

## WALES LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2016



### *2011 – 2016 Priorities*

1. Bulk fuel
2. New Clinic
3. HBH Lagoon/Dumpsite
4. Seawall Lagoon, Boat Harbor and Fishing
5. Cemetery
6. Repair Housing
7. Public Safety
8. Heavy Equipment/Storage
9. Water & Sewer Line
10. Renovate Church
11. Youth Center
12. Long & Short Term Housing
13. New Power Plant/Wind Solar Energy
14. Gravel Business
15. Grader
16. Snow Fencing
17. Tourism

ADDENDUM ADDED SEPT 22, 2014

**Submitted to:  
The Community of Wales, Alaska,  
and  
The Bering Strait Development Council**

**Submitted By:  
Pearl Mikulski  
Vice President  
Community Services Division  
Kawerak, Inc.  
Feb. 15, 2012**



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**Native Village of Wales RESOLUTION # 11-05**

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF WALES ADOPTING THE WALES LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2016 (LEDP) PRIORITIES APPLICABLE FROM JANUARY 1, 2011 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016.

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Wales IRA Council is the federally recognized governing body of the Tribal members of Wales, Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Wales IRA Council's purpose is to serve the people, community, and businesses of the Tribe by promoting economic opportunities that improve the economic, social, and environmental quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Wales IRA Council is responsible for the development and implementation of a Community Economic Development strategy to guide the economic growth of the Village in order to help increase local employment opportunities, foster a more stable and diversified economy, and improve the quality of life for residents, while maintaining the cultural heritage of the Community; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Economic Development provides the factual data support necessary to qualify for assistance in funding local projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Wales IRA Council in a Joint Meeting with the City of Wales and the Wales Native Corporation, with assistance from Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program Staff, has updated its five-year Local Economic Development Plan that states the community's Values, goals, objectives, and strategy necessary for guiding future growth and economic development of the Village; and,

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Priorities (14) listed in this Wales Local Economic Development Plan 2011-2016 were developed, reviewed, and approved by the community during a public meeting held on April 28, 2011; and,

WHEREAS, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our Community to recognize and use this plan; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Wales IRA Council approves and adopts the five-year Wales Local Economic Development Plan 2011-2016 and priorities for the tribe in Wales, applicable between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2016.

Ellen J. Richard  
President, Native Village of Wales

6-7-11  
Date

Anna M. Oxereok, Secretary  
Secretary

6-7-11  
Date

**City of Wales**  
**P.O Box 489, Wales, AK 99783-0506**  
**phone and fax 907-664-3501**

The City of Wales is submitting this list of priorities for FY 2012, approved during a regular meeting of the Wales City Council on May, 26, 2011.

1. Wales clinic repair and renovation
2. Sewer and Water – or an appropriate way to handle grey water and waste
3. Repair water transmission line and plan new washeteria
4. New water source or bring present source up to code
5. Address erosion issues at the cemetery site
6. Establish new landfill and cover old dump
7. Construct new Honey Bucket Haul lagoon
8. New City office building
9. New community building
10. Installation of new cable system (television)
11. New equipment for Fire department and search and rescue
12. Renovate City trailer
13. Renovate City water tank – paint
14. Transportation – village to airport, airport to village
15. Disaster and safety shelter
16. Purchase of trailer for hauling materials from Tin City (towed by loader)
17. Playground and recreation area

Frank Crisci

7/14/11

Mayor, CITY OF WALES

Date

## **WALES NATIVE CORPORATION RESOLUTION # 11-1**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WALES NATIVE CORPORATION ADOPTING THE WALES LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2016 (LEDP) PRIORITIES APPLICABLE FROM MAY 13, 2011 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016.

