

# Atautchikun Sivutmun Igliqta

*Together Let's Move Forward*

Northwest Arctic Borough  
2019 & 2020 Report





## Our Mission

As a home rule regional government, the Northwest Arctic Borough provides essential programs and services to improve the quality of life for all residents.

## Our Vision

In all that we do, and all that we are, the Northwest Arctic Borough is forever improving living and economic conditions for all residents.

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## Letter From President Nathan Hadley, Jr., Assembly Chair & Mayor Lucy Nelson



Mayor Lucy Nelson



Assembly President  
Nathan Hadley, Jr.

Greetings:

It has been over a year and a half since election and we have accomplished many tasks at the Northwest Arctic Borough (NWAB).

President Hadley and I are humbled, honored and thankful to serve as your NWAB Assembly President and Mayor. The NWAB is blessed with dedicated personnel and an Assembly who puts the interests of our residents first. We are fortunate to have an administrative team carrying out the day-to-day tasks that make our borough run much more efficiently. Together, as a team, we continually work to improve the economic conditions and lives of our residents.

The safety and well-being of our residents is always at the forefront of our activities. Throughout this report, you will find that our decisions and actions tell the story of our successes and challenges for the past two years.

The COVID-19 public health emergency pandemic has taught us that through planning, collaboration and a unified system, we can slow and prevent the spread of a disease that can negatively impact many lives. While the virus has not reached all of our communities, the unified command team has worked aggressively to educate and inform our residents on preventative measures to protect themselves and others. Residents doing their part and taking self-responsibility to protect their family circle greatly helps to slow the spread of the virus.

On behalf of the NWAB, we thank you for your support and comments that foster a meaningful dialogue throughout the year as we meet monthly to improve the living and economic conditions for all residents. Quyanna!

Sincerely,

Lucy S. Nelson, Mayor  
Northwest Arctic Borough

Nathan Hadley, Jr, President  
Northwest Arctic Borough  
Assembly

Ambler [Ivisaappaat](#), Buckland [Nunatchiaq](#), Deering [Ipnatchiaq](#), Kiana [Katyaak](#), Kivalina [Kivaliniq](#),  
Kobuk [Laugviik](#), Kotzebue [Qikiqtagruk](#), Noatak [Nautaaq](#), Noorvik [Nuurvik](#), Selawik [Akuligaq](#), Shungnak [Isinnaq](#)





## 2019 – 2020 Summary

# Atautchikun Sivutmun Igliqta

*Together Let's Move Forward*

**These are unprecedented times. As represented in this annual report, the last two fiscal years have seen great strides, much hope and unforeseen challenges. We have elected a new mayor, re-established stalled projects, added commission and committee assignments and brought new energy to community safety and other projects working to improve quality of life for residents throughout the region.**

Then came the pandemic. In the later part of FY2020, Mayor Nelson declared a public health disaster emergency proclamation order, activated the NWAB Incident Command Team, and created the COVID-19 task force and unified command center — complete with village, business and multi-agency representation.

Now more than ever, as the economy weakens and the pandemic continues to keep us apart, we have to come together to face the challenges before us. Together we will endure, move forward and provide technical assistance to each community to handle each challenge.



The NWAB Public Safety Commission met with the State Legislative Group to discuss how both can improve public safety statewide. Pictured (left to right): Assistant Attorney Brian Wilson, Representative Chuck Kopp, Trooper Rodney Johnson, Craig McConnell, NWAB President Nathan Hadley Jr., Chris Dankmeyer, Representative George Rauscher, Damon Schaeffer, Naomi Chappel, Tanya Ballot, Representative John Lincoln, Trooper Nasruk Nay, Representative & House Speaker Bryce Edgmon, Mayor Lucy Nelson and on teleconference, not pictured Senator Donny Olson and Public Safety Director Adeline Kameroff.



Kevin Black and another CUAP maintenance worker at work.

The Borough created the Community Utility Assistance Program in 2019 to make water and sewer services more affordable. The improved system also works to enhance the health of people in the region. Read more about the new CUAP on page 9.



Darrell Brown and Kevin Black working on a sewer lift station in Kiana.

*“Together we will endure, move forward and provide technical assistance to each community to handle each challenge that comes before us.”*





# Department Activity

**In this section, we highlight activities and accomplishments of the various Borough departments. In late FY2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected all departments and all residents. Here's how the Borough responded.**



Planning Commissioner Harold Lambert and Mayor Lucy Nelson adapt to the 2020 coronavirus outbreak by complying with social distancing and "hunker down" orders.

## 2020 Pandemic Response

On March 18, 2020, with the imminent threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in the Borough, Mayor Lucy Nelson declared a Public Health Disaster emergency proclamation.

A series of emergency orders, amendments, local and state health mandates helped slow the spread for a period of two months after declaring the public health disaster, including closing non-essential businesses, canceling mass gatherings, and limiting travel to emergency medical reasons only, and directing residents to "hunker down" at home, social distance, wash hands regularly and disinfect surfaces regularly.

