

**Northwest Arctic Borough  
Planning Commission Regular Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.  
Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers, Kotzebue, AK**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Janet Mills called the meeting to order at 9:02AM.

**INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mr. Daniel Foster gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL:**

Barbara MacManus	Calvin Moto Sr	Ernie Norton	Janet Mills
Dale Stotts	Carol Wesley	Millie Hawley	

**INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND GUESTS**

Noah Naylor	Charlie Gregg	Stella Atoruk	Zach Stevenson
John Chase	Damian Phillips	Reggie Joule	Sandy Huss
Jackie Lambert	Lance Kramer	Yiyuk Henry	Dave Park
Ingemar Mathiasson			

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

The agenda of February 19, 2014 was presented for approval.

Noah Naylor requests to amend the agenda to add Reggie Joule to address the Planning Commission.

**Commissioner Ernie Norton moved, seconded by Commissioner Millie Hawley to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Reggie Joule thanks Commission for their service provided to the borough and time out into the Planning Commission. Reggie discussed Shell agreement. \$1.1 million dollar grant for research, will help to build capacity, there will be a 15 member group 7 out of 15 will be people from this borough, one from Buckland-Deering, one from Ambler-Shungnak-Kobuk, one from Noorvik-Kiana-Selawik, one from Kotzebue, one from Kivalina-Noatak, and two at large from this Borough, expressed importance of the members. We will actively pursue funds, whether it is from the federal level, other private sectors, the state of Alaska, wherever it might be, I believe this Borough needs to be engaged in those kinds of activities. Reggie also discussed Offshore Development. He mentioned the Subsistence Mapping Projects. Shell has decided

not to do any drilling. Mayor Joule talked about increase in shipping issues; energy cost throughout the Borough. He discusses road request by the villages. The Planning Commission should be asking what if, what it would take?" we should start putting those if's on the table, and instead of just reacting to it building up our own case to support or not supporting something.

Commissioner Moto discusses tomcod or seal issues. He brought up warm weather issues, musk ox, uugruks and salmon that we couldn't use. He would like to see the at large seats be an elder representative. Commissioner Moto expresses concerns of warm weather.

Reggie discusses Shell agreement and advisory committee and planning for the fifteen member committee to attend the Science Symposium. I will be contacting the communities and at the end of the day I will be making the selection.

Dale Stotts congratulates Mayor Joule and administration on Shell agreement. What is the core of engineers doing? They are focusing too far south.

Reggie discusses development of port off of Cape Blossom.

Millie Hawley questions Science Symposium planning and outreach?

Reggie the Planning is with the University, Chukchi is the host for that, as far as the outreach I'm not sure of that and with regards to the Advisory Committee by then we will have the committee named and have them participate in that and bring in folks who can get a base line of research going on. I don't know how much outreach is going on.

Calvin Moto supports the road project.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Minutes of previous meeting dated October 16, 2013 were presented for approval. Member Barbara MacManus went through the minutes and noted the following correction: on the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph it was talking about Cape Blossom I believe it's meant to say "effected not "effective".

**Commissioner Millie Hawley moved, seconded by Commissioner Calvin Moto to approve the minutes with the corrections. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES**

Jim Dau gives a report of Caribou, Western Arctic heard is the largest herd, and the numbers have declined, weather events, wolf and bear numbers going up.

Millie Hawley asks if the 5 per day is going to change because of declining of Caribou.

Noah Naylor thanked Alex Whiting with Kotzebue IRA for putting a proposal together with game management 23.

Jim Dau it is really not predator control, it's an attempt by the state to get regulations more consistent with what local people have been doing out here for decades. There are several

aspect of state regulations where we are terribly out of step with local practice, harvesting wildlife using motorized vehicles not just snogo's, boats 4 wheelers and that's technically illegal. Discussed meeting with board of game proposal. There is a good chance that it will get amended at the meeting, it's going to be important for people of this region to get to Anchorage for the meeting to testify, AC members, Red Dog subsistence resource committee, School of Noatak is going to submit written comments. It's really not predator control.

Noah Naylor thanks Alex and Native Village of Kotzebue for putting that proposal together.

Jim Dau mentioned he is trying to get to all the villages to educate what is legal and not.

Millie Hawley we appreciate them coming to our communities. We encourage your game warden to come out, they only met with the councils and did get to see the hunters and gave out permits.

