

Chuck Naiser

Interviewed by Jen Brown

February 12, 2022

Lamar, Texas

Transcribed by Kenya Zarate and Alyssa Lucas

[Jen Brown]: All right, we are recording. This is Jen Brown. I'm here in Lamar, Texas, with Chuck Naiser to record an oral history with him about his life and work, um, and it is February 12? 2022 (both talking at once)—

[Chuck Naiser]: Yes, yes (both laugh).

[Brown]: Um, for the record, do I have your permission to record?

[Naiser]: You do.

[Brown]: Okay, great. Um, well, since this is an oral history, the best starting point here is, can you tell me more about your background and early life?

[Naiser]: How far back (laughs)? I've got a long early life.

[Brown]: Okay, from the beginning.

[Naiser]: From the beginning, uh—

[Brown]: —Or however much you want to tell me.

[Naiser]: I was born a Rockefeller and they switched me in the crib, so I had to work (both laugh). I was born in Mobile, Alabama, at Brookley Air Force Base during World War II, and, you know, immediately came to Texas, where I grew up in a little town called East Bernard, which is German, a Bohemian Czech farming community outside of Houston, and my father was superintendent of the schools, and had a lot of respect for him. He was orphaned at an early age and went on and educated himself and always admired him. Um, grew up hunting, fishing, and being a student, because dad wanted to make sure I did that, whether I wanted to or not (both laugh). Yeah, just, just a wonderful, rich, cultural upbringing in a community of people, who at that time, people cared for each other, you know, I had a lot of parents. I had my parents were all in that community because if I did something wrong, mother and daddy heard about it, so it was—I was kind of a marked kid in that regard, but it's what's missing out of life today, but I don't want to get off on that deal, but it was a wonderful, wonderful opportunity. At the time, I didn't think so because there were neighboring towns that were a little bit bigger, that had to hold a lot more pretty girls in it (laughs), and so I thought, "Well, I'd like to live over there," but you reflect back on it, and you say, "No, I was in the right place."

[Brown]: Um-hm, and so you fished a lot. Did you fly fish growing up or?

[Naiser]: No, there was, no, I mean, we had farm ponds and creeks, and we catfished with throw lines and, you know, threw worms at bass, and if you caught a two pound one, it was really big, and that was basically what I did. The fly fishing I had, I remember I ordered a fly-tying kit out of a comic book, and I ordered several things out of comic books that weren't comic (laughs). They weren't very functional, but they got my dollar and thirty-five cents so. Nah, I didn't do the fly fishing back then.

[Brown]: Um-hm, when did you get into saltwater fishing?

[Naiser]: When I was growing up, I had an uncle who had a boat, and about once every two years we'd come to the—I'm sorry, I got distracted here with this computer, but would come to the coast one or two times, and every time I came to the coast, I was intrigued by the idea that I never knew what I was going to catch or how big it was. When I went to a farm pond, I knew I was going to catch a black bass. It was going to be a pound to two pounds. I knew it. And so, the excitement came when I got around to all the other species. Then, I met my wife playing bridge at college, and her folks were diehard saltwater fishermen. She was really cute. She brought me to Rockport while we were dating, and she's, well, she's good. She really is (laughs). I mean, I'm going like, "God, this gal is beautiful, and she can fish." Oh, my man, I'm hooked (both laugh), you know.

[Brown]: Where did y'all go to college?

[Naiser]: At Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, and I walked in the room and there were four gals sitting around that table, and I looked at her. That was it.

[Brown]: And you've been together ever since?

[Naiser]: Fifty-three years, yeah.

[Brown]: Do you have children?

[Naiser]: We have one son, Clay, who is in Pearland. He is a reliability engineer manager at a huge refinery in Baytown.

[Brown]: Okay, and so what happened when you two graduated? What did you—

[Naiser]: She went to Houston, and I finished up my school, and I just—we just got married (laughs). There wasn't any sense wasting a bunch of time. So we were there in Houston. She taught, and I sold insurance.

[Brown]: Um-hm.

[Naiser]: I never did follow my biology. I do more biology work now than I ever did.

[Brown]: Oh, really?

[Naiser]: Yeah.

[Brown]: Um so, how did you get to Rockport?

[Naiser]: Uh, her dad and Marguerite, my wife, we call her Gete, G-e-t-e. Marguerite's a long, awkward name, we would go floundering on the weekend, so we'd come—do you know what floundering is? Walk around with a lantern and a gig, and don't step on a stingray, but stick a flounder. So, we would do that a lot on the weekends, and we had a choice of either fishing up in the northern part of the state up in Matagorda Bay or Galveston or wherever or come to Rockport, and the water was so much more beautiful down here, so we just said, "Let's just go to Rockport." So, Gete had an uncle that lived here, Emmett House, who loved for us to come down here, so we'd go stay with him, and just, you know, we never wore out our welcome, but we sure, we had a great time coming down here. So, the choice was to come to Rockport was based upon the water quality, amongst other things in there, and so we got to where we were traveling to Rockport, oh, in the seventies, we came here forty weekends a year, and we bought a house here in '80 and moved here full time in '92.

[Brown]: Okay, and can you describe when did you first come to Rockport, and what was it like back then?

[Naiser]: Well, it was 1967. That's when I came here with—she brought me down here. You know, you have to be careful how you answer that question. I do. My wife jumps on me all the time because I just say, "Well, there wasn't anybody here." I mean, it's just—but that's the truth. There was a culture of people locally who fished but not very many, and then the weekenders were not very many, so you came down here, and you basically were by yourself in all of this water. I mean, I'm telling you, you could come here on July Fourth weekend, and if you saw another boat, you were kind of, "Where'd that come from?" So, you had this solemn atmosphere to work in or environment to work in and just unimpeded by anybody else. I mean, God, it was, it was glorious, and I don't, you know, I don't resent the people that come here because they're just, they have a lot of people coming to Rockport and all over the coast for a lot of reasons, but I don't own any of this place. I can't tell people, and I don't want to tell, but I want them to see what I've seen, and then they'll be better stewards of it. Uh, I guess I got off track there, but it was like, after I started guiding daily and thinking about all of this stuff and just over years, putting it all together, I would think back to what I first saw and how that it changed, and I thought, "What did the Indians see?" You know, if you think back ten years, think back two hundred years, and how all of these connections and creeks and islands and shorelines have changed, and you go out at night over into Mesquite Bay, and there's no other sound, and there's no light pollution, and you think, "What a sight. What, What a heaven on earth for the Karankawa Indians. What did they see?" They had no high-lines, no light pollution,

no sound. The water was pure. It just (coughs)—excuse me. Um, that was all part of what was here, was today and then the past. I love Rockport, I do. I'm just, I'm just lucky. I think if everybody could have witnessed what I did, in its purest forms, they would think more of the resource, they would protect it more, but I realized after a while, going back to the Indian deal, I realized truthfully, what I saw in 1967 was the end of what they had witnessed.

