

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTION 14-41**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE BOROUGH'S SHELL 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 an amount not to exceed one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000.00) to develop a science program and conduct research; and

**WHEREAS:** The Northwest Arctic Borough Research Steering Committee met on August 8, 2014 and after review proposed funded the following research projects:

**Using Acoustics Moorings to Study Belugas in Kotzebue Sound:** This project will monitor the acoustics of Beluga to determine when they arrive and depart the Kotzebue Sound and assess abundance of stock. The \$40,776.00 in funding is for one-year and Alex Whiting, Native Village of Kotzebue, will lead the project.

**Bearded Seal Hearing Project:** This \$18,800.00 project will fund the purchase of acoustic recording instruments for use by the Native Village of Kotzebue. The

instruments will be used to establish baseline noise levels that will be useful in the future investigations of the contribution of shipping and industry activity. It will also help fund participation of local crews and captains. This funding is for one-year and Alex Whiting with the Native Village of Kotzebue will lead the project.

**Kotzebue Sound Ambient Noise Monitoring Project:** This project for \$48,830.00 will fund a study that complements laboratory experiments by the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) about the sensory capabilities of seals by measuring baseline, year-round acoustic habitat of Kotzebue Sound. The funds would be used for purchase of acoustic recording instruments and acoustic release mechanisms, costs of local boat time, fuel, shipping, UCSC analysis support, and salaries. This funding is for one-year and Alex Whiting with the Native Village of Kotzebue will lead the project.

**Northwest Arctic Data Portal:** This project for \$19,000.00 will begin the process to build a data portal that would be hosted on the AOOS website. The portal will store and provide access to Northwest Arctic Borough research and other data that may be of interest to residents. The portal could include any kind of spatial data. The existing AOOS portals visualize the ocean in four dimensions (latitude, longitude, water column depth, and data over time). This will begin the project but will need additional funding later. Molly McCammon and the Alaska Ocean Observing System will lead this project.

**Circulation and Hydrographic Structure in Kotzebue Sound:** This project for \$49,000.00 will collect snapshots of near-surface circulation and water column structure in and near Kotzebue Sounds 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.

**Buckland Beluga Whale Project:** This project adds \$7,600.00 for additional staffing for the Buckland Beluga Whale Project. The North Slope Borough is providing funding for other aspects of the project.

**State of Knowledge:** This project for \$45,000.00 will provide basic background information on current Arctic research in designated topic areas, ie; sea ice, marine mammals. Recognized experts in each field will be asked to provide a brief summary on each topic. A cap of \$45,000 would be used to provide honorariums for the scientists. Henry Huntington, Pew Foundation, and Michael Macrander, Shell, will coordinate the effort and provide editing without compensation.

**Total Funding: \$228,906.00**

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

1. The Assembly approves the research projects in the total amount of \$228,906.00 as more fully described above.
2. The Mayor is authorized to negotiate and execute research grant agreements using the Borough's standard professional services agreement form.
3. This resolution shall be effective upon enactment.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2014.**

  
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**Walter Sampson, Assembly President**

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2014.**

  
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**Reggie Joulé, Mayor**

**SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2014.**

  
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**Stella Atoruk, Borough Clerk**

**ATTEST:**

