ADDENDUM

North Slope Borough

Oil and Gas Forum 2022

Summary Report

Addition to Page i:

Paid for in part with National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Program funds made available through the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
North Slope Borough
2022 Oil and Gas Forum

Planning Together for Tomorrow’s Energy

August 29-30, 2022
Anchorage Alaska

Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor
Chastity Olemaun, Planning Director

Conference Organizing Committee

Chastity Olemaun, Director, Department of Planning and Community Services, North Slope Borough (NSB)
Mabel Kaleak, Deputy Planning Director, NSB
DJ Fauske, Director, Government Affairs, NSB
Scott Szmyd, Chief of Staff, NSB Mayor’s Office
Sandra Stuermer, Director, Department of Finance and Administration, NSB
Taqulik Hepa, Director, Wildlife Department, NSB
Brian Person, Wildlife Department, NSB
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Jon Dunham, Terratechnika, Consultant
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Imogene Kuzmenko, Assistant to the CAO, NSB
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Barbara Tudor, Grant Writer, NSB
Crystal Tulai, Travel Division Manager, NSB

Sponsors

North Slope Borough
Partial funding from the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program
Meals sponsored by ConocoPhillips, Hilcorp and Santos

Photo Credit: Photographs of the Forum courtesy of Tom Lohman

North Slope Borough | P.O. Box 69, Utqiaġvik, AK 99723 | 907-852-2611 | 1274 Agvik Street
www.north-slope.org
I wish to thank everyone who attended the 2022 Oil and Gas Forum. As with the previous three forums sponsored by the North Slope Borough, the participants in this year’s forum came together to update each other on current initiatives and to build new ways to work together. These forums provide a unique opportunity to bring together the Borough, its residents, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the oil and gas industry.

This year’s forum coincided with celebration of the Borough’s 50th anniversary. In 1972 when it first formed, many residents lived in substandard housing without running water, they depended on “honey buckets”, and they had inadequate roads. Taxing authority over oil and gas infrastructure changed all that. While we continue efforts to improve the health and welfare of our villages, we have made some great improvements over the past 50 years.

Over the two-day forum, we heard about the importance of oil and gas development to the finances of the Borough and the State of Alaska. Participants discussed current and future efforts to expand development to the east and west. Breakout sessions provided an opportunity to discuss efforts to mitigate impacts to subsistence and to improve transportation and utility corridors. We also heard about efforts to develop the North Slope Area Plan and complete Borough land selections.

During the last afternoon of the forum, the participants broke into groups to identify the most important actions we can take over the next few years. These ideas were then ranked by all the participants. The highest priorities included improving workforce development, engaging stakeholders, expanding transportation and access, updating health impact assessments, improving coordination among stakeholders, and making gravel available to Borough residents.

I look forward to working with all of you as we work towards implementing the recommendations from this year’s forum.

Quyanaqpaq!

Harry K. Brower, Jr.
Mayor
# List of Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACOE</td>
<td>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<td>AEWC</td>
<td>Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission</td>
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<td>AIDEA</td>
<td>Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority</td>
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<td>ANCSA</td>
<td>Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act</td>
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<td>ANILCA</td>
<td>Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act</td>
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<td>ANWR</td>
<td>Alaska National Wildlife Refuge</td>
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<td>AS</td>
<td>Alaska Statutes</td>
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<td>ASRC</td>
<td>Arctic Slope Regional Corporation</td>
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<td>ASTAR</td>
<td>Arctic Strategic Transportation</td>
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<td>ATV</td>
<td>All-Terrain Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>U.S. Bureau of Land Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBRF</td>
<td>Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>CWAT</td>
<td>Community Winter Access Trail Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>Alaska Department of Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESG</td>
<td>Environmental, Social and Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAP</td>
<td>Integrated Activity Plan</td>
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<td>ICAS</td>
<td>Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope</td>
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<td>IWC</td>
<td>International Whaling Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIS</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Statement</td>
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<td>FY</td>
<td>Fiscal Year</td>
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<td>GMT</td>
<td>Greater Mooses Tooth</td>
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<td>ICC</td>
<td>Inuit Circumpolar Conference</td>
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<td>KIC</td>
<td>Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLC</td>
<td>Limited Liability Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLP</td>
<td>Limited Liability Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Protection Act</td>
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<td>NOAA</td>
<td>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</td>
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<td>NPR-A</td>
<td>National Petroleum Reserve–Alaska</td>
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<td>NSB</td>
<td>North Slope Borough</td>
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<td>NSSI</td>
<td>North Slope Science Initiative</td>
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<td>ROD</td>
<td>Record of Decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBR</td>
<td>Statutory Budget Reserve Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>TLUI</td>
<td>Traditional Land Use Inventory</td>
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<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
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Executive Summary

The North Slope Borough (NSB or Borough) sponsored the 2022 Oil and Gas Forum. This year’s forum involved panels on seven topics: 1) North Slope Economic Trends, 2) Next Steps for the North Slope, 3) National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and Western Expansion, 4) Mitigating Impacts to Subsistence Use, 5) Planning for Transportation and Utility Corridors, 6) ANWR and Eastward Expansion, and 7) Planning for State Lands and Municipal Land Selections. Profiles for each of the Borough seven villages were posted around the room (Attachment A).

August 29 Opening Remarks: NSB Planning Director Chastity Olemaun, MC for the day, welcomed participants and introduced Mayor Harry K. Brower, Jr. who then gave the invocation. Governor Mike Dunleavy addressed the forum noting the Willow Project, located in the NPR-A, merits approval and that it will provide hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues. He also recognized the potential for expansion of the Pt. Thomson Project and the recent announcement by Santos and Repsol to go forward on the Pikka Project. The Governor acknowledged challenges related to opposition to oil and gas development by outside interests.

Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Dan Sullivan provided remarks through previously recorded videos. They recognized the importance of new development projects to provide revenue, and both senators mentioned the need for the federal administration to support oil and gas projects on the North Slope, especially considering current worldwide events. Senator Murkowski said federal investment in new energy systems will lower the cost of living. Senator Sullivan mentioned the March 2022 opinion piece by Mayor Brower and Alaska Representative Josiah Patkotak in the Wall Street Journal that recommended selling Alaska energy to the world.

Mayor Brower’s introductory remarks addressed the rare opportunity provided by the forum to get everyone around the table to develop new ways to work together. He highlighted some of the outcomes of the previous forums, including agreements with state and federal agencies to improve cooperation and to establish the Arctic Strategic Transportation (ASTAR) and the Community Winter Access Trail (CWAT) projects. The Mayor said he looked forward to the recommendations from participants for improving cooperation among the stakeholders.

