

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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Harry K. Brower Jr., Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Members
FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor *HB*
DATE: March 6, 2018
SUBJ: Mayor's Status Report for February

Good afternoon Assembly Members and listening audience. I am pleased to report on the following accomplishments achieved by the Borough's dedicated staff:

Congratulations to our Department of Wildlife Staff Nicole Kanayurak and Dr. Todd Sformo who were both awarded the Fulbright Arctic Initiative Fellowship. Ms. Kanayurak will work with the team in methods of promoting sustainable economies in the Arctic. Nicole would like to look into how the newly installed telecommunications infrastructure on the North Slope could foster food security into the future. Dr. Sformo's fellowship will be used to examine the newly emerging infection found in *aanaakliq*, broad whitefish, which has raised food security concerns for the residents of Alaska's North Slope, Nuiqsut in particular.

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and I attended the Asia Pacific High School Close-Up where the 34 students were able to engage in foreign policy used to respond in crisis situations. Not only were our youth able to visit historical landmarks, but they saw firsthand how foreign policy decisions directly and indirectly affect our livelihoods.

I would like to extend a heartfelt appreciation to all of the volunteers in our communities for their search & rescue efforts, first responders who support our people on the north slope of Alaska.

The following are the departmental endeavors toward attaining the Mayor's Initiatives:

The **Department of Wildlife Management** hosted an informal workshop on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) petitions to de-list bearded and ringed seals. Participants included the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), the State of Alaska Department of Law and the Department of Fish & Game Marine Mammal Program, and Van Ness Feldman. The purpose of this workshop was to assess the prospective need to develop petitions to de-list the Beringia distinct population of bearded seal and the Arctic subspecies of ringed seal as threatened species under the ESA. Participants reviewed recent scientific information and traditional knowledge, and identified information and arguments in support of de-listing the species. Recently, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the listing of ringed seals

under the ESA, citing similar logic and deference to the federal agencies as they have for upholding the bearded seal listing.

Staff attended a Spectacled Eider Recovery meeting that focused on recovery criteria and recent work done to assess the status, discuss a plan and timeline for a status review. The meeting provided the status of the Steller's Eider 5-year review and gathered input on topics related to the species status assessment.

The polar bear and wolverine harvests have been on-going and department staff has worked with hunters to conduct sampling of subsistence harvested animals.

The Outreach Coordinator and staff visited a 3rd grade class at Ipalook Elementary to talk about Animal Adaptations in the Arctic. Staff talked to an Ilisagvik College class, Arctic Colloquium on the history of the department and studies on bowhead whales. Staff participated in a Webinar with North Slope Borough School District teachers on tundra ecosystems and department research on terrestrial mammals, fish, and birds. The Staff also assisted with owl pellet dissections in a 4th grade class at Ipalook Elementary. Staff continued to work on updating our department's website and producing community flyers for our research activities.

A new scientific paper on aging bowheads using the *siuti* or "tympanic ear bone" was recently published in a top marine mammal science journal. This paper illustrates how the *siuti* form annual growth layers up to about 25 years. This work confirms our previous bowhead age growth estimates, and indirectly, the late age of maturity (25 years) for bowheads – both of which help with our bowhead management models at the International Whaling Commission. This is another major contribution to whale science worldwide – and would not have been possible without the help and cooperation of the Inupiat/Yupik whale hunting community.

Below are significant papers published by our scientists Dr. Leandra de Sousa, Dr. Raphaela Stimmelmayer, and Dr. Craig George.

Dr. Leandra de Sousa was a co-author of several papers which were published:

"Circulation and water properties in the landfast ice zone of the Alaskan Beaufort Sea"; Continental Shelf Research, www.elsevier.com/locate/csr

"A comparison between late summer 2012 and 2013 water masses, macronutrients and phytoplankton standing crops in the northern Bering and Chukchi Seas"; Deep-Sea Research II, www.elsevier.com/locate/dsr2

"The summer hydrographic structure of the Hanna Shoal region on the northeastern Chukchi Sea shelf: 2011-2013"; Deep-Sea Research Part II, www.elsevier.com/locate/dsr2

Dr. Raphaela Stimmelmayer and Dr. Craig George were co-authors in this paper:

"Whales, lifespan, phospholipids, and cataracts"; Journal of Lipid Research, www.jlr.org

"Hepatic lipomas and myelolipomas in subsistence-harvested bowhead whales Balaena mysticetus, Alaska (USA): a case review 1980-2016"; diseases of Aquatic Organisms, <https://doi.org/10.3354/dao03186>

The **Police Department** is working to bring an anti-drug educational program to our communities to be taught in our schools. The purpose of an antidrug program is to educate our children about the harmful effects of controlled substances and facilitate interaction between students and police department officers and personnel.

The Detectives continue to participate in multiagency task forces; resulting in the seizure of 6 (750 ml) bottles of distilled spirits, 27.2 ounces of methamphetamine, 35.2 ounces of hash oil, and 24.8 ounces of heroin.