*The COVID-19 virus is a highly infectious and fast-spreading disease. We encourage all residents to take this pandemic seriously and to be safe. Adhering to the emergency orders in each community will help curtail the spread. Please do your part and take action to protect yourself and others by practicing good hygiene, maintain your distance, wear a mask, keep your social circle small, stay home if you are sick, clean and disinfect your home and work office regularly and know the symptoms and get tested if you feel sick to keep your family, co-workers and friends safe.*



## Mayor's Office & The Assembly

Residents elected Mayor Lucy Nelson in the latter part of 2018 and she immediately began working with staff and Assembly members to further the Borough's vision of a safer, more prosperous region. Together they:

- Commenced amendments to the Employee Handbook Policy to limit risk and improve employee safety.
- Established a fair, consistent Donation Policy to fairly allocate funds, ensure accountability, and help meet budget restrictions.
- Adopted a new Assembly Travel Policy to increase accountability and cost-efficiency.
- Continued to support the Community Utility Assistance Program, a \$2.1 Million-initiative starting in Fiscal Year 2019 that reduced village residents' monthly water and sewer bills by \$70 or more.
- Revitalized joint conferences with North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough School District.
- Responded to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, working with U.S. and State authorities to initiate emergency orders and best practices to keep residents as safe as possible. (See COVID response statement on page 4.)
- The NWAB was awarded \$4.08 million of Federal Cares Act Funding, in response to the public health emergency declared by the State of Alaska to address medical or public health needs, economic support and expenditures directly related to the emergency.
- The NWAB was awarded a \$58,000 Office of Justice Programs Grant. This is to fund Coronavirus Emergency Programs.
- In FY2019, Mayor Richards recommended through resolution 18-18 approval of a local match contribution of \$4.9 million for the Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road, Assembly approved.
- In FY2019, Mayor Nelson recommended through resolution 19-06 approval of \$12.7 million in school bond debt for new K-12 Kivalina School, Assembly approved.
- In FY2019, Mayor Nelson recommended through resolution 19-37 approval of a \$5 million advance appropriation towards Cape Blossom Road Project to kick start gravel mobilization, Assembly approved.

### DONATIONS – FY 2019

#### **Assembly - \$547,500:**

\$100,000 Chukchi College Library  
 \$115,000 Nikaitchaut Immersion School  
 \$40,000 KOTZ Radio Emergency Purposes  
 \$150,000 City of Kotzebue Ambulance Services  
 \$50,000 Boys & Girls Club Borough-wide  
 \$75,000 NANA Title 9 Trespass Program  
 \$17,500 Aqqaluk Trust, for Inupiaq Language Preservation

#### **Mayor's Office - \$152,647:**

\$27,008 Burial Donations  
 \$45,894 Medical Assistance  
 \$53,466 Supporting Community Events and  
 \$26,279 Other

### DONATIONS – FY 2020

#### **Assembly - \$530,000:**

\$100,000 Chukchi College Library  
 \$115,000 Nikaitchaut Immersion School  
 \$40,000 KOTZ Public Radio Station  
 \$150,000 City of Kotzebue Ambulance Services  
 \$50,000 Boys & Girls Club Borough-Wide  
 \$75,000 NANA Title 9 Trespass Program

#### **Mayor's Office - \$84,618:**

\$17,466 Burial Assistance  
 \$39,147 Medical Assistance  
 \$28,005 Community Events



## Public Safety Department



Aucha Kameroff,  
Public Safety Director

Public Safety serves as first responder for all emergencies, and works in partnership with our residents to create a healthy and safe environment within our communities. It's home to various programs and groups, including:

- Firefighting
- Search and Rescue
- Village Public Safety Officer Program
- Trail and Emergency Shelter Cabins
- Office of Emergency Management
- Public Safety Commission

While there are challenges to recruitment and retention, Administration continues to work closely with the State of Alaska VPSO grantor and other grant resources to meet the need for public safety presence and needs in rural Alaska.

### 2019/2020 Highlights

#### Re-structured Code, Creating Separate Public Safety Department

To better serve the region's residents, Public Safety has become its own department, now separate from Public Services, with its own director. This change in the Borough's structure ensures public safety remains a priority.

#### Re-established Public Safety Commission, Inactive Since 2015

Newly elected Mayor Nelson and Administration has made significant improvements to all aspects for public safety, and the commission gives the Borough an important tool in that effort. The 13-member Public Safety Commission works to identify public safety needs, identify resources available, and establish and implement strategies and comprehensive plans to meet those needs.

#### Awarded a new COPS grant Award of \$375,000

This is to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.



Mayor Lucy Nelson with Attorney General William Barr at a meeting to discuss improving public safety in rural Alaska with mayors and tribal leaders in Anchorage, AK.





## Planning Department



Martha Whiting,  
Planning Director

Planning is responsible for planning, regulating and monitoring development projects and executes:

- Permitting of Resource & Community Development Projects
- Easement and Right-of-way Review
- Updating Borough & Community Comprehensive Plans
- Quarterly Reporting to Borough Planning Commission
- Maintaining Flood Damage Program



Kivalina Evacuation Road Bridge Embankment project.

## 2019/2020 Highlights

### Land Conveyance Plans

150,000 acres in land conveyances sent to Department of Natural Resources for approval and Comprehensive Plan Draft presented to Planning Commission.

### Title 9 Permits

- Exploration: Teck America Inc, Trilogy Metals Inc.
- Major Capital Project: AKDOT&PF Kivalina Evacuation & School Access Road
- Gravel & Mineral Extraction: Ambler Metals LLC, Noorvik Native Community, Native Village of Buckland and Drake Construction
- New Road, Road Maintenance or Extension: Native Village of Buckland, AKDOT&PF (Cape Blossom), Native Village of Shungnak, Native Village of Kiana and Native Village of Deering
- Water & Sewer: City of Kivalina, City of Kiana
- Land Fill Cleanup: City of Noorvik
- Power Line: Alaska Village of Electric (Kivalina Road to School)
- Energy Related: City of Ambler, Ipnatchiaq Electric

## Finance Department

The Finance Department manages and reports on expenditures, revenues, investments, accounting, budgeting and debt. A large part of finances tracked are those within the General Fund and Village Infrastructure Fund (VIF) which are stated in the Financial Statements and Community Accomplishment section.