WHEREAS, the Wales Native Corporation is an incorporated for-profit organization in Wales, Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Wales Native Corporation purpose is to serve the share holders, residents of the community by promoting economic opportunities that improve the economic, social, and environmental quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Wales Native Corporation collaborates with the city and tribe in the planning and implementation of economic development activities for the community of Wales; and,

WHEREAS, the Wales Native Corporation shares responsibility for the development and implementation of a community economic development strategy to guide the economic growth of the village in order to help increase local employment opportunities, foster a more stable and diversified economy, and improve the quality of life for residents, while maintaining the cultural heritage of the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Economic Development Plan provides the factual data support necessary to qualify for assistance in funding local projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Wales Native Corporation in a Joint Meeting with the City of Wales and the Wales Native Corporation, with assistance from Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program staff, has updated its five-year Local Economic Development Plan that states the community's values, goals, objectives, and strategy necessary for guiding future growth and economic development of the village; and,

WHEREAS, the economic development priorities (14) listed in this Wales Local Economic Development Plan 2011-2016 were developed, reviewed, and approved by the community during a public meeting held on April 28, 2011; and,

WHEREAS, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wales Native Corporation approves and adopts the five-year Wales Local Economic Development Plan 2011-2016 and priorities for the tribe in Wales, applicable between April 28, 2011 and December 31, 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THE 14 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES LISTED BELOW FOR THE WALES NATIVE CORPORATION AS REVIEWED, UPDATED AND RE-PRIORITIZED, AND APPROVED ON MAY 13, 2011 ARE:

1. Bulk fuel
2. Airport upgrade, crosswind runway and roads
3. Build new clinic and washeteria
4. Honeybucket Lagoon and dumpsite
5. Seawall, boat harbor, and fishing
6. Cemetery
7. Repair housing
8. Public safety
9. Heavy equipment storage
10. Water and sewer, water line
11. Renovate church, teen center
12. Long and short term housing
13. New power plant
14. Mining

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a convened meeting of the Wales Native Corporation Board on May 13, 2011 and was unanimously approved with 4 for and 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Winton Weyapuk, Jr.  
President, Wales Native Corporation

May 13, 2011  
Date

Lucy Kitchen  
Secretary

May 13, 2011  
Date

## 1.0 Introduction and Purpose of the Wales Local Economic Development Plan 2011-2016

Wales is located on Cape Prince of Wales, at the western tip of the Seward Peninsula, 111 miles northwest of Nome. The traditional form of government that existed for countless generations was re-organized in 1939 under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). The City was incorporated in 1964. The Wales Native Corporation was formed in 1973. Wales' 2010 U.S. census certified population was 145.



The City of Wales as a state recognized governing body and the Wales IRA Council 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 City of Wales and the Wales IRA Council contract with various federal, state, and other organizations to administer governance, infrastructure, public services, education, economic programs, and social or cultural programs.



Mary Ann Olanna, Sean Komonaseak, Winton Weyapuk, Jr. and Clifford Seetook reviewing future development project ideas for Wales.

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. This comprehensive plan is structured to:

- Provide the community 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 community with the basic informational tools of local planning that accurately show land status and ownership as well as traditional resources and subsistence areas;
- 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.

## 2.0 Planning Process and Public Involvement

### 2.1 Planning History and Accomplishments in Wales

The Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program (CPD) worked with the community of Wales in developing and updating its 2011 -2016 Local Economic Development Plan (LEPD). LEPD's analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop goals, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future development. Wales's first LEPD was in 1998 and the second was in 2004. The Wales IRA



**Community Planning Workshop, developing new project ideas for the future for Wales. (around the table left to right: Mary Ann Olanna, Sean Komonaseak, Clifford Seetook, Fred Seetook, Shawna Keyes, Joanne Keyes, Lena Sereadlook, and Anna Oxereok.**

Council and the City of Wales has also regularly updated the priorities of the community and the tribe.