The Police Department responded to 2,474 calls for service during resulting in 100 criminal and non-criminal cases filed; 145 of the calls were alcohol related, 18 drug related, and 33 related to domestic violence. 986 calls were dispatched and 1,488 calls were officer initiated.

Below is a call breakdown:

Community	Total Calls	Alcohol Related	Drug Related	DV Related
Anaktuvuk Pass	188	08	01	02
Atqasuk	129	02	01	01
Barrow	1196	114	13	21
Deadhorse	156	03	02	0
Kaktovik	104	01	0	0
Nuiqsut	167	04	0	4
Point Hope	184	09	01	04
Point Lay	109	0	0	0
Wainwright	241	04	0	01
Total	2474	145	18	33

The **Department of Health and Social Services** provided training on the NARCAN Kit through video teleconference to each of the villages for the Health Aides, Police Officers and First Responders. In partnership with the State of Alaska Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention, we hosted a community forum to address the current National Opioid Epidemic and the impact it has. Community members gave input on ways that we can battle this epidemic and implement effective preventative measures to ensure the wellness, safety and health of our communities.

The Integrated Behavioral Health Program has begun an adolescent outpatient substance abuse treatment program. Behavioral Health is also working with the State of Alaska on Medicaid billing, which the Borough has not used before.

February is Dating Awareness Month. Arctic Women in Crisis advocates partnered with the Prevention Team and met with Barrow High School students to talk about healthy relationships and the “*Hands Unite: Do Your Part*” campaign. The campaign empowers young people to build healthy relationships from the ground up. The students created a huge flyer with paint and their hand prints to foster the idea behind the campaign that our hands are a tool for creation, and they play a role in ending dating abuse. Our hands are made for loving and helping—not hurting the ones you love. The advocates invited the students to heal, love and share the power of their hands to create meaningful relationships, raise awareness and educate others. Everyone has a hand in ending dating violence!

The **Department of Capital Improvement Program Management’s** supported the preparation of project requests for Project Review Committee review of Ordinance 2018-10. The Light Duty Vehicle Committee formed and assembled first meeting to develop bylaws and policies for considering procurement requests by multiple departments.

The Point Hope Itinerant Quarters is near completion; Nuiqsut Itinerant Quarters modules were delivered to the village this month for storage until the foundation is prepared; Atqasuk Itinerant

Quarters modules are mobilizing overland from Prudhoe in March; Kaktovik Itinerant Quarters are completed and available for use; Utqiagvik Yugit Street Lights by Barrow Utilities Electric Co-op Inc. (BUECI) for installation in March will require an easement amendment; and Anaktuvuk Pass Power Plant Design has begun.

The Point Hope Wind Energy Project is waiting a determination by the community trilateral committee to voice a resolution supporting two 1.5 Mwatt generator towers 1 mile south of the community. This resolution is necessary to support further expenditure of the grant funds towards continuing design effort.

The Department of Inupiat History Language & Culture held its second IHLC Conference where over 150 participants convened from across the North Slope to positively affect change and education about our changing way of life and how we can be responsible stewards of our land, sea, and cultural values. The Ivalu workshops had 30 participants, Rosetta Stone has 14 new registrants, and the Heritage Center had a total of 1864 visitors.

The **Department of Search & Rescue** continues to work with the communities to educate on the importance of the Personal Locator Beacons and providing a trip plan. The Department, along with our other Emergency Services, will be traveling to Wainwright to attend the City Council Meeting and to discuss other programs available.

Please contact your local Emergency Services to provide a trip plan and check out a PLB.

Below are the details for 14 **Department of Search & Rescue** related activities:

1/22	BRW	NSB SAR received a call from a family member to do a welfare check on a traveler heading home after attempting to help Vehicle Travelers 60 Miles from Barrow. Before NSB SAR was able to launch Helo the traveler returned home. Besides being wet and cold, no reported injuries. Case closed.
1/24	BRW	NSB SAR received a call from a family member to do a welfare check on two traveling from Atqasuk to Barrow. Before NSB SAR was able to launch, the travelers returned to Barrow. No reported injuries. Case closed.
1/25	BRW	ELT Notification – Aircraft owner accidentally activated the alert. No injuries, case closed.
1/28	NUI	NUI VSAR was launched to a traveler who had mechanical problems. All returned with no reported injuries. Case closed.
2/12	BRW	PLB Alert – Vehicle traveler had mechanical issues. Due to white out conditions NSB SAR Helo was not able to launch. BVSAR was launched. All returned with no reported injuries. Case closed.
2/14	BRW	NSB SAR received a call from a family member to do welfare check on a traveler heading home from Atqasuk to Barrow. This is still an ongoing search, will provide an update once we close out.