[Brown]: And how would you describe it to someone like me who wasn't there at the time?

[Naiser]: Um, the feeling, the—

[Brown]: Yeah, what it looked like, how it felt, yeah.

[Naiser]: Well, the water was—the water was different in that—I hate to just jump right into this oyster deal, but this water was beautiful all the time, and winds would, might disturb it for a day but not for weeks in terms of turbidity. There were very few duck blind structures. It just, it was in its natural form. The shell reefs were healthy, they were the results of eons of growth, and the vegetation was far different. I can think back to so many things that have evolved over time, and it troubles me because I think what we had here was far better than what we have now, and I'm working, you know, you can't change this, but you can, you can try to make a difference in what the next step is going to be.

[Brown]: Um-hm, so—

[Naiser]: But it's just like, if you went to any department store that really excited you, and you walked in, and there was nobody there to interfere with your shopping, and you could have anything you want and walk out of there free without breaking the law (both laugh), you know, it just, that's really it. I mean, I don't want to get ahead of the game here, but part of my feeling today is that I learned in God's laboratory unimpeded by anyone else, and I don't mean that necessarily like it sounds. I could go to a place and observe everything in there and not have it changed by the presence of somebody else passing through, and God bless them. I already said I don't own this place. I'm just telling you that it was an extreme—it was like having a lab at HRI [Harte Research Institute] to yourself, and it was the best thing you could ever imagine for your ability to absorb the truth and what was going on out there.

[Brown]: Um-hm.

[Naiser]: That probably doesn't make sense, but—

[Brown]: No, it does. So, what changed?

[Naiser]: Well, it's like that little Instagram deal. The little dog is sitting on a couch, and it says in an animated voice, "Uh-oh," and then someone says, "What?" And they say, "People," but people changed it, and then you have things that, that are natural that tell you, you know, in the video that I did, I said, "All the things that are wrong are not caused just by people. There

are other factors in it, too.” You had the freezes of ‘83 and ‘89, you had the algae blooms all in between there that killed fish, you had man coming in here with his machinery and having little respect for what they were doing as far as damaging vegetation. Global warming is a real issue to sea level rise, changes the makeup of the vegetation, and I hate sea level rise, I do. I hate that term because it has so many political connotations to it. I mean, it’s a fact, and what else? Probably, I did. I probably had, now, I know I had a negative impact on this deal. By me walking out there, running my boat, doing things that are wrong, and then you see all of it going on, and you think, “I’ve got to change some of this.”

[Brown]: So, what got you started in conservation?

[Naiser]: Well, I guess if you got a biology degree, you think in terms of some of this stuff, at least in a peripheral sense. I never was a biologist. I just had a degree in it, but in the mid-seventies, there was a force here of commercial fishing that took the resource and harvested it with gillnets and trotlines, and it became a people deal, too. It became more and more and more of them as the market value increased, and they, they depleted the resource. I mean, it just was, I could go out here in 1974 and see fish everywhere I went, and then slowly in the next three or four years, you’d go like, “Well, where are the fish? They’re gone. The water’s here, but the fish aren’t.” So, it became a pretty established fact that the commercial harvest was the reason. So I met, in 1977, I met a group of people in Houston at a boat show that formed the Gulf Coast Conservation Association, and I joined that group, and I’m not one to really sit on sideline, I guess, so I jumped right in, and we decided or they decided, it was Walter Fondren and other, Dusty Rhodes, I met so many people that, you know, a lot of them have passed on, but they were true, true conservationists with a single focus, and I joined them. We have become very active in it. We went to Austin where we worked on bills to have trout and redfish declared gamefish and taken off the commercial market, and we fought that fight for three years, and in 1981, we got it done. So, that introduced me—and I met Perry Bass, he was chairman emeritus of the Parks and Wildlife, and Bob Kemp, the famed biologist for the Park. I met all of those people, and I mingled with them, and it’s a different time. You talked, you didn’t email, you know (laughs). So, in that endeavor, I met game wardens up and down the coast, and I just can’t believe how many people in this setting of conservation that I met during that time. And once we got it done, I slowly got to where it was—as I got out, I did other things, and that got me started, and it got me thinking that you can go do things. You can work. If you work, you have the potential for reward.

[Brown]: Um-hm. Can you tell me more about kind of your work in Austin trying to get redfish as a game fish?

[Naiser]: Well, when you don’t know what you’re doing, you get terribly naïve, and in the legislative world, just because you’re right doesn’t mean you’re going to get what you want. You have enemies, you have people who disagree with you for, usually for economic reasons, if nothing else, and I think it was—it was disappointing. I just thought, oh, Superman deal, truth, justice and the American way would win, and that’s not the way it is, and I think I was more disappointed in the process, but you get into the process, you fight through it, and you work

around it, you play the game, and I don't know really what to say about it. I mean, I'm proud of what we did. I think we gave the state and the resource a terrific gift. People don't even know this happened now (laughs). They don't know that they're, you know, people who are forty years old have no idea what we did, and that's okay. But I don't know what else to say about it other than it was a task that I never felt like would turn into the battle that it turned into with all the disappointments, and at the end, you did high-fives and went off and have cocktails and did all that kind of stuff.

[Brown]: Describe why was it a battle?

[Naiser]: (coughs) Pardon me. Well, there were vested interests in the ability to sale trout and redfish. Restaurants, the Texas Restaurant Association, the fish houses, the local chambers of commerce, there was a lot of people opposed, you know, people that have fish fries, you know, big fish fries to make at fundraisers, and so, they would get the finfish from a fish house to go have product for their fish fries. That's just an example. I mean, the Texas Restaurant Association, that was a big battle right there. There are a lot of restaurants that sell a lot of fish, so you're taking away their resource, and redfish farming was not in the game then, so there was a gap in their ability. Famously (laughs), Bill Clements, Governor Bill Clements, when he was taking (laughs), he was given the task of signing some of this stuff, and his comment was, "To hell with them, let them eat catfish." That was literally (both laugh) not a good thing to say politically at the time, but it was classic. "Let them eat catfish."