Director Olemaun provided background information on the Borough’s oil and gas forums, including the initial forum held in Utqiaġvik in 2007, and subsequent forums held in 2016 and 2018 in Anchorage. She said the theme for the 2022 Oil and Gas Forum, Planning Together for...
Tomorrow’s Energy, emphasizes the importance of cooperation among the North Slope Borough, its communities, state and federal agencies, and the oil industry in planning for future oil development.

**North Slope Economic Trends:** The panelists for this session stressed the importance of oil and gas revenues to the NSB and the State of Alaska. Sandra Stuermer, Director of the NSB Department of Finance and Administration, provided information about the Borough’s income from property taxes. John Crowther, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, summarized the North Slope Oil Production Forecast, including figures from current production, areas under development and areas under evaluation. Lucinda Mahoney, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue, provided a summary of the 2023 revenue forecast and emphasized recent volatility for petroleum revenues. She also explained how the multibillion-dollar Statutory Budget Reserve (SBR) and the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBRF) supplement the State’s budget.

**Next Steps for the North Slope:** Moderator DJ Fauske, Director of NSB Government Affairs, introduced the panel: Akis Gialopsos, Acting Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Steve Cohn, State Director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Erec Isaacson President of ConocoPhillips Alaska; and Luke Saugier, Senior Vice President for Alaska. Mr. Gialopsos highlighted the literacy gap outside of Alaska about oil and gas development. He noted that 39 of the 49 most critical minerals are located on state land. Mr. Cohn provided a brief history of the NPR-A and said since oil and gas leasing began in 1982, $300 million in revenues has been raised with 50% of that available for impact assistance grants. He said there are 293 leases in the NPR-A on 2.6 million acres with 11 million acres available for leasing. Mr. Isaacson discussed ConocoPhillips’ Willow Project which is expected to produce 180,000 barrels per day at its peak. He said future plans include development of Nuna, Narwhal, and GMT-2 prospects. Senior Vice President Luke Saugier said Hilcorp operates the Milne, Northstar, Endicott, Point Thomson, and Prudhoe Bay fields. He emphasized the importance of new technologies such as the use of electric vehicles, robotic pipeline crawlers, and increased use of polymers to extract more oil from Prudhoe Bay.

**August 30 Opening Remarks:** Alaska State Representative Josiah Patkotak, MC for the day, welcomed the participants. He introduced Arnold Brower Jr. who gave the invocation. Representative Patkotak then introduced Gladys Nashoolook of the Wainwright Dancers. To the delight of the audience, the dancers shared their Iñupiaq culture by performing a number of dances accompanied by drumming and singing.
NPR-A and Western Expansion: Moderator Taquilik Hepa, NSB Borough Wildlife Department director, introduced panelists Tyson Kade of the law firm Van Ness Feldman, LLP; Lisa Pekich of ConocoPhillips; and Scott Danner, Director, NSB Department of Public Works

Mr. Kade provided an informative history of the NPR-A oil and gas leasing program. He said BLM prepares an integrated activity plans (IAP) and environmental impact statements (EIS) for the reserve. He said the most recent record of decision (ROD) opens 11.8 million acres to oil and gas leasing. Lisa Pekich provided an update on efforts by ConocoPhillips in the NPR-A and adjacent areas. She said four percent of the NPR-A is currently under lease, and if the Willow project is approved, only 0.003% of the reserve will be under development. Ms. Pekich said compensatory mitigation required by permitting agencies benefits subsistence access. She mentioned the Nuiqsut Community Development Foundation which will help the community apply for grants. Scott Danner discussed the role of the Borough in providing oilfield services. Currently the Borough provides utilities and waste management services at its Service Area 10 facility in Prudhoe Bay.

Mitigating Impacts to Subsistence Use: Moderator Mabel Kaleak, Deputy Planning Director, welcomed the panelists: Patrick Conway of Santos, NSB Cultural Resource Specialist Tommy Nageak, elder Arnold Brower Jr., and Dr. Todd Sformo of the NSB Wildlife Department. Ms. Kaleak gave an overview of how the Borough uses its Title 19 zoning and land use code to mitigate impacts to subsistence use through the addition of stipulations to permits. Mr. Nageak gave an overview of the Borough’s Traditional Land Use Inventory (TLUI). Dr. Sformo said part of the Wildlife Department’s mission is to facilitate subsistence harvest. He spoke about cooperation with the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), the Borough’s Fish and Game Management Committee and the Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel. Dr. Sformo provided three examples of efforts to mitigate impacts to subsistence uses and resources. Arnold Brower Jr. described how conflict avoidance agreements between the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) and oil companies mitigate offshore impacts. He said “good neighbor policies” help balance development with protection of subsistence.

Planning for Transportation and Utility Corridors: Moderator Vernon Edwardsen, President of the NSB Assembly, introduced the panelists: Scott Evans, Director of the NSB Port Authority; Inuuteq Stotts of ASRC Consulting and Environmental Services; Jeff Bruno of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, BLM Alaska Director Steve Cohn, and Morrie Lemen, Executive Director of ICAS. Mr. Evans provided an overview of the Port Authority and the timeline of its Long-Range Development Plan. Mr. Stotts and Mr. Bruno discussed the ASTAR program, including route analyses, the need for gravel roads that serve both industry and communities, and the likely corridors to bring natural gas to villages. Mr. Cohn described how the BLM manages land in Alaska and unique characteristics of some of its land management
practices. Mr. Lemen discussed ICAS’ efforts to facilitate broadband internet and enhance subsistence opportunities and the transportation network.

**ANWR and Eastward Expansion:** Moderator Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, introduced panel members: Charles Lampe, President of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation (KIC), Alan Weitzner, Executive Director of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), and Dr. Andrew Von Duyke of the NSB Wildlife Department. Mr. Lampe spoke about problems KIC has had with obtaining approval to conduct seismic surveys in ANWR. KIC has title to about 92,000 acres of surface land in ANWR with ASRC holding subsurface rights. Mr. Weitzner said AIDEA holds the only active oil and gas leases in ANWR and explained the difficulties in obtaining federal authorizations. He added that the 1002 lands represent eight percent of ANWR, and there would be a maximum of 2,000 acres of surface development representing 0.01 acres of the land open to leasing. Dr. Von Duyke explained how the Borough works with industry partners to conduct studies and comment on federal incidental take authorizations. He described research on polar bears and ice seals.

