

Manager Report

Regular City Council Meeting

December 27, 2022

Interim Manager Chris Hladick

Acting City Manager Bil Homka

1. **DC Trip:** We had a very good trip to Washington. The trilateral group was praised by both Senator Sullivan and Murkowski and the Corps, for our efforts at working together. Here is a brief summary of our meetings:

NOAA, Latise Lefair & Zach Penny, Senior Advisors, we discussed the petition presented by St. Paul tribal council to create a sanctuary around the island. We now better understand the process, which will take years, and will be managed by the regional administrator in Hawaii. There is a link on the NOAA website to more information on the project. We will continue to monitor. The Q tribe has asked for government to government consultation on this issue which is a good next step.

NOAA Fisheries: We traveled to Silver Springs Maryland to meet with Assistant Secretary, Janet Coit. You may remember she visited Unalaska this past summer. We wanted to discuss crab disaster funding, which is in the works, and our hopes that funding would be available for municipalities that are impacted by the crab closure as well as the fisherman and processors. Disaster declarations are made by the Dept. of Commerce and can take years before they come to fruition. We also discussed the Inflation Reduction Act which has \$2.5 billion dollars for NOAA which would be distributed between various programs. Janet indicated she hoped to get some of the funding directed toward Bering Sea research into why the crab crash is happening. Representative Peltola: The mayor lead the discussion on our issues and asks contained in our briefing paper; sanctuary, bycatch, dredging project, funding for interconnection within electric grid, environmental clean-up, etc. Glad to see she got elected we had a good conversation about by-catch and that we recommended following the science and support more research funding for NOAA fisheries.

Senator Lisa Murkowski: Mayor Tutiakoff lead the discussion in regards to our list of issues and asks of the delegation. We discussed the crab relief effort, the sanctuary issue, thanked her for her efforts on the dredging project etc. It was a very good discussion and she thanked the community for being unified in our lobbying efforts.

Steve Kopecky: Chief of Pacific Ocean Division Regional Integration Team, Corps of Engineers. We discussed the dredging project which will deepen the entrance channel into Dutch Harbor. The money is in the omnibus bill set to be voted on by December 23rd. Some \$25 million dollars will be made available to the Corps if the bill passes ensuring the project will be funded. This is great news. Engineering is already being accomplished by the Corps and geotech work was completed this past October. This project will have a positive economic impact on Unalaska.

Why? Because current ships will pass over the bar more safely and larger ships will be able to enter the harbor.

Senator Dan Sullivan: Again Mayor Tutikoff led the discussion with the Senator discussing our challenges the litany of which is in our congressional briefing memo. Again Senator Sullivan was supportive of the Trilateral approach to lobbying. We especially thanked his staff for their work on fisheries issues on behalf of Alaska. We discussed the crab disaster and the implications to the city's operation budget. We thanked him for his help on the entrance channel dredging project. As is the case with all congressional meetings we reported out on our NOAA and Corps of Engineers meetings. A very positive meeting.

Since our meetings the omnibus bill has passed. This is good news for Unalaska, however, Senator Sullivan voted against it in the Senate though it passed. The House takes up the bill today and is expected to pass it. Will be watching the news.

2. **State Priorities:** CAPSIS, the legislative portal is open for editing our projects from last year. Last session our state priorities were the same as our federal priorities. I assume they will be the same this year. I meet with Diane Blummer on the 4th of January to discuss strategy. We will be discussing the first meeting in January.
3. **Budget:** Frank Kelty is working on fish revenues, the budget calendar has been drafted so the process has begun. In my mind it's very important to understand the revenue forecast before launching into the CMMP. Why? We need to know if there is going to be any money over and above the operating budget that would be available for capital projects. We have \$90 million on the books for the current CMMP. When will these projects be accomplished? We are shorthanded at Public Works with projects backing up. Maybe it is time to re-evaluate.
4. **CMMP:** Existing CMMP projects are keeping our staff busy. Staffing shortages are affecting several departments that have reached capacity to design, manage, outsource, contract, etc. We anticipate lower revenue this year due to crab season cancellation and other economic variables. The FY23 CMMP will look smaller this year – we are only nominating projects that continue due to ongoing funding or projects that address critical issues to the City such as emergency repairs.
5. **New Year's Eve Fireworks:** It's likely the City's fireworks display won't happen on New Year's Eve. A specific date will be determined shortly after Christmas. The storm impacted travel arrangements for the pyro-technician. Should the delay be more than ten days, it's advisable we drop the NYE show and do a very large Independence Day display.
6. **Weather Event:** The administration opened the Emergency Operations Center to closely coordinate the City's response to the recent weather event caused by an extremely large weather system. We assessed several active and potential threats as identified in the City of Unalaska's current Hazardous Mitigation Plan. We divided the City into 3 zones and dispatched five teams to conduct damage assessments city wide. Results indicated conditions did not meet the thresholds to warrant disaster or emergency declarations.

The EOC implemented a Category 2 Travel Advisory from Tuesday December 20, 2022 at 1145 through Thursday December 22, 2022 at 0800. Observed issues included flash flooding, mud and landslides, and waste water distribution system capacity. We received a report about water flooding a fuel tank farm safety pit with potential for environmental spills and the city dispatched a pump to aid with the situation. City departments were successful in performing their responsibilities and preventing the situation from becoming a disaster.

Though not a disaster level emergency, the EOC did establish shelter locations should the need arise. All of our operational period objectives and tasks were centered on mitigating those threats. Several local businesses opted to relocate personnel from the potentially hazardous slide areas. The Qawalangin Tribe relocated affected elders from the Lake Drive and Armstrong Court neighborhood as localized flooding began to rise in that area.

The EOC consulted at length with the Department of Geological and Geophysical Services and they provide education and insight to high risk areas. We also conferred with the National Weather Service and State EOC to maintain awareness of any weather or emergency related developments.

The Emergency Operation Center stood down at 1200 hrs on Thursday 12-22-2022.

7. **DPS:** Jay King resigned as Unalaska's Police Chief. His last day of work was Thursday 12-22-2022.
8. **AML:** Bil Homka attended the AML conference from 12-5-22 to 12-8-22.