

SITAISAQ

BREVIG MISSION, ALASKA

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2026-2031

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1.0 Our Vision

We envision a safe, welcoming, and unified community where culture and tradition guide our path forward and empower residents to shape their own future. By investing in our youth as future leaders, fostering strong leadership, expanding housing, infrastructure, and essential services, and ensuring lifelong learning and equitable opportunities for all, we will build a healthy, vibrant village where tradition and progress move forward together for generations to come.

2.0 Community Priorities

- Tannery
- Water & Sewer System Upgrades
- Subsistence Resource Protection (Graphite One Opposition)
- Housing
- Access Improvements
  (Runways, Roads, Drainage/Maintenance, Snow Fencing, Trails & Bridges)
- Energy
  (Streetlights & Fuel Delivery Improvements)
- Mechanical Shop & Heavy Equipment
- Improved Human Capacity (Boys & Girls Club, Carving/Sewing Shop, Training & Workforce Development, Truancy)
- Recreation Center / Community Hall
- Community-Led Port Clarence Development (Barge Landing, Runway)
- Emergency Preparedness
  (SAR, Fire Response, Hazard Mitigation)
- Landfill
- Tribal Sovereignty (Cultural Preservation and Celebration)

3.0 Our Goals

1. **Building future infrastructure and needs that will provide for a safe and lively community.**
   a. **To improve the services to meet the needs of the community and give local control**
   b. **To improve and provide more housing to meet the housing shortage**
   c. **To improve transportation to make travel easier**
2. **Teaching, learning, and taking control of our future, learning traditional and cultural values will help us live together and create a strong vision for the future because all roads lead to Brevig Mission.**

    a. To broaden the social opportunities to get the community to work together
    b. To involve people and teach Native culture to keep our traditional values
    c. To take control of our future and be self-sufficient
    d. To live and work for a cleaner environment
    e. To improve local communications to become a healthier community
3. Educating and employing local people and developing skills and opportunities for using those skills that will create jobs and wealth.
    a. To create jobs for a healthy economy
    b. To try to promote local employment and improve the community to increase revenues

4.0 Planning Process & Public Involvement

4.1 Introduction and Purpose

The LEDP is a critical step in the on-going development of the tribe and its efforts to improve community conditions and the well-being of its members.

The Native Village of Brevig Mission as a federally recognized tribe has assumed diverse powers under federal and state laws. These include the protection of life, property, and the environment threatened by natural or technological disasters. The Tribe contracts with various federal, state, and other organizations to administer governance, infrastructure, public services, education, economic programs, and social or cultural programs.

Alaska Statute 29.40.030 requires communities to adopt comprehensive strategic economic development plans that define policy statements, goals, and standards for the physical, social, and economic development of the community. The comprehensive plan is a critical step in the on-going development of the tribe and its efforts to improve the well-being of its members. This comprehensive plan is structured to:

- Provide the tribe with a complete inventory of existing demographics, races, social conditions and services, economic conditions and activities, public services provided, and public and private facilities.
- Equip the tribe with the basic informational tools of local planning that accurately show land status and ownership as well as traditional resources and subsistence areas.
- Provide a section setting forth policies, goals, and standards for the community relative to each major component of the plan.

- Provide implementation strategies for development priorities, including land use, public facilities and services, capital improvements, economic development and community governance.
- Place emphasis on the crucial development issues; economic and resource development, land use planning and needs of the community with regards to infrastructure, and priority capital improvement projects.
- Involve key decision makers to assist in the identification of common goals and direction to achieve those goals.

It is expected that the LEDP should include:

- Community profile and assessment data
- Community vision, value statement and goals
- Updated community priorities for community and economic development
- Top priority implementation strategies for guidance in community development projects, activities or infrastructure (developed by Kawerak staff & professionals

Planning development is guided by the community and their local leadership. Kawerak, Inc. staff assisted in the development of this report and offers regional planning was guided by these facilitation methods:

- Technology of Participation methods developed by the Institute of Culture Affairs
- Human Understanding & Engagement Conversations

These methods have proved effective in encouraging full participation from diverse groups and are best applied within community-based settings. This process was implemented among the participants by first brainstorming ideas individually, then sharing ideas through group discussions, and finishing with review among all participants confirming new resolves and decisions. The following foundational values or ground rules were applied during planning sessions:

- ***Participation***: each person brings a different perspective and knowledge that formulates the larger picture
- ***Respect***: respect and honor each person's views and ideas, empower each other
- ***Teamwork***: each person works with everyone else in their role to accomplish the goals of the community
- ***Creativity***: giving permission for the dialogue between the rational (mind) and intuitive (heart) perspectives, keep our eyes open, new ways of thinking
- ***Action***: moving economic development towards local responsibility and accountability

The planning process was made up of three parts. Each component helped provide a comprehensive planning approach.

- LEDP Vision, Values, Goals & Story Telling - Developed the direction for the community's social and economic development with an overall vision, guiding community values, and development goals. The importance of Brevig Mission telling their history through the community is crucial to community planning. This gives a predominantly Inupiaq community the chance to share their story
- Implementation Strategies - Created planning steps that the community can take in the coming 5 years to begin the actions and movement toward the vision and development goals.
- Funding and Land Use - Identified potential funding and community investments to implement development goals. Identified potential sites for selection of projects requiring land.
- Recommended application of community values during implementation of development activities.

It is expected that the Local Economic Development Planning document should include:

- Community profile and assessment data
- Community vision, value statement and goals
- Updated community priorities for community and economic development
- Top priority implementation strategies for guidance in community development projects

4.2 Planning History and Accomplishments in Brevig Mission

Below are some of the major accomplishments since Brevig Mission's last LEDP in 2013.

Priority	**Accomplished or ongoing**	**Not fully completed**
Community Recreational Center		Awaiting approval and grant funding; Community is currently training a new grant writer.
Tannery Building		Awaiting national guard to turn the building over to Native Village of Brevig Mission. Once the building is turned over, it will have to be relocated out of the flood zone.

New Housing/Apartments	Five new houses were built, although more housing is still needed.	More housing is still needed.
Water/Sewer Upgrade		Temporary funding to address drain field repairs (2019). Drain field improvements, water and sewer to 9 homes, solid waste improvements, water transmission, and new water & sewer service connection differential settlements are all needed and in the works of being completed with interagency partnerships.
Roads		Not completed. Maintenance of roads is necessary in addition to rebuilding.
Teen Center/Café	Boys & Girls Club was established instead of Teen Center.	
Elder Care/Day Care Center	Preschool center developed	Elder care still not completed
Elder/Youth Traditional Knowledge		In school support only, funding needed.
Expanding Multi-Purpose Building		Not completed and maintenance not done.
Shelter Cabins	One shelter cabin built between Brevig & Wales	

Other Accomplishments:

- Early Headstart building
- Culture Camp hosted during the summer (2018)
- Five new houses built with BSRHA
- New Clinic (2009)
- Wooden Basketball Court Installed (2018)
- 2 New Portables at the school
- Trail staking done between Brevig & Wales, Brevig & Shishmaref, and Brevig & Teller on winter ice.
- Shelter Cabin Built (Between Brevig & Shish) – wanted another one on Teller side but BSRC didn't want public shelter on corporation land
- Teacher Duplex (2017)

- New grocery store - FNT Store
- Switched Teen Center to B&G club
- Hardware store expansion
- Plastic Bag ban (2019) – one of the first in the region.

4.3 Planning Committee & Public Involvement

The Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program (CPD) worked with the Community of Brevig Mission in developing its Local Economic Development Plan (LEPD). LEPDs analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop goals, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future development. The Brevig Mission Traditional Council, the Brevig Mission Native Corporation, and the City of Brevig Mission regularly work together to evaluate, plan, and accomplish the priorities of the community and the tribe.

Like the previous plans, this LEDP will continue to analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop values, goals, priorities, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future projects. The Kawerak Planning Department worked with the community of Brevig Mission in developing and updating its new five-year LEDP in by holding a series of workshops in the community with tribal members and corporation members (see list of planning team members in the acknowledgements on pages 54-55).

Planning sessions were held on August 22, 2025, and December 12,2025, to assess the community's current assets and needs, update priorities, and revise the community's goals for the next five years. Participants identified development goals and priorities in line with the community's values, strengths, and needs. The public was invited and encouraged to attend the meetings. Members of the Traditional Council, City Council & Staff, Native Corporation Board, and Community Leaders were present at each meeting, showing diverse input from the community on future paths of development.

Joint Entities Review of LEDP Draft

Following the completion of the public planning meetings in 2025, the Tribal Council, the City Council, and the Native Corporation Board (Tri-Party) agreed to review the draft LEDP, edit if necessary, and adopt the plan by joint resolution.

The final draft LEDP and priorities were reviewed in a tri-party meeting called by the City of Brevig Mission, and approved by majority vote on August 29, 2026.

4.4 Comprehensive Development Status

As a second-class city in the unorganized borough, the city of Brevig Mission has optional powers under the state law for planning, platting, and land use regulation within municipal boundaries. The City of Brevig Mission has assumed some of these powers. As the federally recognized governing body of the tribal members of Brevig Mission, Alaska, the Brevig Mission Traditional Council (Native Village of Brevig Mission) shares some of these responsibilities and powers as well. Overall, it is important to note that federally recognized Alaskan Tribes inherent sovereignty has been recognized by all three branches of government and the Alaska Supreme Court.