Jim Dau explains meeting in Anchorage. Public testimony is usually in the first day or two, it will probably be 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.

Lance Kramer what was the cause of decline in Canada and what role of development and roads have on those herds declining so rapidly?

Jim Dau that's a good question Lance, I think in Canada most of the times they don't know. He explains Canada censuses.

Lance I think it's important to consider, perhaps some of the Shell money can go to that research and the Caribou herd is not coming down the Noatak like it used to. I think we need to think about that before development of more roads. Caribou is very important.

Jim Dau there is really very few things we can control. I think we can shut down hunting, stop it and this herd will still continue to decline at least for a while; I don't think that its hunting that is affecting it. We need development because we don't have caribou. These herds have been going down. This is a natural thing; Caribou herds go up and down; it's part of the natural cycle. Jim also brought up moose census.

Janet Mills we had a meeting in Noatak, when do you think the timeline will be. We had an elder that didn't know that he was doing anything wrong.

Jim Dau they were in Kivalina yesterday, I told them about the meeting on Monday, they said that looks like we got to go to Noatak next, I emailed Megan's supervisor and said this is important and I think it needs to be in her annual work plan. Megan is all for it. Hoping within the next year we will get to all the villages.

Dale Stotts can you discuss the resolution from the Kotzebue IRA, can the board of game change hunting restrictions? Can you discuss that?

Jim Dau mentioned that's a board of game proposal written by Alex Whiting. Two parts of the code would need to be changed; the board would have to take up both of those things to make it legal. I don't know what the board is going to do. I'll be surprised if they don't do something about Wolves.

Dale Stotts I appreciate that our Council is considering a similar resolution in support of other tribes. Appreciate your many years of experience served, most folks around here do and very grateful for that.

Jim Dau thank you, I think it's going to be important to have local people down there for the meeting.

Calvin Moto once and a while we get caribou with warbles or cancer, few times we had to throw away caribou, what if it's the warmer weather?

Calvin Moto about 10 years ago I didn't skin it all the way but I cut up some and cooked it, I became ill for about a week, I took the hide off and it was green and we had to throw it. If you get a caribou skin it all the way.

Barbara MacManus asks has anybody ever considered pollution. I know in the early 30s they were talking about the tundra became infected and was affecting the caribou. Has anybody done any study?

Jim Dau they have for quite a few years. One of the places was the Aleutians; comments on follow up to that in the 70's.

Carol Wesley Thanks Lance Kramer for everything he spoke about in Caribou. We've been not seeing or getting as much as we used to. We have heard comments of hunting and high costs. I hear people say should I buy fuel or food? If we had caribou we wouldn't have to ask ourselves that.

Calvin Moto suggests marine biologists come here and explain what is going on.

Noah thanks Jim for all the work he has done.

Break taken at 10:34 A.M.

Reconvene at 10:45 A.M.

Janet Mills next on the agenda is Brandon Saito but he is not here so we will go to Andrew Ackerman.

Andrew Ackerman provided a power point presentation and gave brief background. The National Park Service is looking into educational background.

Calvin Moto what really offend me is some of the commercial hunters are really monitored at the hunting site, but when they come to town they are not monitored, cause you walk past any other garbage dump woo, one time I said what was that, they said well the out of town, not all of them but a small percentage don't take the caribou they just throw them in the dumpster.

Andrew Ackerman in the survey were trying to find out if the hunters are unaware or aware of the fact that they need to harvest and take from the field all the meet and prepare and take it back home or donate it in a way the meat is preserved in a healthy way, im not sure but it is something we are working on. September 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit for the commercial use permit in the Noatak area.

Zach Stevenson thanks Frank and Andrew, does the report tell how many caribou were taken and where?

Andrew yes, we don't want to get to into identifying which operator had more; we will say in these areas there was an average of this many.

Millie Hawley I would like to make some suggestions, I know were not going to totally prohibit transporters to coming to our region, we need to think of ways to preserve our caribou or not let it go to waste, I would like to suggest at some point and all the energy talk in the borough, they can build a shelter or distribution center where most of the caribou are caught or where the planes are landing, do an underground cooler and solar panels. If you wait 3 days they are just going to be wasted by then, the sooner place you get them in a cool place the better. Suggest that the national park service require a half day orientation on regulations and respect.