**North Slope Area Plan and Municipal Land Selections:** Moderator Jason Bergerson, Executive Director of the Nuiqsut Community Development Foundation, introduced the panelists: NSB Planning Director Chastity Olemaun, Borough consultant Ken Pinard, and Christy Colles of the DNR. Ms. Olemaun provided historic information about the Borough’s land selections which were originally filed in 1973. She said the Borough receives about $4.5 million annually in lease revenues from some of the land it selected. She said the Borough’s focus for future land selections will be to secure a right-of-way near the Alpine Project, expand material sales, obtain gravel resources for Wainwright and Atqasuk, and develop transportation nodes along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor. Ms. Colles described the process that led to the adoption of the North Slope Area Plan in 2021. This plan provides the basis for management of state lands by establishing goals, objectives, management guidelines, classifications, and management intent. She said land classifications will be used to develop a best interest finding which will lead to identification of proposed lands for conveyance.

**Priorities for Future Collaboration:** At the end of the forum, the participants identified areas most important for future collaboration among the stakeholders. The highest rated priorities were increasing local hire, expanding opportunities for engaging stakeholders, providing more opportunities for access and transportation, updating health impact assessments, improving coordination among stakeholders, and making gravel available to residents.
## North Slope Borough 2022 Oil and Gas Forum
Anchorage, Alaska – August 29-30, 2022

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Attachment A: Village Profiles
Attachment B: Presentations by panelists
Attachment C: Recommendations for future actions
1. Welcome and Invocation

Chastity Olemaun, MC for the day, welcomed the participants to the forum and introduced herself as the new Director for the North Slope Borough (NSB or Borough) Department of Planning and Community Services. She then introduced Mayor Harry K. Brower, Jr. who gave the invocation.

2. Opening Remarks

After the invocation, Mayor Brower introduced Governor Mike Dunleavy who opened up his address by acknowledging that the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Impact Mitigation Grant Program provided partial funding for the forum. He noted that the Willow Project, located in the NPR-A, merits approval and that it will provide hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues. The Governor also recognized the potential for expansion of the Pt. Thomson Project and the recent announcement by Santos and Repsol to go forward with the Pikka Project. Governor Dunleavy acknowledged challenges facing oil and gas development by outside interests that want to preserve Alaska. He concluded his presentation by saying Alaska needs to exercise its right for self-determination.

Senator Lisa Murkowski greeted the forum participants through a previously recorded video. She acknowledged the difficulty of receiving goods by barge or plane on the North Slope and said the federal administration’s stance on resource extraction is making things even more difficult. She recognized the importance of revenues from the oil industry to provide critical services to the North Slope. Senator Murkowski lauded the decision to move forward on the Pikka Project which will add 80,000 barrels of oil per day to North Slope production. She added that the upcoming record of decision would lead to approval of the Willow Project. The Senator highlighted the importance of oil development on the North Slope for the U.S. and its allies. She concluded her comments by saying federal investment in new energy systems will lower the cost of living.

Senator Dan Sullivan also addressed the participants through a previously recorded video. He applauded the March 2022 opinion piece by Mayor Brower and Alaska Representative Josiah Patkotak in the Wall Street Journal that recommended selling Alaska energy to the world. Senator Sullivan
agreed that Alaska’s energy could help respond to the reduced availability of petroleum resulting from the war in Ukraine. He concluded by saying that rather than closing federal lands in Alaska to oil development, President Biden should reach out to Alaska to see how its oil resources can help alleviate the problem.

Mayor Brower thanked the participants for attending the fourth Oil and Gas Forum sponsored by the Borough. He said this year’s forum continues the dialog among the Borough, its people, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the oil and gas industry. He said meetings like this offer a rare opportunity to get everyone around the table to listen to each other with respect and to develop new ways to work together.

Mayor Brower said discussions at the previous forums provided the seeds for improving and expanding agreements with state and federal agencies, creating the Arctic Strategic Transportation (ASTAR) project, and implementing Community Winter Access Trail project (CWAT). He added that input from the forum resulted in a new model for community outreach that was implemented during development of village comprehensive plans.

The Mayor concluded his opening remarks by saying he looked forward to the recommendations developed during this forum to improve coordination and cooperation among the stakeholders on the North Slope.

Director Olemaun thanked Mayor Brower for his remarks and then introduced a video commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Borough’s creation in 1972. The video gave tribute to Iñupiaq leaders who pushed for the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, formed the Borough and created the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC). Establishment of a first class home rule municipality gave the Borough taxing authority for North Slope oil and gas infrastructure. These taxes resulted in advances to the health and welfare of the villages, including improvement to education, housing, water and sewer infrastructure, and roads. The video ended with this quote: “We are here today, we were here yesterday, and we will be here tomorrow.”

Director Olemaun gave a brief background of the Borough’s oil and gas forums, including the initial forum held in Utqiaġvik in 2007 under the leadership of then Mayor Edward Itta. The Borough held subsequent oil and gas forums in Anchorage in 2016 and 2018. She said the theme for the 2022 Oil and Gas Forum, Planning Together for Tomorrow’s Energy, emphasizes the importance of cooperation among the North Slope Borough, its communities, state and federal agencies, and the oil industry in planning for future oil development. Ms. Olemaun said the forums are designed to be more than just another meeting. She said previous forums have resulted in new ways
of doing business, including creation of ASTAR Project and memoranda of understanding between the NSB and the Alaska departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Public facilities, and Fish and Game.

3. **Icebreaker – North Slope Trivia**

The participants at each table discussed a number of questions intended to introduce them to one another and to learn more about the North Slope. The answers to questions about energy resources revealed that the ancestors of today’s Iñupiaq discovered oil seepages in areas such as Cape Simpson. *Atqasuk*, translated as “the place to dig the rock that burns,” was named because of the community’s proximity to a coal mine. During World War II, coal from the area was freighted to Utqiagvik. Pt. Lay is located near a large coal deposit that has not been developed. Commercial oil development on the North Slope began after ARCO first struck oil on the North Slope with State Number 1 well in April 1967. A second well in March 1968 confirmed presence of the Prudhoe Bay Oil Field, the largest field in North America.

A number of questions addressed the people of the North Slope. The Nunamiut of **Anaktuvuk Pass**, the only inland Iñupiaq people of the North Slope, historically traveled north to the mouth of what is today called the Colville River at a place called Nigliq where an annual trade fair was held. In August, the Nunamiut returned to the Anaktuvuk River where they fished until freeze up. Home to the Tikiagmiut, **Point Hope** is in one of the longest continually inhabited areas in North America. Nearby Ipiutak was occupied from about 500 BC to 100 AD. Although **Point Lay** has a tribal government and a local Native Corporation (Cully Corporation), it does not have an incorporated city government. **Nuiqsut** was resettled in 1974 on the ancestral lands of Kuukpikmiut who historically lived and hunted in the area. In Iñupiaq, Nuiqsut means “something beautiful over the horizon.”