[Brown]: Can you tell me why they called it the redfish wars?

[Naiser]: Sure. Well, redfish were at the front and center of it. The trout and—the trout and the redfish were the two big market items, so we came out with programs that said, "Save the redfish." I mean, what are you going to do to? Say save the redfish, the trout, the flounder, the, you know, so on, and so we, yeah, it just had a ring to it, and it had a nice logo, so that became our mantra, and the commercial fisherman—it got ugly. I'm going to tell you, it got ugly. The breed of commercial fisherman back then were people embedded in the community that had done that all their lives, so we're threatening their way of life. The game wardens—and they were sneaky, they knew what they were doing, and they'd go out in the worst weather on Earth and set their monofilament nets to garner all the fish in there, and the game wardens would go out, and they'd play cat and mouse and hide and seek and it was really, this wasn't any Mickey Mouse, "Oh, get out of my way darlin'" deal. This was blood and guts. I had my house shot. I carried a pistol everywhere I went. I was a marked guy. I really was. I was head of the violation committee so, yeah, I talked at the Parks and Wildlife. I did a lot of things. I debated on live TV, a commercial fisherman, on Channel Two News in Houston. So, it was a war. It really was, and that's a good, a good concise term for it, the redfish wars.

[Brown]: Um-hm. What did you do at the time? I mean, your house is getting shot?

[Naiser]: Yeah, I had a house down here that was a weekend house and across the street from me was a commercial fisherman, and he'd go get drunk (laughs), and he hated me. He really

did. It was, it was a funny, there were some funny stories that came out of it. His name was Jack Foote, F-o-o-t-e. He's deceased. He went on and moved to California and whatever, but he—these guys were, they were a diverse group of guys that you really didn't want to make mad (laughs). They'd probably all been to jail anyway, so they didn't care. But he sent some, well, oh, I've got to back out here. There was another one here, very famous commercial fisherman named Howard Brown, and Howard was, oh God, he was an Army Ranger or some deal. He was very outspoken (laughs). He'd go to Austin with me to testify and all that, and he and I were—did battle. We did, and he became, after we passed this, he became a fishing guide. He took President Bush out just like I did, and so he had, before all that happened, he had taken his boat's called the Angel B, was a little boat, and it was named after his wife. He had, his first boat was Angel, and his (laughs) second boat was Angel B, a little skiff that, you know, they had dark skiffs, they didn't want to be seen at night, so they were all black. He went back in the back end of Copano where my house was, and he set all of his trotlines back there. So, he comes back to run them, and they're all gone, they're cut. So Foote told him that I did it. So, Howard goes to the Parks and Wildlife and files a complaint against me. So, the game wardens come, I was friends with all of them, you know, we had a lot in common, and Johnny Karstadt and some of those iconic game wardens back then, and Johnny said, "Chuck, hey, I got to talk to you," and I said, "Sure, come on. What's the deal?" He said, "Well, I've got a complaint filed against you." I said, "Okay, by who?" And he said, "Well, Howard Brown." "Uh, what?" He said, "Yeah, Howard said, you cut all of his trotlines," and I said, "Johnny, I didn't do that, and if I did, I'd be proud of it, and I'd tell you I did it" (Brown laughs). So, he goes back to Howard and says, "Howard, Chuck didn't do that." So, he went back—Jack Foote had done it, told him that I did it, and so he and Jack Foote got into a fight (both laugh). So, that's just—I mean, it was childish stuff, that today it's funny to me anyway, I don't know.

[Brown]: (Laughs) Wow.

[Naiser]: But it was a war, make no mistake about it. I had people, Jimmy Atkins, he had his cabin burned. I don't think anyone was ever shot over the deal, but there was a lot of stuff that could of, you know, game wardens had their boats rammed. It was, it just, it was a war. I mean, we're in here stopping a lifestyle and a way of life. So people are going respond.

[Brown]: What was your argument at the time to shift for the game fishing? I mean, were you concerned about these guys? I mean, why push for the game fish?

[Naiser]: Well, we had tried for a while to impose some restrictions on their harvest quotas and stuff like that, and they, I mean, none of that works. How are you going to enforce that? How are you going to keep people from sneaking out? If you've got a house on Copano Bay that's on the water and the right time comes and you just tootle out of your place and go net them, what the hell are they going—who's going to get you? So, (coughs) everything, everything that was attempted didn't work. There was no deterrent on the people who were causing the problem. To go to game fish became, let me tell you, there were no fish here, okay? I mean, if I went out and spent a day on the water, and saw, saw, because my fishing is evolving to site fishing, so I go look, okay? I had some pretty good sampling and a pretty good idea of what's going on,

whereas I could go out and see a hundred or two hundred fish in a day and go, you see, hey, man, today I saw five. Well, what are you going to do, let the resource be depleted to zero? You know, which is not going to happen, but fishing, sport fishing is a huge industry, and it's vital to these coastal communities. You can't—it's harder to measure than the value of a commercial catch because that's more of a finite recordable thing, but it became apparent that the only way we were going to stop this is put it in a category to where if there was a violation, it went to a different penal level. Okay? And so, that was the attack that we took, and that's where it evolved, and that became a big bloodbath, and there were many, many stories about how this thing happened and got done, but the legislators were under a lot of pressure there. I swore I'd never go back to Austin. I did. I mean, it just—and here I am back in Austin (both laugh), forty something years later, I'm doing it again. I'm going like you're too old for this stuff, my golden years. Here's Chuck, he died in anger (both laugh).

[Brown]: So, what happened after it? After they—everything kind—

[Naiser]: —Um—

[Brown]: —of calmed down a little bit?

[Naiser]: It settled down. A few of the guys become fishing guides. Howard was a, oh, I loved old Howard Brown. We became friends. If nothing else, we had respect for each other, and he was a colorful dude, to say the least. But it went, um, three years, and the population started coming back. We instituted—we started building hatcheries, so many things were born out of that battle that carry on today. You know, the science was not advanced like it is today, so the question is, will the natural hatch replenish the population, or will we have to supplant it with hatchery fish, and so we embarked on a course to establish hatcheries to raise, and we did that with Dow Chemical in Freeport. They really got behind us and funded all of that study. It just evolved into a science of its own, and over time, a couple of years, it started rebounding.

