enoch: The NSB Fish and Wildlife Mgt committee meeting we always try to hit every community and have meetings in the villages and what they do is have our regular meeting and then have an evening presentation. Our main goal is trying to reach out to the community members at large to try to get them involved and it is has been very successful and in the evenings our biologists, administrator, etc. do various types of presentations.

Michael: This is extremely valuable information to get from the villages.

Robert: Do homework with the village council or with the community first, figure out what their particular interest might be and then have a small group go down prepared to talk about those items in a more detailed but also get the program presented as well. Doing it through evening presentations makes a lot of sense to me also and so if nobody has any other suggestion I think that is what we will work on heading in that direction. Try to figure out if we can get this in villages later this summer or early this fall and kick that off.

Tom: This is separate from you and Taqulik going, right?

Robert: Yes this is information transferred to try to get more people aware of what is going on with this group and try to get feedback from this group. Taqulik and I can commit to going to Kaktovik and Nuiqsut to meet with the city councils to try to help them pick somebody that wants to be involved and can be involved, is excited about being involved. Taqulik and I have a short list of names for Kaktovik and an even short list of names for Nuiqsut but we do have some list of people that would be a positive addition.

Discussion of door prizes for these meetings.

Discussion of meeting more often maybe setting a standard time each month.

Robert: we will skip to June and schedule a teleconference for mid to late July.

Topics for teleconferences:
1. What is happening in the villages. 2. How is the seal hunt going. 3. How is the bowhead hunt going. 4. Are you seeing anything of significance. 5. What new is going on?

Take a 20 minute break.

Robert: Back to the By Laws, does anybody have anything else they want to add or subtract from the By Laws.

Robert: On the very last page in Article IX in the last paragraph there is says that we can amend the By Laws as we need to as we go forward but I think we are covered.

Robert: Motion on the floor to Adopt the By Laws.
Motion to Adopt the By Laws. Seconded and other discussion. Questions? Any opposition that have been modified, hearing none the By Laws have been ADOPTED.

Summary of Shell plans for the summer.

1. Plan to drill in the Chukchi and Beaufort. Goal is to drill three wells this year 60 miles from AIN.

2. We are doing a significantly more expansive on shore program this year. The Planning Commission meeting in AIN the 29th of May and in Pt. Lay the 30th and then Atqasuk the last day of May for public hearing.

Robert: One thing that is related to the Steering Committee that is pertinent is…. assuming Shell does drill in the Chukchi and if there is a significant find given that your starting to move forward more substantially with on shore studies, it may be something that we should tackle as a Steering Committee in the not too distance future. There are some on shore studies we want to tackle and so we can talk more about that later on this Fall and if we want to do that is to form a subcommittee or try to bring in advisors that have more terrestrial experience.

Ron: Complaints about the earthquake 30 miles south of Pt. Hope and early this winter we had another earthquake south of Pt. Hope again, we know the seismic drillers were drilling some years back south of pt. hope. I wonder if you all are aware of the earthquakes? The only concerns I have received were about the earthquakes.

Robert: I have heard about the earthquakes down there I know Kaktovik had one a year or two ago.

Enoch: Ice currents and thickness affects our hunting. Everything is getting too expensive to purchase. I hope that Shell Oil are good stewards and treat our Arctic Environment appropriately.

Michael: I think word is getting around about this program and it can potentially do. Investigators around the country or even around the world are coming up with ideas on how they can help us. One was a professor from Texas A&M, David Kerns, an unsolicited proposal. It talks about establishing photographic locations for repeated photography primarily oriented at coastal landforms and building component in here utilizing residents to so to described GPS locations and take a photo and developing it.

Victoria: One of the reasons that we are not looking too much at Oil Spill related projects in the Arctic but in baseline and environment. I represent Shell on the very large research project that specifically deals with only Oil Spills and I would like to occasionally at these meetings to give you information so I can report to you about the work that we do and you can provide feedback and we can look for opportunity to calibrate with the projects, so this is about 21 million dollars
project between Nine Oil Companies for the next four years to look at all aspects of Oil Spill Response, better detection, better detection from the air, from the water, from the eyes and environmental impact to look and connect all available leadership that exists in the world about impact of oil and different organisms and how they recover, additional study in this area, the mechanical recovery, we are studying dispersants and we are putting together a communication literature to summarize burning for example: what it means, what the impacts and so. So on all of these projects we have issued requests for the proposals so research will apply.

Discussion of unsolicited proposals and how to deal with them. When these sort of things (unsolicited bids) happen does the Committee want to know about them?

Committee: Not really.