### Major Accomplishments Toward LEPD Goals Since 2004

- Washeteria – purchased 4 new washers, 2 backup washers, floors repaired in showers, fixed windows but building has shifted now,
- Airport improvements – new lighting and flashers installed, due for resurfacing in 2013-1015, renovated garage, heating system installed, cement flooring installed, automated FAA weather station and web cam, apron is plowed regularly
- Roads – tribe has IRR/BIA funding, City of Wales does springtime plowing and winter sweeps of snow within city limits which reduces drifting
- Sewer and water – residents haul water and ice from creeks around Wales, new well built and new transmission lines, water tank cleaned every two years, people are buying more water from the city watering point, IGAP snow machine is available to haul water for families that do not have one

- Power and bulk fuel – city flies propane from Nome to sell as needed, city bulk delivery for washeteria, clinic, city office, and road maintenance use, IRA bulk purchase for public sales of heating fuel and gas
- VPSO and public safety – tribe is working with Kawerak on holding cell and VPSO housing issues so that recruitment can begin for obtaining a VPSO for the community, city staff handles law enforcement until the state troopers arrive, city volunteer fire crew, local volunteer search and rescue crews, city building is used to store search and rescue equipment, Ready boxes for search and rescue crews are stored at the IRA building, search and rescue crews re-organized in 2011, Wales search and rescue crews assist other villages and receives help from other villages during a crisis, code red fire equipment,
- Housing and housing needs for long term visitors – one house built for elder, visitors stay at IRA or local homes during events or birding season, housing needs for stranded Diomed residents are brought up at NSHC meetings, Wales Native Corporation has discussed plans to build lodging for visitors
- New city building/public safety building - city building moved to trailer, city wants to demolish the old city building and build a new one which would be a multiple purpose building to save on fuel costs
- Teen Center – in 2010 Sherman’s Market installed video games for kids to play in warm months, there are some local after school activities, local sewing night at the IRA building, gym nights at school
- Cemetery renovations – IGAP program fixed or recovered exposed graves from the flu epidemic era and a few others, graves identified and mapped,
- Cultural and youth activities – Kingikmiut Dance Festival in September, feasts at Thanksgiving and Christmas, City feast on Cape Prince of Wales Day on April 16, in 2010 school obtained an bi-lingual bi-cultural teacher, 4<sup>th</sup> of July games and cookout, special kids parties on Easter and Valentines, local Walk for Life event in 2010 and 2011, school berry picking outings, annual school village clean up, annual IGAP village cleanup, school teaches kids to help elders, school pays elders to come tell stories, Kingikmiut Dance group



**City “Igloo” building, now used only for storage. The city has plans to demolish this building.**

purchased new regalia, Wellness meetings with Evon Peter, school picnic, NSHC picnic

- Job training and local hire efforts – Assist Training (suicide prevention), financial literacy training, QuickBooks training, IRA council training, BIA providers training, ATCEM IGAP environmental training, 8a contracting training for the Wales Native Corp., tourism training in Nome, AFN (elders and youth), EMT training, CHAPS training for health aides, boiler repair and maintenance, water plant training, AVEC training
- Tribal and local government – Wellness grant from Kawerak, Kawerak grant writer assistance contract, NSEDC funded items for the Dance festival, diabetes grant from NSHC, stimulus funds for energy project, NSEDC community benefits share for bulk fuel purchase
- Natural Resources – geologists estimated the life of the current gravel at Boulder Creek site and explored potential new sites, test fishing trips by NSEDC
- Harbor – Draft regional harbor study
- Tourism and business development –tourism training in Nome, continued Kingikmiut Dance group and annual dance festival, tourism group formed in 2011 to begin local tourism planning
- Communications – new post master, cell phones, faster internet, monthly school newsletter, CB’s for the boats
- Environmental – annual IGAP cleanup, backhaul program, old home demolitions in 2009 – 2010, cemetery renovations, dump cleanup, school clean up, NSEDC beach cleanup, creek cleanup, water sampling, stickleback testing, marine mammal tests, UAF soil and plant sampling, air quality testing in 2008, National Guard soil sampling in 2010 after fuel leak
- Health – wellness program by Kawerak, ASSIST training, diabetes programs
- Solid Waste – Dump clean up, IGAP snow machine is available to haul trash for families that do not have one, city honey bucket haul pickup 3-4 times a week



**Winton Weyapuk, Jr. sharing a future development project for Wales (Ellen Richard and Lena Sereadlook are seated).**

## Capital Projects and Grants

For more information on a specific project, contact the lead agency.