[Brown]: Was it a pretty obvious rebound?

[Naiser]: Yeah, yeah, you know, six-pound fish don't rebound in a year. That's a five-year-old fish. Was it obvious to the point to where you went out, and you just stuck a thermometer in the whole deal visually, and you said, "Oh, they're back." No, I mean, this is all a gradual thing. Nothing happens in a hurry out here, when your here all the time, you get a feeling of what's going on, but they weren't taking the smaller juvenile fish, so those were essentially here. What you did is you lost the brood fish. Like I say, the science evolved, and people learned that all of these fish are born offshore, and they come in as larvae rather than being born in the bay, and so this was all an amazing epiphany in how we manage the resource now.

[Brown]: Um-hm, yeah.

[Naiser]: Science at its finest.

[Brown]: Yes, definitely improved. Um, how would you measure the fishing back then to today?

[Naiser]: Back then, when? How far back (both laugh)? Keep in mind I've got a long—my backside is longer than my front side is (laughs).

[Brown]: Well, once the populations rebounded?

[Naiser]: Once?

[Brown]: Yeah, like in the eighties, after?

[Naiser]: Well, you had, again, it's land, water, and mud was the title of my talk. That's where it gets all muddy is because we stopped the commercial take in '81, so it starts slowly rebounding, and it actually came back pretty quick, but in two years, we were catching keeper fish again, and then we hit the freeze of '83, and it killed them, I mean, deader than a hammer, you know, percentage wise, I couldn't tell you. I can tell you that in my mind's eye and Parks and Wildlife data, the freeze of 2021 killed forty to fifty percent of the fish. So, I can't give you a percentage, but it killed a lot of fish, I mean, they were floating everywhere. Um so, you go forward, then you have a setback. Two or three years later, you have another population of fish, then we had a red tide algae bloom that killed a lot of fish, and then they rebound. You know, it seems like to me about two or three year rebound time, and then we had the freeze of '89, which was horrible. I mean, St. Charles Bay froze completely over. You couldn't go ice skating on it, but you couldn't run your boat through there either (laughs). So it killed, it killed probably more—'89 killed more fish than probably '83 did, but the difference was the water got so cold for so long that the fish never decomposed. We were told that they just went to the bottom, and that's where they were going to stay. You didn't see them. So, the only way you can measure these things is by gillnet surveys, and the Parks and Wildlife historically had a good gillnet survey program, which was stepped up as a response to the redfish wars, and a gillnet survey has value when it's not at the same place, same time, so if you had a winter freeze, you had to wait for the spring for the gillnet surveys, and they were all in and deciphered by July.

[Brown]: What got you into guiding?

[Naiser]: You know, being raised in East Bernard in the outdoors, I didn't want to be in the office. I didn't, and things had gotten goofy, and I was in the insurance business, did a lot of other things, most of which didn't work out, but, hell, at least I learned from them, but I learned that the best day of my life was Friday when I was going, driving to Rockport, and the worst day was Sunday when I was going home, and it wasn't that I was going home to ol' what's her name, what is her name (laughs)? I hope she's not listening (both laugh). But you go—I was forty-eight years old, and I said, you know, the old saying, "To thine own self be true." That if you're not—I wasn't happy, and if you're not happy, the people around you are not happy, and they're not doing as well as they could do if you were happy. So, what's making you unhappy, and I said, "Leaving Rockport, I don't want to leave." So, I just said, pardon me, "To hell with it. I'm not doing this anymore." So, I go home to Gete, and I said, "I'm going to Rockport," and she

said, “Well, what are you going to do?” And I said, “I’m a guide, and I sure hope I can,” and she said, “Okay.” That was it. So, we moved into our little house here, and we were fat, dumb and happy, and forty-eight years old, and took long walks every day. It was a great time. It really was. But I just wanted—Jay Watkins is a famous, wonderful guide, steward of the habitat here, and he grew up here in Rockport, and I envied him more than any person I’ve ever envied. I could go see him in Tackle Town, and we’d talk and, I mean, Saturday, Sunday, whatever, and I’d think to myself, “That scamp. When I leave here Monday, he’s going to have this whole cockeyed thing to himself, and I can’t let that happen anymore (laughs).” He did, Jay Watkins, he probably, I wish he had, someday I’ll tell you, but he had more to do, but I just couldn’t stand to have him have this whole place to himself because I knew what it was (laughs). In ‘90 I had this place figured out, but anyway, the pursuit of happiness, to thine own self be true.

[Brown]: So, can you talk about why you formed FlatsWorthy?

[Naiser]: Yeah, sure. Absolutely, I know why I formed it. When I came here and started in ‘92 full time, started guiding early ‘93, somewhere in there, and so yeah, I’ve already told you that I had God’s laboratory. I had the whole place to myself, and I don’t mean it that way, but it’s the truth. And so, you go from that to you slowly see the increase in people coming down here, and I’m all for it. I want people to, okay, I’m not against it. I’m not bitter about that. When you don’t have anything to do but fish, you think about all of these factors you put together, I think that’s where my biology came in, to where I tried to combine in this land, water, mud deal. Never is an effect the result of one cause. It’s everything in concert, yields a product. I’ve tried to explain it, and the best analogy I can come up with, Jack Cowan, who is a famous artist like Herb Booth is, and what they do is they take colors, and all the colors that there are, and they bring them back and they combine them into a depiction of what they have in their mind’s eye. So, that painting is the result of every little part, and it’s the same thing out here on the water, that the result out here is a product of all of the component parts, all of the reasons, all of the factors, but taking the answer in your question is that I saw people coming in, I saw habits being formed, I saw we had—you know what a school of fish is? We still had them, and there would be so many people on the water and mainly led by guides who were not good stewards of this. They were not teachers, they were not leaders, they were takers, and you could get a school of fifty or a hundred redfish, and they’d take ten boats and surround them. Well, those fish will stay together as a defense mechanism, and they would surround those fish and just throw cut mullet up in there and start catching them, and they caught every one of them, and you’d go like, “Well, these people are teaching their clients that this is acceptable behavior,” and then people started running their boats everywhere, running over people, not physically, but interfering with the way they were fishing, and it just—I figured, look, I’m going to be doing this for a while yet. So, that took about five years from I’d say from 2007 or ‘08 as an example to 2012, ‘13, ‘14, that’s when it just really got horrible. So, I said, “I can either go hide, or I can do something about this, or at least I can try.” You know, the old saying, if you don’t try, you won’t win, and if you don’t quit, you won’t lose. So, I said “I’m going to start a dialogue,” so I called twelve people together, and we went and we had a meeting, and there were people, Jay Watkins and others from different user groups. I said, “Are you guys happy with what’s going on?” No. I mean, I had kayakers there, but I had the whole gamut. I said, “Look, I can’t do this

