Introductions

Our Team

Tribal Consulting, Eva Harvey, Owner

Shelly Wade
Agnew::Beck Principal & Owner
Project Manager
Dena’inaq ehne’aq’ gheshtnu ch’q’u yeshdu. (Dena’ina)
I live and work on the land of the Dena’ina. (English)
Work Session Objectives

Overall, build consensus and enthusiasm for the comprehensive planning effort by:

• Creating a **shared understanding** of the **comprehensive planning purpose, process and outcomes**.

• Confirming **roles in the planning process**, including development, implementation and monitoring.

• Sharing and discussing **preliminary issues, challenges and opportunities** that should be addressed in the comprehensive plan.
What is a comprehensive plan?

• A community resource and tool that provides direction to community and Tribal leaders, residents, organizations, businesses, funders and other partners through:
  ✓ A long-term vision, goals, and practical short-term strategies.
  ✓ Policies that protect what resident value most about the Borough while benefiting and enhancing the quality of life for current and future residents.

• The updated plan will guide decision-making on topics including land use, economic development, transportation, community facilities, infrastructure and housing, and others.

• While the comprehensive plan deals with growth and development in general, it must not be vague or difficult to interpret.
Your Current Plan

Northwest Arctic Borough’s Current (and only) Comprehensive Plan is from 1993.

How do you use the current plan?
Why Plan?

From 2012 AK Planning Commission Handbook

- Protects cultural values and traditions
- Saves money
- Establishes ground rules
- Supports economic development
- Provides forum for reaching consensus
- Protects property and property values
- Reduces property and environmental damage
- Other?
Alaska Statute, Title 29. Municipal Government Requires Planning

Cities and boroughs must engage in some form of land use regulation, including platting authority.

Chapter 40. Planning, Platting, and Land Use Regulation

AS Title 29 on Comprehensive Planning

AS 29.40.030(b). **Comprehensive Plan.**

(a) The **comprehensive plan** is a compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, and maps for guiding the physical, social, and economic development, both private and public and may include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) statements of policies, goals, and standards;
(2) a land use plan;
(3) a community facilities plan;
(4) a transportation plan; and
(5) recommendations for implementation of the comprehensive plan.

(b) “With the recommendations of the planning commission, the assembly shall adopt by ordinance a comprehensive plan. The assembly shall, after receiving the recommendations of the planning commission, periodically undertake an overall review of the comprehensive plan and update the plan as necessary.”
The **planning commission** shall perform the following functions:

A. Prepare and submit to the assembly a proposed **comprehensive plan** for the systematic and organized development of the borough;

B. Review and recommend amendments to the **comprehensive plan** for submittal to the assembly;

C. Review and recommend amendments to the district coastal management program for submittal to the assembly;

D. Review and recommend to the assembly measures necessary to implement the **comprehensive plan**, including but not limited to land use and platting regulations;

E. Administer measures that are adopted by the assembly for implementation of the **comprehensive plan** and coastal management program;

F. Act as the local historical district commission as provided in AS 29.55.010 and in Chapter 8.14 NABC; and

G. Other tasks as requested by the assembly. (Ord. 05-07 § 2, 2005; Ord. 86-09 § 1, 1986; Code 1986 § 8.02.100)
Northwest Arctic Borough Code
8.12 – Planning Powers

Sections:

• 8.12.010 Areawide planning powers.
• 8.12.020 NANA CRSA plan.
• 8.12.030 Delegation of planning, platting and land use regulation authority.
• 8.12.040 Village planning committees.
Other Planning Tools

- Capital improvement plans
- Specialized plans
- Land use maps
- Subdivision maps
- Zoning
- Variances
- Conditional use permits

All aimed to positively impact/create:
- Quality of life
- Strong economy
- Community health
Local Government Structures in AK

- **Alaska Statutes: Title 29, Municipal Government, Article X, Section 4**
- **Local Government Primer, published by Alaska Municipal League**
- **American Planning Association: Alaska Chapter Conferences & Training**
What Does All of This Mean?

The Planning Commission:

- Makes **recommendations** to the Assembly about what planning issues need to be addressed, and how.
- Makes quasi-judicial **decisions** on specific land use matters, such as plat applications and variances.
- **Works with Planning staff** to develop and implement policies to carry out the goals and intentions of the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Listens to and responds to public input** on planning issues through meetings, public hearings, and written testimony.
Comprehensive Plan

- **Simplest definition: planning for the future.**
- Balance of big vision, goals and practical near-term strategies.
- A tool for Borough staff.
- A reference point for more detailed implementation policies.
- Legal basis and rationale for boroughwide policy and actions.
- A tool for fiscal health.
- Road map and tool for tracking progress toward long-term goals/vision.
Comprehensive Plan

- Process enlists, energizes and supports implementers.
- Plan creates a basis for successful partnerships and funding opportunities.
- Process itself has value, helps “create community.”
- Lead to community and topic-specific plans.
Authority of a Comprehensive Plan

- Foundation for fair and legally defensible execution of local government powers to regulate use of private property, collect revenue, protect public health and safety, and other functions.

- Provide broad direction and specific strategies for the community to implement. It also serves as the basis for more detailed implementation policies.

- A comprehensive plan is not zoning.
The “Town Center” use area is intended to be the center of Big Lake life. Desired characteristics are listed below (Strategy 2 following presents more details):

- Mixed use: shops, food, retail goods and services; housing, including higher density housing, within walking distance of shops and services.
- A central area for library, schools, fire station, community center, parks, etc.
- Pedestrian friendly, walking access.
- An alternative to strip commercial development.