Frank they actually are required to do the orientation. I would be glad to work with the borough or whoever on the distribution center.

Millie Hawley suggests the borough look into grants on the distribution center.

Noah thanks Chair and Frank, I have worked with 3 different park managers and when Frank came on board he stuck his neck out and helped us.

Break taken at 12:02  
Reconvene at 12:15

## **PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS**

**PC 14-01:** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Planning Commission approving Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Department conditional use permit #106-03-14*

John Chase gave a summary of the Title Nine permit for the Northwest Arctic Borough's Economic Development Department to construct two wind turbines and 3,000 foot access road for the Buckland Wind Diesel Project.

Noah Naylor motion to open public comments and Ingemar can address public comments and if none we can act on resolution

Janet Mills opens public comments

**PC 14-01:** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Planning Commission approving Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Department conditional use permit #106-03-14.*

*Noah if we don't hear public comments the commission can make a motion to close.*

***Barbara MacManus Motions to close public hearing***

## **Ernie Norton motions to approve PC 14-01**

Millie Hawley I have a question on #6, all of the landfills are not permitted in the state of Alaska, so I don't know, according to the permit I think that once they start constructing the contractors need to get ahold of the local government what ordinances they have on the dumpsite, I have heard many concerns about contractors dumping the material in the open dumpsite, I would like to see the waste material properly disposed of.

John Chase any waste would have to go to any permitted landfill so it would have to go to Kotzebue or Nome, so this stipulation says it will have to go to a permitted landfill to protect our landfills being dumped in by outsiders.

Millie thank you, it is still a problem today.

Janet Mills question has been called for to approve this resolution; passed unanimously.

**PC 14-02:** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Planning Commission approving Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Department conditional use permit #111-03-14*

John Chase gave a summary of the Title Nine permit for the Northwest Arctic Borough's Economic Development Department to construct two wind turbines, a turbine pad, access road and a storage connexion for the Community of Deering Wind Diesel Project.

## **PLANNING STAFF REPORTS**

Zach Stevenson gave a report on Subsistence Mapping Project. In Kotzebue the department has completed thirty interviews for the project, also three in Deering. Selawik and Noorvik coordinators are vacant and should be filled soon. Zach mentioned he worked with Noah on radio interviews. Also, Zach mentioned the hundred thousand from Conoco Philips. There was a training session in Anchorage for US Coast Guard, thankful for the sponsors. Approximately fifteen people attended for a nine day session for captains, seven of those have passed. Hopefully that training will continue. Also, there will be a newsletter going out this fall electronically. Right now we have a film being made by Sarah Benchler documenting the climate change. Using some of the Conoco funding we were able to have Sarah go to four villages, she is interview residents regarding the subsistence mapping project, which should be in draft form by end of December. Zach continued explaining the process to members of the interviewing. He mentioned that they have received applicants for the Selawik/Noorvik position, intend to have that filled shortly. Zach mentioned they are working with the Coast Guard; the only way they will look at the information is if they have permission from the village.

Noah mentioned that we had a strategic plan within the Borough. The Planning Department has taken over the lead on the radio show which is every Wednesday. He mentioned the fund raising efforts for KOTZ Radio. During the strategic planning we have the following; goal 1, promoting economic development and food security, goal 2, provide comprehensive plan for NWAB and goal 3, develop land use policies. Met with NANA and NOVA/Copper and

Nova/Copper had offered to help out with subsistence mapping project which will be budgeted in the future for Upper Kobuk. Next would be to establish a Wildlife Department, have been working with Shell Oil; proposal to get a scientist on board. Also, to identify and resolve challenges to food security; we have just signed a letter of support to ICC in regards to food security. Planning Department will update the comprehensive plan in place, step one; in conjunction with NANA Regional, they are having a regional strategy meeting next month. The next is to support to local communities for development with the comprehensive plans. The last goal is to develop land resource policies; we are in the process of receiving 280 thousand acres of land from the State. Bill McClintock has completed the survey and we are in last stages of receiving that. Each of the communities are getting profile maps, last ones sent were about twelve years ago; the village meeting will be scheduled. Have been working with Kivalina on the evacuation road project; part of profile mapping project has been joined with the imagery. Red Dog quarterly meeting have been scheduled to go over the agreement, last meeting Borough had approved for Teck Cominco to pay for honorarium for the participants. Shell had showed interest in putting containment barges out in the Borough. Zach and Noah met with Stat Oil the previous week and they are interested in subsistence resources, they are also interested in the subsistence mapping project. Also had met with General Accountability Office, two representatives went to Kivalina and Kotzebue in regards to no communication with this Borough; they have been working with other areas of the State. They should be coming up here more often, met in Anchorage and Barrow and didn't invite our Region.