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/ Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DEC/VS W	2010	Funded	Lagoon Repair and Expansion - Comments: Design & construction of a washeteria, water treatment plant & associated wastewater treatment & disposal systems as the long-term alternative to meeting the sanitation needs.	Preliminary	\$783,990	Beg Date: 7/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	City of Wales
DEC/VS W	2005	Funded	Washeteria Water Supply/Septic System - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: EPA/IG - 2005 - \$168,700.	Preliminary	\$225,000	1-Nov-08	
BIA	2001	Funded	Road to Tin City, Ph I - Comments: 6.5 mi. to Tin City to access dock & airport.	Completed	\$9,000,000	2007	Kawerak
DEC/VS W	2000	Funded	Solid Waste Improvement Plan. Comments : Solid Waste Improvement Plan.	Preliminary	\$112,986	Start 6/1/2004, End 9/1/2005	
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/ Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor

DCRA	2009	Funded	Heavy Equipment Purchase - Comments: Legislative Grant	Contract	\$300,000	Appropriation Date 4/13/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	City of Wales
HUD	2009	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Contract	\$126,175		Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
HUD	2008	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Design	\$112,569		Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
DCRA	2009	Funded	Community Facilities Repair and Maintenance and Equipment and Parts Purchase - Comments: Legislative	Construction	\$57,646		City of Wales
ANTHC	2008	Funded	Well Water Supply Main	Construction	\$418,020		
HUD	2007	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds Indian Housing Block Grant	Construction	\$130,446		Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Project Description/ Comments</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Contractor</b>

DEC/VS W	2004	Funded	Connect two wells to the WTP.	Construction	\$384,700	Start 6/1/2005, End 9/1/2006	
AEA-AEEE	2003	Funded	Village-Sized Wind-Diesel Systems - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: USDOE, ASTF, AVEC, KEA. Development of high penetration system in Wales. Project is designed to develop and test system that will maximize the displacement of diesel fuel by wind energy. Diesel fuel displacement is expected to be 40 to 50% for power production, with excess energy used to provide heat at the school.	Construction	\$1,437,000		Statewide application
AEA-AEEE	1997	Funded	Install 150 KW Windpower Project - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: EPA \$289; U.S. Dept. of Energy \$132K; Kotzebue and AVEC funds \$90K	Construction	\$688,797		Kotzebue Electric Association
<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Project Description/ Comments</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Contractor</b>

DCRA	2006	Funded	City Facilities Repair and Maintenance - Comments: Legislative Grant	Completed	\$25,000	Closed 7/15/08	City of Wales
HUD	2006	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Completed	\$129,826		Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
DCRA	2006	Funded	Community Facilities and Equipment - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$50,176	Closed 6/30/07	City of Wales
HUD	2005	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Completed	\$128,307		Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
HUD	2004	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Completed	\$138,496		Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
HUD	2003	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Completed	\$153,264		Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Project Description/ Comments</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Contractor</b>

DEC/VS W	2003	Funded	Sanitation Facilities Improvement Project - Comments: IHS Housing - 2003 - \$97,120Sanitati on Facilities Improvement Project	Completed	\$97,120	15-Nov-04	
DCRA	2003	Funded	CP&I/Street Upgrades - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$26,316		City of Wales
DEC/VS W	2003	Funded	Razorback Water Transmission Line - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: EPA/IG - 2003 - \$180,000. Construct 5200' raw water transmission line and well structure.	Completed	\$240,000	1-Sep-05	
FAA	2002	Funded	Airport Snow Removal Equipment - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: AKDOT/PF	Completed	\$1,269,4 96	Closed Date 1/24/06	AKDOT/PF
DCRA	2002	Funded	Emergency Service Equipment Purchase - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$18,350		City of Wales
<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Project Description/ Comments</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Contractor</b>