A Community and Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a regional economic development plan, was updated for the Bering Strait Region communities in 2025 by the Bering Straits Development Council. The next full update is scheduled for 2030. This document can be found at: https://kawerak.org/cultural-development/community-planning-and-development/

5.0 Our Community

5.1 Location

Sitaisaq or Brevig Mission is located at the mouth of Shelman Creek on Port Clarence, 5 miles northwest of Teller and 65 miles northwest of Nome. Brevig Mission is in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 2.6 sq. miles of land and 0.1 sq. miles of water.

Current maps of the community are available through the State of Alaska Department of Community & Regional Affairs, Kawerak's Community Planning and Development program or Kawerak Transportation Program.

5.2 History and Culture

The Sitaisagmuit (the people of Sitaisaq or Brevig Mission) lived as nomadic peoples moving with the plants, animals and natural cycles of the earth prior to western contact. People traded and partnered with neighboring regions such as Siberia, Little/Big Diomede, Wales and King Island. The community of Brevig did not exist until 1900 when missionaries came to further assimilate Indigenous peoples establishing what was originally called Teller Mission. Prior to this, the main village site closest to Sitaisaq was known as Avaksruuraq located about 2-3 miles west of Sitaisaq now. Prior to contact with the western world, the history of Inupiaq peoples was carried on through oral history. Due to colonization, the complete oral history of Sitaisaq was lost due to assimilation and language loss. Despite this loss, many aspects of the local culture and traditions were preserved.

The history of the establishment of the town of Brevig Mission has largely to do with missionaries and Reindeer Herding. In addition, the people of Brevig used to also farm foxes for fur. Some artifacts can still be seen near Avaksruuraq. Reindeer herding was introduced near Port Clarence in 1852 and spread to Brevig Mission by the 1900's. Until 1974, reindeer was the economic base for the community. After this, industry declined due to several changes in society, although families that have roots in reindeer herding still practice today. Elders mentioned that at Mary's Igloo (traditional village site close to Sitaisaq) there used to be regional reindeer games where people would race deer and women would show off their sewing skills.

In 1918, the Influenza Pandemic hit Sitaisaq and 72 of the 80 people died within one week. The individuals that passed away are buried at a mass grave site at the local cemetery. This extensive pandemic, wiping out more than 90% of the population, left traumatic scars that are felt for many generations after.

Currently, the people of Sitaisaq are majority Inupiaq living a subsistence and harvest lifestyle that is highly valued and practiced across the Bering Strait Region. The city was incorporated in 1969. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971 established a regional and local corporation for every region of Alaska including non-residents residing outside of Alaska.

5.3 Government, Corporations, and Service Providers

5.3.1 Brevig Mission Traditional Council

The Traditional Council provides services to Tribal Citizens such as:

- The maintenance person checks on Elders, hauls their fuel, brings them to the store, picks them up, and gives them rides.
- As outlined in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the Tribe has authority to handle tribal adoption and intervenes when the State and Office of Child Services (OCS) intend to take custody of children.
- Tribal membership IDs are provided to tribal members. As of 2019, new travel requirements for travel have allowed approved Tribal IDs for use of travel within the United States under the federal Real ID Act.

5.3.2 City of Brevig Mission

The incorporated City of Brevig Mission is a second-class city within the Unorganized Borough in Alaska. It provides services to people who have lived in the village for a year and maintains the municipality of Brevig Mission. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is banned in the village.

City owned/operated services include:

- Water & Sewer
- Rentals
- Laundromat
- Bingo
- Village Police Officer (VPO)
- Trash & Honey-bucket haul
- Medical Assistance (from NSEDC Community Benefits Share)

5.3.3 Brevig Mission Native Corporation

Established in 1971, the Brevig Mission Native Corporation was founded due to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. It is a for-profit corporation that owns surface rights to some land, the store, corporation office, and bulk fuel tank farm. The regional corporation with subsurface rights is the Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC).

The Corporation provides services and dividends for its shareholders. Shareholders can give their shares to their children. Through the 14(c)3 land conveyance process, the Corporation determines land usage, boundaries, and ownership. It owns surface rights to the Corporation land. Gravel is developed on the land and sold by the corporation in partnership with the regional corporation, Bering Straits Native Corporation, who owns the subsurface rights.

The Corporation Board meets with the City Council and the Traditional Council every month. There is a rotation of who will be the chairperson at each meeting. The entities work on projects together and try to not duplicate services within the community. The Corporation office is inside the store. The store sells fuel including diesel, gasoline, propane, and Blazo. It also sells groceries, ivory tusks to Natives, and Native crafts.

5.3.4 Regional Corporations

Brevig Mission is served by several regional corporations listed below:

Norton Sound Economic Dev. Corp. 420 L Street, Suite 310 Anchorage, AK 99501 1-800-650-2248 or 907-274-2248 Fax: 907-274-2249 http://www.nsedc.com	Kawerak, Incorporated P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5231, Fax: 907-443-4452 http://www.kawerak.org Head Start 907-642-2068
Norton Sound Health Corporation P.O. Box 966, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-3311, Fax: 907-443-3139	Bering Straits School District P.O. Box 225, Unalakleet, AK 99684 907-624-3611

https://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/ Brevig Mission Health Clinic	http://www.bssd.org
Bering Straits Regional Housing Auth. P.O. Box 995 Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5256, Fax: 907-443-8652	Bering Straits Native Corporation P.O. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5252, Fax: 907-443-2985 http://www.beringstraits.com/
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative 4831 Eagle St. Anchorage, Alaska, 99503 www.avec.org	

5.3 Community Infrastructure & Services

5.3.1 Housing

Brevig Mission's housing and quality is currently inadequate for its rapidly growing population. Overcrowding, regular housing upgrades and maintenance, and understanding of housing regulations are some disadvantages that the community of Brevig Mission must deal with.

Overcrowding is defined as over one person per bedroom, of which 51% of the homes in Brevig Mission are identified as overcrowded (McDowell Group 2019). Multi-generational families living in one family home make this common throughout the region, but Brevig Mission housing shortage is one of the biggest in the Kawerak region. In addition, the renter vacancy rate for Brevig is zero percent, further indicating the need for more housing.

Most of the homes in Brevig have structural problems that need repair or general upgrades and weatherization. 79% of the homes in Brevig were built prior to 2000, making many of the homes older than 25 years (McDowell Group, 2019). Black mold is identified as a health risk in older homes. Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) builds and supports many of the houses in the region. BSRHA guarantees repairs during the first year under contract, although homeowners are responsible for repairs after this period. Once the contract period is completed, renovation is required but rarely occurs due to high costs and delays.

Residents are interested in having homes with triodetic foundations that can be leveled by a trained local. Convenient and affordable home maintenance is desperately needed and must be considered when planning for future homes in the region. Lastly, homeowners have expressed concern to have better understanding of regulations for home financing and other options.

Housing Characteristics:	
Total Housing Units:	98
Occupied Housing (Households):	93
Vacant Housing:	5
Vacant Due to Seasonal Use:	1
Owner-Occupied Housing:	31
Renter-Occupied Housing:	62
Pop. Living in Households:	388

5.3.2 Education

The Bering Strait School District operates schools in 15 villages in the Bering Strait region, of which one of them is the Brevig Mission School. The regional student population is 98% Alaska Native. In 2018, there were 14 teachers and 141 students enrolled in K – 12 in Brevig Mission School. The school has a craft-shop, gym and library utilized by both the students and the community all year round. In addition, Brevig runs a head start for children aged 3-5. There is a waiting list for the head start because there is not enough room at the school according to building codes.

There is a need for culturally relevant education and native educators from the region. The teacher turnover rate in the Bering Straits School District is around 20% due to not fitting in culturally, competing wages in other regions, high health care costs and unavailable housing (McDowell Group, 2019). The current graduation rate for BSSD is 75% with females graduating at a higher rate of 86% compared to men at 67% (McDowell Group, 2019).

The school infrastructure in Brevig Mission needs to expand due to bigger enrollment numbers and the need for a bigger gym. In the FY21-FY25, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development 5-year plan estimates a 19-million-dollar expansion of the K-12 school (AK DEED, 2019).

Education and training opportunities after high school/GED include scholarships from Kawerak, distance courses through University of Alaska and Kawerak Employment, Education and Training (EET) program that provides a range of services and training for the region.

Lastly, residents would like a local ABE/GED program, college advising for students and a higher education training center in Brevig Mission. This guidance would lead to individuals that are more educated and increase capacity at a local level.

5.3.3 Water and Sewer

Water for the community comes from a ground water source north of Brevig Mission. The city government operates the water and sewer systems installed in 2001. Brevig has a small, treated water and gravity sewer system. Most buildings and homes are connected to water/sewer systems, although due to high costs and a limited water tank capacity some homes still use honey buckets and haul water.

If connected to water and sewer, operating costs are $120 per month. Residents plan to form a utility board that will operate service instead of the City and hope it will reduce the cost. Some households use haul honey-buckets when piped service is cost-prohibitive. The honey-bucket haul fee is $20 per month. Public showers and public laundry facilities are available for $2.50 per shower/load located at the washateria.