Robert: Keeping track of opportunities, at least with the teleconferences we can keep track and then put them on the agendas for the in person meetings.

Michael: 60% of Shell does is leverage in some way shape or form and it has been a significant approach and we are always looking on for the opportunities. We have talked about a core group of projects that we are interested in forwarding to this program in the next year or so. We ought to have a group of topics so when an opportunity comes along then we can say that is a good one.

Robert: I think that when we talked for what is planned for 2012 and 2013 with this year’s money it is worthwhile to keep those in mind. One of the aspects of tomorrow’s discussion about how we want to plan for the longer term science and how to fill information needs, I think we should come up with topics or areas or general areas of priorities.

Review and Discussion of 2011-2012 Budget.

Recess
NSB/Shell Baseline Studies Program

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuzzy Library Barrow Alaska

May 17, 2012 9:00 am

DRAFT MINUTES

May 17, 2012 9:00 a.m.

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Robert: Call the Meeting to Order

INVOCATION:

INTRODUCTIONS:

Containers for freezing.

December meeting we discussed needing help from villages during these projects. Keep the people informed of projects and possibility of renting housing or vehicles.
We talked back in December about the possibility using high frequency radar Tom’s study at Icy Cape.

Discussion of on-going projects. Handout with bullets.

Enoch: Concerns of what is drifting in our waters because for two years straight now we are getting murky water that has traveled through AIN. Are we collecting samples on these things? Ex: red tide, murky waters. Is this stuff contagious to sea mammals?

Robert: I know two or three times in the last four to five years weird stuff has shown up in the ocean, like down in Kivalina two years ago all that orange stuff showed up and it ended up being a fungus/algae spores and then the big Mat of something that turned out to be Algae in AIN and Barrow. We do have money set aside for these types of things to be analyzed. So we trying to be as prepared as we can to respond to those kinds of situations, and then to make sure the information goes back to the community.

Discussion of the Forage Fish Project there is a subgroup. If this is starting in December something needs to be done.

Sue: Do you have a sense of how you would want a RFP written in this case or should we perhaps model it sort of on the PRB model, there are a number of ways to go about this.

Robert: Michael had some ideas and if I remember correctly he wanted to put out a broad RFP, ex: Here is the topic that we are interested in pursuing, we want to know about forage fish as it relates to marine mammals, we want to know how the oceanography influences forage fish that may be in the area……. we want the scientific community to give us some ideas of how to go forward. We want proposals to say, here is what a one year study would look like but it may be worthwhile to do this for two or three years because of these reasons. But initially the funding is available for one year, have a proposal that addresses one year project but with the options of doing additional years.

Discussion of forage fish project and overlapping with other projects.

Discussion of using the KBRW Radio talk show to get information out to the people regarding the Steering Committee and the projects.

Break 10:30 a.m.

**Ring Seal Project review presentation- Robert Suydam**

The main reason for doing this is because there wasn’t a lot of information on ring seal movement that surprisingly few seals have been tagged and so the understanding of their movement, where they went and what they did was not as good as it should be especially given that they are being considered for listing under the endangered species act and because of
increasing human activity in the arctic, the rapidly changing environment and the because of
polar bears depend on them for food. The main objectives were to look at yearly and seasonal
movements of adults and juvenile ring seals and look at migration routes. Do they come back to
the same place every year do they use the same migratory route every year and then to use that
information to better understand habitat use and foraging behavior.

The flipper tags is attached to the hind flipper, and only gives locations and the head tag records
how deep seals go, and how long they stay at that depth. The tags are a little bit larger so they
have more storage area and have greater battery power.

You heard us talk about the unusual mortality rate and the reason we recognized it is because the
satellite tagging project. In the process of getting the seals that had hauled out onto the land
Jason started seeing seals that had sores around their face. When he tagged the seals the hair fell
out and we lost the tag due to the illness.

Out of the 14 tags on the head, 5 tags were still sending information as of February of this year.
Out of the 16 tags on the flippers, 3 are still transmitting as of today.

Committee members had discussions on the seals movements and harvesting issues while
reviewing the presentation.

Questions regarding the presentations?

I imagine the satellite head tags can’t transmit when the seal is in the lair, can it transmit through
the ice? I was just curious if Jason thought about looking at whether you could use the time
depth recorder to look at when their dry or in a real shallow spot? To find out where the lair’s
might be?

**High Frequency Radar and Wave/Tide Gauges Presentation - Tom Weingartner**

They are largely unrelated projects and if we chose to advance they will provide infrastructure to
the Borough in terms of instrumentation and in local people actively engaged in the projects.
Interesting discussion at the December meeting with Willard and Ransom where they had
mentioned to me that they saw a tremendous retreat in the sea level and I asked what were the
winds doing and they stated the winds were really calm. Showing a little data from moorings we
have out right now that extend off of Pt. Franklin out across the head of Barrow Canyon and
these instruments sit near the bottom and they measure the currents over the whole water column
almost to but not include the surface.