anymore. I can't take it, and we've got to start talking about it, and we've got to start working on it." So, they all agreed, and when that came together, then I said, "Well, I've got to have a group." So, I called a friend of mine, and he was a graphic artist, and I said, "I've got to have some help," and so he came up, Dan Glidden is his name. He came up with the name FlatsWorthy and the logo and there you go. A star was born, not me, but FlatsWorthy (Brown laughs). I mean, nobody else was doing this. Nobody was talking about it. There was no dialogue, it was all grumbling, it was all gnashing of teeth, and this is supposed to be a happy place. It's supposed to be a happy, healthy environment for people to come enjoy, and you can be aggressive catching fish, that didn't have anything to do with it. It was just—I coined the phrase, and it's called jackassery (Brown laughs), and that's what was going on. It was an extreme case of bad jackassery out here.

[Brown]: Can you explain like what you mean by that, what people were doing?

[Naiser]: If I was in a cove, and I'm fishing that cove, and two people come idling up to me and start fishing it because they saw me there, and not me, I'm an example, okay? Encroachment, a guy fishing in a boat, and you're supposed to maintain a distance, okay? If you're running, your guy's on the shoreline, let's say he's thirty yards off the bank, and he's fishing, and you go run your boat within twenty yards of him, well, you cooked his fishing. People were running shorelines where they just get up on a shoreline and run right down that shoreline looking for fish. When you do that, you alter the fishing there for the rest of that day. It's not going to recover until tomorrow. People would be in in the tidal lakes and, oh gosh, there's so many examples of just being insensitive to the ability of someone else to have a quality day. I came up with the deal, I said, "Don't do things in your fishing that are unnecessary to your success that diminishes someone else's success." You have to think.

[Brown]: What do you think it was about that time, why it increased?

[Naiser]: Oh, that's, I don't know that I can answer that, except that, I'll answer it this way. I was asked, "what's the difference between the freeze of '83, '89, and 2021?" And I said, my answer was, "The level of sportsmanship in the fisherman." That in '83 and '89, the culture of fishermen was far different than it is today. The degree of stewardship, I mean, it's takers, takers, takers. I'm going to be successful at all cost, to heck with my fellow angler. Uh, and that culture comes from people who enter the sport with no prior history of it. There was a deal here, I think one of the worst things that ever happened to the coast, was the redfish tournaments where they came in, and it was go catch a fish, one, you know, at all costs using any means or method (laughs), and so it taught people a lot of bad habits in terms of the way they operated their vessels. That they had no, I mean, it became a big money deal, and so whenever you throw that into it then you, oh gosh, I just ought to be quiet on this deal, but they put on their clown suits and decals (laughs), and it's like self-promotion. So anyway, I'm going to be quiet there, not (both laugh). I saw it coming. From the beginning, I had been asked to do this, so I'm going to like, stick a finger in my mouth, I can't do this, I'm out. But things like that had, you know, all of the things, like I said, all of these factors came together, it's not one thing. It's everything in concert that's yielded this culture.

[Brown]: So, can you talk more about the goals and activities of FlatsWorthy, how you're trying to change that culture?

[Naiser]: Well, I think what we tried to do was to create a dialogue for the first time, and the first step in solving a problem is realizing that you've got one, right? And so, that was the early attempt, was to establish the fact that we've got a problem in the way we're accessing all of this. So we did that public meetings, and people hear what they want to hear. Never ever in here will you find anything in FlatsWorthy that tells you not to do something. Okay? I'm going to suggest that there are better ways to do things, but you go do it, you go where you want to, when you want to, I don't want to tell you that because I don't want anybody telling me that. I don't want to throttle on me, but I don't mind hearing that, due to the fact that this resource is being utilized so greatly, that we need to rethink some of these things. There's nothing wrong with that, but people misunderstand what you say. They hear what they want to hear, and they were accusing me of telling them, "You can't do this, and you can't do that," where did I ever say that? Where is it in writing? Where is it in my words? So, people say you'll never change this, and, oh, I won't unless I try, and I won't lose unless I quit. I've won this deal, I have, I have won this deal, declared myself a victor that has more things to do, because that narrative was there. People did not think about what they were doing prior to what FlatsWorthy did, they didn't think about. And now collectively, it's part of the thought. I mean, I see it, I hear it. People tell me all the time, "You've made this a better place." And you're not going to get everybody to go along with this. Don't try. You know, if I've got fifteen detractors, do I spend my time trying to bump heads with them or do I go find the hundred people that want to know how to do it right? So, you pick, you tell me where I'm going to go. So, we did all kinds of things. I've been everywhere, talked everywhere, had articles everywhere, but then Harvey came, and Harvey totally changed the pathway. We couldn't have public meetings. It just, I mean, it put a nine-month timeout on what we were doing, but it gave me a chance. I hadn't met enough people, Katie Swanson at UTMSI [University of Texas Marine Science Institute] and others. I mean, I knew a lot of people in all your institutions. I thought, "I'm not going to waste this time. I'm going to go and expand my relationships."

[Brown]: Do you want to take a break or how are you doing?

[Naiser]: I'm doing fine.

[Brown]: Okay.

[Naiser]: I mean, it's up to you. I'm going to expand here. I lose my train of thought and never will come back to it, but I took and expanded the things I did, and met new people like Texas Sea Grant, I mean, just on and on and on. I feel like I know everybody, and I wanted to establish a great relationship with them, and those come from being consistent, open, and honest with people, and by also doing what you say you're going to do. So, then that gave us the ability to move away from the social etiquette side to the resource etiquette, and so we actually have probably spent more time on the resource etiquette, prop damage, prop scoring, other things.

Of course, the oyster deal has been one of my programs for a good while where we did the vegetation video, which was one of my dreams, and now we're doing an etiquette video on boating etiquette. So, while we have a lot of things working, you know (laughs), and that's the focus of FlatsWorthy now, is the educational side through videos, dialogue, resource, personal, and then, bingo. That's the four corners of my square right there.

[Brown]: How did you develop that over time?