### Financial Statements

The department worked with BDO, LLC, an auditing firm, to produce financial statements for FY2019. These can be found on page 18. The FY20 Financial Statements are currently in the process of an audit. Audited financial statements for FY20 will be released in the new fiscal year 2021.



Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer



## Community & Economic Development Department



Fritz Westlake,  
Community &  
Economic Develop-  
ment Director

The Community & Economic Development Department (CEDD) promotes business and economic development consistent with the traditional and cultural values of the region. It provides businesses with capacity-building opportunities, connects residents with services, and houses the Energy Division and Sulianich Art Gallery.



Sulianich Art Gallery

### 2019/2020 Highlights

#### Updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The Borough engaged the services of the McDowell Group and worked with community leaders and the private sector to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (NAB CEDS). The plan, which is required to be updated every five years to qualify for U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance, outlines economic goals with specific strategies, objectives, costs and timelines to achieve them.

#### Added “Community” to Economic Development Department, Following State Trends

Following trends of boroughs around the state, NAB added the term, “Community” to the department’s title. This is more in line with the department’s fundamental purpose for developing a robust economy — for the good our people and our communities.

#### Landed a \$1.2-Million USDA Grant for Solar Power & Batteries for Shungnak & Kobuk

In partnership with NANA, Tribes, and the cities of Shungnak and Kobuk, the Borough landed a grant and is now in the process of hiring a contractor to install 150 kW solar and ~650 kWh battery for the neighboring villages (connected via 10-mile distribution line). The project will result in energy independence and the ability to sell power to Alaska Village Electrical Cooperative (AVEC).

#### Awarded Over \$780,749 in Scholarships

The Borough’s “Frank R. Ferguson Scholarship Program” awarded scholarships to many students of the region over the last two years, including:

##### **2019 Scholarships: \$381,176**

\$110,000 for students to attend vocational or technical schools;

\$271,176 for students to attend accredited academic schools/colleges;

##### **2020 Scholarships: \$399,573**

\$74,700 for students to attend vocational or technical or technical schools;

\$324,873 for students to attend accredited academic schools/colleges.





## Public Services Department



Nate Kotch Jr.,  
Public Services  
Director

This department works to strengthen communities through building and renovating infrastructure, providing economic growth, employment opportunities and upgraded or new infrastructure while reducing operating costs.

### 2019/2020 Highlights

#### Established & Implemented Community Utility Assistance Program (CUAP)

In mid-2018, NAB partnered with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Maniilaq Association to create this regional utility assistance program. The program's goals are to make water and sewer affordable, reduce water/sewer system emergencies, provide training and support for operators and administrators, and help communities become more competitive for construction grants. It does so by training operators and administrators to conduct – and document – preventative maintenance efforts which in turn makes borough communities more competitive for grant awards.

Within just a few months of implementation, nine of 10 villages joined the program and rates decreased by two-thirds for residential customers and by half for commercial customers. In Kotzebue, residential customer water and sewer rates also decreased by more than \$70 per month. In addition to cost savings, improved water and sewer systems help improve the health of the people in the region.

#### Created & Gained State Approval for Hazards Mitigation Plan

This multi-jurisdictional plan was developed and updated by our Office of Emergency Management. It's an important tool in our efforts to maintain and improve emergency preparedness, prevention, mitigation and recovery efforts for the NAB communities. Specifically, the plan addresses developing and periodically updating the borough hazards analysis, capability assessment, and emergency operations plan. The plan also helps in conducting emergency exercises.

#### Approved \$13.241 Million in VIF Projects & Programs

Guided by the Village Improvement Commission, the Borough directed \$7.1 Million to VIF projects throughout the region in FY2019 and over \$6.091 Million in FY2020. See the Community Accomplishments section for breakdown of projects in each village.

#### Revised VIF Policy & Procedures

The VIF Policy & Procedures were carefully reviewed and updated to eliminate risk and grey areas.



Fletcher Gregg from Deering working on a discharge pump as part of the Borough's new Community Utility Assistance Program.

#### Completed Village Public Safety Officer Program (VPSO) Projects

In Fiscal Year 2020, the Public Services Department completed renovations to two VPSO housing units in Noatak and Noorvik and built a warm storage unit in Noorvik, Alaska.



