



# Northwest Arctic Borough

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## SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

Ambler Buckland Candle Deering Kivalina Kiana  
Kobuk Kotzebue Noatak Noorvik Selawik Shungnak

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Walter Sampson, President, NAB Assembly  
Hendy Ballot, Vice-President, NAB Assembly  
Assembly Members

**FROM:** Reggie Joule, Mayor

**CC:** NAB Staff Members

**DATE:** February 13, 2013

**RE:** Monthly Updates

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide current updates regarding the operational activities of my Administration. It has been a busy and productive time since my last report. The following discussion highlights some of our activity.

### **Current Activity Highlights:**

On February 4 – 7, 2013, Walter Sampson, Lucy Nelson, Christine Hess and I meet with state representatives and several members of the Governor's administrative team in Juneau. The meetings were very productive and are summarized as follows:

- Commissioner Kemp, Department of Transportation: Commissioner Kemp and Roger Healy agreed to assist with the transport of the fuel storage tank for Ambler that is currently in Fairbanks by adding it to a bulk shipment this spring. Additionally, they agreed to assist with the repair of the second bridge in Ambler by providing construction materials to the community. The community will then make the needed repairs on a volunteer basis. Last there was a discussion of the Governor's Roads to Resources Program, the possibility of connecting communities by roads to reduce the cost of living, and the need for a planned roads program in the NAB.
- Commissioner Masters, Department of Public Safety: Commissioner Masters confirmed that they will pay for about \$75,000 in repairs to three VPSO buildings over the next several months. He also agreed to buy a truck for the Kotzebue VPSO's and several portable holding cells for outlying villages. The funding for these items will be given to the NAB over the next several months. The department is also working on helping the VPSO's and VPO's get additional certification. Last, Commissioner Masters is willing to explore options on how they can assist or share in a joint community facility that includes VPSO space.
- Karen Rehfeld, Director, Office of Management and Budget: We requested that the Governor and his budget management team consider adding \$5.2 million for the Kivalina Evacuation Road and \$2.5 million for the permitting and design of the Cosmos Hills Hydro project to the amended budget. The amended budget is due February 15, 2013.
- The team also met with key Alaska State Representatives and Senators regarding the NAB regional strategy, capital infrastructure priorities, and the Arctic Policy Commission. The list of individuals we met with includes the following: Senate President Charlie Huggins, Speaker of the House Mike

Chenault, Senator McQuire, Hoffman, Kelly, Meyer, Olson, and Representatives Edgmon, Herron, Nageak, Holmes, Austerman, and Stoltze. Before we left the Senate President let us know that the Arctic Policy Commission will begin shortly. This year there seems to be a big focus on the cost and availability of energy.

The legislature is still hearing department overviews and budgets and has just begun to hear bills. The biggest bills in play this year will be the proposed oil tax change and the instate gas line. The oil tax bill is being heard in the Senate Resources Committee. The department budget overviews are scheduled to close out by early March with the operating budget on the House floor for a vote by the middle of March. The first capital budget should be done by late February or early March as well. Government Affairs will keep us all updated as the operating and capital budgets move through the committee process.

For several years now, the Frank R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship has been administered by the Northwest Arctic Borough. We provide annual funding for both full and part time students accredited universities and vocational/technical schools. Recently, we added funding eligibility for high school students taking college level classes. There are 6 requirements in order to receive the scholarship, the largest being grade point average (GPA). The following provides an update on the Frank R. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship program for the spring 2013 semester. **We funded a total of 144 students, with a break-down as follows:**

- Full time students: 47
- Part time students: 8
- Vocational/Technical students: 11
- High School students: 78

The annual funding amount for the program is \$170,000.00, with \$78,163.00 paid out during the spring 2013 semester. The Scholarship Committee is currently in the process of reviewing the Code related to the Scholarship Program and will make recommendations for revision in the near future. They will also be receiving a demonstration from a vendor named Fireweed who uses Cloud49 technology to provide tracking, management and reporting functions that are web-based and related to Scholarship Management.