[Naiser]: Huh?

[Brown]: I mean, where did the ideas come from?

[Naiser]: Oh, I guess come home and have a scotch at five, another one at five fifteen (laughs), and then eat and go to sleep and wake up at two o'clock fairly rested, and your mind's clear. I think a lot of it has to do with my point in time in my life. When you're your age, you have your timeline, and I told those kids, I said, "You know, y'all think twenty years, twenty-five years, I'm thinking three and four. I don't have twenty years," and I'm pretty impatient, if I'm going to work on something, I want to see it happened. So, I have a different grind level. I have an opportunity to make a difference, and if I don't, then I've squandered something. I can't fix all of this stuff. There's no way, but I can fix some of it, and that's a hell of a lot better than fixing none of it, and I love people, and if you don't love me, I don't love you. I love being around like-minded, intelligent, gifted people who are doers, and I've met people from every walk of life in this state over the last forty-five years. I know them, okay? I listen to what they say, I analyze what they can do, and I go off, and I replay that, and like the lady from HRI that sent a request to me. Well, I connected her to Ashley Bettis and Dr. John Pettigrove. They can answer her questions, and so that's a fun deal. It didn't cost any money. It takes a lot of time. The only aggravating thing about it is these cockeyed emails get lost in these threads. I'm just so old fashioned, I just hate myself (laughs). I don't want to know how to operate this thing, but I got to, but that's really a fun deal, connecting people who can go off and accomplish something meaningful together. It is, and I think I'm okay at it (both laughs). I don't know how I do it, I really don't, but by God, if you can come to me with a question, and it's one that needs involvement, I can connect you to somebody.

[Brown]: Um-hm, why do you want to get kids involved?

[Naiser]: Okay, so if we go off and do this work, and we accomplish something, and none of these things that we try to accomplish, have immediate impact, okay? So, you know, forget that. I mean they're going to have an accumulative effect, in a positive way over time, given enough people who accept what you're trying to do. So, and a lot of people that help me are my age, but more are younger, but if we go do this, and we don't have people to carry on twenty-five years from now, what have we done? It's going to all be for naught. The kids, I'm overwhelmed with the value of that decision to bring them into the program, and not in some condescending way, but you're on my board, and you come to board meetings, and you speak, and we'll listen, and you've got to know that you have value and worth and that you're

welcome into this, and, hell, I don't know what else to say about it. I'm just—I've set a lot of precedent with the Texas AgriLife people, with the Sea Grant people, with the county extension agents. It's just a win, win, win, win, deal, and it's heartwarming to be able to go out and find kids who have the wherewithal to come speak to a bunch of adults that they have never seen before and make a contribution by what they're saying. It's amazing. So, if you don't look for these things, you're not going to find it, but it's like I told those graduate students, you're not going to answer anything sitting in the lab, you got to get off your butt and get out of here and go meet people. Then when you do, when you go through those portals, ideas, creative ideas will come to you about how you can make that worthwhile. So, I don't know, I'm rambling now, but yeah.

[Brown]: Yeah.

[Naiser]: Well, we went—we sponsored our kids fish deal here last year, five counties. This year is going to be eighteen.

[Brown]: Oh, wow.

[Naiser]: So, tell me that doesn't have value.

[Brown]: Tell me about these kids fishing days.

[Naiser]: Well, that's kind of the name for the deal, but what we do, I guess, there's two sides of this. We support the local 4-H clubs in that if they want to take ten kids to the dock and have them fish, we do that, we support that and buy them bait or whatever. But the kid fish day here is you take Parks and Wildlife, you take, uh, what other, Texas—the AgriLife people in by themselves are educated in all this, Texas Sea Grant, you take all of these agencies, and in a day's time, you expose them to what a biologist does, you expose them to Texas Parks and Wildlife enforcement people, just all aspects of marine life, you give them an opportunity to experience. It's in the water, you teach them kayaking, you just do everything. It's a little one day mini circus.

[Brown]: I bet the kids have fun.

[Naiser]: Well, they do. It's a great thing to go to, it is.

[Brown]: What do they say about it, the kids?

[Naiser]: Oh, I got pictures around here where they're wearing FlatsWorthy shirts and, oh, they're excited, they are. I mean, it's like taking them to the carnival—

[Brown]: —Um-hm—

[Naiser]: —and it's a good—it's a great deal.

[Brown]: Okay, tell me about oysters.

[Naiser]: Oh, wow (both laugh).

[Brown]: Or, unless you need a break?

[Naiser]: No, well, you need coffee or water? You need some water?

[Brown]: Um, I'm good, I'm okay.

[Naiser]: Okay. Oh, God, that's—how much time do you have?

[Brown]: All day.

[Naiser]: All right, so, I think I said in the talk the other day that I had in all of my deals out here, I'd come to the conclusion that the most important factor was the vegetation that we had. It was responsible for water quality and habitat for game fish, sport fish, bait fish, all the microorganisms. And then, I used to have to navigate, if I went from the mouth of St. Charles Bay, which is right here, and jogged across to Spalding Bight or Carlos Bay, which are two areas to the east, I had to worry about where I was because of the reef structure, and all of a sudden, I think, "I don't have to do that anymore. What happened?" And simultaneously, I see the water quality diminishing, and this is a couple of years ago when I started this. So, in my vegetation video, I talked about erosion and change and what had happened in the evolution of the vegetation on San Jose Island, and I know for a fact that part of that is due to the differential in the water depth, which is if you talk about the sea level rise, factor in global warming, and all of that, you know, it is. We're not gaining five feet of water down here, we're gaining three inches, but at the same time, if you lose your vegetation, then you increase the rate of erosion. So, you're gaining water from two areas, loss of bottom, and an increase in the top. So, that, and then there's another deal in here that is hyper interesting. We had a water level in 2016 and 2017, and it's a very complicated deal, but water level fluctuates seasonally, high in the spring, low in the summer, high in the fall, low in the winter. And that determines access of the oyster harvest boats to the resource. They have to be able to take their boat on top of the reef to harvest it, so in the winter low tide, they could not do that. Well, in 2016, that water level never left, and I was amazed that we, I mean, this water stayed in here like, like the fall tide, well it was here all year long, it came from the spring high tide, never left during the summer, never left during the winter. So, those boats could access the top of these reefs that they've never been able to harvest before. And there's a little bay up here, St. Charles Bay, it's a nursery bay, a minor bay, major impact, major importance, and they had never oystered that before. I drove down to the end of my road and counted seventy-four oyster boats, and they destroyed, they destroyed St. Charles Bay, and I'm not talking about a little bit. They destroyed the whole basis of that being a nursery bay. They destroyed the reefs that were at the mouth. I mean, it's destroyed. So when I go, and I look at all these other things, all of these other reefs, uh, Thompson's Towhead, Scotch Tom Reef, Jay Bird Reef, you just go and on and on and you

