

North Slope Borough

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

DATE: May 5, 2015

SUBJ: April Status Report

Charlotte E. Brower

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

April marked the beginning of spring. This time of year is especially busy in our communities as our hunters and whalers work to provide for our communities. Our employees have also been hard at work for our communities.

I am also pleased to report on following accomplishments achieved by my dedicated staff over this past month:

The **Mayor's Office** hosted the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative in Barrow in late April. The Mayor's Office received very positive comments regarding my remarks urging groups that have interests in the Arctic to work more closely with those of us who live in the Arctic, rather than allowing outside interests to formulate policies to govern our part of the world. This has been a consistent message delivered from my office and I intend to continue to defend our regions interests.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff are preparing for the IWC Scientific Committee Meetings in San Diego California. Over six papers on bowhead whale science will be presented this year. One of the papers by Dr. Givens explores the rate of increase and recovery of bowhead whales after the end of Commercial Whaling in 1915. A conclusion of his analyses is that there appears to be "no slow-down" in the growth rates despite there being approximately 17,000 whales. This differs from earlier population models which predicted a leveling off at about 15,000 whales. Other papers include topics such as the bowhead harvest and health assessment.

In April, two Wildlife staff traveled to Point Hope and successfully collected samples from harvested belugas, two bowhead whales, and 1 polar bear. They also spent 3 ½ days in the school talking to students from Kindergarten to 12th grade about whales, caribou and climate change as well as dissecting a bowhead eyeball with the older students.

The Wildlife Department has advertised for the upcoming Arctic Science Research Summer Camp that the Department of Wildlife Management will be teaching in July.

The **Department of Public Works** expects to re-start TOS operations around the end of May. This will allow our operations to be back in compliance with permitting guidelines. The Weatherization Program would like to remind residents that program guidelines only allow for work on households that are deemed “low-income” – the age and physical condition (disability) of occupants are only considered *after* a household is deemed eligible via the low-income guidelines.

The **Planning & Community Services Department** continues to participate in the Chukchi Sea Regional Exploration Program Oil Spill Response Plan meetings that are occurring once a month with the Table Top Exercise (TTX) on May 21, 2015. Facilitation of the PRC Workshop for Ordinance 2015-10 was conducted March 31 thru April 4. It extended an extra day into Saturday to complete deliberations. The PRC also considered eighteen Project Analysis Report requests, recommending thirteen to CIPM for preparation under CIP 18-041: Project Analysis Reports.

The **Department of Administration and Finance** was busy with the passing of the next fiscal year budget and setting a preliminary Capital Budget after PRC meetings. Staff has been working diligently to ensure that all Departments’ receive appropriate assistance with the year-end closing of procurement.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,782 calls for service in the month of April; 129 of the calls were alcohol related. A total of 38 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 3.75 liters of alcohol. Officers made a diligent effort to be involved in the communities including graduating students from a hunter safety program, discussions with kids about bike safety, providing rides to elders as available, attending lunch & recess at the schools, and participating in community events. The Police Department worked with other organizations to schedule a lock-down style drill and to assist with traffic control on the Dalton Highway near the flooded areas.

The **Department of Inupiat History, Language & Culture** issued a special edition of Uiniq on the whalers of Cross Island through the postal service this month. The Iñupiaq Language Summit is scheduled July 20th and 21st with the goal of continuing the development of a systemic plan of language revitalization. Renovations and remodeling are complete for the Simon Paneak Memorial Museum, and all panels are completed! We invite you to visit your museum in the mountains when you go to Anaktuvuk Pass.

The **Fire Department’s** Medevac Division completed 22 missions. Across the North Slope this month there were 216 EMS calls and 10 fire calls. The Training Division held Emergency Trauma

Technician (ETT) Trainings in Barrow, Atqasuk, and Wainwright with a total of 13 participants. An Emergency Vehicle Operator Course was also offered and attended by 7 participants. Thursday Night trainings have recently been focused on preparing for the June 2015 Firefighter I course. Recruitment for Volunteers continues and we are proud to say there are an additional five new members on the volunteer roster.

The **Human Resources Department** currently has 9 On-The-Job Training (OJT) students from Barrow, Wainwright, Kiita and Kaktovik's High Schools. The Training and Development Division offered 22 trainings this month that were attended by 111 individuals. Several trainings including First Aid/CPR were provided in Atqasuk this month.

The **Department of Search and Rescue** continues to maintain their mission of serving the NSB Public. The aircraft were utilized a total of over 96 flight hours. There were 5 PLB/search operations for overdue hunters or breakdowns. All of these operations were a success with no major injuries to any rescued parties.

The **Department of Health and Social Services'** North Slope Health Fairs were completed in April for Kaktovik and Nuiqsut with a great turnout. We'd like to extend our thanks to Arctic Slope Native Association for their support of the biannual health fairs.

We would also like to extend our congratulations and thanks to two employees: Kaktovik Community Health Aide IV Stephanie Aishanna & Community Health Aide Practitioner Adeline Gallen. Stephanie won the Shining Stars Award at the annual Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Community Health Aide Symposium for her heroic efforts during a blizzard in Kaktovik, ensuring patient care was handled properly; including delivering oxygen tanks and medications to homes, and keeping the clinic open for emergencies. Adeline won a National Award from the Centers of Disease Control for her advocacy and work on immunizations. Adeline is the only recipient to win this award from Alaska, and nationally, won against hundreds of nominees! We are very proud of Adeline and her accomplishments in keeping the villages of the North Slope immunized!

This concludes my summary report for the month of April. Thank you!