

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTION 15-32**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH  
ASSEMBLY ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS FROM SHELL  
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COMPANY AND APPROVING  
RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THAT RESEARCH GRANT  
AGREEMENT, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS:** the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly is the governing body of the Northwest Arctic Borough; and

**WHEREAS:** Shell Exploration and Production Company (“Shell”) is a global group of energy and petrochemicals companies with around 90,000 employees in more than 80 countries and territories including Alaska; and

**WHEREAS:** Shell is in the process of exploring for oil and gas in the Chukchi Sea near the Northwest Arctic Borough; and

**WHEREAS:** From 2006 to 2012, Shell has invested over \$60 million on Arctic science and in the last five years Shell has been a globally-significant funder of Arctic science; and

**WHEREAS:** Both the Northwest Arctic Borough and Shell advocate for additional baseline research to refine their understanding of the Arctic marine ecosystem in order to protect the Arctic Ocean’s ecological integrity and biodiversity, maintain the sustainable subsistence use of the living and non-living resources of the environment, and enable responsible decision making and government permitting of offshore oil and gas activities in the Chukchi Sea; and

**WHEREAS:** The Northwest Arctic Borough accepted grant funds from Shell in the amount of \$1,383,004 for fiscal year 2015 and wishes to accept \$1,300,000 in base funding for its research and science program and an additional \$350,000 for acoustic monitoring studies for fiscal year 2016; and

**WHEREAS:** The Northwest Arctic Borough Research Steering Committee met in April 2015, and after reviewing proposed projects solicited from subject-matter experts, decided to fund the following research projects and consulting agreements:

**Shorezone Aerial Imagery:** This project for \$36,000.00 will create a high resolution geomorphologic map of the Kotzebue Sound coastline.

**Circulation and Hydrographic Structure in Kotzebue Sound:** This project for \$50,500.00 will collect snapshots of near-surface circulation and water column structure in and near Kotzebue Sound using satellite-tracked drifters and a portable conductivity-temperature-depth profiler. The drifters could be deployed, collected and redeployed by a local field crew or students. It would provide information on circulation and wind patterns. The project will be implemented by Seth Danielson of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in coordination with the Native Village of Kotzebue. This project continues a project started last year.

**Animal Survey Project:** This project for \$77,550.00 will fund seabird and marine mammal surveys in Kotzebue Sound.

**Bearded Seals Research Review:** This project for \$31,012.00 will review existing research from 2004 to 2009 regarding research and satellite tagging of Bearded Seals in Kotzebue Sound. The Native Village of Kotzebue is a partner on this project.

**Lichen and Biomass Study:** This project for \$29,308.00 will map lichen cover and biomass in the Western Arctic Caribou herd home range. This will help assess caribou habitat and may help explain the herd's decline. The National Park Service will contribute \$25,000.00 to this project.

**Predator Ecology:** This project for \$38,191.00 will be done jointly with the North Slope Borough and will assess predator ecology in Northern Alaska. Traditional knowledge will be an integral part of this project.

**Northern Alaska Scenarios Project:** This project for \$51,250.00 will involve high school students from around the region in scenarios planning for community sustainability and will be part of a larger project with the North Slope Borough.

**Kotzebue Sound Acoustics Program:** This project proposal for \$350,000 combines two projects into one effort to deliver the objectives of both programs which are: (1) understand sound impacts of Shell activities in Kotzebue Sound; and (2) increase our understanding of marine mammals in Kotzebue Sound.

**Henry Hunting Consulting Work:** A professional services agreement in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 with Henry Huntington to provide assistance in pursuing new grant funds and advice on the expansion of the Northwest Arctic Borough science program and research efforts.

**Total Project and Consulting: \$743,811.00**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** by the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly, for and on behalf of the Northwest Arctic Borough:

1. The Assembly approves acceptance of \$1,300,000 in base funding from Shell for its science and research program and an additional \$350,000 to conduct acoustic mooring studies for FY16.
2. The Assembly approves the research projects and consulting agreements in the total amount of \$743,811 as described above.
3. The Mayor is authorized to negotiate and execute research grant agreements using the Borough's standard professional services agreement form.
4. This resolution shall be effective upon enactment.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2015.**

  
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Assembly President

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2015.**

  
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Reggie Joule, Mayor

**SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2015.**

  
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Stella Atoruk, Borough Clerk



**ATTEST:**