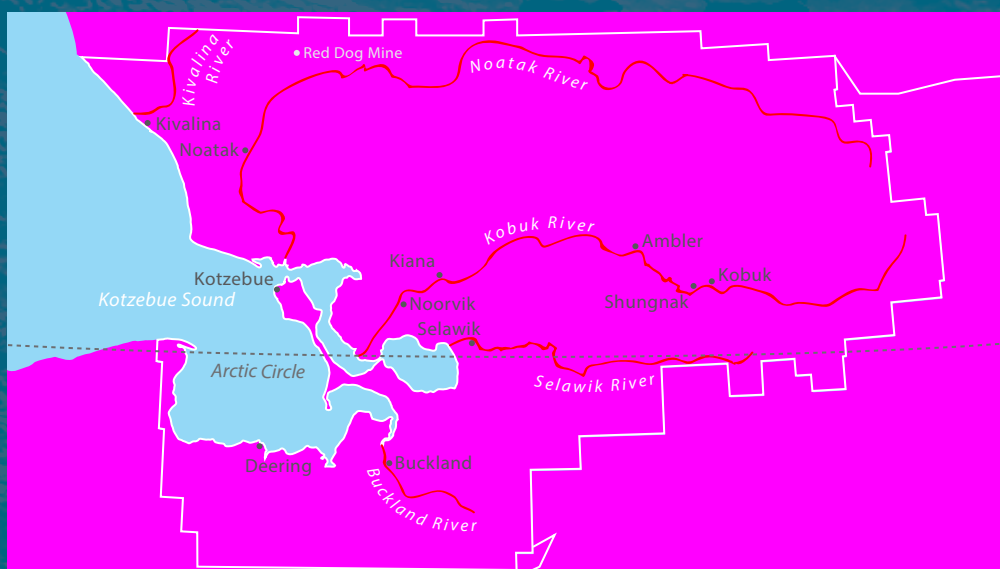




# Community Accomplishments

This section profiles each of the region's 11 communities with the most current available data and the Village Improvement Fund (VIF) project investments over the last two fiscal years.

The VIF investments are directed by the Village Improvement Commission (VIC), which includes representation from all communities, and are evaluated based on 14 key criteria. Funding criteria include whether the project can self-sustaining in the long term. VIF funding may be used to provide matching funds required by other project funding sources.



## Ambler *Ivisaappaat*



<b>2019</b>	
Energy Study Phase 1 & 2 .....	\$550,225
<b>2020</b>	
Energy Study Phase 3.....	\$25,000
Biomass Boiler Project.....	\$343,500
Search & Rescue/ Fire hall Building.....	\$30,000
Phase 1 & LED Streetlights .....	\$13,572
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$962,297</b>

### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1971  
Community Type: 2nd Class City  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Ambler  
Population (2018): 287  
Median Age (2013-2017): 26.9

Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 96%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 3.83  
Fuel Cost (2019): \$9.79/gallon (Gasoline)  
\$9.53/gallon (Heating Oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$44,500  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric  
Cooperative  
Water System: Circ  
Wastewater System: Gravity  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 2,400 ft x 60 ft  
Runway 2: 3,000 ft x 60 ft  
Dock/Port: Yes  
Barge Access: Seasonal

### EMPLOYMENT

Top Employers with Number of Employees  
Ambler Elementary School: 10-19  
Northwest Arctic Borough School District: 10-19  
Native Village of Ambler: 10-19  
US Federal Aviation Admin: 10-19  
Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 10

### SCHOOLS

Ambler K-12 School:  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 75  
Year Built: 2004



## Buckland *Nunachiaq*



### 2020

Water & Sewer Project Lulu Ave ..... \$529,809

**Total.....\$529,809**

#### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1966  
Community Type: 2nd Class City  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Buckland  
Population (2018): 511  
Median Age (2013-2017): 22.9  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 97%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 5.02  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$6.15/gal (gasoline)  
\$6.04/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$41,932  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative  
Water System: Haul, Washeteria  
Wastewater System: Haul  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 3,200 ft x 75 ft  
Barge Access: Seasonal

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### Top Employers with Number of Employees

Buckland School: 20-49  
Buckland Clinic: 5-9  
Maniilaq Association: 5-9  
Buckland IRA Council: 5-9  
City Office: 5-9

Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 9

#### SCHOOLS

Buckland School:  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 189  
Year Built: 2004

## Deering *Ipnachiaq*



### 2019

New Generator Installation .....\$147,750  
Purchase Install On Demand Water Heaters  
for Residents.....\$166,049  
Water Delivery Truck.....\$19,955  
Electric Grid East End .....\$375,000

**Total.....\$708,754**

#### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1970  
Community Type: 2nd Class City  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Deering  
Population (2018): 168  
Median Age (2013-2017): 27.3  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 92%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 3.53  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$4.38/gal (gasoline)  
\$3.35/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$44,375  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): No

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Ipnachiaq Electric Company  
Water System: Water delivery, Washeteria  
Wastewater System: Vacuum, Honey bucket  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 3,320 ft x 75 ft  
Runway 2: 2,660 ft x 75 ft  
Dock/Port: Yes  
Barge Access: Seasonal

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### Top Employers with Number of Employees

Ipnachiaq Electric Co: 5-9  
Deering School: 5-9  
Deering Clinic: 5-9  
Maniilaq Center: 5-9  
Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 6

#### SCHOOLS

Deering School:  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 41  
Year Built: 1984



## Kiana

### Katyaak



#### 2019

Water Treatment Plan Manganese Removal...\$882,000  
Community Building .....\$818,440

**Total..... \$1,700,440**

#### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1964  
Community Type: 2nd Class City  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Kiana  
Population (2018): 421  
Median Age (2013-2017): 25.3  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 95%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 3.51  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$6.18/gal (gasoline)  
\$5.67/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$42,813  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Coop  
Water System: Circ  
Wastewater System: Gravity  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 3,400 ft x 100 ft  
Dock/Port: Yes  
Barge Access: Seasonal

#### EMPLOYMENT

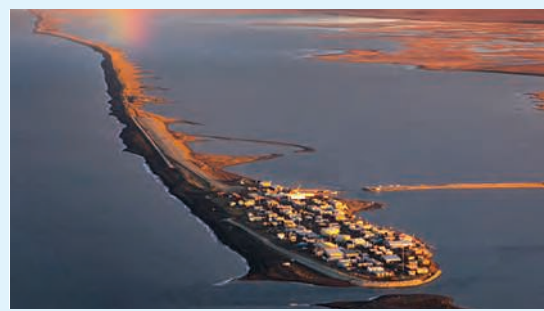
Top Employers with Number of Employees  
Kiana High School: 20-49  
Raven Air: 5-9  
Kiana Clinic: 5-9  
City of Kiana: 5-9  
Maniilaq Association: 5-9  
Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 8