4. **North Slope Economic Trends**

**Panelists:**

*Sandra Stuermer*, Director, NSB Department of Finance and Administration

*John Crowther*, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

*Lucinda Mahoney*, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Revenue

The panelists for this session stressed the importance of oil and gas revenues to the NSB and the State of Alaska. Copies of the Presentations from the three panelists are included in Attachment B of this report.

*Sandra Stuermer*, Director of the North Slope Borough Department of Finance and Administration, provided information about Borough’s income from property taxes. She began her presentation by summarizing the impacts of a lawsuit that led to passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Fifty years ago, the people of northern Alaska created the North Slope Borough. She said Alaska Statutes (AS)
allow the Borough to tax property including oil and gas production facilities, wells, service companies, rigs, pipelines, and exploration facilities. The assessment values for 2022 included $21 billion for oil and gas facilities (AS 43.56) and one billion dollars for non-oil and gas properties (AS 29.45).

Director Stuermer discussed some positive economic trends, including a rise in oil prices for Alaska North Slope Crude Oil between $60.79 in 2019 to $106.00 in 2022. She noted that the active rig count is approaching pre-pandemic levels. She also said that forecasted projects are becoming a reality, including Greater Mooses Tooth (GMT-2), Fiord West (Alpine), Narwhale, and projects at Milne Point. She said potential new projects include Pikka, Nuna, Coyote, Horseshoe, and Quokka prospects. Director Stuermer closed her presentation by remarking about the resilience of the economy and the importance of responsible stewardship of resources.

John Crowther, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, provided information about the North Slope Oil Production Forecast. He began by summarizing activity over the past year, including sanction of the Pikka Development, creation of the Horseshoe and Quokka units, and release of the Willow supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In other news, Hilcorp took over as operator of Point Thomson, exploration has been initiated for the Merlin-2 prospect in the Umiat Unit and in the Talitha Unit. Mr. Crowther displayed a chart of the spring 2022 production forecast looking out to 2031 which included figures from current production, areas under development and areas under evaluation. He said all oilfields are generally expected to see a year-on-year decline, but North Slope production increased about two percent in FY2021 over the previous year. Production has ranged from 516,377 barrels per day in FY2016 to 493,820 in FY2021. Mr. Crowther noted that production varies over the years and future production could be affected by many factors such as the price of oil, international carbon management policies and bank financing.

Lucinda Mahoney, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue, provided a summary of the 2023 revenue forecast. She said her department produces two official revenue forecasts each year—one in the spring and one in the fall. The department started sending out monthly updates this year due to increases in volatility for petroleum revenues. Commissioner Mahoney emphasized the uniqueness of Alaska’s revenue structure and its volatility. During the pandemic in FY2021, revenues were $29.8 billion with petroleum providing 5.4%, the projected revenues. For FY2023 revenues were $16.4 billion with 31.4% provided by petroleum. During the last two years the price of oil doubled resulting in petroleum revenues of $1.4 billion in
FY2000. That amount is forecasted to rise to $4.6 billion in FY2023. The most recent revenue forecast reveals that petroleum revenues are increasing with the price of oil, and deposits to the Permanent Fund are also increasing. Commissioner Mahoney said the FY2023 State of Alaska budget contains contingency mechanisms for the potential volatility in the price of oil. She explained how the budget incorporates these mechanisms in the event of a surplus or deficit depending on oil prices. She concluded her presentation by discussing how the multibillion-dollar Statutory Budget Reserve (SBR) and the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBRF) are spent down during low-oil years and replenished during years of high oil prices. She also noted that the liabilities from oil and gas tax credits will be reduced in future years.

5. Where We Go from Here – Next Steps for the North Slope

Moderator:
DJ Fauske, Director, NSB Government Affairs

Panelists:
Akis Gialopsos, Acting Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Erec Isaacson, President, ConocoPhillips Alaska
Luke Saugier, Senior Vice President Alaska, Hilcorp

Panel Moderator DJ Fauske, Director of the NSB Government Affairs Division, introduced the panel. Acting Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Akis Gialopsos began his presentation by saying Alaska faces uncertainty after recent inflation and increases in the price of natural gas. He said new North Slope projects, such as the Willow and Pikka projects, are part of the solution. Commissioner Gialopsos said there is a literacy gap outside of Alaska about oil and gas development, including a lack of understanding about the limited season for exploration, the expense of transport, and changes in supply chains. He noted the oil and gas industry is dependent on minerals such as barite which mostly come from China. The Commissioner ended his prepared comments by noting that 39 of the 49 most critical minerals are located on state land in Alaska.

Steve Cohn, recently appointed as Alaska State Director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), opened his remarks by emphasizing the importance of cooperation, especially among federal and state agencies, tribes and corporations. He provided a brief history of the NPR-A which was established in 1923 to supply emergency oil to the U.S. Navy. It was transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1976. Since oil and gas leasing began in 1982, $300 million in revenues has been raised with 50% of revenues transferred to the State of Alaska for impact assistance grants. Currently there are 293 leases in the NPR-A on 2.6 million acres and about 11 million acres are available for leasing. Director Cohn said it is important to engage with the public and
industry. He briefly described efforts by the BLM to clean up legacy exploration sites that were drilled by the federal government prior to 1982. The BLM has spent $175 million to plug 49 wells. Director Cohn concluded his remarks by summarizing efforts to hold two lease sales in the Coastal Plain of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) which were sanctioned by the 2017 tax act. The BLM is currently working on the draft EIS for the second ANWR lease which is scheduled for December 2024.

Erec Isaacson, President of ConocoPhillips Alaska, opened his comments by discussing the Willow Project in NPR-A which involved an eight million dollar investment. The prospect is expected to produce 180,000 barrels per day at its peak. About 2,000 workers will be employed during construction with 330 permanent jobs during operation. Half of the federal royalties go to the State of Alaska which will result in an estimated $2.3 billion available for community impact funding. President Isaacson said ConocoPhillips spent one billion dollars on drilling this year in Alaska and that this kind of investment is the key to future production. Over the next decade the company will be working to bring the Nuna, Narwhal, and GMT-2 prospects online as well as continuing with infield drilling.

Senior Vice President for Alaska Luke Saugier said Hilcorp expanded its operations to the North Slope in 2014 taking on operatorship of the Milne, Northstar and Endicott fields. In 2020, Hilcorp took over operations of Prudhoe Bay from BP. Mr. Saugier spoke about the opportunities to apply new technologies on the North Slope such as electric vehicles and robotic crawlers to assess the integrity of pipelines. He said companies have increased the use of polymers to extract more oil from Prudhoe Bay. Hilcorp has also been finding new ways to operate the fields more efficiently. Mr. Saugier concluded his opening remarks by saying he is excited about working in Alaska and the opportunity to cooperate with local residents.

