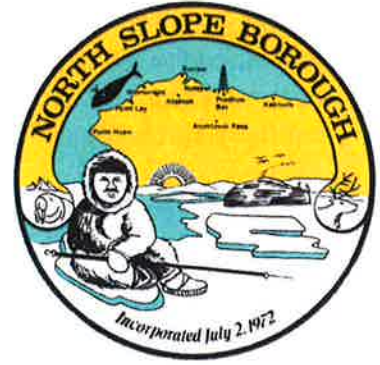


North Slope Borough

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor
DATE: February 2, 2015
SUBJ: January Status Report

Charlotte E. Brower

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

January was an exciting month, and I am pleased to report on following accomplishments achieved by my dedicated staff over this past month:

Staff from the **Mayor's Office** are working on Kivgiq preparations. In conjunction with the Law Department the Mayor participated in calls with Department of Interior's Chief of Staff to present the North Slope Borough's position on the Bureau of Land Management's extensive Greater Moose's Tooth 1 mitigation measures, the disfavored permanent Wilderness designation for a millions of acres within ANWR and the permanent withdrawal of certain subsistence deferral areas from oil and gas leasing in the Chuckchi and Beaufort Seas. We will continue to monitor and respond as necessary in these areas.

The **Department of Search and Rescue** only had one personal locator beacon (PLB) activated, it was mistakenly activated. Each of the helicopters flew 4.3 hours this month, the Lear Jet flew 34.8 hours and the King Air flew 24.7 hours this month. Search and Rescue participated in the 2015 NSBSD Career Expo, giving tours to the NSB Search & Rescue hanger. On January 8, 2015 NSB Search and Rescue SAR Coordinators attended a Radio Talk Show to talk about the importance of signing out a PLB.

The **Department of Administration and Finance** has been very busy working with all departments to develop the FY 16 Operating Budget, which will be presented to the North Slope Borough Assembly for its consideration in March.

The SA-10 Division is continuing to manage the construction of the new water and sewer plant at Prudhoe Bay and are pleased that the project remains on schedule for substantial completion in October 2015. SA-10 staff have encountered a challenge in the development of the Oxbow Landfill expansion, due to the presence of a denning polar bear on the project site. Staff are working with contractors, and state and federal officials to determine a path forward.

Mediation on the various pending cases relating to the value of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System is scheduled for the week of February 8, 2015. Representatives of the State of Alaska, TAPS owners, and impacted municipalities will attempt to settle all pending litigation, as well as determining a mutually agreeable method to value TAPS in future years.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** was well represented at Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) in January. This is the pre-eminent meeting regarding marine science in Alaska. Our staff were involved in 5 oral presentations, 16 posters, and contributed to a bowhead animated film that was shown at the symposium.

Polar Bear snow-track eDNA analysis continues to be a promising new development in polar bear research. However, it will require efforts to validate the sampling protocols as well as the DNA analysis. We met with collaborators during the AMSS to discuss collaborating on the development of a genetic finger print for polar bears.

Subsistence Research staff have been busy preparing for and working on Ice Seal Committee (ISC) issues related to the proposed rule to designate critical habitat for arctic ringed seals. A letter was written to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to request an extension of the comment period. An extension was granted for March 31, 2015.

In addition to its normal workload, the **Department of Public Works** sent staff to assist a Wainwright resident with a lighting issue raised, the issue was minor and fixed rather quickly. According to the CIPM Project Administrator, 68 street lights are currently expected to be delivered to Kaktovik (24), Point Hope (24), and Point Lay (20) by the 1st or 2nd week of February. In addition, there are at least 150 lights still on backorder. We will continue to follow up on delivery timeframe for these lights and update the Mayor's Office about it.

Public Works is sending two of our Power Plant Operators (from Wainwright and Nuiqsut) to AVTEC (Alaska Vocational & Technical Education Center) facility in Seward, Alaska to attend Power Plant Operator II training on February 2nd through February 27th. This training is sponsored by the Alaska Energy Authority.

The **Planning Department** has been making headway with comprehensive plans. For Kaktovik, staff seeks to schedule March 3, 2015 as a date for the introduction of the Ordinance to the Assembly and April 7, 2015 as a date for a public hearing workshop on the Plan and later consideration of adoption of the Plan by the Assembly. A Public Interest Determination contract between the Borough and ASRC Energy Services Alaska, Inc. was signed in December. This will provide planning services for preparation of Village Comprehensive Plans for Point Hope, Point Lay and Atqasuk, and the completion of Village Comprehensive Plans for Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass within a two year period. Once the village plans are adopted, the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan will be updated to reflect those plans.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,036 calls for service this month. 787 calls were dispatched and 1,245 were officer initiated. There were 50 citations written, and a total of 30 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized 13,750 milliliters (18.3 bottles) of alcohol. Officers conducted frequent walkthroughs of various basketball games being held in Barrow and the villages, in Atqasuk the officer attended recess to interact with the students. On January 20, 2015 the officer in Point Hope conducted a Major Incident Response/Active Shooter meeting with Tikigaq School staff.

The **Fire Department** continues to send maintenance staff to the villages to service all emergency vehicles, this month they went to Atqasuk, Nuiqsut and Point Lay where all equipment was serviced. All apparatus and response vehicles with the exception of one responder vehicle in Barrow are currently in service.

As the State is raising the bar on Emergency Medical Services, so is the Fire Department's training division. Recently we have moved to an online registration process and are actively looking for a web based program that will allow our State Certified Emergency Medical Technicians to become Nationally Certified as well. The most exciting class completed in January was the Emergency Medical Technician II (EMT2) training, with 4 village participants and 7 Barrow participants.

The **Human Resources Department's** Training and Development Division offered 7 trainings this month with a total 117 individual who received trainings. These assorted trainings included First Aid/CPR, Time Management, Interviewing Skills, Ground School Training and more.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** Billing Program is staffed. The Borough will begin seeing updated fee schedules and begin notifying the public of intent to bill for services as passed by NSB Resolution and required for grants to collect for healthcare services. Currently, the Senior Program, AWIC and the Vet Clinic are the only programs collecting for fees. With the new Billing Program, the NSB will have the opportunity to collect revenue from Medicaid and Medicare and insurance services. Reminder to all, the NSB does not deny services for inability to pay.

Planning is underway for the 2015 Healthy Living Summit. This summit is geared toward youth, health professions and community and addresses prevention, education and health promotion. The conference to take place in Barrow with village participants. The major partner in this conference is ASNA with support from Rasmussen Foundation and industry. If you would like to be a part of the planning for this conference, please contact the Health Department.

In partnership with Alaska Tribal Health Consortium and ASNA, the first ever Niqipiaq Challenge will take place across the North Slope this coming spring. This challenge will foster intake of traditional foods and using store bought foods that are closest to a traditional diet. Pre and post laboratory testing will be done to look at glucose, blood pressure, and lipids to show the value of eating traditional Inupiaq foods.

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