Aircraft	Sorties	Hours	Other
Learjet N789SR	17	49.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aircraft was down for 4 hours for 150 hour engine oil samples, inspection, & Dee Howard TR inspections. • Aircraft available all month. • Horizontal Stabilizer is due to be changed out in 84.1 hours should take 1 to 2 days

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has 106.2 hours until A & B Phase Inspection estimate end of end of April 2018 • NSB SAR will need to plan a maintenance trip to get the RVSM, Air Data, Transponder, Pitot Static Systems check & Pressurization done at an approved maintenance facility between October and November 2018
Bell N402ES	0	0.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,000 Hour/5 Year inspections are 100% finished, finishing up with Engine & Flight Control Adjustments. Has been hard to do flights with the ongoing search.
Bell N401ES	16	41.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary 412 ready to go • Engines 70.6 hours out from overhaul • Aircraft down for schedule maintenance 100-hour inspection.
King Air N408SR	15	56.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aircraft was down for 2 hours for MLG Filter Change • Aircraft was down for 4 hours for 12 month / 200 hour inspections. • Aircraft available all month with the exception of above. • Phase 2 Inspection is due in 18.6 hours estimate beginning of March
S-92	08	20.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aircraft was down for 5 hours for AD, 30 day inspections, & Database updates. • Aircraft available all month except for the above. Next 50 hour inspection in 13.3 hours estimate due first part of March • Next 100 hour inspections in 18.1 hours estimate due March
Total	56	167.7	

The **Human Resources Department** is working with Interactive Health to travel to the villages to provide biometric screenings for employees, spouses and dependents who have health care coverage with the North Slope Borough. The screenings include heart disease, diabetes, liver & kidney disease, and much more. Notifications will be sent to employees – for more information please contact the HR Department.

The recruiting Staff attended the Barrow High School Mini-Career and Healthy Living Fair. This provided an opportunity for students to see the diverse careers and healthy choices there are available in our community.

Below are the recruiting statistics from the **Human Resources Division**; 16 Permanent, 14 Temporary, 14 Employee Training Program, 1 Intern:

Community	BRW	AKP	ATQ	KAK	NUI	PHO	AIN	PIZ
Permanent	11	03	0	01	0	0	01	0
Temporary	06	0	02	0	02	03	0	01
ETP	05	01	01	03	01	01	02	0
Interns	01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	23	04	03	04	03	04	03	01

The **Department of Administration & Finance** is in the process of completing & finalizing the Fiscal Year 18-19 Budge. The Department held a two-day Budget Retreat with all of the Departments and went over the Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) Analysis and how Departments

were to incorporate such strategic planning in this upcoming Budget in order to achieving the Mayor’s goals and initiatives to provide more services and resources to all of our communities.

In addition, we are working towards the Mayor’s Debt Consolidation and Financial Plan to prosperity for the current fiscal year. A meeting will be scheduled regarding the debt forgiveness and a corresponding resolution to contribute excess revenues over expenditures from Service Area 10 Enterprise Fund into our Permanent Fund in order to grow the corpus of the Fund for future use when oil and gas resources have been depleted.

Further, in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office and Planning has conducted a Feasibility Study regarding the expansion of our Service Area 10 Utility operations in the western region to capture the activity that is taking place within the NPR-A to a possible increase the revenue stream of our existing enterprise fund. Meetings will be held with Industry to share our study and to solicit any additional feedback on the study.

The **Department of Public Works** Transit operations supported the North Slope Borough School District in transportation during the Barrow Whaler Invitational Basketball Tournament, Special Olympics, and visiting Village teams. They also supported the transportation needs of the IHLC Conference.

Weatherization hosted a meeting in Utqiagvik with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center, University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, NSB Housing, Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, Native Village of Barrow and other stakeholders regarding the feasibility of producing cellulose insulation from locally recycled cardboard. Further study is needed, but it appears that such a project would extend the life of the landfill while reducing the cost of insulation.

Weatherization continues residential heating upgrades in Nuiqsut, and the installation of carbon monoxide detectors for all Nuiqsut residents begin this week. The Division will be hosting an outreach event with the Native Village of Nuiqsut to kick off the project.

The **Fire Department** is training responders from the outlying villages in Utqiagvik so that they acquire more experience from real calls. The Department held two fundraisers, one selling food and a “Fill the Boot” campaign. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers.

Below is the call breakdown for the month:

Community	Ambulance Calls	Fire Calls	Medevac Transports	ETOH/Drug 18+	ETOH/Drug -17
Anaktuvuk Pass	22	01	11	0	0
Atqasuk	8	01	01	01	0
Barrow	85	12	04	04	0
Kaktovik	7	0	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	28	0	04	0	0
Point Hope	44	0	0	0	0
Point Lay	10	0	06	0	0
Wainwright	22	01	02	0	0
Totals	226	15	28	05	0

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** received the 2017 population figure from State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (ADCCED). The ADCCED population number was determined to be 17,190. Planning worked with the Mayor's office and submitted an appeal of the population number. On February 19th the ADCCED Commissioner acknowledged our appeal and the new population number was issued for 17,871 residents.

Planning continues to work with the Department of Natural Resources and the Bureau of Land Management to obtain necessary permits for the Community Winter Access Trail (CWAT) projects. We anticipate both agencies to issue the necessary permits. Planning has been working with Eskimos Inc. on the contracting process for these projects. The CWAT project to Anaktuvuk Pass has been postponed until next winter due to the lack of sufficient snow cover needed.