#### SCHOOLS

Kiana School:  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 128  
Year Built: 1979

## Kivalina

### Kivaliniq



#### 2019

Kivalina Evacuation Road Contribution ..\$1,000,000

#### 2020

Electrical Intertie Phase 1 of 3 .....\$1,500,000

**Total..... \$2,500,000**

#### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1969  
Community Type: 2nd Class City  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Kivalina  
Population (2018): 442  
Median Age (2013-2017): 23.8  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 94%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 5.4  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$5.00/gal (gasoline)  
\$4.53/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$48,750  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Coop  
Water System: Haul, Washeteria  
Wastewater System: Honey bucket  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 3,000 ft x 60 ft  
Dock/Port: Yes  
Barge Access: Seasonal

#### EMPLOYMENT

Top Employers with Number of Employees  
McQueen School: 10-19  
Kivalina Clinic: 5-9  
Maniilaq Association: 5-9  
City of Kivalina: 5-9  
Kivalina Native Village: 5-9  
Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 7

#### SCHOOLS

McQueen School:  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 162  
Year Built: 1976





## Kobuk *Laugviik*



### 2020

Drain Field .....\$199,250  
Wastewater Source.....\$13,474

**Total..... \$212,724**

### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1973  
Community Type: 2nd Class City  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Kobuk  
Population (2018): 144  
Median Age (2013-2017): 18.3  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 95%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 4.75  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$9.27/gal (gasoline)  
\$9.27/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$52,500  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Kobuk Valley Electric Asso.  
Water System: Circ  
Wastewater System: Gravity  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 4,020 ft x 75 ft  
Runway 2: 4,780 ft x 75 ft  
Dock/Port: Yes  
Barge Access: Seasonal

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Top Employers with Number of Employees

Kobuk School: 10-19  
Kobuk Store Inc.: 5-9  
Native Village of Kobuk: 5-9  
Kobuk Airport-OBU: 1-4  
Nana Regional Corp Kobuk: 1-4  
Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 7

### SCHOOLS

Kobuk School:  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 49  
Year Built: 1967

## Kotzebue *Qikiqtagruk*



### 2019

Solar Power Project-Kotzebue Electric Assn.. \$600,000  
KOTZ Radio Technology Project .....\$347,540

### 2020

NWABSD Food Service Program.....\$452,677  
NWABSD Inupiaq Language Program.....\$554,662  
NWABSD Pre-K Program.....\$137,233  
KOTZ Radio Phase II .....\$363,339

**Total..... \$5,455,451**

### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1958  
Community Type: 2nd Class City  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Kotzebue  
Population (2018): 3121  
Median Age (2013-2017): 29.3  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 73%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 3.44  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$6.03/gal (gasoline)  
\$5.97/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$88,047  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): No

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Kotzebue Electric Association  
Water System: Piped  
Wastewater System: Piped  
Landfill Class: II  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Asphalt airport  
Runway 1: 6,300 ft x 150 ft  
Runway 2: 3,876 ft x 90 ft  
Dock/Port: Yes  
Barge Access: Seasonal

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Top Employers with Number of Employees

Maniilaq Association: 500-999  
Alaska Commercial Co.: 50-99  
Kotzebue High School: 50-99  
City of Kotzebue: 50-99  
June Nelson Elementary School: 50-99  
Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 124

### SCHOOLS

Kotzebue Middle/High School:  
Grades: 6-12  
Enrollment: 330  
Year Built: 1984  
June Nelson Elementary School:  
Grades: Pre K-5  
Enrollment: 392  
Year Built: 1956

**Noatak**  
*Nautaaq*



## 2019

Boiler Restoration .....	\$6,857
Community Trash Cleanup .....	\$79,492
Trash Burn Unit .....	\$96,162

## 2020

Bobcat for Trash Burn Unit.....	\$62,554
Dump Dozer .....	\$631,760
Handicap Van for Elders & School.....	\$64,175
Waste Oil Burner.....	\$7,664
Water Truck, Tools & Material .....	\$189,775

**Total..... \$1,138,439**

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: Not incorporated  
Community Type: CDP  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Noatak  
Population (2018): 581  
Median Age (2013-2017): 26.4  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian  
alone or in combination (2013-2017): 99%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 4.42  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$9.26/gal (gasoline)  
\$9.26/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$50,000  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Coop  
Water System: Circ/heated system  
Wastewater System: Gravity  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 3,992 ft x 60 ft  
Dock/Port: No  
Barge Access: None

## EMPLOYMENT

Top Employers with Number of Employees  
 Napaaqtugmiut School: 20-49  
 Noatak Ira Main Office TPC: 20-49  
 Noatak Native Village: 10-19  
 Noatak I R A Main: 10-19  
 US Federal Aviation Admin.: 10-19  
 Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 8

## SCHOOLS

Napaaqtugmiut School.  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 174  
Year Built: 2008

**Noorvik**  
*Nuurvik*



## 2020

Heated Multi-Purpose Storage.....	\$49,406
Caterpillar 950M Loader .....	\$330,376
Landfill Cleanup Burner & Equipment .....	\$329,313

