

**Mayor**  
Alice Ruby

**Acting City Manager**  
Daniel Decker Sr.



**Dillingham City Council**  
Bertram Luckhurst  
Michael Bennett  
Steven Carriere  
Curt Armstrong  
Kaleb Westfall

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 3, 2024  
**To:** Daniel Decker Sr., Acting City Manager  
**From:** Patty Buholm, Planning Director  
**Subject:** April 3, 2024 Monthly Report

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### **Acknowledgements and Recognitions:**

Please welcome Darrell Tilden as the newest Water/Wastewater Operator.

The Planning Department would like to recognize a fellow community member and recent collaboration with Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) Kristina Andrew. Kristina recently was recognized by the Alaska Journal of Commerce as one of the **2024 Top Forty Under 40** in her role as the Economic Development Program Manager at BBNA. Congratulations Kristina and thank you for all of your assistance with projects within Dillingham and ensuring the Regions Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has included Dillingham. The CEDS document and website helps with planned projects and potential partnering for like-minded community projects.

Thank you to Kimberly Johnson for her time as the Acting and full-time role as the City Manager, your dedication to improving the City Services and push for unified processes has made a positive impact in the Planning Department. Good luck on your new role as the Curyung Tribal Administrator and I look forward to continuing collaboration with the Curyung Tribe.

Thank you to Daniel Decker for accepting the Acting City Manager role after Kimberly Johnson's departure. Having an Acting City Manager that is familiar with the many projects and existing community needs in this role makes the transition easier to continue with forward movement.

### **Department Accomplishment and Opportunities:**

In February the City Council voted on and passed the new Organizational chart, which transfers the Landfill and Water/Wastewater into the Planning Department. I have been working with staff in each department on additional training opportunities and strengthening their respective departments. Staff at both the Landfill and Water/Wastewater have been open to this transition and are accepting of my leadership, I hope to fulfill each department's existing needs and work positively with all staff in each department. The Planning Department continues to organize and locate all the Planning Department records.

I was able to attend 3 training opportunities for the Planning Department:

1. March 26-29, 2024: Wastewater Collection and Lagoon Course. Darrell Tilden (Water/Wastewater Operator) and Triston Hansen (Public Works Operator) also attended this course. All 3 of us attended the course in full and are awaiting our test results for this course.
2. March 13-15, 2024: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Workshop in Anchorage
  - a. This training workshop reviewed the ANCSA claim that was passed on December 18, 1971 by President Richard Nixon. The act has many aspects of how ANCSA relates to Native Allotment and Land Management surrounding restricted lands, including some of the unique and very specialized rules and regulations surrounding Land Conveyance to their respective Municipalities, as in the instance from Choggiung Ltd to the City of Dillingham.
3. February 27, 2024 – March 2, 2024: Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
  - a. This training was sponsored by FEMA Region 10 in Anchorage. This course was very beneficial for Managing the lands and permitting process within the Floodplain. I have yet to be able to take the Certified Floodplain Managers test at this time, however when time permits I do plan to sit for this exam.

**Projects – Progress and Public Impacts:** The Planning Department has been working diligently with landowners to assist with their needs. The Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for April 10, 2024 will consist of 3 Public Hearings for these individual landowner needs. I am still working with other businesses and private individuals on existing land issues. When these other land issues are ready to be shared, they will be scheduled with the Planning Commission to their appropriate “next steps” as they move through the appropriate code requirements.

The Planning Commission received a letter of resignation from Planning Commissioner Jennifer Evridge on February 7, 2024. If you know of anyone that is interested in filling Seat B on the Planning Commission, please have them send a letter of interest to the Mayor and/or the City Clerk. Please remember that the Mayor will appoint the Planning Commissioner once letters of interest have been received and acted upon.

Agnew::Beck will be submitting a Comprehensive Plan update before the April 10, 2024 Planning Commission meeting. I will share any new information as this comprehensive plan update was due to be completed by the end of April, 2024.

I have been communicating with Bristol Engineers and the DEC of Cell 3 Expansion and other items for Landfill compliance (location of fish waste bin). In communication with BBNC and Choggiung Limited, the city will be able to purchase the stripped overburden from the pit located closest to the landfill at a reduced rate of \$2.00/cubic yard. I still anticipate requesting a donation of gravel and/or materials that is offered through BBNC for region area projects, for the expansion of cell three at the Landfill. At this time, I have not been able to communicate with them due to many new duties in the Planning Department.

I have been in communication with the Curyung Tribe and Bristol Engineers on the Nerka Road Rehabilitation Project. At this time nothing has changed, and the project is still in winter shut down mode until favorable weather and construction can begin for the 2024

construction season. If you have any additional questions or concerns about this project, please contact Isaac Pearson, Project Engineer at 907-743-9313.

The Lagoon Project is approaching a near start as well for the 2024 construction season. I have been in communication with the Project Engineers and the Project Manager in preparation of the project start, however no start date has been announced at this time. On March 8, 2024 Senator Lisa Murkowski's office announced via press release that the City of Dillingham's request for 4.72 million dollars had been passed through Congress. Currently the appropriation application has been assigned to the Interior Division to sort and release the funding for Landfill improvements. This funding may become available as soon as May 2024 or as late as August 2024. This funding application was submitted for the FY 2024, however due to the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, resigning and then stretch of time for her replacement to be named, caused a delay in the processing of the FY24 appropriations; therefore, the timing of this funding is uncertain as we are already months beyond the average time of releasing funding.

**Upcoming Calendar Items:**

Training will continue to occur for the Landfill, Water/Wastewater, and Planning staff. As these training courses are identified and scheduled for their respective departments, I will relay that information. Currently all 3 departments (Landfill, Planning, and Water/Wastewater) need to either test for or participate in some sort of training to become more effective, compliant, and efficient in their roles within the department.

A new sign will be placed prior to A Street from Central Ave stating "END CITY MAINTENANCE" will be posted upon receiving in Dillingham. A platted but undeveloped road was constructed by a private citizen without proper guidance or engineered plans. The process for a Land Use Permit was not followed and had caused confusion among previous staff. I am working with others to find potential corrections to this issue.

**Public Feedback:** The Planning Department has received several communications from landowners who have expressed their thanks for assisting with their land issues and concerns.

**List of Attachments:** none