In summer, humidity condenses on the pipes causing them to rust, corrode, and possibly cause mold issues. Heating the system might provide a solution but a remedy is needed to keep the entire system from going to waste.

The cost of parts, repairs, and labor is high.

The City of Brevig Mission is working with Kawerak's Community Utility Assistance Program (CUAP) to improve their best practice scores and utility management capacity.

The city is also working with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, or ANTHC, on various water & sewer projects including the following:

Brevig Mission	AN-20-JG9/AN-22-S78	Flexible Water and Sewer Connections (28 homes)	**TBD:** Warranty work pending receipt of supplemental funding	Warranty repairs planned for summer 2025 pending receipt of supplemental funding.
Brevig Mission	AN-20-N3V	Community Drainfield	**August 2025:** Revised 95% design due from consultant and community meeting	ANTHC and CRW developed 65% re-design. Design necessities may reduce scope.
Brevig Mission	AN-20-N8V	Water and Sewer to Homes (Along Beach)	**August 2025:** 95% design updated	ANTHC construction re-estimating budget. CRW updating design and

			(Redesigns may be called a 65% due to significant changes).	estimation. Per the request from Norton Sound any home deficiencies that prevent homes from being served will be communicated to NSHC, who will take the lead on securing funds and implementing home improvements. The design and construction of interior water and sewer improvements will be completed by ANTHC following the implementation of home improvements.
Brevig Mission	AN-22-SF9	Solid Waste Improvements	**August 2025:** 65% Design from Consultant. Review and present to community for feedback approval of design.	Costs predicted at 65% proved higher than anticipated, currently re-designing to reasonable costs before presenting to community.
Brevig Mission	Not Funded	SDS Project: Water Storage Tank Replacement	**August 2025:** Receive feedback for Technical Memo	Tech memo to be completed in-house
Brevig Mission	TBD	HPS Project: 4 Tribal Homes in Town	**August 2025:** Initiate project agreements upon receipt of IHS funding	Tentatively approved for funding with FY25 IHS Housing funding

Brevig Mission	TBD	John Weyounna	**August 2025:** Initiate project agreements upon receipt of IHS funding	Approved for Tier 1 in SDS and selected for FY25 IHS Regular funding
Brevig Mission	Not Funded	SDS Project: Water Distribution Loop B Improvements	**TBD**	Need further documentation from the community and health corporation to document the deficiency to include in SDS (i.e. BWNs, RMW trip reports, etc.)
Brevig Mission	Not Funded	SDS Project: Water Source Improvements	**TBD**	Preliminary engineering dependent on funding availability

5.3.4 Landfill

Brevig Mission's current landfill needs relocation due to potential health risks and airport runway expansion. Residents are concerned about it possibly seeping into the environment and posing a greater health hazard and threat of contamination. It also fills with rainwater which might cause it to overflow. Residents want the landfill and lagoon moved because they are too close to Liituq Lake, where Teller gets ice for water in the winter and children play.

Waste Management Priorities:

- Fix trash bins. They are open and trash is blown about by the wind. Dogs and foxes get in them.
- Improve fencing at landfill. It does not contain trash when the wind blows.

5.3.5 Electricity

Brevig Mission's utility is operated and maintained by Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC). In 2008, plans to install an intertie between Brevig Mission and Teller began, and the project was nearly completed in 2010. However, a storm damaged the undersea cable, and the project was never finished. AVEC received funding from FEMA to clean up the leftover materials and recoup some of the cost of

the projects. After a decade of kerfuffle, the cleanup was completed during the summer of 2020.

According to the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), the average cost for residential electricity was $0.78 per kWh in FY24. The reported PCE credit for Brevig Mission is $0.47 kWh, making the effective residential rate $0.31 kWh for the first 750 kWh of usage. Customers who are neither residential nor public do not receive PCE credit and pay the full $0.78 per kWh. The total kWh generated by the local AVEC utility in 2024 was 1,417,467 kWh by diesel generation, only.

The utility paid an average price of $4.67 per gallon for diesel fuel used for power generation. AVEC purchases fuel through a bulk purchase program with discounted rates.

Brevig Mission is currently running solely on diesel power. However, the community has completed a feasibility study and conceptual design for a community solar array and battery energy storage system to reduce the amount of diesel burned for power and save the community money. Currently, there is no money available for the construction of this system, however the community plans to continue with the planning and pre-development activities for the project in partnership with Kawerak, AVEC, and other partners.

In 2025, the community joined the Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership Program, led by Kawerak, with the other communities of Teller, Elim, Koyuk, and Savoonga to explore energy infrastructure upgrade opportunities, workforce development needs in the energy sector, and development economic development models for utilizing renewable energy to generate community revenue.

The community also completed an outdoor lighting retrofit grant through AEA and Wells Fargo, between 2019-2021. The project enabled the City of Brevig Mission to replace all streetlights with energy-efficient LED fixtures, as well as replacing outdoor lighting fixtures on all public facilities. There is still a need for additional streetlights in the community to increase public safety.

5.3.6. Bulk Fuel

Brevig Mission Native Corporation sells heating oil which costs approximately $7.71 per gallon (June 2026) for residential customers. Most residents heat their homes with small diesel monitor heaters, or Toyotomi brand stoves, known also as “Toyostoves.” Some residents have wood-burning stoves for supplemental heat, and collect and burn driftwood, although the source is not reliable and the quality of the wood is low and requires long-term preparation.

The City of Brevig Mission and the Brevig Mission Native Corporation buy fuel from NSEDC's Bulk Fuel Purchase Program.

Brevig Mission Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities

Tank Owner	**Tank Capacity (US gallons)**
Alaska Army National Guard	4,750
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative	234,000
Bering Strait School District	52,000
BSSD	59,000
Brevig Church	8,000
City of Brevig Mission	46,250
Native Corporation Store	Unlisted

5.3.7 Transportation Systems

Brevig Mission is accessible by air and sea and, in the winter, over land or ice. A cargo ship visits annually. The state-owned 2,990' long by 100' wide gravel airstrip with a 2,110' long by 75' wide gravel crosswind strip enables year-round access. Regular air service is available from Nome, and charters are provided from Nome and Teller. Teller is 5 miles away by boat. A 72-mile gravel road between Teller and Nome is maintained by the state during the summer.

Harbor/Dock: No
State Ferry: No
Cargo Barge: Yes
Road Connection: No
Coastal/River: Yes

The community faces multiple transportation issues including:

- People get stranded in Teller which is five miles from Brevig Mission by water. A ferry would be helpful.
- Wind from the south makes water between Teller and Brevig Mission turbulent, difficult, and sometimes dangerous to cross.
- Moose, bear, and muskox knock down trail-stakes.
- Campsites are off the road system. Brevig Mission is trying to get their trail system into the Kawerak Transportation Program's (KTP) inventory. Brevig's local gravel source, available for projects, helps raise its ranking in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). STIP scores are determined by about 40 factors, including the safety of communities. The Department of Transportation (DOT) uses STIP Scores to prioritize the order of projects.

- More streetlights are needed. The community plans to install LED lighting because it is the most cost-effective.
- The cost of airfare and freight is too high for some residents who would like to travel more. The cost of shipping makes all products more expensive in Brevig Mission.
- Snow-machine and 4-wheeler maintenance are expensive and many residents replace theirs instead of having them fixed.
- The east to west portion of Brevig Mission's crosswind runway needs to be extended to another 500' to allow larger planes to land. It would also reduce the cost of delivering vehicles and boats to the village because they could be flown in on larger planes. Currently, vehicles are flown to Nome and then driven to Brevig Mission.
- Roads in town and to the landfill need maintenance. Equipment is costly to purchase and repair.
- The road on the east side, going to the landfill, near camps, is torn up where AVEC buried power lines. Burial sites may also have been disturbed.

5.3.8 Communications

Residents of Brevig Mission have cell phones and internet. The addition of Starlink Satellite internet services in the past few years has greatly improved internet accessibility for the community. Most residents use GCI as their cellular provider, and Starlink for internet. Landline telephones through FastWyre (formerly TelAlaska / Mukluk Telephone) can be unreliable, as the signal is transmitted via microwave towers. Most residents have cell phones. Phone calls frequently get dropped because of poor reception.

The local Search and Rescue group needs a repeater tower to enhance VHF radio communication because emergency satellite phone service is extremely expensive.

Communications:

In-State Phone:	FastWyre (formerly Mukluk, TelAlaska) GCI
Long-Distance:	GCI
Internet Service Provider:	GCI, Starlink Satellite
Cable Provider/TV:	KTUU, City
Radio Stations:	KICY, KNOM
Postal Mail:	USPS
Deliveries:	Bering Air, Ryan Air

5.3.9 Health Care

Brevig Mission's clinic has six health aides, one full-time and one relief travel clerk, one full-time and one relief village-based counselor and one maintenance staff. There are three exams room in the clinic. The clinic lacks a washer/dryer and oven for clinic use.