Denali	2002	Funded	Bulk Fuel Business Plan and Conceptual Design - Comments: Other Funding = AVEC \$5,000.	Completed	\$5,250		AVEC
HUD	2002	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Completed	\$136,927		
ANTHC	2002	Funded	Pumphouse and Watering Point - Comments: IHS \$112.9. Two ground water wells were drilled and test pumped in July 2001. This project will construct a large pump house with a watering point and a small wellhead enclosure over these wells. In addition, a power line to the well site will be installed.	Completed	\$112,986	Start 06/01/04, End 09/01/05	
FAA	2002	Funded	Rehabilitate Snow Removal Equipment Building - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: AKDOT/PF	Completed	\$488,581	Closed Date 1/24/06	AKDOT/PF
<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Project Description/Comments</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Contractor</b>

DCRA	2001	Funded	CF&E/Dumpsite Improvement - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$5,658		City of Wales
EDA	2001	Funded	Multi-purpose Community Center - Comments: Norton Sound Fisheries Disaster Multi-purpose Community Center	Completed	\$1,000,000	April 2001- May 2004	

## 2.2 Planning Committee & Staff Description

Realizing that changes within the community and some current public service facilities is not adequate to achieve program parity, the City of Wales and the Wales IRA Council held a public joint meeting on Jan. 13, 2011 to discuss and analyze how current infrastructure affects residents of Wales. The conclusion of the joint session was to update the top priorities and update the Local Economic Development Plan for the community. With assistance from Kawerak’s Community Planning and Development Program staff, public planning workshops were held and a draft was written and presented to the councils and public for review on April 28, 2011. After some edits the plan with the approved priorities was published in June 2011.



Joanne Keyes sharing a future development project idea for Wales.

## 2.3 Method for Plan Development and Components

The planning organizations in Wales sought a strategic planning process based upon:

- Technology of Participation methods developed by *the Institute of Culture Affairs*
- Denali Commission, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Alaska Humanities Forum *Community Strategic Plan Guide*
- Rural Alaska Community Action Program, *Let Your Assets Be Your Guide*

These methods are proven effective in encouraging full participation from diverse groups and are best applied within community-based settings. This process was

implemented among the participant's by first brainstorming ideas individually, then sharing ideas through small 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 bringing a different insight, perspective and knowledge that formulates the larger picture
- Respect: respecting and honoring each person's views and ideas, empowering each other
- Teamwork: each person working 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, keeping our eyes open to 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.

- LEPD Vision, Values and Goals - Developed the direction for the community's social and economic development with an overall vision, guiding community values, and development goals
- Implementation Strategies - Created strategic action plans 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



Foundational values of the session, focus question, and sorted projects completed or ongoing from the 2004-2009 plan.

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



## 2.4 Comprehensive Development Status

As a second-class city in the unorganized borough, the city of Wales has optional powers under the state law for planning, platting, and land use regulation within municipal boundaries. The City of Wales has assumed some of these powers. As the federally recognized governing body of the tribal members of Wales, Alaska, the Native Village of Wales IRA Council shares some of these responsibilities and powers.

Frank Louis Adloot and Grandma Edna Oquilluk

A Community and Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a regional economic development plan, was updated for the Bering Strait Region communities in 2009 by the Bering Straits Development Council. This document can be found at:

<http://www.kawerak.org/servicedivisions/csd/cpd/index.html>.

Wales regularly updates Local Economic Development Plans. Many priorities set in these plans turned into successfully completed development projects. The new priorities for the Local Economic Development Plan were approved by the Wales Joint Council on April 28, 2011.