DJ Fauske asked Director Cohn what the BLM could do to make North Slope residents feel they are partners with the agency. Mr. Cohn said the BLM has an open-door policy to cooperate. He also mentioned the agency’s work towards implementing legislation to award allotments to Vietnam veterans, although he noted that these allotments are not available in the NPR-A.

In response to a question from the moderator about future plans for Pt. Thomson, Mr. Saugier said it has become increasingly expensive to operate the field, and the profits are marginal. He summarized two possible paths forward. First, efforts for a gas pipeline could bring gas to market through Cook Inlet or use it on the North Slope, possibly for bitcoin mining. Second, efforts could continue to strip out oil condensate from the gas. He noted there are not many wells at Pt.
Thomson, and each additional well will cost about $100 million to drill.

Moderator Fauske asked Commissioner Gialopsos what DNR would like to see in the future for the North Slope. The Commissioner noted that the breakeven price for oil on the North Slope is $87 per barrel. He said one of the greatest challenges is overcoming reluctance to invest in the North Slope due to misunderstandings. He also mentioned a study in the *Journal of American Medical Association* that found an increased mortality rate in the North Slope and Northwest Arctic boroughs between 1981 and 2015. Commissioner Gialopsos emphasized Alaska’s potential to produce hydrocarbons without negative impacts from sources in other nations such as degradation to human rights. He also said Alaska may not be close to constructing a gas line that could be used to displace Russian gas.

DJ Fauske asked the panelists how they could partner with the NSB to employ more of its residents. Mr. Saugier responded by emphasizing the importance of education, scholarships and internships. Mr. Isaacson said ConocoPhillips’ 2021 community budget for Alaska was $5.2 million, a large portion of that for education. He said the company will need a workforce of welders, electricians and other workers during construction at the Willow Project. Mr. Isaacson said he would rather see these jobs filled by Alaskans. Director Cohn said the BLM has hired locals in Nuiqsut as well as employment of Roy Nageak in the past to represent the agency in Utqiaġvik.

In answer to a question about local support for the Willow Project, Director Cohn said there is a diversity of opinion. He recognized importance of oil and gas to the North Slope economy.

Vernon Edwardsen asked the panelists how local involvement could be improved. Commissioner Gialopsos responded by emphasizing the need for coordination among partners including the State of Alaska, Native corporations and the Alaska Municipal League. He said once we lose local expertise, it is difficult to build it back up. The Commissioner said DNR works with local governments, especially in regional hubs. BLM Alaska Director Cohn said his agency partners with tribes and local organizations and is especially understanding about impacts to subsistence. Erec Isaacson said ConocoPhillips recognizes that cooperation is vital to success and that it is important to schedule face time with communities. He said both sides of an issue need to be heard. Luke Saugier said clear and regular communication with communities is important. He noted that Hilcorp is a private company with no shareholders that is operating previously-developed assets.

6. Closing Remarks – Day 1

Planning Director Chastity Kayutak Olemaun summarized the day’s proceedings emphasizing the economic importance of oil and gas development to the Borough and
the State of Alaska. She noted new projects that may come online such as the Willow and Pikka prospects.

7. Meet and Greet

After the official proceedings for the first day of the forum ended, participants met with each other informally. Hilcorp generously sponsored the refreshments. The Wainwright Dancers were scheduled to perform during the meet and greet but could not do so due to travel delays.

Day 2 – Tuesday, August 30

8. Opening Remarks and Invocation

After the breakfast sponsored by Santos, Alaska Representative Josiah Patkotak, MC for the day, welcomed the participants and noted that the fall whaling season has begun. He introduced Arnold Brower Jr. who gave the invocation. Representative Patkotak then introduced Gladys Nashoolook of the Wainwright Dancers. After being introduced, the dancers performed a number of dances accompanied by drumming and singing. Audience members joined in the dancing.

9. National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska (NPR-A) and Western Expansion

Moderator: Taqulik Hepa, Director, North Slope Borough Wildlife Department

Panelists: Tyson Kade, Van Ness Feldman, LLP
Lisa Pekich, ConocoPhillips
Scott Danner, Director, North Slope Borough Department of Public Works

Moderator Taqulik Hepa, Director of the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, introduced panelists. She noted the opportunities and challenges of expanding oil and gas development into the NPR-A. Presentations for this session are included in Attachment B.
Tyson Kade of the law firm Van Ness Feldman, LLP provided a background to oil and gas activities in the NPR-A. Known originally as the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4, the reserve was established in 1923 to supply fuel for the U.S. Navy. Renamed NPR-A in 1976, Congress transferred it to the BLM, and it prohibited oil and gas development other than in the South Barrow Gas Field. Congress allowed oil and gas leasing in 1980, and the first lease sale was held in 1999. Mr. Kade explained that the BLM manages activities in the NPR-A through development of integrated activity plans (IAP) in coordination with development of EISs. The Subsistence Advisory Panel, established in 1998, was merged with the NPR-A Working Group in 2017. The NPR-A Working Group provides a forum for North Slope entities to give input on management of the NPR-A. Mr. Kade summarized the differences between the 2012 and 2020 IAPs and associated records of decision. The 2020 ROD allowed 18.6 million acres for oil and gas leasing and deferred leasing in 132,000 acres of the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area. He said there has been a rise in litigation challenging the adequacy of EISs and the consultation required under the Endangered Species Act. In response to a January 2021 executive order from the Biden Administration to review agency actions made during the previous four years, the BLM evaluated the adequacy of the 2020 IAP/EIS. In April of 2022, the BLM issued a new ROD that reverted to the management provisions of the 2013 ROD. That decision allowed 11.8 million acres open to oil and gas leasing, and it re-imposed restrictions on areas available for infrastructure.

Lisa Pekich provided an update on ConocoPhillips’ efforts in the NPR-A and adjacent areas. She said four percent of the NPR-A is currently under lease, and if the Willow project is approved, only 0.003% of the reserve will then be developed. She summarized the approval processes for Greater Mooses Tooth (GMT) 1 and GMT2 projects. For each project, there was a two to three year environmental review and a two to three year construction process. Both GMT1 and GMT2 are currently in production and are connected by road to the Alpine Project. The Willow Project is located further west in the NPR-A, and the comment period for the project’s supplemental EIS is expected to be completed in 2023. Ms. Pekich said compensatory mitigation required by federal and NSB permits for the NPR-A projects has resulted in local benefits including increased subsistence access, culvert replacement, ATV trail rehabilitation,
and construction of the bridge to Freshwater Lake. In addition, federal revenue sharing provisions provide 50% of royalties going to the State for impact assistance grants for NPR-A communities. She concluded her remarks by discussing the opportunities of the Nuiqsut Community Development Foundation which will help the community apply for grants.