Local Health Care Priorities and Concerns:

- Residents would like to have a local Tribal Healer.
- Environmental contamination:
    - Native foods harvested locally may be contaminated from things like old mining sites, chemical dump sites, old medical sites, etc.
        - Contaminants in the environment and traditional foods may be contributing to health problems like cancer.
        - Salmon tasted like Blazo fuel at the start of salmon season two years ago and some salmon have strange abscesses.
    - Wildlife may be affected by exposure to contaminants on their migratory routes.
- Clinic overhead expenses are too high:
    - The new clinic is hi-tech and needs a lot of money to maintain.
- More clinicians:
    - Clinic is too busy to treat all patients the same day they need help. Many must return the next day before they can be seen.
- Early cancer-screening:
    - Norton Sound Health Corporation might be more successful treating patients if problems were identified and properly diagnosed sooner, especially among Elders and babies. Major problems are difficult to deal with locally, so patients are sent to Nome, or Anchorage, for help.
- Improved patient-escort service:
    - Some patients leaving Brevig Mission for treatment are scheduled differently than their escorts. Some patients get released from surgery with doctor's orders not to lift anything but do not have any help.

5.3.10 Municipal Buildings and Municipal Heavy Equipment

Buildings:

- Office
- Community Building
- Water Plant
- Maintenance Building
- Clinic

Heavy Equipment:

- Excavator
- Dump trucks
- Loaders
- Cat
- Three Honda 4-wheelers (VPSO, Water & Sewer, and Health Aides)
- Snow-machine
- Boat (dry-docked)
- Grader (broken)
- 4x4 Dodge (brand new)

Top City Equipment Priorities

- Fix or replace broken grader and shelter/cover for equipment

5.3.11 Tribal Buildings and Heavy Equipment

Tribal Buildings:

- Old Teen Center – used for snowmachine and 4wheeler maintenance shop
- Camp Water/Sewer Building – Bering renovated for new Teen Center / Cafe
- Multi-purpose Building

Tribal Equipment

- Two 4-wheelers
- Grader (needs repair)
- Snow-machine

5.3.12 Public Safety

Brevig Mission's Search and Rescue Department needs to be reorganized. The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) coordinates it. An Army National Guard building might be available since there is no longer an Army National Guard presence there. The two buildings are in good condition; one was built in the 1960s and one in the 1990s.

The VBCs are the 1st responders for suicide prevention. Health Aides, VPSOs, and Village Police Officers (VPO)s also go to the sites in emergencies. The safety officers lead on site to ensure the safety of others. Safety is a major concern when there are no safety officers available and the Health Aides and VBCs must lead

without them. Residents are concerned about the ability to contact safety officers when they are needed, especially when they are on call or after normal hours of service. The VPOs normal work hours are 8am to 12 noon and on call.

The community needs Emergency planning for evacuation, shelter, etc. The school, water plant, and clinic are the only places with backup power where the community can go in an emergency. Kawerak's VPSO Program and Emergency Preparedness Program, can assist.

5.3.13 Libraries and Museums, Cultural Resources, and Social Events and Programs

- The multi-Purpose building is used for community gatherings, cooking, Eskimo dancing, sewing & beading.
- The school has a library and a workshop for carving and sled-building.
- Traditional Eskimo dance group.
- Wild harvesting a variety of berries and greens is a popular group activity.
- Summer youth cultural camp
- Community potlucks during Christmas, Thanksgiving, and 4th of July
- Traditional singing to grieve when someone dies

Cemeteries and Graves

The cemetery is at the East end of the village before the airport.

Historic Preservation

West of the existing village, there are the remains of an old village site. The site contains house pits and cache remains. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be necessary for development projects occurring on the west end of the village.

Public buildings, lands, churches, parks, camps, and recreational areas

- The entire land area is important for wild harvesting and hunting.
- The Traditional Council bought the "Water & Sewer Camp" building from the city and is renovating it to be the new teen center and café.
- The multi-purpose building has two computer labs for public access, meeting space, cooking/kitchen area, and public freezer storage.
- The school has a repair/woodshop for carving and sled building. It also has a library and a gym. Use is limited. The community wants to develop an independent recreation center.

5.4 Land Status

Brevig Mission's land is essentially pristine, and residents are determined to keep it that way. Residents are concerned that influences like the sewage lagoon, old tank farm, and the gravel extraction area may negatively impact the environment, including the water source.

There are no National Wildlife Refuges near Brevig Mission, according to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers near Brevig Mission, according to the U.S. National Park Service. Brevig Mission is included in the Bering Strait Coastal Resource Service Area.

5.4.1 Designated Land Status and Management Issues

ANCSA Land Entitlement:	
Village Corporation:	**Brevig Mission Native Corporation**
12(a) Land Entitlement in acres (see Note 1):	92,160.00
12(b) Land Entitlement in acres (see Note 2):	21,760.00
14(c)(3) Land Status:	
14(c)(3) Status (see Note 3):	Not Completed
14(c)(3) Agreement Signed:	No
Map of Boundaries done:	No
Municipal Land Trust:	No
Appropriate Village Entity (see Note 4):	n/a

Notes:

1. ANCSA 12(a) land entitlement to village corporation from federal government.
2. ANCSA 12(b) land reallocated to village corporation from Regional Native Corporation.
3. Under ANCSA 14(c)(3), village corporations must re-convey certain land to the local city

government or the state in trust to provide for community use and expansion.

4. Recognized village group which represents the views of residents on municipal trust land acquisition and management in accordance with AS 44.33.755(b) and 3 AAC 190.110 - 150.

5.4.2 Land Use Potential

Land management issues are dealt with by the entities on a case-by-case basis. There is land set for new development on the North end of town.

5.4.3 Contaminated Sites

Information about current Brownfields (Contaminated sites) projects can be found on Kawerak's website: https://kawerak.org/natural-resources/brownfield-program/

5.5 Population

Brevig Mission is a quickly growing community with a young population. The median age in the community is 22 years old. Over 40% of the community is under 18 years old and mainly school-age children. The following population data is from the 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Additional detail is available via the United States Census Bureau reports.

Population by Race:	
Population in 2022:	625
White	2.4%
Alaska Native or Amer. Indian	93.6%
Two or More Races	4%
Population by Age:	
Male	47.4%
Female	52.6%
Population by Age:	
Under 5 Years	13.8%
5 to 17 Years	30.9%
18-24 Years	7.8%
25-44 Years	24.6%

45-54 Years	4.2%
55-64 Years	11.4%
65-74 Years	5.0%
75 Years and over	2.4%
Median Age (years)	22.0

5.6 Employment and the Economy

Brevig Mission's economy is primarily supported by public-sector and service-based employment, with major job concentrations in education, health care, and public administration. According to recent American Community Survey data, approximately 194 residents are employed, and many jobs are tied to the school, city and tribal governments, and regional service providers. While median household income has increased in recent years (estimated at $63,088 in 2024), the community continues to face economic challenges, including a high poverty rate and limited private-sector employment opportunities. Subsistence activities remain an important non-cash component of household economies, contributing to food security and cultural continuity alongside wage employment.

5.6.1 Business Licenses in Brevig Mission

The following records reflect current business licenses on file with the Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing, Business Licensing Section. These licenses may not represent actual business activity. For more information on a specific business, use Commerce's Business License Search website.

License#	Business Name	Owner Name	City	Status
2172618	AJ Folklore Designs	Adriana Jacqueline Barr	Brevig Mission	Active
2118265	Brevig Muit Store	BREVIG MISSION NATIVE CORPORATION	Brevig Mission	Active
1040013	F & T STORE, LLC	F & T STORE, LLC	BREVIG MISSION	Active
2211410	RAs Fuel Delivery	Carl N Seetot	Brevig Mission	Active

License#	Business Name	Owner Name	City	Status
2211410	RAs Fuel Delivery	Audrey Renee Topkok	Brevig Mission	Active
2225638	The Ice Cap by Adriana LLC	The Ice Cap by Adriana LLC	Brevig Mission	Active

6.0 Environmental

6.1 Soils and Topography



Brevig Mission lies on a gently sloping coastal plain, three miles to the southwest of Red Mountain. Soils in the area are generally a poorly drained mixture of clay, sand, and gravel, with a peaty surface layer. Permafrost underlies much of Brevig Mission, at depths that show substantial variation, particularly near the shoreline.

A soil core taken by the BIA (to a depth of 255 feet) found clay, gravel and sand in the first 14 feet below the surface, various frozen layers of mixed clay, sand, gravel and seashells to a depth of 112 feet, and unfrozen clays and gravels from 112 to 255 feet.

6.2 Vegetation

Locals harvest a variety of highly nourishing plants from the land including:

- Beach Grass
- Beach Peas
- Blackberry
- Blueberry
- Cranberry
- Currants
- Dwarf Fireweed
- Eskimo Potato
- Fireweed
- Labrador Tea
- Pink Plumes
- Raspberry
- Rhubarb
- Salmonberry
- Saxifrage
- Seaweed
- Sourdock
- Stinkweed
- Wild Celery
- Wild Chives
- Willow Leaf

6.3 Climate

Brevig Mission has a maritime climate with continental influences when the Bering Sea freezes. Summer temperatures average 44 to 57; winter temperatures average -9 to 8. Precipitation averages 11.5 inches, with 50 inches of snowfall. Port Clarence is generally ice-free between early June and mid-November.