### **Department Highlights:**

#### **Office of the Mayor:**

- Wendie Schaeffer is working closely with Optima Public Relations to develop a general Borough brochure that outlines services available to residents along with the design for the new website, which is expected to launch on February 19, 2013.
- We launched our School Reading Program. We encouraged our staff to volunteer in classrooms at June Nelson Elementary School (JNES) and either read to or be read to by a student one hour per week. John Chase, Zach Stevenson, John Goodwin, Michael Gagaliano, Kim Franklin, and Scotty Barr volunteered to participate. So far, we have had one reading session in two classrooms and anticipate continuing participation. Thank you to Ralph King, Principal of JNES for allowing this program to begin.
- Scotty Barr is our community prevention organizer for the Harmful Legal Products (HLP) program that we are administering under the AKEELA grant. He is working to have a HLP workshop with the teachers during the spring in-service on April 10 & 11, 2013. He is working to develop the notification fliers for the community. Additionally, Scotty has been working with the high school vice-principal about adding HLP information to their school policies and student handbook.
- CAPSIS entry: Capital project priorities have been inputted into the state legislative data base. Christine Hess will follow up with House District 40 staff to go over the projects and answer any questions related to our priorities.

- Grants:
  - The first Rasmussen grant has been submitted. If awarded this grant will provide approximately \$24,000 in funding for search and rescue equipment for all of our villages.
  - A second Rasmussen grant for the art center is in process and will be submitted before the end of the month.
  - The Deering Library grant has been submitted to the Foraker Group requesting their assistance on the predevelopment phase. If awarded the Foraker Group will work with the community of Deering to evaluate the building and its needs and provide a cost estimate for repairs. Once this phase is complete Deering will apply to the Rasmussen Foundation for a grant to renovate the library.
  - We have been encouraged from several sources to apply for the Department of Justice COPS grants to help cover the costs of VPO. It is anticipated that funding for the COPS grants may be increased. My staff will continue to monitor this grant.
  - Christine Hess, Kenny Gallahorn and I teleconferenced with the USDA about possible grant opportunities with their organization.. Although grant funding is pretty meager this year we did learn that there is a loan program of some interest. Through the USDA a municipality can loan up to \$7 million at 3.25% interest with a 40 year payout and no closing costs or fees.

Planning Department:

- Drafted a title 9 permit for Teck American Incorporated's proposed exploration activities. Teck American Incorporated (Teck) proposes to conduct mineral exploration activities (to include drilling, geophysical surveys, geologic mapping and sampling), which will be helicopter-supported on both state and NANA-owned lands. Mineral exploration activities will support Teck's Noatak District Exploration project, north and west of the Red Dog Mine, in both general conservation and subsistence conservation zones. These activities are outside of the borough master plan permit for ongoing Red Dog Mine operations and require a use permit under borough code 9.04 and 9.12.
- Reviewed the Native Village of Noatak title 9 permit to upgrade their existing water treatment plant in Noatak (Minor Alteration of Existing Uses in a Village Zone). The project will improve the water treatment process in the community and bring the water treatment plant (WTP) process up to state and federal compliance.
- Traveled to Kiana and Noorvik with Jason Rutman and Dean Westlake of NANA Regional Corporation to listen to any concerns the communities may have regarding the Upper Kobuk mineral development. Concerns included: training the workforce so that our residents are ready for skilled jobs, the need to document our subsistence resources in the Upper Kobuk mineral area, equity in any road development (Red Dog road), along with various other concerns.
- On January 24, 2013, RFP 13-01 Community Profile Mapping Project was published in both the Anchorage Daily News and the Arctic Sounder. The Community Profile Mapping Project is schedule for assembly approval in the April 2013 meeting. A pre-bidders conference was held on Monday, February 4, 2013.
- Chukchi Campus of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) has partnered with NAB to hold a workshop on improving local involvement in research. Other partners include the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, NANA Regional Corporation, and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. This workshop is funded by the National Science Foundation. The 3-day workshop will occur during the first 2 weeks of April 2013 in Kotzebue, Alaska.
- Participated in the Tri-lateral meeting between the Native Village of Kotzebue, City of Kotzebue and KIC. Both the Mayor and Planning Director were selected to participate as working group members for the advancement of the Cape Blossom projects.

