

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200
Fax: 907 852-0337 or 2595



Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor *Charlotte E. Brower*
DATE: January 5, 2016
SUBJ: December Status Report

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience. I hope all of you have been able to enjoy a safe and blessed Christmas holiday season. I am pleased to report on following accomplishments achieved by my dedicated staff during the month of December:

The **Mayor's Office** Division of Government and External Affairs hosted a workshop/listening session for Peter Oppenheimer and Brian Israel, co-chairs of the U.S. Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation. The Task Force is responsible for advising the Arctic Council on the creation of a network of Marine Protected Areas across the Arctic. The purpose of the meeting was to educate U.S. policymakers on the necessity of involving local stakeholders throughout the process and to relay concerns over the lack of consultation to date. Participants included Mayor Brower, Mayor Richards from the Northwest Arctic Borough, Mayor Benneville from the City of Nome, Commissioner Chris Hladick, former Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell, Nils Andreasson from the Institute of the North, along with representatives from various industry groups and staff members from Alaska's Congressional delegation.

Department of Wildlife Management staff attended the annual meeting of the Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) on Dec. 7-9, 2015. Michael Pederson provided a presentation on how the Ice Seal Committee dealt with the proposed listing of ice seals under the Endangered Species Act, the actual listing, and the listing of critical habitat. He also provided an update on the NSB's legal challenges relating to ice seals and polar bears. The EWC passed a resolution requesting the NSB's technical expertise on the proposed listing of walrus by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Department staff also attended the annual meeting of the Western Arctic Herd Caribou Working Group December 15-17, 2015. The WAH has been declining since around 2003 and is now in the "declining conservative management" level. Cow harvests have likely already exceeded the harvestable surplus for several years. Bull harvest will probably exceed the harvestable surplus this year. Reduced harvests will likely continue to be necessary to prevent hunting from making the decline even worse.

Wildlife Management staff also attended the Alaska Nanuuq Commission full board meeting on December 17-18. The USFWS announced at the meeting that it was beginning to develop regulations for the implementation of a harvest quota for the shared Alaska-Chukotka population. The implementation date is set for January 1, 2017. The USFWS and the ANC will be traveling to 16 communities to gather input on these regulations that should be published in the Federal Register by May/June 2016, with final regulations published by September 2016. The North Slope communities of Point Hope and Point Lay will be impacted by these regulations.

In addition to its normal workload, the **Department of Public Works** has been engaged in responding to concerns over adequate lighting in our communities. The Power & Light Division has recently installed approximately 100 new streetlights in the villages of Kaktovik, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright. New capital funding has also allowed the Division to order 110 more new streetlights for Wainwright with delivery and installation expected to begin in February. Other new streetlight orders for Atqasuk and Pt. Hope will be completed in January.

The **Human Resources Department's** College Internship program has started. To date, 8 college students have been placed in Barrow- working for the Departments of Health, Administration and Finance, and Wildlife Management. The purpose of the College Intern program is to create a pathway for college immersed students to access a more structured program that would enhance their skills in alignment with their academic pursuits and to entice interns to eventually return to the North Slope to fill leadership positions that are being vacated by retiring individuals within the community.

The **Department of Administration & Finance** completed the audit work needed for the preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Department staff also launched the process for developing the budget cycle for the next budget year.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,413 calls for service during which 53 incident reports were filed. 101 of the calls were alcohol related. 955 calls were dispatched and 1,458 calls were officer initiated. There were 77 traffic related contacts during which 13 citations were written. A total of 60 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 54 liters of alcohol, 80 ounces of marijuana, and 25 grams of methamphetamine.

The **Fire Department** has responded to over 1300 EMS and 100 fire calls in 2015 continuing a tradition of professionalism and a commitment to keeping our North Slope residents safe. This reflects an increase in call volume of nearly 10% from 2014. For December, the Department responded to 218 EMS calls and 8 fire calls.

The Training Division held trainings for Aerial Operator, Fire Service Instructor, and the Hazardous Materials Operation Course. The Division is also working on implementing a long distance training program to improve the efficiency of training village personnel.

This concludes my summary report for the month of December. I wish all of you a very safe and prosperous New Year! Quyanaqpak!