

# Northwest Arctic Borough Joint Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers, Kotzebue, AK

## CALL TO ORDER

Chair Janet Mills called the meeting to order at 1:08 P.M.

## INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Daniel Foster provided invocation.

## ROLL CALL

### Commissioners Present During Roll Call:

Ernie Norton	Janet Mills	Millie Hawley	Carol Wesley
Dale Stotts	Daniel Foster Sr.	Calvin Moto	

### City of Kotzebue Planning Commissioners

Sandy Huss	Matt Bergan	Ernie Norton	
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### Excused

Wanda Baltazaar	Cindy Fields		
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### Absent

Eva June Hunt	Alvin Werneke	Barbara MacManus	
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## INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND GUESTS

Noah Naylor	Charlie Gregg	Zach Stevenson	Martha Henry
John Chase	Damian Phillips	Fred Smith	Grant Hildreth
Jackie Lambert	Lorraine Hunnicutt	Delores Barr	Gladys Jones
Ryan Anderson	Albert Beck	Lance Kramer	Brenden Ryan
Paul Karczmarczyk	Alvin Ashby		

## AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda of March 7, 2014 was presented for approval. Noah asked to add Yiyuk Henry to Communications and Appearance for Marine Debris.

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

## MINUTES APPROVAL

None presented, will be next meeting. Item tabled until next meeting.

## COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES

a) Albert Beck and Paul Karczmarczyk provided power point presentation in regards to Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; active projects in construction and active design projects.

- Paul said considering that the Ambler project; Sewage Lagoon and Airport are about to be advertised next week.
- The current Kotzebue Airport projects have completed part one and two; currently continuation of construction removal as well as extend the safety areas and should be complete end of this year.
- The Grizzly Creek recap replaces existing wood bridge with two six foot culverts; Ridge Construction has been awarded this project; plan to mobilize and construct the site this year.
- Selawik Utility Cross repair has been awarded to Drake Construction; the road will be reconstructed; the culvert starting sinking. Plan is to get the project awarded, possibly a three year project.
- Scheduled an April a public meeting in Ambler regarding regulations, the plan, design has been complete for the Sewage Lagoon.
- Kicking off the design process for Kotzebue to Cape Blossom Road; construct off an existing road near the windmills and extend to Cape Blossom Road; twelve miles which includes a new bridge at Sadie Creek.
- We have received the match funding from City of Kotzebue to finalize design plans upcoming work for drill work near Sadie Creek. Hopefully come back in May showing you what a draft road might look like.
- Noatak Airport relocation is possibly moved west; require a bridge, utilities and snow equipment building. The funding is not available; on a holding pattern, IEP funds possibly available after 2016.
- Kiana Airport Improvements Project looking at a shift of runway alignment; skew it and lengthening, also City of Kiana has a plan to extend the community to the west. Possibly a two-three year project, hopefully get approved in 2015.
- General Aviation Apron Improvements currently area used for staging for a contractor for current project going on; will provide tie-down locations for small crafts and lands for future lease lots.
- Selawik foot bridge rehabilitation; nonstructural surface improvements and boardwalk project. Paul discussed the barge landing access; constructing and improving boardwalks in Selawik to complete.

Member Calvin Moto raised his concern regarding erosion problem with State road to Airport; does DOT have plan for that; possibly had a hundred foot wash out. Also had a problem with a plane landing on the road; lots of high water in Deering. Last month there was water all over the flats; concerned about safety of residents having to go airport due to erosion.

Member Daniel Foster verified the date of the Rainbow Bridge; we are concerned of that being on permafrost. Really melting and the bridge shake; concerned about safety of that.

Member Janet Mills raised her concern regarding Noatak erosion; this year there has been about twenty feet a year eroding.

DOT explained the scoring process for the projects, mentioned that the villages can send resolutions or letters to commissioners supporting the projects; that fund and prioritize them.

Member Matt Bergan raised his concern Kotzebue Airport GA design project can be evaluated for improvement; there is a lot of pedestrian and freight traffic at a tight spot. DOT is looking into street lighting there also.

Member Dale Stotts raised his concern regarding the Kiana Airport project; when will there be a public meeting for updates for the community? He mentioned that he gets questions regarding CDL license and what rate of pay does DOT pay?