6.4 Wildlife

Many wildlife species live in and harvested from Brevig Mission's land, sea, and sky:

Fish:

- Blackfish
- Burbot
- Capelin
- Clams
- Cod
- Dolly Varden
- Eel
- Flounder
- Grayling
- Halibut
- Herring (including eggs)
- King Crab
- Northern Pike
- Salmon
- Sculpin
- Sheefish
- Smelt
- Whitefish

Land Mammals:

- Arctic Fox
- Bear
- Beaver
- Caribou
- Lynx
- Marten
- Moose
- Musk Ox
- Otter
- Rabbit
- Red Fox
- Squirrel
- Wolf
- Wolverine

Marine Mammals:

- Bearded Seal
- Beluga
- Bowhead Whale
- Grey Whale
- Minke Whale
- Polar Bear
- Porpoise
- Ribbon Seal
- Ring Seal
- Spotted Seal
- Walrus

Birds:

- Arctic Tern
- Auklet
- Black Brant
- Black Scoter
- Bristle-thighed Curlew
- Bufflehead
- Cackling Canada Goose
- Canvasback
- Common Eider

- Common Loon
- Common Merganser
- Cormorant
- Emperor Goose
- Glaucous Gull
- Godwit
- Golden Plover
- Goldeneye
- Green-winged Teal
- Guillemot
- Harlequin
- King Eider
- Kittiwake
- Lesser Canada Goose
- Lesser Snow Goose
- Long-tailed duck
- Mallard
- Mew Gull
- Murre
- Northern Pintail
- Northern Shoveler
- Pacific Loon
- Ptarmigan
- Puffin
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Red-throated Loon
- Sabine's Gull
- Sandhill Crane
- Scaup
- Small Shorebird
- Spectacled Eider
- Spruce Grouse
- Steller's Eider
- Surf Scoter
- Tundra Swan
- Whimbrel
- White-fronted Goose
- White-winged Scoter
- Wigeon
- Yellow-billed Loon

Bird Eggs:

- Arctic Tern
- Auklet
- Black Brant
- Black Scoter
- Bristle-thighed Curlew
- Bufflehead
- Cackling Canada Goose
- Canvasback
- Common Eider
- Common Loon
- Common Merganser
- Cormorant
- Emperor Goose
- Glaucous Gull
- Godwit
- Golden Plover
- Goldeneye
- Green-winged Teal
- Guillemot
- Harlequin
- King Eider
- Kittiwake
- Lesser Canada Goose
- Lesser Snow Goose
- Long-tailed duck
- Mallard
- Mew Gull
- Murre
- Northern Pintail
- Northern Shoveler
- Pacific Loon
- Ptarmigan
- Puffin
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Red-throated Loon
- Sabine's Gull
- Sandhill Crane
- Scaup
- Small Shorebird
- Spectacled Eider

- Spruce Grouse
- Steller's Eider
- Surf Scoter
- Tundra Swan
- Whimbrel
- White-fronted Goose
- White-winged Scoter
- Wigeon
- Yellow-billed Loon

6.6 Seismic, Flood, and Wetland Information

Brevig Mission is exposed to flooding and erosion caused by storm surges and storm-driven waves from the Bering Sea and Port Clarence. All buildings along the beach lie in the Army Corps of Engineers 100-year floodplain and were subjected to major flooding in 1970 and 1974. The elevation of the 1974 flood of record was said to be 1 to 1.5 feet below the seaward end of the tramway bridge over the lagoon.

Alaska's wetlands occupy 43.3 % of its 403,247,700 acres. This contrasts to the contiguous US where they occupy only 5.2 % of the land surface. Wetlands in Alaska include: bogs, fens, wet and moist tundra, ponds, forests, mud flats, fresh and salt marshes. Most regions in Alaska have a land surface with extensive areas of wetlands. Expanses of moist and wet tundra underlain by permafrost occur in the northern and western regions. Some of the Nation's most extensive complexes of salt marshes and mud flats occur along the coasts of the Bering Sea.

Development in Brevig Mission may be subject to the Bering Strait Coastal Management Plan developed in 1989.

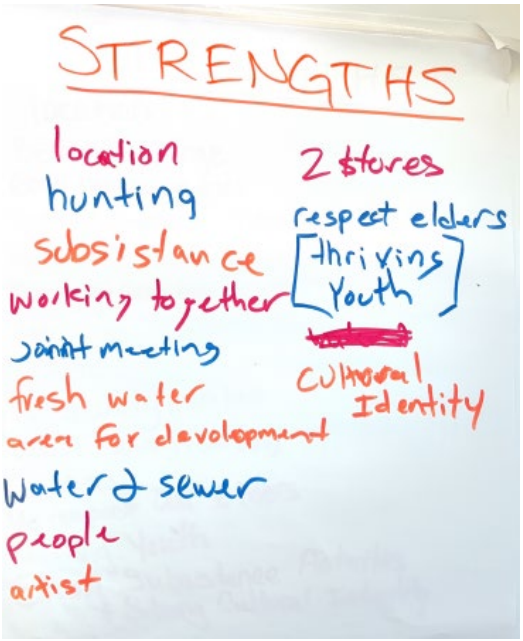
7.0 Opportunities and Barriers to Development – SWOT Analysis



The community went through a facilitated "SWOT" analysis exercise in the December 12, 2025 community meeting. Ideas were recorded by community members and spurred much discussion about local development priorities.

7.1 Strengths and Trends

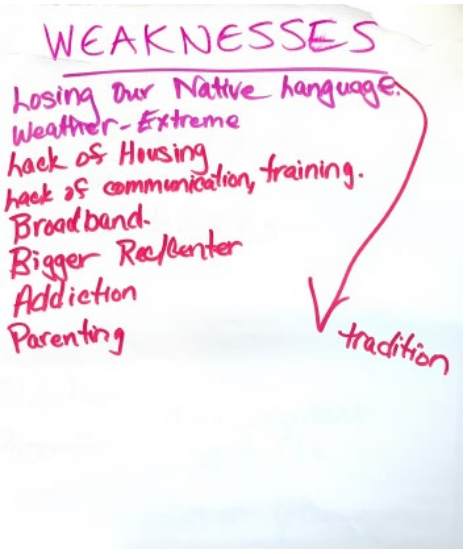
Focus Question: *"What are your strengths? Current positive trends in Brevig Mission, and community strengths and assets that will help us as we plan and complete projects in our community?"*

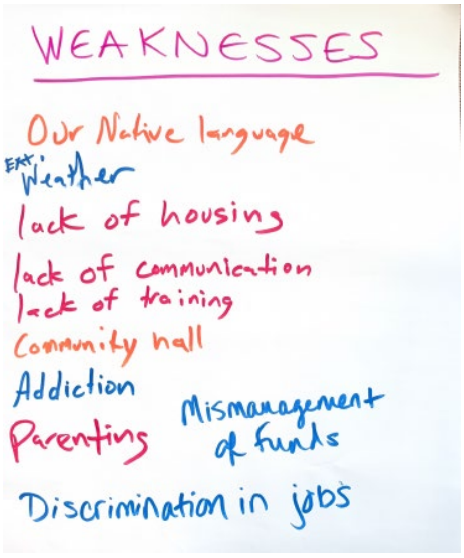




7.2 Weaknesses / Challenges

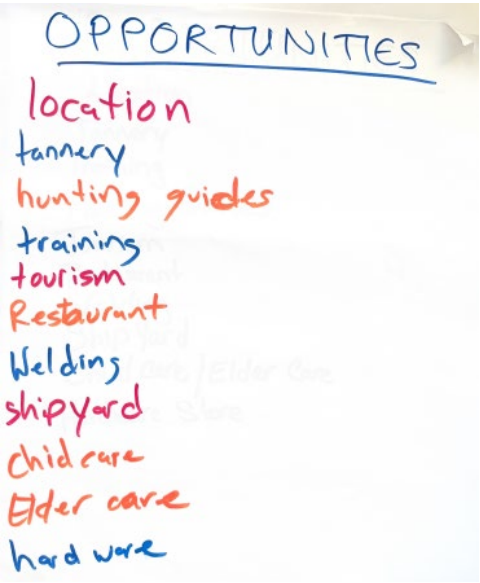
Focus Question: "What are the weakness/challenges in Brevig Mission, thinking about how we plan and complete projects in our community?"





7.3 Development Opportunities

Focus Question: "What are opportunities in the community for positive economic development? What kinds of businesses or partnerships are new, could be in the future, or could develop?"

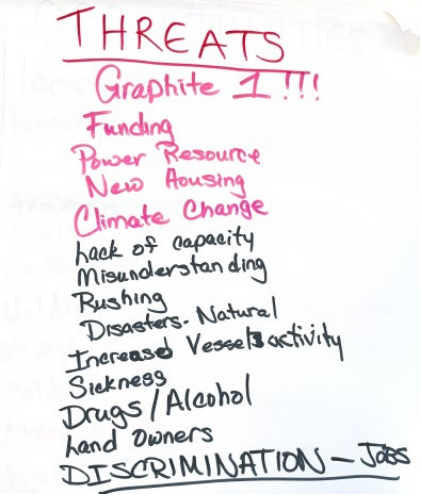




7.4 Development Barriers / Threats

Focus Question: "What are current threats to the community; to development? What are development barriers, hazards, or areas of concern that we need to consider as we begin development projects?"