**Total.....\$709,095**

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: Not incorporated  
Community Type: CDP  
Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village  
of Noatak  
Population (2018): 581  
Median Age (2013-2017): 26.4  
Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
in combination (2013-2017): 99%  
Average Household Size (2013-2017): 4.42  
Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$9.26/gal (gasoline)  
\$9.26/gal (heating oil)  
Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$50,000  
Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Coop  
Water System: Circ/heated system  
Wastewater System: Gravity  
Landfill Class: III  
Road Access: No  
Air Access: Gravel airport  
Runway 1: 3,992 ft x 60 ft  
Dock/Port: No  
Barge Access: None

## EMPLOYMENT

Top Employers with Number of Employees  
 Napaagtugmiut School: 20-49  
 Noatak Ira Main Office TPC: 20-49  
 Noatak Native Village: 10-19  
 Noatak I R A Main: 10-19  
 US Federal Aviation Admin.: 10-19  
 Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 8

## SCHOOLS

Napaaqtugmiut School.  
Grades: Pre K-12  
Enrollment: 174  
Year Built: 2008



## Selawik *Akuligaq*



### 2019

Water & Sewer Rehabilitation Project.....\$610,500  
 Water & Sewer Repair & Improvement.....\$1,000,000  
 Wellness Program .....\$378,872  
 Multipurpose Building Phase I.....\$19,574

**Total..... \$1,969,798**

### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1977  
 Community Type: 2nd Class City  
 Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Selawik  
 Population (2018): 845  
 Median Age (2013-2017): 24  
 Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
 in combination (2013-2017): 99%  
 Average Household Size (2013-2017): 4.75  
 Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$6.63/gal (gasoline)  
 \$6.36/gal (heating oil)  
 Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$35,625  
 Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Coop  
 Water System: Circ  
 Wastewater System: Vacuum  
 Landfill Class: III  
 Road Access: No  
 Air Access: No  
 Dock/Port: Yes  
 Barge Access: Seasonal

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Top Employers with Number of Employees

Selawik High School: 20-49  
 Selawik City Office: 10-19  
 Selawik Police Dept.: 10-19  
 US Fish & Wildlife Service: 10-19

Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 6

### SCHOOLS

Davis-Ramoth School:  
 Grades: Pre K-12  
 Enrollment: 264  
 Year Built: 1975

## Shungnak *Issingnak*



### 2019

Loader Rock Bucket .....\$70,829

### 2020

Water & Sewer for Community Building  
 .....\$37,200  
 Excavator .....\$30,000  
 Dump Truck.....\$177,366

**Total..... \$315,395**

### DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Year Incorporated: 1967  
 Community Type: 2nd Class City  
 Federally Recognized Tribe: Native Village of Shungnak  
 Population (2018): 274  
 Median Age (2013-2017): 22.5  
 Percent Alaska Native/American Indian alone or  
 in combination (2013-2017): 80%  
 Average Household Size (2013-2017): 5.09  
 Fuel Retail Cost (2019): \$8.50/gal (gasoline)  
 \$8.50/gal (heating oil)  
 Median Household Income (2013-2017): \$39,688  
 Denali Commission Distressed Community (2018): Yes

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Electric Utility: Alaska Village Electric Coop  
 Water System: Circ  
 Wastewater System: Gravity  
 Landfill Class: III  
 Road Access: No  
 Air Access: Gravel airport  
 Runway 1: 4,001 ft x 60 ft  
 Dock/Port: Yes  
 Barge Access: Seasonal

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Top Employers with Number of Employees

Northwest Arctic Borough  
 School District: 10-19  
 Shungnak School: 10-19  
 Shungnak Native Store: 5-9  
 Shungnak Clinic: 5-9  
 Shungnak City Office: 5-9  
 Number of Active Business Licenses (2019): 4

### SCHOOLS

Shungnak School:  
 Grades: Pre K-12  
 Enrollment: 61  
 Year Built: 1976





# Outlook for the Future

There are many unknowns on the horizon for us. The coronavirus pandemic, the economy and climate change all pose significant challenges for the region. But we see many opportunities as well.

Working together, we can weather the storms, capitalize on opportunities and improve the lives of those around us. Here are a few of the specific ways we're doing so in the near future:

## Climate Change Protection — Kivalina Access Road & Replacement School

In FY 2019, the Assembly members approved a local match contribution for the Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road of \$4.9 million. The Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road Project addresses the threat of coastal erosion, flooding, and the catastrophic effects that larger storms and ocean surges could bring upon the barrier reef community.

The road will provide a safe, reliable evacuation route for residents in the event of a catastrophic storm or ocean surge, allowing evacuees to temporarily mobilize to safe refuge on K-Hill. It is also the site identified by the Northwest Arctic Borough School District, and approved by the community of Kivalina, as a preferred new location for the community school.

The Mayor's Office proposed a resolution to the Assembly to recommend approval for \$12.7 million in school bond debt for new K-12 Kivalina School, approved by the Assembly in FY19. The bulk of the funding is coming by from a State of Alaska DEED grant of \$50.3 million.

## Lowering Fuel & Cargo Costs — Kotzebue to Cape Blossom Gravel Road Project

The Cape Blossom Road project has been in the making for many years, and now – thanks to ongoing efforts of several local organizations – construction is due to begin in Summer 2021. The road will ultimately link to a future port and will eliminate the high cost of lightering cargo into Kotzebue, which in turn reduces fuel and cargo costs regionwide and lengthens the shipping season.

Mayor Nelson proposed, and assembly members approved, \$5 million in advanced funding to help fuel progress by the City of Kotzebue, sponsor of the project. Other organizations lending resources and support include Native Village of Kotzebue, NANA Regional Corporation and Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation. The estimated cost of this project is under \$50 million.