Lunch Break

**HFR and Wave/Tide Gauges Presentation continued**
HFR’s in Barrow, AIN and Pt. Lay we have the radar’s in these locations because of power we get from the villages to run the Radar. Radar’s waves have to overlap with each other to get current measures and the radar waves can’t bounce over land and then the ocean, so there are a couple places that won’t show data.

The baseline studies program we would fund the Borough to train locals to deploy, recover and maintain the radars at these remote sites in AIN and Pt. Lay and a technician would have to be involved in training people teaching them how to help setup and what to look for in terms of routine problems. It will probably require about three to four people from each village to be available during the open water season. I would like Conoco Phillips buy the power systems and ship them to Wainwright and Pt. Lay, then this program would provide the funding for the people to train them and participate in running them out of their sites and then with the funding I (UAF) have from BOEM we would process the data. So I see this as collaboration among three funding organizations.

Tom Action Item Task Report of contacting fish and wildlife service if they would have a problem with having one of these devices near Icy Cape and Pt. Franklin and Tom’s contact at fish and wildlife said no, that there would be no issues with respect to having one of these devices put out at Icy Cape and Pt. Franklin.

How do the committee members feel about Tom’s recommendation and wanting to participate as he outlined? Members: Enoch yes, Victoria yes, Ron yes, Robert yes, Sue yes, Hajo yes.

Wave and Tide Gauges: How do you feel about supporting these? Members are in favor of this project also.

Hajo: Would like to have input from the community representatives.

Election of chair or vice chair – continued we do not have a quorum.

Break

Robert: Last two years of this program we have figured out what science projects we wanted to do, in December 2011 the committee suggested that we should find a way of identifying research/study needs in a more systematic way and then prioritizing them in a more systematic way.

There have been a large number of efforts that have gone into identifying the information needs for the Arctic and this is just one of them. This is the report that the US Geological Service did at the request of the Secretary of the Interior to identify needed information for the US Beaufort and Chukchi Sea. We could start from that report, there a lot of others as well. MMS held a workshop approximately 6-8 years ago to try to do the same thing and they came up with a report that showed the needs for physical oceanography, marine mammals, and birds. I want to talk
about what we want to do, how we want to move forward with identifying the science we want
to do in 2013-2014.

**Brain storming session** on how to move forward on identifying science projects.

Committee members discussed how to move forward, Victoria did not agree with using the
reports from the US Geological Service or MMS. Sue suggested that the NSSI Barrow report
should be looked at because it would be more focused on what this group is looking at.

Committee discussed multiple ways to identify projects.

Village representatives are very concerned with what will happen if there is a spill and getting
information from the people to help the committee know what projects would be helpful for their
community. Combining the science and cultural knowledge and maybe the problems can be
solved. Enoch and Ron are happy with the Steering Committee and what they are trying to do.

Victoria: It appears that information is needed and I would like to forward a new recently
published online book about Arctic Oil Spills and it through many of the topics that we may be
interested in, in a very general format with pictures without much science and it addresses some
of the concerns of what we can and cannot do. Maybe we could summarize the information and
get it back to the community.

Robert: if we are going to move that way we need to think carefully about how we do that and
make sure we get feedback from the communities about what they think about it as well, so that
it doesn’t become us trying to push information on people that they might not believe in for
justifiable reasons and I think it is in the realm of what we can do but I think we need to use
some caution if we move in that direction.

Is the committee opposed to members sending out information to other committee members or
would you like things to be funneled through Malissa or the Chair.

Hajo/Tom/Sue: I think being funneled through Committee Administration

Village representatives would like to have a model of the activities that is going on in the
communities, also the impact from extra people being in the villages.

Shortage of housing and increase in housing costs are already being seen.

Input from the villages is very important for our meetings and wish that we had participation
from all villages.

**Public Comments**

Data sharing question has been addressed in the Agreement and it is the intent that any data that
comes out of this program to be made available in some form. This process is being addressed.
Discussion regarding data sharing quantity vs quality. We want to be as transparent as possible in this program.

Discussion of having a social scientist in the committee.

Ron suggested having the name of the steering committee in Inupiat.

Next teleconference in July and Meeting in late summer or early fall September.

Robert: Thanked everyone for being at the meeting and the contributions from all members.

Members: Thanked everyone for the barbeque and organizing the meeting.

Adjourned