UAF Marine Advisory Program agent Heidi Herter bids farewell to Nome

Legislative funding needed for MAP agents in Nome and five other communities

By Laurie McNicholas

Heidi Herter completed a three-year commitment as Nome’s first Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) agent on March 5 and headed to Mexico for a well-earned vacation. Herter’s position was completely funded—salary, benefits, travel and equipment costs—by Norton Sound Economic Development Corp., noted MAP’s associate director/program leader Paula Cullenberg in an email to The Nome Nugget.

“It was a grant from NSDEC to the University—we had a clear understanding that Heidi was a MAP agent in the system and Heidi was supervised by me, as I do with all other MAP faculty,” Cullenberg wrote. “The UAF Northwest Campus provided office space and utilities and MAP paid for support staff and direction from me.”

The Nome MAP office will re-open with a new agent only if the Alaska Legislature provides funding for the position. MAP offices in Cordova, Dillingham, Petersburg and Unalaska also are due to run out of grant funds this year. “We’ve struggled for years to keep those positions operating on various state, private and federal grants,” Cullenberg said. The MAP agent position in Kodiak has been unfilled for the past 13 years.

Gov. Sean Parnell declined a request from the University of Alaska’s Board of Regents to include $614,000 in his 2010 budget to permanently fund MAP positions in the six communities, so University officials have asked the Legislature to fund them. Legislators have received letters of support from the University’s request.

In early March speakers from several communities asked the House Finance Committee to endorse funding for the six MAP offices during a statewide teleconference. “Twenty-six people testified over two days from seven sites—two mayors, three school district people, two Alaska Native groups, three tourism industry folks, three economic development organizations, five Cooperative Extension or university folks, seven fisherman’s associations [and] three science centers/museums,” reported Cullenberg.

Even so, the House Finance Committee rejected Rep. Neil Fossen’s effort to amend the House budget to fund the MAP request by a 7-3 vote on March 8. MAP supporters then shifted their funding hopes to the Alaska Senate.

On March 9 Sen. Lyman Hoffman (D-Bethel) told Dillingham’s KHKG radio listeners that funding the MAP positions is double in the current legislative session. Hoffman’s District 5 includes two communities with MAP officers in need of funding—Dillingham and Unalaska. He is co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, which will take public testimony on the budget in a statewide teleconference March 18 from 5-7 p.m. Finance Committee member Sen. Donald Olson supports funding the MAP positions.

Herter’s contributions

Charlie Lean, NSDEC’s director of fisheries research and development, worked on several projects with Herter in the past three years. He described some of her contributions to the region in an email to the Nuggets.

“Nearly five years ago [MAP] partnered with NSDEC to place an agent in the Norton Sound Region, with NSDEC agreeing to fund the position for the first three years,” Lean wrote. “The search began for a qualified person to be stationed at the Northwest Alaska Campus offices in Nome; several of the nine applicants had the right person with the necessary academic credentials and practical experience took over a year and many interviews with other scientists including Charlie Lean, director of fisheries research and development for Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.

Heidi Herter, a bright young person with a recent master’s degree, was chosen to fill the position. Ms. Herter has done well as the MAP agent, and the region has seen the benefit of this scientist applying her expertise in a variety of ways.

“MAP has worked with various groups of the fishing industry to improve opportunities and to facilitate the educational needs of the fishers and processors,” Lean continuned. “Classes in vessel safety, cold water survival, sanitary processing and economic decision-making were some of the courses offered.

As others saw those offerings, the program offered training in diving and scientific sampling for interest groups that were not directly linked to fishing. The University teamed with NACTEC [the North-west Alaska Career and Technical Education Center] to encourage students to pursue their education in the sciences and math programs, by offering summer camps, directed classes and mentoring programs.

The time has come to amend the House bill to permanently fund MAP positions in the five communities. This work was done by the local MAP agent, Herter. The visiting agents that had more depth in a few subjects were supported by the local agent while they visited or wrote their findings.

The long list of work that has been accomplished in the last three years is a tribute to the industriousness of Herter,” Lean added. “She is full of enthusiasm and ideas and has been a spark plug for many of us in Nome. Heidi would commonly get an idea and pitch it to whom she could. Often developing teams that would not have formed nearly as quickly. She more than pulled her load on any project, and for all these reasons, she has been a pleasure to work with her. With her plans to further her educational work, she will be sorely missed.”