### Jointly Approved 2011-2016 Priority List for Wales

1. Bulk fuel
2. Airport upgrade, crosswind runway and roads
3. Build new clinic and washeteria
4. Honeybucket Lagoon and dumpsite
5. Seawall, boat harbor, and fishing
6. Cemetery
7. Repair housing
8. Public safety
9. Heavy equipment storage
10. Water and sewer, water line
11. Renovate church, teen center
12. Long and short term housing
13. New power plant
14. Mining



Top priority recommendations from community planning workshop.

### 3.0 Community Descriptions

#### 3.1 Location

Wales, also known as Kingigin, is located on Cape Prince of Wales, at the western tip of the Seward Peninsula, 111 miles northwest of Nome and 26 miles from Little Diomed.



Sunset in Wales

The area encompasses 2.8 sq. miles of land

#### 3.2 History and Culture

##### History of Wales

A burial mound of the "Birnik" culture (500 A.D. to 900 A.D.) was discovered near Wales and is now a national landmark. In 1827 the Russian Navy reported the Eskimo villages of "Eidamoo" near the coast and "King-a-ghe" further inland. In 1890, the American Missionary Association established a mission here, and in 1894 a reindeer station was organized. A post office was established in 1902.

Wales became a major whaling center due to its location along migratory routes,

and it was the region's largest and most prosperous village, with more than 500 residents. The influenza epidemic in 1918-19 claimed the lives of many of Wales' finest whalers.



The traditional form of government that existed for countless generations was re-organized as "The Native Village of Wales" in 1939 under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA).

The City was incorporated in 1964. Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), the Wales Native Corporation was formed in 1973.

**Naomi Oxereok, daughter of Danitra Oxereok**

Wales is connected to Tin City by 6.5 miles road. Tin City has a deep water port and is used to unload heavy equipment and building materials for Wales that are then transported via the road. In the winter trails are made across the tundra and ice for travel by snow machine to Shishmaref, Teller, Brevig Mission, and Nome. The rivers, lagoons, and the ocean are used for travel in winter and summer. Local airlines provide service to the community of Wales with year-around, weather permitting.

Wales struggles to maintain their traditional culture, their language, and their subsistence lifestyle based upon marine mammals. Wales has a strong traditional Kingikmiut Eskimo whaling culture. Ancient songs, dances, and customs are still practiced. In the summer, residents travel between the two villages of Diomede and Wales in aluminum and a few large traditional skin boats. The sale or importation of alcohol is banned in the village.

The economy of Wales is based on subsistence hunting and fishing, trapping, and Native arts and crafts. A private reindeer herd is managed out of Wales and local residents are employed to assist in the harvest. Whales, walrus, polar bear, moose, musk ox, caribou, clam, crab, salmon, and other fish are utilized.

### Tin City History

Tin ore was discovered there on Cape Mountain 1902. A mining camp was established at the base of the mountain in 1903 and the Tin City post office was opened in 1904. By 1907 it had a few widely scattered houses and two companies operating out of the village. It was later used by the Air Force as a long-range radar station for air defense surveillance. The original radar was built in the early 1950s. A modernized system, comparable to the North Warning System sites in Canada and



Tin City

along the northern coast of Alaska, was installed in the 1980s under the "Seek Igloo" program. It is still maintained and operated by the military and is also used as a weather station. The private 4708 by 100 foot runway is maintained and used regularly.

### Brief History of Reindeer in the Seward Peninsula

In the 1800s, whaling ships traveled in the Bering Sea trading goods for meat and hides. With the development of plastics and petroleum products commercial whaling declined. However, animal populations had been severely impacted, leaving the Alaskan Natives at risk for subsistence resources. By 1888, reports of starvation among Alaskan Natives reached Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the Commissioner of Education in Alaska. He received approval from Congress to introduce reindeer into Alaska. In 1891 he purchased 16 reindeer from Siberia and shipped them to Amaknak Island. Then in 1892 he brought 171 more.