**Scott Danner** discussed the role of the Borough in providing oilfield services. Currently the Borough provides utilities and waste management services at its Service Area 10 facility in Prudhoe Bay. Operational assets include a water plant, wastewater plant, hotel, and the Oxbow Landfill. There is a potential to provide similar services for western expansion.

Moderator Hepa asked the panelists some questions beginning with one directed to Mr. Kade about how locals can be better prepared to participate in environmental reviews. Mr. Tyson answered by saying the NEPA process aims to provide full disclosure of project impacts. Programmatic reviews cover large areas, such as the EIS/IAP for the NPR-A, while more narrow reviews are conducted for specific projects such as the Willow Project. In addition to NEPA, Section 810 of ANILCA provides an avenue for locals to address impacts to subsistence uses and resources.

Dorcas Nashoalook of Nuiqsut thanked ConocoPhillips for funding for water and sewer and the landfill road. She requested that more consideration be given to scheduling meetings when everyone is in the community and to avoid holding meetings during whaling activities.

Nora Jane Burns of Kaktovik said it was important to complete baseline studies and asked how long it takes to update them. Ms. Pekich said studies on birds, vegetation, mammals, caribou, and fish require significant funding and take at least three years to complete. She said monitoring studies supplement baseline studies. Jason Bergerson added that many studies are posted on the North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) website, a repository for many scientific studies completed for the region.

Moderator Hepa explained that the Borough responds to local concerns about projects during project reviews. She said the Wildlife Department works closely with the Planning Department to prepare comments for agency reviews and to prepare stipulations for the Borough’s Title 19 permits.

George Sielak of Nuiqsut discussed the importance of subsistence to the community including the right to access subsistence resources, especially caribou. He also welcomed efforts to suppress dust by using water trucks. He said the next step might be to use chip seal to provide a hard surface to reduce dust. Mr. Sielak said mitigation impact funds should go to the communities that are most impacted from
oil and gas activities and that more work needs to be done to reduce air pollution.

Dorcas Nashoalook commented that there are increasing numbers of salmon showing up due to climate change. She said that she feels like locals are not being heard during meetings.

10. Breakout Session #1: Mitigating Impacts to Subsistence Use

Facilitator:
Mabel Kaleak, NSB Deputy Planning Director

Panelists:
Arnold Brower Jr., Elder
Tommy Nageak, NSB Cultural Resource Specialist
Patrick Conway, Santos
Dr. Todd Sformo, NSB Wildlife Department

Moderator, Mabel Kaleak, NSB Deputy Planning Director, welcomed the group of about 45 participants. Presentations are included in Attachment B. Ms. Kaleak introduced Jimmy Kagak of Wainwright who gave a “wolf scare” demonstration which Iñupiaq people traditionally used to make sounds to protect caribou from predation. She then provided opening remarks about how the Borough implements its Title 19 zoning and land use code to ensure developers comply with policies (standards) in the code. These policies provide the basis for developing permit stipulations. The code establishes zoning districts and provisions to mitigate impacts to subsistence through the addition of stipulations to Borough permits. She said oil and gas development projects require rezoning an existing zoning district to the resource development district. The

Borough code also requires approval of a master plan for areas rezoned to the resource development district.

Patrick Conway of Santos provided an overview of how his company mitigates impacts to subsistence beginning with a pre-activity outreach to city governments, tribes, local Native corporations, and other residents. Project monitoring occurs during exploration and development activities, and reports are completed after the activity is completed. Some examples of mitigation include the use of non-reflective surfaces on pipelines, higher heights for pipelines, lighting on drill pads, access for subsistence users, and use of local subsistence representatives. Mr. Conway emphasized the importance of environmental studies including local input on the purpose of studies and how to conduct them. He said companies use an open line of communication with locals, including daily coordination of helicopter use. He closed his
comments by emphasizing the importance of safety and support for subsistence users.

**Tommy Nageak**, NSB Cultural Resource Specialist, gave an overview of how the Borough protects cultural resources and subsistence uses. The Traditional Land Use Inventory (TLUI), created in the 1970s, has identified about 17,000 sites, including subsistence use areas, camps, cabins, grave sites, and archaeological sites. He said the original database has been upgraded to incorporate new technology, such as GIS, to pinpoint the location of sites. Mr. Nageak closed by saying the Borough focuses on avoiding or mitigating impacts rather than stopping projects.

**Dr. Todd Sformo**, of the Borough’s Wildlife Department, said the Department’s mission is to facilitate subsistence harvest and monitor populations of fish and wildlife species through scientific research, indigenous ecological knowledge, leadership, and advocacy from local to international levels. He said the Department works closely with the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) and the Borough’s Fish and Game Management Committee. The committee includes representatives from each village that meet twice a year. The Department also works closely with the Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel to identify local concerns in Nuiqsut. It aims to detect changes from baseline conditions, and it works with the Planning Department and industry to develop reasonable and site-specific permit stipulations. Dr. Sformo gave three examples of how mitigation works. The first example involved mitigation for the West Dock and the Endicott Causeway developed in the 1970s and 1980s. The Borough mayor convened the Science Advisory Council to address impacts over a six-year period. This resulted in measures to reduce impacts on overwintering Arctic cisco fish. The second example involved a three-year fish habitat study for the Willow Project. Yearly meetings involve the review of studies and identify needed follow up studies. The third example involved the use of experiments to reduce contamination from small oil spills of 200-550 barrels. This example led to agreement of how to know when cleanup of a spill is sufficient and availability of funds for transport of fishers in the event of a spill.

**Arnold Brower Jr.**, an Utqiagvik elder, described conflict avoidance agreements established between the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) and oil companies for offshore oil and gas activities. Under what are sometimes referenced as “good neighbor policies” these agreements
balance development with protection of subsistence uses and resources. Mr. Brower described the jubilation when harvesting a whale to supply food and traditional needs to the communities. He explained that the International Whaling Commission (IWC) sets quotas for whaling in Alaska. Mr. Brower described opposition by conservation groups at IWC meetings and said that “hunger knows no law.” He also described how traditional knowledge of the Iñupiaq proved that the population of bowhead whales was much larger than estimated. The conflict avoidance agreements have resulted in modifications to barge operations, postponement of sea lifts until Nuiqsut gets its whaling quota, and compensation to whalers if there was an oil spill. Mr. Brower also spoke about the need to ensure healthy populations of caribou.

During the question and answer period, Julie Itta of Point Lay spoke about the need for oil companies to work with communities to protect wildlife, including beluga, walrus, and polar bear. She emphasized the importance of using provisions in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) such a participation in the federal Beluga, Walrus, and Nanuq commissions. Ms. Itta spoke about the large walrus haul outs near Point Lay and measures to protect them that impact fuel deliveries. She also discussed impacts to caribou migration and the importance of plants used for traditional medicine and now locals need to go further away to collect them now. She concluded by saying local people want to be heard.

