

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor
DATE: July 2, 2013
SUBJ: Status Report

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience. The month of June was a time for grateful celebrations of the spring hunts, and Barrow was blessed with its first whale! Congratulations to Anagi Crew, and quyanaqpak to our successful whaling communities for safe and happy celebrations. Even as we celebrated our blessings from our Creator, we worked hard to protect our natural resources and our rights to food safety and continued subsistence livelihood. Along with our ICC partners we participated in the pre-conference hosted by the Saami Parliament for the 2014 World Indigenous Conference being held by the United Nations. This preparatory conference resulted in the Alta Declaration wherein the rights of indigenous peoples' were outlined and next steps identified. Our connections to the Saami people as you know go back to the days when reindeer herders came to our regions. My Office also participated in the Alaska Marine Mammal Coalition meetings and sent whaling captains to observe the process, as we are stakeholders in issues surrounding increased marine traffic in our seas. We also filed a lawsuit objecting to the listing of bearded seals as an endangered species.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff also engaged in meetings and conferences and prepared NSB comments to BOEM concerning the agency's planned preparation of Environmental Assessments for three OCS seismic programs proposed for the upcoming Open Water season. I attended the Arctic Spill of National Significance (SONS) seminar with department staff with several high ranking officials from the USGC, FEMA and ADEC to ensure that local conditions are considered in the SONS for our region. We continue an active presence in Alaska oil and gas development and the NPR-A management plan.

The **Department of Public Works** is requesting the communities of Wainwright and Point Lay to conserve water due to leaks in the water system. Flyers asking the public to conserve water usage have been distributed in both communities. Constant leaks have caused excessive water loss in these communities and repairs are underway as well as pumping water from

reservoirs to mitigate the problem. The Department is also pleased to welcome Richard "Rico" San Jose's appointment as Assistant to the Director.

The **Department of Capital Improvements Program Management** is working to repair unanticipated roof damage in the Kali School currently under renovation. The department is also working with ADEC and EPA on the disposal of drums from Southpad including soil characterization during this summer season.

Police Department new hire officers Sean Gueco and Michael Gonzalez, both Barrow residents are currently attending the Department's initial 2 week orientation and training program. After completing their initial 2 week training, both will be assigned to the 12 week Field Training Program while awaiting an opportunity to attend Alaska Law Enforcement Academy training and certification. The department continued its active participation in our communities including special events for children. This positive interaction assures our children that Police Officers are there to assist.

The **Department of Health and Social Service's** Walking Wednesdays has been a huge success! We've had different organizations outside the NSB host the walks! We have walks scheduled through July and August. I commend the department for proactive initiatives to keep us all healthy. Our NSB Health interns are working on a slope-wide campaign and chose Suicide Prevention as their topic for the campaign. They have some great ideas and have planned activities. They presented to the City of Barrow Summer Youth Program, and are making a float for the 4th of July parade.

This concludes my summary report for the month of June. Have a safe and blessed summer!