8.0 Community Values

With guidance and support from Elders, we must teach our children Inupiaq values:

- Knowledge of Language
- Sharing
- Respect for Others
- Cooperation
- Respect for Elders
- Love for Children
- Hard Work
- Knowledge of Family Tree
- Avoidance of Conflict
- Respect for Nature
- Spirituality
- Humor
- Family Roles
- Hunter Success
- Domestic Skills
- Humility
- Responsibility to Tribe

<u>We as a community also value</u>

- Cultural and Traditional Values
- Working together, communication
- People that commit themselves to help each other
- Sharing modern and traditional
- Disciplined communities (that do not experience a lot of crime/vandalism)
- Subsistence way of life

Considerations were given in applying the community values in Brevig Mission's new local economic development plan. This provided methods to apply the values and guide the implementation of the vision and development goals in all development projects.

Our Elders would want us to apply our values when we develop projects in Brevig Missions.

8.1 Applying Values to Community Development

<u>Focus Question:</u> "*What are future community projects and activities that we can develop to enhance our community, which best build on our identified cultural*

strengths, community development opportunities and current community assets over the next five years?"

Business Development & Tourism
Communications (telephone, radio, & cable TV)
Cultural (art, language, subsistence, & traditions)
Economy (Cost of Living)
Education & Job Training
Electrical Power & Bulk Fuel
Environment (protection & pollution)
Health (health care & prevention, dust control)
Housing (teachers, elders, & low-cost housing)
Jobs & Employment Opportunities
Law Enforcement (VPO/VPSO & ordinances)
Natural Resources (timber, minerals, fish & wildlife)
Public Facilities & Buildings
Public Safety (Fire/Crisis/Search & Rescue)
Sewer & Water Source
Social (families & recreation)
Transportation (roads, trails, airports, & harbors)
Tribal & City Governance
Waste Management (landfill, contamination cleanup)



Community Participants on December 12, 2025, at the community meeting in Brevig Mission. Photo by Kawerak, Inc.

9.0 Development Priorities and Implementation

There were 13 priorities identified by the Brevig Mission Planning Committee and approved by the City of Brevig Mission, the Brevig Mission Native Corporation, and the Native Village of Brevig Mission to improve the economic development for the community. To provide a thorough understanding of each project, the following information is given for each priority:

Project Description
Background
Project Needs and Benefits
Potential Constraints to Project Development

Project Implementation
(Plan of Action)

2026-2030 APPROVED PRIORITIES:

- Tannery
- Water & Sewer System Upgrades
- Subsistence Resource Protection (Graphite One Opposition)
- Housing
- Access Improvements (Runways, Roads, Drainage/Maintenance, Snow Fencing, Trails & Bridges)
- Energy (Streetlights & Fuel Delivery Improvements)
- Mechanical Shop & Heavy Equipment
- Improved Human Capacity (Boys & Girls Club, Carving/Sewing Shop, Training & Workforce Development, Truancy)
- Recreation Center / Community Hall
- Community-Led Port Clarence Development (Barge Landing, Runway)
- Emergency Preparedness (SAR, Fire Response, Hazard Mitigation)
- Landfill
- Tribal Sovereignty (Cultural Preservation and Celebration)

9.1 PRIORITY #1: Tannery

9.1.1 Project Description

Background: Brevig Mission's economy relies heavily on subsistence activities, with local employment opportunities remaining limited. Community members routinely harvest reindeer, moose, and marine mammals, yet most hides are not fully processed or are shipped out for value-added work elsewhere. Developing a community-based tannery would create new income streams, expand local craftsmanship, and support cultural practices connected to traditional hide use.

Project Needs and Benefits: A local tannery would provide year-round and seasonal employment, reduce waste of valuable raw materials, and create finished goods that could support artisans, craftspeople, and local small businesses. Producing locally tanned hides for sale within the region or statewide could diversify the community's economic base and strengthen self-sufficiency. The facility could also serve as a training hub for youth and adults, helping preserve traditional knowledge while introducing modern tanning techniques that support commercial-grade production.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Challenges include securing startup capital for facility construction and equipment, ensuring compliance with environmental and wastewater regulations, and training a skilled workforce. Shipping chemicals or supplies to Brevig Mission may increase costs, and energy demands could be significant without efficiency planning. Market development—both local and external—will require coordination, marketing, and reliable production volumes.

9.1.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action:

1. Feasibility & Planning: Conduct a cost and regulatory analysis, including facility design, waste management needs, and market demand.
2. Partnership Development: Coordinate with regional organizations, economic development entities, and tanning specialists for training and technical guidance.
3. Funding & Infrastructure: Pursue grants (EDA, USDA, State of Alaska), secure a site, and acquire tanning equipment and utilities.
4. Workforce Training: Provide hands-on instruction in tanning processes, safety, and production management.
5. Launch & Operations: Begin small-scale production, refine processes, and expand output to meet artisan and commercial demand.

9.2 PRIORITY #2: Water & Sewer System Upgrades

9.2.1 Project Description

Background: Brevig Mission's water and sewer infrastructure is aging and increasingly strained by climate impacts, population needs, and the high cost of remote maintenance. Frequent freeze-ups, limited storage capacity, and outdated distribution systems affect household reliability and increase operational burdens on the utility. Upgrading the system is essential to maintain safe drinking water, meet health standards, and ensure long-term community resilience.

Project Needs and Benefits: Modernizing water and sewer infrastructure will improve public health, reduce service disruptions, and lower long-term operating costs through more efficient equipment and insulated or buried lines. Upgrades can also increase system capacity to meet future housing needs and support community facilities such as the clinic, school, and washeteria. Improved reliability supports health outcomes, reduces household expenses associated with hauling water or managing outages, and enhances overall quality of life.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Challenges include high construction and material costs in remote Alaska, limited availability of skilled labor, and short construction seasons. Regulatory requirements may necessitate engineering studies, environmental reviews, and coordination with multiple funding agencies. Shipping delays, permafrost conditions, and weather-related disruptions may also affect project timelines and increase costs. Long-term sustainability will require adequate utility staffing, training, and revenue planning.

9.2.2 Project Implementation (Plan of Action)

1. Assessment & Engineering: Work with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to complete a detailed condition assessment, feasibility analysis, and engineering design for priority upgrades.
2. Funding Strategy: Pursue grants and technical support from entities such as the Alaska Village Safe Water Program, EPA, and USDA Rural Development.
3. Construction Planning: Coordinate logistics for seasonal construction, procurement of materials, and contracting with qualified engineers and builders.
4. Workforce Development: Train local utility operators and maintenance staff to support long-term system reliability.
5. Project Execution: Implement phased upgrades—starting with the most urgent components—followed by testing, commissioning, and ongoing monitoring.

9.3 PRIORITY #3: Subsistence Resource Protection (Graphite One Opposition)

9.3.1 Project Description

Background: Subsistence activities—hunting, fishing, gathering, and marine mammal harvests—form the foundation of Brevig Mission's food security, culture, and community well-being. Increasing regional development pressures, including large-scale resource extraction proposals, have raised concerns about long-term impacts to wildlife, water quality, and access to harvesting areas. In response, Brevig Mission recently passed a joint-entity community resolution opposing the proposed Graphite One mining project due to anticipated risks to subsistence resources and traditional lands.

Project Needs and Benefits: Protecting subsistence resources is essential to maintaining local health, economic resilience, and cultural continuity. A dedicated subsistence protection initiative would support monitoring of environmental changes, participation in regional planning processes, and documentation of traditional knowledge. Strengthening the community's ability to assess and respond to external development proposals ensures that residents' concerns, especially regarding caribou, marine mammals, salmon, and berry areas—are clearly represented. This effort also provides benefits such as improved food security, stronger youth engagement in traditional practices, and long-term stewardship of lands and waters critical to community identity.

Potential Constraints: Challenges include limited local capacity for technical review of resource development proposals, the need for consistent data collection, and the cost of participating in regional regulatory or permitting processes. Environmental monitoring may require specialized equipment, training, and partnerships. Additionally, the community must balance short-term funding availability with the long-term nature of subsistence protection and environmental change.

9.3.2 Project Implementation (Plan of Action)

1. Planning & Coordination: Establish a Subsistence Protection Working Group to guide priorities, including review of external development proposals.

2. Monitoring & Research: Develop a community-based monitoring program focused on key species, water quality, and areas of concern.

3. Partnership Development: Collaborate with regional organizations, tribal entities, and scientific partners for training, data support, and technical expertise.

4. Community Engagement: Document traditional knowledge, host community discussions, and involve youth in subsistence stewardship activities.

5. Representation & Advocacy: Ensure participation in regional planning, permitting, and consultation processes to communicate community priorities and concerns.



These prefabricated homes were constructed in 2021 in Brevig Mission. They are still not hooked up to water and sewer.

9.4 PRIORITY #4: Housing

9.4.1 Project Description

Background: With Brevig Mission's growing population and an already existent housing shortage, the community faces increasing challenges related to overcrowding, deteriorating housing conditions, and associated health risks. Many homes in the community are older, inadequately insulated, and in need of repair or replacement. Overcrowding has become a persistent issue, with multiple generations often sharing small living spaces, which can lead to stress, limited privacy, and increased transmission of illnesses.

Project Needs and Benefits: The need for additional housing is urgent—not only to accommodate population growth but also to improve the quality of life for residents.

Upgrading existing homes and constructing new ones will help alleviate overcrowding, reduce health hazards such as mold and poor ventilation, and support family stability. Improved housing also contributes to better educational outcomes for children, as stable and safe environments are linked to higher school attendance and performance.