The Commission Members continued discussion regarding Shell, Wind Turbines and working relationships between residents and outside companies.

### **SCHEDULE OF NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioners discussed possible dates; Noah mentioned the permits that will be presented Calvin Moto I was on the Chugiak electric board for 20 years and this is something, the last time we went through all the materials they were going to put up a tower last fall but DOT said that it would be in the way of planes landing so the thing about this wind generation would help us cut back, right now were paying 84.6 per kilowatt hour and this would knock it down to almost 70, maybe lower on our utilities. We now have a site to put it up. This is something we been looking forward to for 5 or 6 years, we have to do changes with our generator to make it compatible with the wind generator. We would not have to use the big one anymore.

John Chase the proposed terms are similar to Buckland as these are both wind turbine projects.

Noah suggest after hearing Johns introduction we can open it up for public comments.

#### **Barbara motion to open to public hearing**

Ingemar the project is pending, the timeline that you have on there, in the next two weeks we make the decision if the construction can finish in one year, Its pending on the wet land permit how quick we can get the permit, that is the only thing.

John Chase still waiting on approvals is still pending or not.

Millie Hawley so it's ok to pass the resolution and support this today?

**Barbara motion to close public hearing; second by Millie Hawley**

John Chase addresses Commissioners concern

**Barbara motion to adopt PC14-02 Ernie Second; passed unanimously**

**OLD BUSINESS**

None presented

**NEW BUSINESS**

None presented

**STAFF REPORTS**

John Chase gave a brief summary of his report.

Barbara MacManus do they have another plan in case the river isn't high enough?

John Chase I don't know of any contingency plan by contracting, were hoping that the river levels are sufficient for barge travel. The grizzly bridge project is out of our hands its up to our higher power to provide adequate river levels and rain.

Charlie Gregg gave brief summary of his report.

Zach Stevenson gave a brief summary of his report.

Damien Satterthwaite Phillips gave a brief summary of his report.

Dale Stotts who is going to own and operate the wind diesel projects?

Noah gave summary of the projects; thanked Lance for all his work, the elders is comfortable to talk to him. The planning employees are the best here; they help out around the office. Also, congratulates Stella on the Borough Clerk position.

Carol Wesley mentions In respect more for our elders sitting on our commission I think instead of rushing us maybe we can stay the night here, try to budget the meetings, I wouldn't mind overnighting again.

Janet asked about having a youth representative.

Noah we will look into that, thanks Carol and Daniel.

Millie Hawley mentioned 5 seats opening up soon. Suggest scheduling the meeting ahead of time.

**Schedule of commission meetings, regular meetings and special meetings**



Noah suggests having special meeting in March we can try to look for things like that. We can work out a date with the City March 5, 6, 7.

Barbara I will be unavailable, I'm going to Mexico

### **AUDIENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None presented.

### **PLANNING COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Millie Hawley thanked Janet, Noah and the staff for their hard work. Good job everyone, thank you

Carol Wesley good job everyone, thank you to the staff, commissioners and presenters, the Ackerman presentation was really good. Thank you

Barbara mentioned good meeting, good presenters, good that the Borough has such a good relationship with Park Service and Frank, the caribou presentation was interesting, and all the reports from the staff. Thank you

Janet Mills thanks Noah and his staff, taikuu to dale, the presenters it is very important topic. Taikuu to Andrew

Calvin Moto mentioned that he finally getting over the loss of my best friend, my sister. I got good news last month, I used to visit the clinic every month and the Doctor said good news you don't have diabetes anymore, it's gone. During the 5<sup>th</sup> will be basketball, good to have boys and girls team, they all call me grandpa. If you come to Deering anyone is always welcome to stay with him. Enjoy working with you all. Thank you.

Daniel mentioned good to be with Calvin in Anchorage, talked about Calvin going to yard sale. Thank you

Ernie thank you, safe travel home, thank you staff.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Millie move to adjourn at 1:55PM**