Lance Kramer raised his concern regarding the Kotzebue runway expansion project. He mentioned that he traps a lot and have noticed a lot of dead fish at the end of the runway. There are thousands, thousands of fish that have died due to no oxygen; we have had poor tomcod year. Were there supposed to be culverts there? This is subsistence harvest of the People; this is important for the Planning Commission to consider. If development can't happen responsibly and protect subsistence right then it shouldn't happen. He is for the expansion, want a longer runway but needs to be done with traditional knowledge input. If you have Eskimo's sitting on this deal instead of Fish & Game we would have told you need that flow, oxygen needs to go through; fish needs to move through. Without it they die, doesn't set a good president. If we can't do development in our own backyard what makes you think we can do a Blossom Road, a big port or a million dollar other things. As an IRA Councilman for Kotzebue as the Vice Chair; it is being looked into; someone is going to have to answer.

Member Matt Bergan raised his concern regarding the runway safety area; last year there was going to be a barge landing area by NANA. Is the plan to do that barge landing again?

Alvin Ashby of Noatak raised his concern regarding the Noatak airport, can you start the gravel study; within two years that will be it, start ahead of time.

Member Calvin Moto requested information on Cape Blossom Road or Port Site; which is it?

Member Carol Wesley thanked DOT for presentations and updates for our area.

Member Millie Hawley suggests local knowledge be gathered before construction starts; encourage you get local knowledge when you do your studies. Can learn a lot from local people; given the fact that we are battling warmer climates there will be some major changes throughout the Region. Revisit your scoring criteria for some of the airports, like Noatak is eroding. When allocating funds to certain projects; don't see how it is dire straits to some of the communities then went backwards; where is the road to Cape Blossom, why is it being built? In Noatak the airport is falling apart; this doesn't make sense.

Member Janet Mills mentioned that in the past our ancestors would border our banks with wood because of erosion.

Member Dale Stotts suggests we have input from Fish & Game which are part of the permitting process of the Airport project at the next meeting. Whether this was an unintended consequence; community would appreciate a solid answer although there was a lot of study into it.

b) Zach Stevenson, Damian and Lance provided an update of the Subsistence Mapping Project. Zach mentioned that his project is expected to finish by May 2015; he gave a brief summary of the project since it had started. Also Zach discussed the plans for the next eighteen months. Zach provided a summary of his presentation which included the mapping project, six pack licensing, funding agencies and community meetings held.

Member Calvin Moto raised his concern regarding the state and federal know that the nuclear waste is going to hit our shores this spring. Suggest you work with State and Federal Subsistence work together to monitor all the fish and sea mammals; make sure we have safe seafood. Subsistence is survival; concerned about when he sits on these councils they are talking about our fish that come from the Aleutian Islands.

Zach mentioned that the communities covered are all the coastal ones, right now looking for funding for the upper Kobuk River communities. Some funding agencies have visited Kiana.

Member Calvin Moto excused for rest of the meeting.

Member Dale Stotts commends the Subsistence Mapping Project; team has done a great job, accomplishing what you have done in the short time. Encourage the Borough to seek ways to expand services to the other villages.

Lance Kramer, Traditional Knowledge Specialist for Borough. Lance had interviewed a wide range of age groups with a variety of knowledge; when Lance interview the middle age the knowledge is dying off. Purpose of this project is to protect subsistence use areas. He had gathered curriculum materials; work with other staff in the group, looking for a Noorvik/Selawik. Lance had attended some schools to do various activities although he is limited; just three Fridays before holidays. He mentioned he is having difficult time working with the school; they don't allow him to attend Inupiaq Days. Long term goal is to have a subsistence class in all the schools in the Borough; hope to get there some day.

Member Millie Hawley verified the number of interviewed numbers in Kotzebue; would be a vast difference from the village interviews.

Member Carol Wesley appreciates your work; kids in the past would travel far to hunt although now days we have high fuel prices.

Suggest that you work with Nikaitchuat like Bethel Emersion school so you can figure out how to go forward.

Gladys Jones raised her concern regarding skin sewing; losing that also, patterns need to be shared also.

Lance continued sharing the importance of subsistence activities to young people; our job to survive. We have incredible talent with our people and the school uses none of us; if you walk through school and not one Inupiaq.

Member Matt Bergan mentioned that he have tried working with the school and usually don't get any support from School District; how do we get to work with the school?

Lance mentioned that he have tried working with District although they say the only funding they have is from State; required to pass the three courses; reading, writing and math. We need to create the food bowl because the school funds are for those three things.