Addressing the housing shortage will have broader economic benefits as well. Construction projects can create local employment opportunities, stimulate demand for building materials and services, and strengthen the local economy. Furthermore, improved housing infrastructure can attract and retain essential workers such as teachers, healthcare providers, and public safety personnel, who are critical to the long-term sustainability of the community.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Major constraints include high construction and freight costs, limited contractor availability, and short building seasons. Site development is complicated by permafrost, drainage issues, and the need for appropriate geotechnical studies. Funding is competitive and often split across multiple agencies, requiring significant administrative capacity. Skilled labor shortages and supply chain delays can further extend project timelines.

9.4.2 Project Implementation (Plan of Action)

1. Assessment & Planning: Conduct a comprehensive housing needs assessment, identify priority repair and replacement projects, and evaluate potential land for future development.
2. Funding Strategy: Pursue housing development resources through organizations such as the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, HUD Indian Housing programs, and state and regional partners.
3. Design & Engineering: Complete site surveys, geotechnical work, and energy-efficient design plans tailored to local climate and permafrost conditions.
4. Construction & Renovation: Implement phased construction of new units, weatherization upgrades, and critical home repairs.
5. Local Workforce Development: Support training in carpentry, construction, and maintenance to increase local participation and reduce long-term reliance on outside contractors.

9.5 PRIORITY #4: Access Improvements (Runways, Roads, Drainage/Maintenance, Trails & Bridges)

9.5.1 Project Description

Background: Reliable access infrastructure is essential for Brevig Mission's safety, mobility, and economic stability. The community's runway, roads, drainage systems,

and trail networks experience wear from severe weather, permafrost movement, and seasonal flooding. The airport serves as the primary link for freight, medical travel, mail, and passengers, while local roads and trails are critical for school, clinic, subsistence travel, and inter-community connections. Aging surfaces, inadequate drainage, and erosion threaten the reliability of these systems and increase maintenance burdens.

Project Needs and Benefits: Improvements to the runway, roads, and trail network would enhance safety, reduce transportation disruptions, and support year-round access for residents and essential services. Upgraded drainage systems would protect local infrastructure from washouts, reduce permafrost thaw impact, and extend the lifespan of roads and airport facilities. Enhancing winter and summer trails, including bridges and boardwalks, would preserve safe access to subsistence areas and neighboring communities. Stronger transportation infrastructure also supports emergency response, improves freight efficiency, and lowers long-term community costs.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: High construction and mobilization costs, limited contractor availability, and short construction seasons pose major challenges. Design work must account for permafrost dynamics, coastal erosion risks, and climate-driven shifts in precipitation. Regulatory reviews, environmental permitting, and coordination with state and federal partners can extend project timelines. Ongoing maintenance capacity, equipment availability, and workforce limitations may also constrain long-term effectiveness.

9.5.2 Project Implementation

1. Assessment & Prioritization: Conduct engineering assessments of runway conditions, road surfaces, drainage systems, and key trail/bridge locations to identify priority upgrades.
2. Funding Coordination: Pursue resources from FAA, DOT&PF, BIA, Tribal Transportation Program, and other relevant agencies.
3. Design & Engineering: Develop climate-resilient designs addressing erosion control, permafrost conditions, and reliable water management.
4. Construction Phasing: Schedule improvements by priority—runway resurfacing or lighting, road and drainage upgrades, and trail/bridge repairs or replacements.
5. Maintenance Planning: Strengthen local maintenance capacity through training, equipment investment, and annual inspection schedules.



9.7 PRIORITY #7: Energy (Streetlights & Fuel Delivery Improvements)

9.7.1 Project Description

Background: Reliable, affordable energy is essential for daily life in Brevig Mission. Many streetlights are aging or nonfunctional, creating safety concerns during long winter darkness. The community's bulk fuel facilities—critical for heating, power generation, and transportation—require ongoing maintenance, regulatory compliance, and equipment upgrades to ensure safe storage and distribution. Fuel delivery and distribution services are also challenged by weather, freight delays, and aging infrastructure such as pumps, hoses, meters, and secondary containment systems.

Project Needs and Benefits: Upgrading streetlights to modern, energy-efficient systems (such as LED fixtures and improved poles or wiring) will enhance safety for pedestrians, schoolchildren, and vehicles while reducing energy costs. Improvements to bulk fuel tanks, containment berms, transfer lines, and monitoring

systems will reduce the risk of spills, protect the environment, and ensure compliance with state and federal standards. Enhancing the fuel distribution and delivery system—including new fuel delivery truck(s), reliable pumps, calibrated meters, and safe handling equipment—supports household heating needs, community facilities, and essential services. Together, these improvements strengthen community resilience, support public safety, and help keep energy costs manageable.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Challenges include high shipping and construction costs, complex regulatory requirements for fuel storage, and limited availability of specialized contractors. Short construction seasons and extreme weather can delay installation of new streetlights or bulk fuel upgrades. Supply chain delays may affect the procurement of fuel pumps, electrical components, or tank materials. Additionally, maintaining compliance with evolving environmental and safety regulations requires ongoing training and administrative capacity.

9.7.2 Project Implementation

1. Assessment & Planning: Conduct a thorough evaluation of existing streetlights, fuel tanks, containment structures, and distribution equipment to identify priority upgrades.

2. Funding Strategy: Seek support from programs such as the Denali Commission, U.S. Department of Energy, Alaska Energy Authority, and USDA Rural Development.

3. Design & Procurement: Develop engineering plans for energy-efficient streetlight replacements and upgrade bulk fuel systems; procure high-quality, climate-appropriate materials.

4. Construction & Installation: Implement phased improvements, including streetlight upgrades, tank repairs or replacements, containment enhancements, and new pumps/meters.

5. Operations & Training: Provide training for local operators in fuel handling, system maintenance, and regulatory compliance to ensure long-term reliability; also fuel administrator training.



The Boys & Girls Club Building in Brevig Mission.

9.8 PRIORITY #8: Improve Human Capacity (Boys & Girls Club, Carving/Sewing Shop, Workforce Development, Truancy)

9.8.1 Project Description

Background: Brevig Mission's long-term resilience depends on strong youth programs, cultural skill-building, and a prepared local workforce. The community's Boys & Girls Club facility is aging and undersized, limiting its ability to provide safe, consistent after-school activities. Meanwhile, interest in traditional carving and sewing remains high, but there is no dedicated shop space for teaching and production. Workforce development opportunities are limited, contributing to challenges in filling local jobs. Truancy rates also impact student achievement and community readiness for future employment.

Project Needs and Benefits: Upgrading the Boys & Girls Club will expand healthy, safe spaces for youth, helping reduce risk factors associated with disengagement and truancy. Establishing a community carving/sewing shop will support cultural preservation, intergenerational learning, and small-business opportunities for artisans. Strengthening workforce development, including job training, certifications, and career exploration—will improve local employment and reduce reliance on outside labor. Together, these initiatives help prepare young people and

adults for future job opportunities, support cultural identity, and strengthen overall community wellness.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Constraints include limited funding for facility upgrades, staffing shortages, and the need for ongoing programming support rather than one-time investments. Creating and maintaining a carving/sewing shop requires tools, ventilation, and safety training. Workforce development efforts may be limited by training provider availability and travel costs. Truancy reduction requires coordinated efforts between families, the school, and community partners, which can take time and consistent resources.

9.8.2 Project Implementation

1. Assessment & Planning: Identify facility needs at the Boys & Girls Club, determine space/equipment needs for a carving/sewing shop, and outline local workforce development priorities.
2. Funding & Partnerships: Pursue support from organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs of Alaska, Kawerak, regional workforce programs, and state/federal youth development funds.
3. Facility Upgrades: Renovate and expand the Boys & Girls Club; establish a dedicated carving/sewing shop with proper ventilation, tools, and supervision capacity.
4. Program Development: Create structured cultural arts classes, job-readiness training, and youth engagement programs aimed at reducing truancy.
5. Monitoring & Evaluation: Track youth participation, truancy trends, training outcomes, and job placements to guide ongoing program improvements.

9.9 PRIORITY #9: Recreation Center / Community Hall

9.9.1 Project Description

Background: Brevig Mission currently lacks a modern, multi-use community hall or recreation center capable of supporting large gatherings, indoor activities, cultural events, and year-round recreation. Existing spaces are limited in size, outdated, or unable to safely accommodate community-wide meetings, youth programs, traditional celebrations, and emergency response needs. A dedicated facility would provide a central, accessible place for residents of all ages to gather, learn, and stay active.

Project Needs and Benefits: A new community hall or recreation center would support physical health, cultural preservation, and social cohesion. The facility could host sports, fitness programs, community meetings, cultural workshops, and youth

activities during dark winter months. A designated space for events and recreation reduces overcrowding in other buildings and ensures that programs such as cultural classes, elder activities, and community training sessions have a reliable home. In addition, a resilient, well-designed facility could support emergency sheltering during severe weather or regional disruptions.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Key challenges include securing capital funds for design and construction, identifying a suitable site with stable ground, and planning for long-term operations and maintenance. Construction costs are elevated due to remote mobilization and freight, and recreation centers require sustainable staffing and utilities budgets. Engineering must address permafrost movement, energy efficiency, and accessible design. Ensuring consistent program funding will also be essential for long-term success.