Extract from the Big Lake Comprehensive Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Category</th>
<th>Corridor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistent with Land Use Policies in Big Lake Comprehensive Plan?</td>
<td>Consistent. Most of route designated “conservation residential” – low density and/or clustered residential.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extract from the Big Lake Community Impact Assessment
Your Plan, Your Process

What are the goals and desired outcomes for the Northwest Arctic Borough comprehensive planning update process?
NAB Comprehensive Plan Update

Usability of 2005 Comprehensive Plan

• Has the 1993 Plan been a helpful tool for the Borough? What components have been most useful, what could be improved?

Comprehensive Plan Update – Vision 2030

• What structure and plan components will be most helpful for the Borough? How will the Borough measure the success of the process and the final plan?
NAB Comprehensive Plan Update

Robust and Culturally Relevant Outreach | Stakeholder engagement is the heart of any planning process.

Focus on Implementation | A focus on near term strategies and plan implementation.

Data Driven Decision-Making | We use data analysis to inform decision-making.

Visual Appeal | “More pictures, less words” has been a successful approach for our team.
Our approach is to develop three primary products:

**Executive Summary**
Offers a condensed, graphically rich summary of the Plan, including the region’s vision and key policies (goals and core policies) for achieving that vision.

**Core Comprehensive Plan**
A succinct, clear and concise Plan to guide decision-making with a full list of policies. This includes additional information on the process, area, and key issues informing plan policies.

**Appendices**
Include background and contextual information used to inform plan policies and plan implementation, such as land use, housing, economic data, summaries of public input, and best practices.

Sample Plan
NAB Comprehensive Plan Update

• Provide an **overview of what’s been accomplished** – NAB to take first pass at this task to include likely “carryover” candidate goals, objectives, strategies/projects for the 2021 Comp Plan.

• Include a **clear, concise executive summary** with key findings.

• Include only the **most relevant and/or new demographic, economic and/or other data that tells the NAB story (where we’ve been; where we are today)** and sets the stage for policies and implementation actions outlined in the plan.
NAB Comprehensive Plan Update

• To the degree possible, instead of duplicating existing materials (e.g., 1993 Comprehensive Plan, 2019 CEDS, etc.), reference other background materials and/or place detailed descriptions in the plan appendices.

• Focus on implementation and detailed action plans for priorities (where do we want to go), including tools for communicating plan progress to Borough residents.

• Include easy-to-read, digestible graphics (charts, tables, infographics, etc.)
NAB Comprehensive Plan Update

Potential Components

In 1993 Plan:
- Mission

Potential Additions:
- Vision 2030
- Values and Goals
- History and Culture
NAB Comprehensive Plan Update

**Potential Components**

**In 1993 Plan:**
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Community Facilities, Infrastructure and Housing

**Potential Additions:**
- Borough Management and Administration
- Health and Wellness
- Sustainability, Resilience and Climate Change
- Subsistence
- Financial Considerations
- Implementation Plan
Proposed Planning Process

- Overall schedule and key milestones.
- Proposed public engagement plan.
- Respective roles of Borough and Agnew: Beck Team in:
  - recruiting and engaging Borough stakeholders;
  - reviewing and refining draft plan components; and,
  - implementing and monitoring the plan.
Proposed Planning Process

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Schedule & Key Milestones

- **August/September 2020** – Project Initiation
- **September/October 2020** – Background Collection and Data Synthesis
- **September 2020 – October 2021** – Stakeholder Engagement
- **May – July 2021** – Draft Plan
- **August – September 2021** – Final Plan
Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Online presence – project webpage and social media presence
- **Public notices**, radio announcements, and local radio programs
- **Presentations and discussions** with community and Tribal leadership, committees and organizations
- One-on-one **interviews** with community leaders and partners
- Email **newsletter**
- **Flyers** and other electronic and hard copy ads
Roles & Responsibilities

- Core Team
  - Mayor Nelson
  - Planning Department Staff
  - Consultant Team
- Planning Commission
- Assembly
- Residents
- Other Stakeholder and Partners
What issues should the plan address?

NAB Vision 2030
Support & Success

“The success of the comprehensive plan depends on the community’s commitment to planning and its acceptance of the plan as a valid expression of community attitudes, values, and agreed-upon direction.”

(DCCED Planning Commission Handbook, 2012)
Immediate Next Steps

How can you help?

• Provide specific feedback on what works(ed) with the 1993 Plan and what you need in the update to better do your job as a Planning Commissioner.

• Consider, what are the biggest issues, challenges, opportunities for the Borough today, moving forward?

• Share ideas for how to best engage your constituents.

• Identify potential community/organization meetings and events to feature the comprehensive plan.
Immediate Next Steps

• Develop **stakeholder engagement plan**.
• Schedule **one-on-one interviews** and **presentation to the Assembly**.
• We would like **your feedback**:
  • *What other ideas do you have for: stakeholder engagement, plan contents/direction, plan success?*
  • *What concerns do you have?*
  • *What would make this process and the final product the most useful for you as a Planning Commissioner*
Comments, Questions, Concerns

Contact the Project Team:

Siikauraq Whiting, Northwest Arctic Borough Planning Director
  • 907-442-8209
  • MWhiting@nwabor.org

Eva Harvey, Tribal Consulting
  • 907-987-6951
  • eva@firstalaskansfirst.com

Shelly Wade, Agnew::Beck Team Project Manager
  • 907-242-5326 (call/text)
  • shelly@agnewbeck.com