go like, they're gone. Those people have gone in and removed, and now you get, you're going to get real technical here, the value of the reef has to do with its vertical height above the bottom and the value in oysters, filter feeders, every oyster, you know, fifty gallons of oysters a day, of water a day is what it filters, when it's at its optimum filtering capability, and that has everything to do with its relationship to the surface. In other words, an oyster in eight feet of water will not be as effective as an oyster in three inches of water (coughs). It has everything to do with the velocity of the water across it and yeah, it's just a whole lot of mumbo jumbo here, but it's all fact, and I've read it in all—I've got a stack of scientific writings over here that I've learned how to read those. You read the abstract, and then you read the conclusion. You left the middle alone (both laugh), you know, because it's stuff you don't know anything about, but I did. And then being with, with Jennifer [Pollack], that dialogue, but I realized the water's worse, the fishing has been altered, the flow of water has been altered. I went and talked to Dr. Christopher Mace, who was then the oyster man with Parks and Wildlife here, and we'd talked about some of these things, and on his wall, I guess this is how my demented mind works, was a satellite image of this area in here, and it had, there's a progression of reefs, Second Chain Island, Ayres Reef, Third Chain Islands, Cedar Reef and Carlos Reef, and I looked at that, and of course I mean, I knew where they were, I'd walked every one of those things, but I noticed that they ran, they spanned the water from the barrier islands of Matagorda and San Jose Island to the mainland, and they were—I mean, in the winter, it'd be out of the water, and one of the things I've always noticed is that on some of these winds, and they're prevailing winds a lot of times, the flow of water out of San Antonio Bay coming—I call it the Straights of Mesquite where you have narrowing in there, that you go San Antonio Bay, Mesquite Bay, Carlos Bay, and Aransas Bay, and that as that water surges through there, the rate of erosion is heightened, and that the value of those reefs, that's where I came up with Baffle Reef, what they are is a baffle in the flow and air change of water coming out of San Antonio Bay into Aransas Bay. And so, after 2016 into 2017 and after Harvey, Second Chain Islands was destroyed, Third Chain Islands was destroyed, and Carlos Reef was destroyed by the oyster harvest. Harvey did have an impact in that to a degree that I, maybe not factually, but I consider it to be minor compared to the destruction of the harvest. Ayres Reef and Cedar Reef were at a different level in their structure, their height above the bottom, then the Second Chain, Third Chain, and Carlos Reef, so even with the increased water level of 2016 that carried over into the 2017 harvest time, they were still intact, and I said, "If we lose those, this whole area is going to be changed forever. San Jose Island is going to be horribly destroyed, changed, and the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is too." We're going to lose those, we're going to lose those sensitive marsh areas, you know, water's going to rush through here, and once erosion gets started, buddy, there's no turning back. So, late one night, I got up and I said, "I'm calling them Baffle Reefs, and I'm going to write a paper on them," and so it just, I could not leave it alone. I had to, even though I'm sitting here in Lamar, fat, dumb, and happy, and not terribly educated in all of this stuff. It's all observational stuff. I don't care if somebody laughs at me, I don't care what they, I wrote it, I wrote a lot of other things since "Mother Nature's Mother," "The Saltwater Porcupine," on and on and on. I guess that when you get older, you don't care what, you know, if you feel like you're doing the right thing, to hell with the criticism. So, I mean, how could you not do anything about it? And I guess it's just the way I am. So, the oyster deal is a—I never could understand it. I couldn't understand. You come from a farming background, and I came

up, I do too, okay. I've never—I mean, I harvested, I drove cotton binds, I drove cotton pickers, all that's wonderful heritage, but how can you have a crop that's a public crop and have the people that harvest it determine how they do it, how can you do that? It just, all of this stuff started back in the fifties, when Parker Brothers and some of these other people came in and harvested all this shell for road material. That really had a huge impact on this whole deal. So, uh, look at ol' what's her name, bringing in a cookie (both laugh).

[Brown]: Hi.

[Gete]: Hi.

[Brown]: Sure, thank you.

[Gete]: Those are the best.

[Naiser]: Just set them over there for now. I'll cough and choke and gag if I'm, I'm on a roll, so (both laugh).

[Brown]: Thanks.

[Naiser]: So anyway, where were we, before the cookie monster came in (Brown laughs).

[Brown]: Um, private oyster men deciding how they oyster public resources.

[Naiser]: Yes. Yes. What do we owe them? You know, what's different about oysters than it is about trees in a state forest? What's different about it? What's so provincial in all this deal, that they have some inherent right to, well, we don't owe them a living, you know, nobody owes me a living. I mean, I'm a fishing guide, and I'm on the water. A lot of this mindset came from when there was such an uproar over the harvest. Now, it was in Galveston Bay, and it was also in San Antonio Bay, Hines Bay. Uh, when they went in, they had to make some concessions, and I mean, it's all, I've talked to people whose daddy was an attorney on this, and helped drive them gone, I don't even want to hear this. I don't want to hear about stuff that has no logic to it, just let's get this thing changed, and I'm going to focus on that. Looking back, you look at why we're where we are, and it's definitely as far as I'm concerned, I've stated this publicly, is mismanagement, and there's a lot of culpability in here to people that I love, and I love the Parks and Wildlife, but I'm going to leave it there.

[Brown]: What would you like—

[Naiser]: —Not that I'm afraid, but I've already called out everybody that needs to be called out with this deal.

[Brown]: What would you like to see happen with the oysters?