## Increasing Public Safety — Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Housing

Only five communities in the region have existing Village Public Safety Officer housing for our VPSOs. The Borough plans to work with each of the remaining communities to find buildings that can be renovated and/or to identify grant funding sources to build new housing facilities. We anticipate starting with Deering and Kobuk, which have recently provided a former clinic and teacher housing site for VPSO housing renovations, and anticipate completion in 2021.

The Cape Blossom Road project is underway, thanks in part to the \$11 million contribution of gravel resources from the Sponsor City of Kotzebue and the Northwest Arctic Borough Advance Appropriation. The bid was awarded to Brice Construction. The Phase 1 Construction of the Road to Sadie Creek begins in the Summer of 2021.





# 2019/2020 Assembly Members



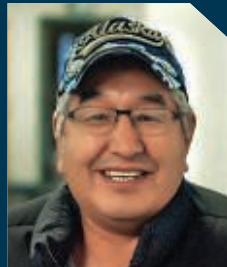
**Elmer Armstrong, Jr.**  
Seat A – Kivalina, Noatak,  
Baird Mountains, Kiana,  
Noorvik



**Austin Swan, Sr.**  
Seat B – Kivalina, Noatak,  
Baird Mountains, Kiana,  
Noorvik



**Delores Barr**  
Seat C – Kivalina, Noatak,  
Baird Mountains, Kiana,  
Noorvik



**Miles Cleveland, Sr.**  
Seat D – Ambler, Kobuk,  
Shungnak



**Kirk Oviok**  
Seat E – Selawik,  
Buckland, Deering



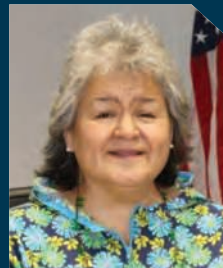
**Nathan Hadley Jr.,  
President**  
Seat F – Selawik,  
Buckland, Deering



**Hannah Paniyavluk Loon**  
Seat G – Kotzebue,  
Krusenstern, Igichuck  
Hills, Hotham Inlet,  
Cape Blossom



**Sandy Shroyer-Beaver**  
Seat H – Kotzebue



**Dood Lincoln-Carr**  
Seat I – Kotzebue



**Reggie Joule III**  
Seat J – Kotzebue



**Walter Sampson**  
Seat K – Kotzebue



**Nelda Swan,  
Elder Representative**  
Kivalina



**Kyleigha Wilson-Nay,**  
Assembly Youth  
Representative  
Noatak



**Coltrane Chase,**  
Assembly Youth  
Representative  
Kotzebue





# 2019 Financials

The Northwest Arctic Borough Statement of Net Position looks healthy and it is healthy for multiple reasons:

- \$96.5m is property/equipment;
- \$12.7m is restricted to the New Kivalina School via issuing long-term debt;
- \$1m is restricted to the New Kivalina School Bus Barn via State Grant;
- \$54.8m is Unrestricted Net Assets which is composed of assets that are reported as Committed or Assigned in the Balance Sheet; and
- \$41.3m relates to liabilities to cover operations and bond debt obligations.

In 2019, instead of fully contributing to the NWAB sustainability fund to meet our annual goal we invested in significant projects and programs, such as the new CUAP. Contributions to the sustainability fund will continue in the future. Any positive net position changes are reinvested to meet Borough goals and objectives, as stated in our code.



Jasmine Schaeffer from Noatak, subsisting for salmon harvest at Napaaqtauchaq campsite on Kobuk Lake.





## Exhibit A-1

**Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska**  
**Statement of Net Position**

<i>June 30, 2019</i>	Primary Government Governmental Activities	Component Unit*
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 45,019,309	\$ 16,087,598
Investments	40,960,472	10,112,676
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts:		
Accounts	1,216,708	-
Interest	94,857	-
Federal and state grants	127,569	2,918,967
Inventory	79,386	1,487,687
Prepaid items	500	953,327
Capital assets:		
Capital assets not being depreciated	936,562	275,910
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	117,113,700	1,416,217
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>205,549,063</b>	<b>33,252,382</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Unamortized deferred loss on refunding	876,954	-
Pension related	519,364	3,855,110
Other postemployment benefits related	314,401	2,625,373
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>1,710,719</b>	<b>6,480,483</b>
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 207,259,782</b>	<b>\$ 39,732,865</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 700,436	\$ 647,802
Accrued payroll liabilities	111,576	4,910,472
Unearned revenue	-	3,018,207
Interest payable	372,899	-
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Due within one year:		
Accrued leave	75,976	-
General obligation bonds	5,480,000	-
Due in more than one year:		
General obligation bonds, including unamortized premium of \$3,993,493	29,903,493	-
Net pension liability	3,575,016	29,197,657
Other postemployment benefits liability	728,454	5,136,748
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>40,947,850</b>	<b>42,910,886</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Pension related	89,726	777,516
Other postemployment benefits related	354,772	2,213,986
<b>Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>41,392,348</b>	<b>45,902,388</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	96,365,958	1,692,127
Restricted:		
Construction	14,701,478	-
Education	-	299,236
Unrestricted	54,799,998	(8,160,886)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>165,867,434</b>	<b>(6,169,523)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 207,259,782</b>	<b>\$ 39,732,865</b>

\* Component Unit is NWABSD Financials.