Economic Development:

- Fred Smith, Director of Economic Development has traveled to Kivalina, Kobuk, and Noorvik as part of the village travel schedule and to Barrow for the joint economic development meeting with the North Slope Borough.
- On February 4, 2013 Fred met with Alaska Growth Capital to explore opportunities to leverage our small business grant program with their micro-loan program.
- On February 5 and 6, 2013, Fred attended the ARDOR conference in Juneau regarding our ARDOR grant from the State of Alaska.
- The Economic Development Staff have been working on getting a cost of living survey for all the communities. The gathered information will help the NAB work on different solutions to help residents with the high cost of living.
- Fred is also working toward a regional cooperative purchase of fuel tied to Red Dog. In addition, Fred and his staff are working on gathering information on each communities bulk fuel capacity, rates of fuel consumption, and the landed price of fuel.
- Sulianich will launch the website inupiaqart.com at the end of February; they are also preparing and working with different communities to have sewing and carving classes. Two communities have requested to bring in a carver for a carving class.
- The Point of Sale (POS) system at Sulanich is currently down; however, we anticipate the system being operational again by February 8, 2013.
- The building lease for Sulanich is due to expire soon. NANA has requested the financial reports related to Sulanich and staff is currently working to ensure we respond to that request.
- WHPacific will continue work on the Regional Energy Plan. Focus will be on updated data collection for 2011 - 2012. A draft is planned for release in August 2013.
- The next Northwest Arctic Energy Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 2013.
- Ingemar Mathiasson has been working with legal to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Buckland and Deering wind-diesel work with construction planned for 2014.
- The new ECO meters for Kotzebue have arrived with installation to begin this month.

Public Services Department:

- Kiana Battalion Chief Rollyn Jackson resigned. His replacement is currently being chosen as a cooperative effort with the Kiana City Administrator. Interviews were conducted and we are currently awaiting background checks before making a final selection.
- CPR class in Ambler was very successful with 11 students and very positive feedback. Buckland has a CPR class scheduled in February.
- The Annual Fire Department Registration was submitted and accepted by the State for 2013.
- Deering received new batteries for LiteBox flashlights and folding spanner wrenches that they requested.

SEARCH & RESCUE MISSIONS:

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|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| • 1/12/13: OTZ-BKC    | Overdue       | Resident located on trail                 |
| • 1/13/13: OTZ-DRG    | Overdue       | Resident located in Buckland              |
| • 1/14/13: BKC        | Overdue       | Resident located and assisted to Buckland |
| • 1/18/13: Kobuk Lake | Distress Call | False Alarm                               |
| • 1/19/13: OTZ-BKC    | Overdue       | Resident located and assisted to Buckland |
- Kristen Walker attended a meeting at Maniilaq Health Center in preparation for a workshop related to Pandemic and Emergency Surges to be held summer 2013. This workshop will be available to 60 people from the Northwest Region.
  - The next meeting of the Northwest Arctic Local Emergency Planning Committee (NALEPC) is scheduled to be held in Kotzebue on March 7, 2013. Kristen Walker has been working with Chairman Billy Lee to confirm the meeting date and begin developing the agenda.

- There are currently six VPSO's in the Borough. The VPSO Coordinator is John Peratrovich, based out of Kotzebue. The VPSO's are: Otis Rolls based out of Shungnak, Richard Eunice based out of Kiana, Michael Gagliano based out of Kotzebue, Michael Mooris based out of Noorvik, and Allen Jones based out of Buckland. There are three Non-Native male VPSOs and three Native male VPSOs.
- Kiana VPSO Eunice is currently attending phase one of the SitkaVPSO academy..
- AML/JIA provided the Kotzebue area with Verbal Judo training. Twenty-nine employees showed up January 24, 2013 from the NAB, NIHA, and the City of Kotzebue. The training consisted of information on how to safely conduct business with hostile people, including when to request assistance from authorities. It was a three-hour course instructed by our own former Chief of Police, Gregg Russell. AML/JIA continues to offer training courses that are appropriate for our area.
- Glenn Skin, Public Services Administrator has been working with the City of Noorvik on producing monthly financial reports and getting their reporting up-to-date.

**Future Schedule:**

- February 15, 2013: Cape Blossom Working Group Meeting in Kotzebue
- February 15, 2013: City of Kotzebue's Economic Initiative Meeting in Kotzebue
- February 21, 2013: Special Assembly Meeting in Kotzebue
- March 1, 2013: Meeting with Scott Pestel, UKMP Project Manager with NovaCopper in Kotzebue