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C. Replacement of existing culverts that have failed; 2009 09/07/2009
D. Clearing of vegetation; non-housing community
E. Construction of a public parking area near the Nome River and
3/18-25; 4/1-8
f) riprap and fill at the Fox River
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316
The Bering Strait School District Board of Education is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 23rd for a Personnel Committee Meeting. The Personnel
Meeting will be held in Unalakleet at 1 p.m. at the School District Board Room. The public is invited to attend. Tentative agenda items include, but are not limited to:

- 5-Year CIP Priority List
- FY 11 Classified Staffing Proposals
- FY 11 Certified Staffing Proposals

ACTION ITEMS:
- FY 10 Revised Budget
- FY 11 Proposed Budget

PUBLICATIONS

Please contact Mr. Stumpf with your
questions or comments by telephone at
(907) 451-2363.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Nome-Council MP 62-73.6
Project RS-0130(29)/60400
The Alaska Department of Transporta-
tion and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in accordance with Section 6004(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Trax Riveration Equity Act (SAFETEA-
LU), is proposing improvements to the Nome-Council Road between Milepost (MP) 82 and MP 73.6. We request your
input on the proposed project to assist
us in evaluating possible impacts related
to the project, and so we can in corporate our concerns into project development.

The purpose of the Nome-Council MP 62-73.6 project is to improve driving
safety and reduce maintenance require-
ments by upgrading a section of road-
way along the Nome-Council Highway, from Milepost (MP) 62 through MP 73.6.

The project consists of these specific tasks:
- a) Installation of additional gravel and regrade of the road;
- b) Regrade of existing ditches;
- c) Replacement of existing culverts that have failed;
- d) Clearing of vegetation;
- e) Creation of a public parking area near the Nikuluk River, and;
- f) Replacement of riprap and fill at the Fox River Bridge and Bear Creek Bridge.

All proposed road work and the public parking area will be completed within the existing right of way (ROW); no new ROW is defined as part of the project.

A website has been set up to provide project information. The website ad-
dress is:
http://www.dot.state.ak.us/1mg/projects/EWC-
coping_Nome-Council_MP_62-73.6. If you prefer a paper copy of the project information, please request it by writing to:
Richard Stumpf, P.E.
Engineering Manager-Aviation De-
velopment, State of AK DOT&PF
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316
Your timely response will greatly assist us in our compliance efforts and prepa-
ration of the environmental documentation. We request your response within a 30 day period of publication of this notice. Please contact Mr. Stumpf with your comments or questions by telephone at (907) 451-2725, via email to
rj.stumpf@alaska.gov, or by mail at
the address above. To correspond by
text telephone (TDD), please contact (907) 451-2363.

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ACTION ITEMS:
- FY 11 Classified Staffing Proposals
- FY 11 Certified Staffing Proposals

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The City of Nome has received an application for a public parking area near the moonlight wells protection area by Nome AK Gold Con-
centrates, LLC Robert Sanders

Comments on the draft permit will be accepted by the City Engineer until 5 p.m. on March
26th, 2010.

Copy of the draft permits is available at Nome City Hall.

PUBLICATIONS

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NOME

PUBLIC NOTICE - BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Bering Strait School District Board of Education is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 23rd for a Personnel Committee Meeting. The Person-
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- 5-Year CIP Priority List
- FY 11 Classified Staffing Proposals
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PUBLIC NOTICE - BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Bering Strait School District Board of Education is scheduled to meet on Monday, March 22nd for a Faculty Committee Meeting. The Fac-
ulty Meeting will be held in Unalakleet at 2 p.m. at the School District Board Room. The public is invited to attend. Tentative agenda items include, but are not limited to:

ACTION ITEMS:
- FY12 6-Year CIP Priority List
- Municipal Housing Leasing
- FY10-11 Maintenance Service Plan
- FY11 Fuel Bids

PREPARED ITEMS
- Capital Projects Update

PUBLIC COMMENTS

 groceries and another site for Bear Creek Bridge.

All proposed road work and the public parking area will be completed within the existing right of way (ROW); no new ROW is defined as part of the project.

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