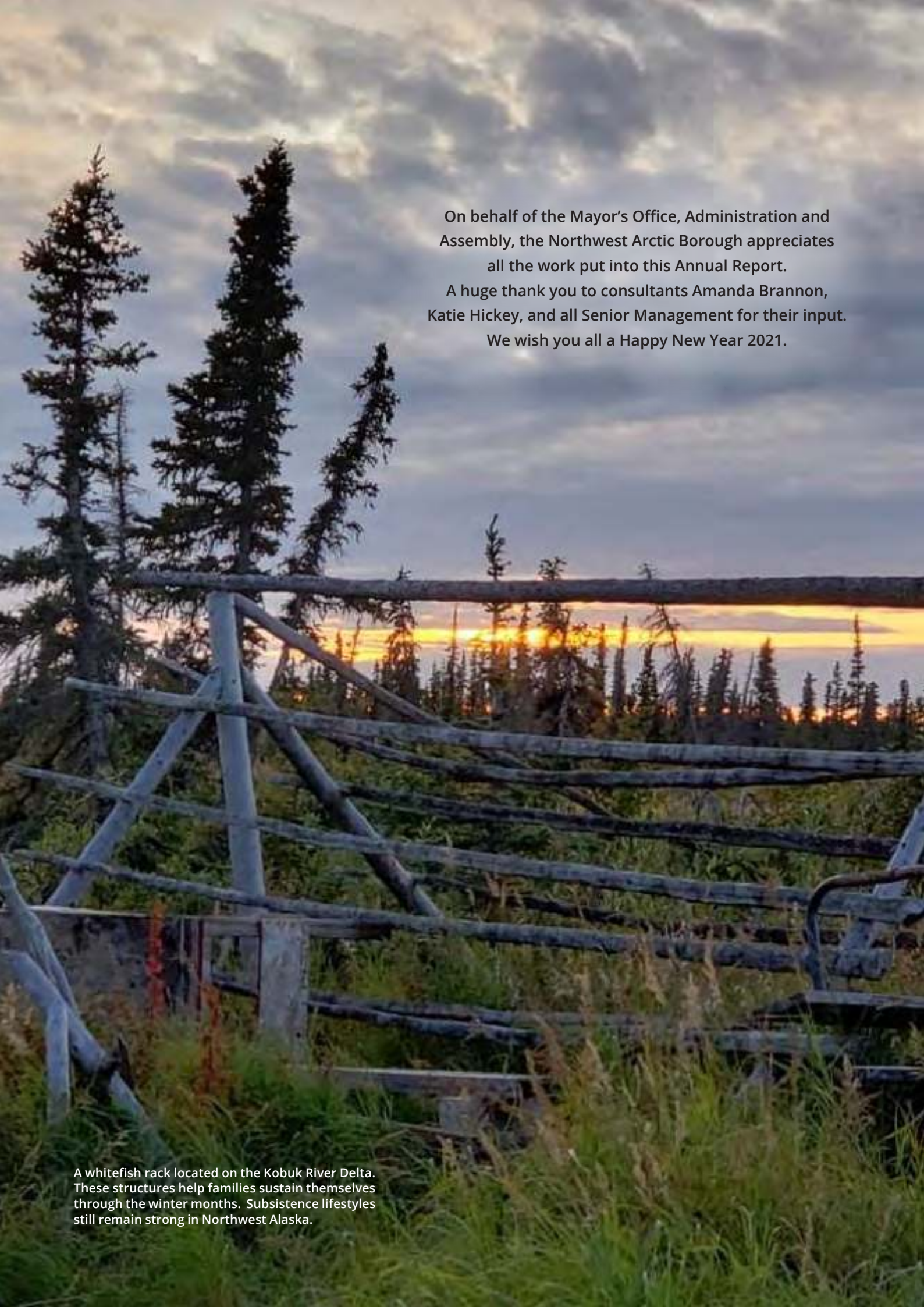
# Northwest Arctic Borough, Alaska Statement of Activities

Exhibit A-2

Year Ended June 30, 2019	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position	
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contri- butions	Capital Grants and Contri- butions	Primary	Component Unit School District
					Govern- ment Govern- mental Activities	
Functions/Programs						
Primary Government						
Governmental activities:						
General government	\$ 4,548,492	\$ -	\$ 4,110,802	\$ -	\$ (437,690)	
Planning	717,706	14,075	482,426	-	(221,205)	
Economic development	1,129,156	-	-	-	(1,129,156)	
Education	10,984,215	-	-	-	(10,984,215)	
Public services	13,511,503	7,500	3,222,583	-	(10,281,420)	
Interest on long-term debt	785,233	-	-	-	(785,233)	
Total Primary Government	\$31,676,305	\$ 21,575	\$ 7,815,811	\$ -	(23,838,919)	
Component Unit -						
School District	\$74,064,372	\$ 845,231	\$12,263,993	\$ 394,797		\$ (60,560,351)
General Revenues						
					20,018,934	-
					8,041,044	-
					2,126,016	-
					1,960,351	112,676
					-	5,347,434
					489,416	49,321,636
					771,665	-
					-	4,157,357
					211,955	743,472
Total General Revenues					33,619,381	59,682,575
Change in net position					9,780,462	(877,776)
Net Position, beginning of year					156,086,972	(5,291,747)
Net Position, end of year					\$165,867,434	\$ (6,169,523)

FY2020 Financial Statements are currently in audit and will be released in FY2021.





On behalf of the Mayor's Office, Administration and Assembly, the Northwest Arctic Borough appreciates all the work put into this Annual Report.

A huge thank you to consultants Amanda Brannon, Katie Hickey, and all Senior Management for their input. We wish you all a Happy New Year 2021.

A whitefish rack located on the Kobuk River Delta. These structures help families sustain themselves through the winter months. Subsistence lifestyles still remain strong in Northwest Alaska.





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