11. Breakout Session #2: Planning for Transportation and Utility Corridors

Facilitator:
Vernon Edwardsen, President, NSB Assembly

Panelists:
Scott Evans, Director, NSB Port Authority Department
Inuuteq Stotts, ASRC Consulting and Environmental Services
Jeff Bruno, ASTAR Coordinator, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Morrie Lemen, Executive Director, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS)

Facilitator Vernon Edwardsen introduced the panelists. Presentations are included in Attachment B of this report.

Scott Evans provided an overview of the NSB Port Authority, the timeline of its Long-Range Development Plan, the Authority’s mission and goals, and the transportation projects it is currently involved with.

Inuuteq Stotts and Jeff Bruno gave an overview of the ASTAR program progress, including route analyses and the need for gravel roads that serve both industry and communities. They described the likely corridors for routes and for bringing natural gas to villages. Their presentation focused
on the studies to identify health, safety, workforce development, access to education, and preservation and enhancement of subsistence opportunities, with the goal to reduce the cost of goods and services. Mr. Stotts and Mr. Bruno described stakeholder engagement efforts.

**Steve Cohn** described his role as the Alaska State Director of BLM, how BLM manages land in Alaska. He described the unique characteristics of some of BLM’s land management practices.

**Morrie Lemen** discussed ICAS’ efforts on behalf of its Iñupiaq tribal membership as the regional tribal government of the North Slope. This included efforts to facilitate the development of a viable overland transportation network, microwave-based broadband, enhanced subsistence opportunities, and security for the transportation network.

During the discussion period that followed the presentations, a Point Lay attendee mentioned that the U.S. Air Force and BLM control a substantial amount of land around the community of Point Lay. There are unresolved contamination issues as well as control of the airport for the community. The attendee also mentioned that the village Native corporation has gravel sites available for use on transportation (airport, roads, and marine facilities) access projects.

Another attendee commented on the coastal erosion project to protect the coast around Utqiagvik. They asked if there were other coastline protection projects scheduled or expected for other coastal communities on the North Slope. The answer was that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is working on additional solutions to address coastal erosion, but the Utqiagvik project was the only project currently scheduled. The agencies involved with ASTAR are working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on erosion issues. ICAS is pursuing funding opportunities to address coastal erosion.

There was another question about access to gravel sources located in the NPR-A for use by the NSB. BLM Director Cohn indicated he was not familiar with the NPR-A legal authority for gravel extraction, stating that it is better defined for other federal lands elsewhere in the U.S. The federal act that governs BLM land allows all kinds of uses of the land to occur, but the NPR-A has additional considerations. Mr. Lemen said that there continues to be a need to fully evaluate the environmental, social, and environmental impacts that occur as the result of different land uses. Following these comments, an attendee mentioned that UMIAQ Environmental LLC manages NSB gravel resources (the Put 23 mine and others) in the Kuparuk-Prudhoe Bay-Deadhorse area.

During this session, the group identified the following priorities.

- Develop the Utqiagvik/Atqasuk/Wainwright Transportation Corridor and improve
communications with all North Slope entities for access alternatives.

- Use the 1983 Borough gas line plan for village natural gas consumption to help reduce village energy costs.
- Encourage the federal Department of Homeland Security to establish a presence on the North Slope to secure access to the North Slope communities.
- Improve the Point Hope airport so the community will not lose its airport. The area also includes significant historic and archeological resources that would also be lost from coastal erosion. There also continues to be a significant need for an evacuation road for Point Hope in response to coastal erosion and storm surge events.

Lunch Buffet – Sponsored by ConocoPhillips

12. ANWR and Eastward Expansion

Moderator:
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Panelists:
Charles Lampe, President, Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation

Alan Weitzner, Executive Director, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

Dr. Andrew Von Duyke, Wildlife Biologist, North Slope Borough Wildlife Department

Session moderator Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, introduced panel members and said he would have some comments after the presentations by the panelists.

Charles Lampe, President of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation (KIC), spoke about problems KIC had with obtaining approval to conduct seismic surveys on corporation land in ANWR. KIC has title to about 92,000 acres of surface land in ANWR with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation holding subsurface rights. In 2017 Congress approved leasing in the Coastal Plain of ANWR also known as the 1002 area. In order to complete seismic surveys to identify oil deposits, KIC was required to obtain an incidental harassment authorization for possible disturbance to polar bears. As a result of federal delays, Mr. Lampe said KIC was not given federal permission to conduct the surveys for polar bear dens in time for approval of the seismic surveys.

Alan Weitzner, Executive Director of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) began his presentation by explaining that AIDEA currently holds the only active oil and gas leases in ANWR. AIDEA is the state’s investment bank, and it has injected $3.5 billion into the Alaska
economy and raised $450 million in dividends for the State of Alaska. AIDEA was one of three entities receiving leases in the January 2021 lease sale. He agreed that KIC received unfair treatment regarding its application for seismic surveys. He said completion of the seismic surveys was necessary to provide information about the location of oil and gas deposits before the second lease sale is held. Mr. Weitzner said the 1002 lands represent eight percent of ANWR, and there would be a maximum of 2,000 acres of surface development which represents 0.01 of the acres open to leasing. He said an application by AIDEA for archaeological studies was halted in August 2021 until the DOI can complete a supplemental EIS. In November 2021 AIDEA and KIC 2021 filed a lawsuit for violation of leases. Mr. Weitzner said it is a big problem that AIDEA is not being listened to by the federal agencies.

Dr. Andrew Von Duyke, NSB Wildlife Biologist, said the Wildlife Department works with industry partners to conduct studies and comment on incidental take authorizations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He said research on ice seals involves spatial ecology using transmitters. Dr. Von Duyke acknowledged that there is concern for Beaufort Sea polar bears and said recapture models can be used to estimate populations. He said it is important to review documents that are used to set policies to insure there is a check and balance. He said the Ice Seal Committee provides a tool for Native participation in co-management activities. He closed his presentation by saying actions on the North Slope have global implications and that cultivating good partnerships yields maximum success.

Moderator Vincent-Lang said oil and gas development can safely be done and that studies have demonstrated caribou have been successfully managed near development. He said new digital counting methods help manage caribou. In addition, he said the South Beaufort Sea polar bear stock has stable populations. Commissioner Vincent-Lang said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is employing a new untested model to estimate incidental take and that the State has concerns with several of the underlying assumptions used in the model. He added that the State is collecting data to test these assumptions and that data should be available over the next several years.