9.9.2 Project Implementation

1. Planning & Needs Assessment: Conduct community engagement to identify preferred design features, activities, and space requirements.
2. Site Selection & Design: Complete geotechnical studies and develop energy-efficient, climate-resilient design plans.
3. Funding Strategy: Pursue support from state and federal programs such as the Denali Commission, USDA Community Facilities, and philanthropic or regional partners.
4. Construction: Build the facility in phased stages if needed, prioritizing essential recreation and gathering spaces.
5. Operations & Programming: Develop sustainable staffing, maintenance, and programming plan to support youth activities, cultural events, sports, and community gatherings.

9.10 PRIORITY #10: Community-Led Port Clarence Development (Barge Landing, Runway)

9.10.1 Project Description

Background: Port Clarence is one of the most strategically significant natural deep-water harbors in the region, historically used for seasonal transportation, subsistence access, and limited commercial activity. Brevig Mission residents rely on this area for marine travel and barge deliveries, yet existing infrastructure is minimal and vulnerable to weather, erosion, and changing sea conditions. Interest in community-driven development has grown in recent years, emphasizing improved

control over transportation assets and safe access for both residents and essential freight services.

Project Needs and Benefits: Developing a community-led barge landing at Port Clarence would improve safety, reliability, and affordability of freight delivery, reducing risks associated with current informal landing areas. A stabilized, purpose-built landing would also support local economic opportunities and improve access for essential supplies. Runway upgrades—such as resurfacing, improved lighting, and erosion protection—would enhance emergency access and seasonal transportation options for residents and regional partners. Together, these improvements increase community self-reliance, support local jobs during construction, and create long-term benefits for subsistence activity, freight efficiency, and regional connectivity.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Constraints include regulatory requirements for coastal development, environmental reviews, and coordination with multiple federal and state entities. Construction costs are high due to mobilization, equipment needs, and coastal engineering requirements. Weather, sea-ice conditions, and erosion may affect design and project timelines. Long-term maintenance planning, especially for shoreline stabilization, will require technical expertise and reliable funding.

9.10.2 Project Implementation

1. Planning & Coordination: Form a community working group to lead planning efforts and engage with relevant federal, state, and regional partners. Look into potential dual-use infrastructure opportunities.
2. Assessment & Design: Conduct feasibility studies, site surveys, and engineering designs for durable barge landing and runway improvements.
3. Funding Strategy: Pursue support through agencies such as the U.S. Department of Transportation, BIA, Denali Commission, etc.
4. Construction: Implement phased construction focused first on shoreline stabilization and landing development, followed by runway upgrades.

Operations & Stewardship: Establish local protocols for maintenance, seasonal monitoring, and safe use to protect long-term functionality.



ATVs parked outside the old Armory Building for the community LEDP meeting.

9.11 PRIORITY #11: Emergency Preparedness (SAR, Fire Response, Hazard Mitigation)

9.11.1 Project Description

Background: Brevig Mission's remote location and harsh environmental conditions make strong emergency preparedness essential. The community regularly faces threats from severe storms, sea-ice changes, cold-weather emergencies, and structural fires. Local Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers respond to emergencies on land, sea, and ice, often with limited equipment. Fire response relies on aging gear and a small volunteer base, while hazard mitigation efforts must address erosion, flooding, and other climate-driven risks. Strengthening emergency readiness will help protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure.

Project Needs and Benefits: Improved SAR capabilities—including upgraded snowmachines, boats, communications systems, GPS devices, and safety gear—will increase response speed and reliability. Enhanced fire response equipment such as updated turnout gear, pumps, hoses, and training will reduce the impact of structure fires and improve firefighter safety. Community-wide hazard mitigation planning and investments (e.g., erosion control, flood protections, emergency shelters) help

safeguard infrastructure and reduce long-term costs. A stronger emergency preparedness system enhances overall community resilience, supports local leadership, and ensures more effective response during crises.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Challenges include limited local funding, reliance on volunteer responders, and the expense of specialized equipment. Training opportunities can be difficult to access due to travel costs and scheduling. Hazard mitigation projects often require engineering, multi-agency coordination, and long permitting timelines. Maintaining equipment in extreme weather also requires ongoing resources and dedicated staff or volunteers.

9.11.2 Project Implementation

1. Assessment & Planning: Conduct a community-wide emergency needs assessment covering SAR, fire response, and major hazards.
2. Equipment Upgrades: Prioritize acquisition of SAR gear, firefighting equipment, and emergency communication systems.
3. Training & Capacity Building: Coordinate with regional and state partners for SAR certification, fire response training, and emergency management workshops.
4. Hazard Mitigation Projects: Advance erosion control, flood protection, and shelter upgrades through engineering studies and hazard-specific planning.
5. Coordination & Preparedness: Strengthen community emergency operations planning, volunteer recruitment, and regular drills to maintain readiness.

9.12 PRIORITY #12: Landfill

9.12.1 Project Description

Background: Brevig Mission's landfill and solid waste systems face capacity, access, and compliance challenges. Seasonal access, windblown debris, and limited cell development complicate safe operations. Aging equipment, inadequate fencing, and burning practices increase health and environmental risks, including potential impacts to wildlife, groundwater, and nearby subsistence areas. Improving the landfill is essential to protect public health, meet regulatory requirements, and support community cleanliness and safety.

Project Needs and Benefits: Upgrading the landfill will improve waste handling, extend facility life, and reduce nuisance issues. Investments in site planning, cell development, cover material, fencing, and gate control will strengthen

environmental protection and operational safety. Dedicated areas for metals, white goods, e-waste, and hazardous materials—paired with periodic backhaul—will reduce contamination and burning. Reliable equipment (e.g., loader, dozer, compactor) and improved access roads will lower maintenance costs and enable regular cover. Community benefits include cleaner neighborhoods, reduced smoke exposure, safer landfill operations, and alignment with state and federal standards.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Constraints include high equipment and mobilization costs, limited availability of cover material, and short construction seasons. Regulatory compliance (permits, monitoring, recordkeeping) can strain local capacity, and specialized disposal or backhaul requires coordination and freight funding. Permafrost, drainage, and erosion control must be addressed in design to avoid leachate migration and site instability. Consistent staffing for operations and community education are also ongoing needs.

9.12.2 Project Implementation

1. Assessment & Planning: Complete a solid waste management plan and landfill improvement design (site layout, drainage, cells, fencing, hazardous waste staging).
2. Funding & Compliance: Pursue support through state/federal programs (e.g., USDA Community Facilities, EPA solid waste grants, regional partners) and secure necessary permits.
3. Infrastructure & Equipment: Improve access roads and drainage; install perimeter fencing, gates, and signage; acquire essential equipment and containers for metals/e-waste/hazmat.
4. Operations & Training: Establish operating procedures for waste segregation, cover schedules, and burn alternatives; train operators in safety, recordkeeping, and compliance.
5. Backhaul & Education: Implement periodic backhaul events and community education on dumping hours, segregation, and prohibited materials to sustain long-term performance.

9.13 PRIORITY #13: Tribal Sovereignty (Cultural Preservation and Celebration)

9.13.1 Project Description

Background: Brevig Mission's cultural strength is rooted in its Indigenous identity, traditional knowledge, and long-standing systems of governance. Tribal sovereignty supports community self-determination, cultural continuity, and the protection of traditional lands and resources. As outside pressures, climate change, and

modernization accelerate, the community has expressed a strong desire to strengthen cultural programs, expand opportunities for intergenerational learning, and celebrate Inupiaq traditions through community-led initiatives and events.

Project Needs and Benefits: Enhancing cultural preservation activities reinforces Tribal sovereignty by ensuring that community values, language, and traditions remain central to local decision-making. Expanded cultural programming such as storytelling, language revitalization, seasonal gatherings, dance, drumming, carving, sewing, and subsistence skills - supports youth identity, family well-being, and community pride. Developing formal spaces and events for cultural celebration strengthens social cohesion and ensures that elders' knowledge is actively shared. This effort also positions the Tribe to more effectively guide regional planning, ensure respect for cultural resources, and promote community resilience.

Potential Constraints to Project Development: Challenges include limited funding for cultural programs, the need for dedicated space and staff, and the risk of losing knowledge as elders age. Sustaining year-round programming requires reliable coordination and long-term financing. Cultural preservation may require specialized materials, equipment, or facility upgrades. Additionally, competing demands on community members' time can affect participation in planning or events.

9.13.2 Project Implementation (Plan of Action)

1. Community Engagement: Host workshops and listening sessions to identify cultural priorities, events, and teaching needs.
2. Space & Program Development: Designate or develop cultural spaces for language classes, traditional arts, and community gatherings. Look into regional initiatives and partnerships through the Head Start, Katirvik Cultural Center, etc.
3. Funding & Partnerships: Pursue cultural preservation grants and coordinate with regional organizations to support training, materials, and events.
4. Intergenerational Programming: Establish elder-led teaching sessions, youth mentorship opportunities, and seasonal cultural celebrations.
5. Long-Term Stewardship: Strengthen Tribal governance capacity, explore Tribal Court Systems, incorporate cultural priorities into local planning, and maintain annual cultural programming calendars.

10.0 Conclusion & Acknowledgements

Quyanna to the community of Brevig Mission, and Kawerak staff, for their contribution to this plan.

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