Damien Phillips provided a summary of the methods of the project; currently writing up the scientific part to present. He showed the Kotzebue map showing by season, animal and age group of interviewees. There had been one hundred fifty interviews which are thirty of Kotzebue residents. They did receive complaints of outsiders come in to find treasurers; have the maps would show limited information to others. Damien gave a brief history of hunting in the area; harvesting food for families.

Member Matt Bergan raised his concern regarding only being along the coast; will it be inland or to Upper Kobuk? Matt raised his concern to the road in Upper Kobuk that is being discussed in the news; development from the other side that may have a huge impact in the Region.

c) Yiyuk Henry provided a summary of the CIAP Marine Debris Grant; working with all the villages to clean along the rivers July-September. He mentioned he has three-four villages to present this grant.

Jacque Lambert provided a summary of the CIAP Green Initiative Grant/Waste Management and Sustainable Tourism; she have been traveling to the villages to have community meetings and giving presentations at the schools.

Alvin Ashby raised his concern on land fill and recycling; big project with all the trash.

Member Dale Stotts mentioned they have an active recycling project in Kiana; currently moving the big pieces of trash, refrigerators and freezers and no longer have funding for back haul. He mentioned that they work with the community and have noticed Kotzebue don't recycle; would boost region wide recycling.

Member Matt Bergan mentioned that he have been trying to get momentum too with recycling; in Yukon Area they have a good program, when ready to go they are ready for the barge. He mentioned it would be nice if they can give a presentation of what works and don't work which is Yukon River Intertribal Water Shed Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None presented

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None presented

## **AUDIENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None presented.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF COMMENTS**

Charlie Gregg, Land Specialist requested a teleconference on March 13 to update the Village Cities and IRA on where we are with the Community Mapping. George Plumbly, director of DCED will be attending also.

Grant Hildreth thanked the staff, thanks for allowing them to join this meeting.

Noah Naylor thanked the funding agencies and staff. Noah mentioned The Upper Kobuk industry willing to help some of the mapping project; although it would be about two millions. Still need land use structures and land use for a few communities; waiting for information from the communities.

## **PLANNING COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Dale Stotts mentioned good to meet with City Planning Commission, members, DOT and Borough Staff, thank the public participates and representatives from other commissions. Thank you all for the good, productive meeting.

Millie Hawley thanked City of Kotzebue Planning; hopefully not the only time we meet. Last meeting we have talked about how things in Kotzebue affect the villages. Thanks to DOT for information; new and different project, lots to learn. Thanks to the staff, going along good; think about what to do next. Hiring Lance was a good move; he brings communities to meeting. Thanks to Economic Development to meet with us; would like to meet jointly, Planning and Economic Development. Good meeting; thank you.

Carol Wesley mentioned good meeting; thank you to staff. Thank you to presenters, thank you to DOT for putting Noatak Airport Project on your report. Thank you to Noah and staff.

Janet Mills thanks staff and Noah; how many joint meetings are we having with City of Kotzebue, also we used to meet with North Slope Borough, haven't met with them for a while. Janet would like to thank you to State DOT and Planning Department staff; good job, looking forward to the next meeting.

Daniel Foster thanked to Noah and audience, thank you for being here.

Ernie Norton thanks to the visitors for presentations thanks for the audience participating. Joint Commission, thanks for being on top of everything in our Region; lots of good ideas and got to be on top of it. Have a safe spring and have fun this week.

Sandy Huss mentioned that they meet twice a year and this meeting had been schedule while some of the City of Kotzebue members out of town and/or otherwise committed. If the next one can be planned further in advance; possibly better turn out. He is very concerned about what Lance has brought up; we need to meet with ADFG to find out why, what was planned and why it didn't turn out. This is a serious problem and would be beneficial to all to get to the bottom of this, what can be done in the future to prevent it. DOT your presence here is always

welcome, you hear from public quickly when something doesn't go right. He mentioned the shore road project did go right; for three years we had lots of noise and dust. We have had a storm recently and this have protected the front street from the ice. Congratulations to DOT for very timely project that proves its worth in a short period of time. Thanks to everyone for their participation and give up some of their game time for a public purpose.

Matt Bergan thanked everyone for presentations; thanks to DOT for coming out and providing a lot of information. Congratulations to Ryan, remember us as you climb the chain. Matt is looking forward to the next joint meeting. Thank you.

Noah mentioned that the next Planning Commission is going to meet soon to go through permits; during that time we will have a two day meeting. Noah will contact all members to schedule.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Millie move to adjourn at 3:45PM**