Ken Pinard, a NSB consultant, mentioned that the Borough has selected barrier islands in the Beaufort Sea.

Moderator Vincent-Lang asked the panelists what could be done to protect subsistence use better. Charles Lampe said there should be more local involvement, and agencies should ask local residents what they know about wildlife populations. Mr. Weitzner said local partnerships are important.

In answer to a question about the best next step, Dr. VonDuyke said research plans should include studies that test assumptions. Kaktovik resident Lee Kayotuk discussed the impacts of polar bear tourism on his community. He also said it is
important to be prepared for the next lease sale by having seismic information.


**Moderator:**

Jason Bergerson, Executive Director, Nuiqsut Community Development Foundation

**Panelists:**

Chastity Kayutak Olemaun, Director, NSB Department of Planning and Community Services

Ken Pinard, Pinard Land Surveying

Christy Colles, Division of Mining Land and Water, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Moderator Jason Bergerson, Executive Director of the Nuiqsut Community Development Foundation, introduced the panelists. Chastity Olemaun opened her presentation by saying she worked on municipal land entitlements for the Borough before becoming Planning Director. She provided historic information about the Borough’s land selections which were originally filed in 1973. A 1987 amendment to the Municipal Entitlement Act limited the acreage available to the Borough to just under 90,000 acres. Director Olemaun said the Borough receives about $4.5 million annually in lease revenues from some of the land it has selected. She said proposed selections for barrier islands initially would help protect marine mammals, and further discussion may be needed in the future. Director Olemaun said the Borough’s focus for future land selections will be to secure a right-of-way near the Alpine Project that will enable Kuukpik Corporation to collect tolls, expand material sales (in Put 23 and Minesite F and opening of Minesite 3), obtain gravel resources for Wainwright and Atqasuk in conjunction with the ASTAR route analysis, and develop transportation nodes along the Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor.

Borough consultant Ken Pinard of Pinard Land Surveying said he is working with the Borough in its municipal land entitlement process. He said he is available to answer any specific land questions during the panel. He said the Borough meets with DNR on a monthly basis, sometimes twice a month and has established a good working relationship with the Land Conveyance Section regarding NSB land selections.

Christy Colles of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Mining, Land and Water said DNR adopted the North Slope Area Plan in 2021. This plan provides the basis for management of state lands by establishing goals, objectives, management guidelines, classifications, and management intent. She said land classifications will be used to develop DNR’s preliminary decision for its Best Interest Finding which will identify proposed lands for conveyance. DNR will solicit comments before issuing the final decision. She said currently 4,491 acres of the Borough’s entitlement of 89,850 acres have been
conveyed. Management authority for 8,326 acres has transferred to the Borough, and the Borough has selected 54,875 acres without prioritization. The remaining 22,158 acres are pending selection.

Moderator Bergerson said that obtaining selections has been a long and tedious process and that he had worked for 20 years on this process. He said 8,000 acres had been transferred during his tenure with the Borough. Mr. Bergerson said the Borough has used lands selected in Deadhorse to provide oilfield services, including the regional landfill.

In answer to a question, Ms. Colles said DNR must proceed with selections that are in the State’s best interest. She said DNR has been meeting with the Borough on a regular basis and that each selection is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The decisions must be made by balancing different interests, and DNR can’t make any promises.

Mr. Bergerson asked if classifications can change throughout time. Ms. Colles said plans are updated periodically and that its best interest finding process can be used to change classifications. Mr. Pinard asked Ms. Colles if DNR would share their North Slope Area Plan land classification shape files with the NSB and was assured that would be accomplished.

Jon Isaacs asked about plans for relocation of communities due to erosion, specifically regarding Point Lay. He asked if the NSB selections included land which might be used for village relocation. Mr. Pinard commented that State of Alaska Lands were not available because lands surrounding NSB Villages are owned by village Native corporations, and he said the duty of ANCSA Native corporations is to assist their communities. Mr. Pinard and Mr. Bergerson also questioned whether the boundaries of federal lands in the NPR-A being could be restructured. BLM Director Cohn said it might take an act of Congress to secure funding for relocation, but wasn’t sure.

The moderator closed this session by highlighting successes of previous oil and gas forums such as the efforts to connect communities through the Community Winter Access Trails (CWAT) program.

14. Developing Priorities for Future Collaboration

After conclusion of the last panels, the forum participants broke into six groups to develop priorities for cooperation over the next few years. The main priorities from each group were recorded on flip chart papers and posted on the wall. Each participant voted on their top three priorities by placing adhesive dots on the ideas developed by the six groups. Attachment C contains the actual wording of each suggestion and the number of votes each one received.
After the forum was completed, similar ideas were grouped together with combined scores. The results of that analysis are summarized below. While this exercise does not provide a definitive analysis of all the interests of the participants, it does indicate the issues that are most important to them.

- **Workforce Development**: Hire more locals and develop labor and training partnerships – 27 votes
- **Stakeholder Engagement**: Improve outreach to stakeholders – give adequate public notice, listen to locals, and develop an organizational overview from each stakeholder to explain how they interface, and develop collaborative funding – 21 votes
- **Transportation and Access**: Provide more points of access for NSB communities and continue to implement ASTAR – 19 votes
- **Health Impacts**: Update health impact assessments and mitigate long-term impacts of development – 15 votes
- **Coordination**: Improve coordination among government, industry, communities (hold a strategy session), complete an MOU between the Borough and the U.S. Department of the Interior, and visit the land – 14 votes
- **Gravel**: Make gravel available to NSB and Alaska Natives – 12 votes
- **Federal Promises**: Ensure promises from federal agencies are kept – 10 votes
- **ANWR**: Improve BLM’s fair consideration of traditional and Iñupiaq knowledge about land use in ANWR – 9 votes
- **Dismantlement, Removal and Restoration (DR&R)**: Plan for restoration of oil development – 5 votes
- **Research and Technology**: Integrate new technology, efficacy, safety, accessibility and conversion and use studies that lead to action – 4 votes
- **Responsible Development**: Continue
onsible oil and gas development and consider environmental, social and government (ESG) principles – 3 votes

- **Impacts from Outsiders:** Reduce impacts from tourism, security, hunting, etc. – 3 votes
- **Regulatory Review:** Reduce duplication and overlapping regulations – 3 votes
- **Erosion:** Plan and mitigate coastal erosion – 1 vote

15. **Closing Remarks by Mayor Harry Brower Jr.**

Mayor Harry K. Brower, Jr., thanked everyone for attending the forum. He highlighted some of the important discussions during the forum and said he looked forward to working with all of the stakeholders to implement priorities identified at the 2022 Oil and Gas Forum.

The Wainwright dancers closed the forum with additional performances of dancing, drumming and singing.