[Naiser]: I would like to see the establishment of sanctuary reefs. Now, keep in mind, I'm talking about public reefs. Public, that's a big word. Why do citizens have exclusive rights to harvest a public resource? Now, I'll just leave it there. What I would like to see is, and what I've asked for in my Baffle Reef deal, and what Jenni [Pollack] is studying, the establishment and the rescue, the salvation, the declaration of Ayres and Cedar Reef as sanctuary reefs. There, you'll never harvest off of these reefs. They become sanctuaries to establish and save those two baffles. The cost of rehabilitation of the Second Chain, Third Chain, and Carlos is cost prohibitive, and not only that, but the time involved in the structural recreation of those, none of us are going to live long enough to see that, I mean, that's fifty years. These reefs are ancient, ancient, ancient. What I want to see is the creation of sanctuary reefs to control the flow of water and the rate, the velocity of the water, to enhance the filtration capabilities of the lowly oyster. I want to see a harvest that is sustainable. I want to see the advancement of mariculture. I want to—this is just me talking, and I've talked to some people, there are local people who—backtrack, the industry has oligarchs. There are about five families that essentially control what's going on. They have financial capabilities. They were all given settlements from the BP spill. So, these are people with resources. Then you have a group of people who are the salt of the earth. Let's just say you have haves and have nots, okay? I don't want to interfere with anybody's life. I will, to protect the resource, but I personally would like to go to them and say, "Look", and they're identifiable, okay, you don't have to do a poll, or you don't have to go do any kind of whatever to figure out who they are, I can find out who they are, and go to them and say, "Look, do you want to become involved in oyster mariculture?" And depending upon their answer, I'd really like to say, "Look, do you have the resources to do that?" And the answer is going to be no, and I would like to tell them, I would like to make a statement. If you do, then we're going to help you find the money and the technical ability to go do this. That's what I want out of this deal.

[Brown]: Um, I don't (laughs)—you've given me a lot to think about here.

[Naiser]: I'm sorry.

[Brown]: No, that's okay.

[Naiser]: But that's—I mean, I don't want to be the bad guy. Well, I really do, I want to do that.

[Brown]: It sounds like a win, win, right?

[Naiser]: It is a win, win, you get, in your attempt to do something that has to be done, it's going to be a war. It doesn't have to be so cruel as to try to hurt people that are sitting on the sideline that have no influence in this deal. They're just going to be a victim of what goes on. So, I think, and I've told people on my side, I mean, if you want to do something PR wise, why don't you think about doing this. And so, if somebody said, "Well, you just have to stop the oyster men." Well, hold the card, you know, it's not their fault entirely. They have not had any guidance. It's more a management problem of the Parks and Wildlife than it is these guys out here working every day. I mean, hell, nobody told them not to do it. Okay? If you got a picnic

table in your backyard, under the trees, and it's got squirrels in it, and you go put a hundred pecans out there this afternoon, and you leave them overnight, they're going to be gone. It's up to the people who own the pecans to determine how many are put on the table and the harvest, and that has not been done.

[Brown]: Um, tell me, what's your most memorable experience out fishing on the bays?

[Naiser]: Oh gosh. I couldn't tell it.

[Brown]: What about your most memorable experience guiding?

[Naiser]: Well, I couldn't tell that. Now, uh, (coughs) oh, Lord. I had—jeez, I don't know if I can tell this. How much time—can we pause here?

[Brown]: Yeah.

[Naiser]: I've got to get my composure.

[Brown]: Sure. Let's take a little break.

[Naiser]: No, let's don't.

[Brown]: Okay.

[Naiser]: So, I've just got to get hold myself. So, I had a—Fred Dobbs had Dobb's Container from Dallas, and he was a class guy, and he had a beautiful wife. I mean, she was just a beautiful person. Okay, so she comes down with cancer, and she's terminal, and he wanted to take her fishing again. So, it was in the winter and he, you know, he didn't have the luxury of waiting till the summer. So, we go, I don't remember if it was, it was probably December, and there's a beautiful place in the backend of San—I'll tell the story backwards, a beautiful place in the back of, very secluded in the back of San Antonio—I mean, St. Charles Bay, and it was the perfect place to go on the wind and the water level, and beautiful ride back there, and I've just said this is where I'm going to take them. There will be no people, there'll be whooping cranes, I mean, it's going to be a good setting. So, we set out here, it got so foggy. We left Goose Island State Park and got here, and it got foggy. I said, "Well, you know, we're just going to wait this out." I'm not running in this fog. I'm not going to risk them. I mean, I would have done it myself. I knew what, but I'm not going to do that. So, we anchor up, and we sit, and we talk and oh, things kind of lighten up, and so I say, "Well, I can find it now," so I go back there, and I swear to God, the clouds parted. I mean, it got beautiful, and I get on that reef, and I start—she couldn't wade, and so we're in the boat, and we caught fish till hell wouldn't have it, and the clouds come back, and the fish quit biting. God gave it to her.

[Brown]: What an experience.

[Naiser]: I'm sorry.

[Brown]: You're okay.

[Naiser]: Next question.

[Brown]: Well, I think that was all my questions, but is there anything you wanted to talk about in terms of fishing or conservation that we didn't cover?

[Naiser]: No, no. I mean, there's so many things, you haven't got enough time. I don't know, I just think—I hope in the end that I've made this place better than it was going to be, and, uh, it's—all of these relationships that I have, I value. I do. Our brief time here together has true meaning to me, and all of the people that I meet, they're in my library of, in my vault of gold, they're golden, and I'd like all of these relationships to be ongoing. I'd like them to be vibrant and alive, and I want people to think that they can criticize me, correct me, give me new direction. I welcome all of that. I mean, it's—I don't know what I'm doing. I haven't got a clue. I know why I'm doing it, but I don't know what I'm doing, and I'm just going to do (both laugh).

[Brown]: I think you're exaggerating about that. I think you know what you're doing.

[Naiser]: I just, you know, there's so many things. There's so many tentacles on this octopus that, I mean, it is. You stop and think about, I mean, it's dizzying, I opened so many avenues of golden opportunities on Wednesday, that it's overwhelming. I have to see that they're followed through. I'm going to—I'm supposed to get an email list of those students that were there, and I want to do that again. I want to meet with them again. I want to establish a chapter in Harte Research, their chapter, give them a platform to express themselves, get them out of the lab, into the streets, go, you know, I do. I mean, it's just, God, their eyes and their attention and their questions, that just—I wouldn't take for these experiences. I wouldn't. I don't know.

[Brown]: Well, if (both talking at once)—

[Naiser]: —that being—

[Brown]: —you don't have anything to add, I'll turn off the recorder.

[Naiser]: Well, I just, I don't know (laughs).

[Brown]: Well, thank you so much for talking me, talking to me today and sharing that beautiful story.

[Naiser]: Well, I appreciate the opportunity. I do.

[Brown]: Thank you.

(end of recording)