The Ongtowsruk family owns a reindeer herd.

Siberian and later Scandinavian families were employed as herding instructors. The Scandinavians introduced dogsleds as a means of transportation. Congress appropriated funds from 1896 until 1902 to purchase more reindeer for the Seward Peninsula and western Alaska. In 1898 Jackson ordered a drive of over 400 reindeer to an ice-bound ship of starving sailors.

After the discovery of gold in Nome in 1898, there was a large demand for meat. Jackson used reindeer as a means for teaching Native Alaskans English. A reindeer apprentice received several head for each year of his schooling, and new herders were loaned enough reindeer to increase his herd to 50. In 1906 the government set a policy of placing more reindeer into Native ownership, and by 1913, Alaskan Natives owned over 65% of the reindeer in Alaska. By the late 1920s there were over 400,000 reindeer in western Alaska. Populations peaked at 640,000 in the 1930s! In 1937, the Reindeer Act restricted ownership to Native Alaskans. By 1950 there were about 50,000 reindeer, a decline due to the harsh winter of 1938-39, losses to migrating caribou, predation by wolves, and inefficient management of herds.

In the 1960s there was a gradual selection of Native Alaskan owners to become private reindeer herders with designated ranges. In 1968, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) became responsible for range management and modern range techniques were applied. Reindeer herding in Alaska has been a cultural and traditional mainstay in many western villages. The traditions surrounding reindeer herding and the use of their products continues today. Wales has one herd managed by the Ongtowsruk family.

Currently, there are approximately 20 reindeer herders and 20,000 reindeer in western Alaska. These herders belong to the Reindeer Herders Association, which is part of the Kawerak, Inc. Natural Resources Division. This program provides assistance in the development of a viable reindeer industry to enhance the economic base for rural Alaska and to improve the management of the herds.

#### *The Gilley Affair*

According to the book entitled “The Eskimos of the Bering Strait 1650-1898” by Dorothy Jean Ray, in 1877 there was an incident called the “Gilley Affair” where commercial whalers claimed that a 14-30 intoxicated Wales residents and tribal leaders met a whaling ship at sea via small boats and tried to seize the ship. They were clubbed, shot to death, or drowned by falling overboard during the altercation with the whaling crew. There are many versions of the account that do not coincide with the local knowledge. There is a local monument of whale bones that was erected in memory of those who died in the incident. There is local interest in renovating the monument and placing a written memorial there to mark the history of the tragedy.

### Introduction of Muskox

The return of muskox to Alaska is applauded as an important success story in wildlife conservation. The number of muskox had greatly reduced worldwide which led to a move to restore protected populations to Alaska. In the 1930's, 34 muskoxen captured in Greenland were brought to Fairbanks and later moved to Nunivak Island where they adapted, thrived and



**Muskox numbers have increased in the Bering Strait.**

increased to about 750 by 1968. In the 1960's animals were transported to other areas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Thompson, the Seward Peninsula, Nelson Island, Wrangell Island, and even the Taimyr Peninsula in Russia. In 1990, approximately 2,220 free-ranging muskox resided in Alaska with about 700 on the Seward Peninsula. Despite increased numbers, only 2 to 7 residents of Wales benefit annually by obtaining a muskox for subsistence use, because only a limited number of hunting permits are issued and these sometimes go to outsiders. The muskox also trample or compete with the moose, reindeer, caribou, and humans for tundra vegetation, greens, wild onions, and berries.

### Formerly Used Defense Sites near Wales

Prior to World War II U.S. Military presence in the Bering Strait Region was limited to Fort St. Michael, established in 1897 during the gold rush. World War II caused a massive expansion of military activity in the region. The "lend lease" program in 1941 was designed and provided over 8,000 aircraft to England and Russian for the war efforts, via a network of transport from Montana to Fairbanks. Nome became a refueling, weather station, radio relay hub for this network. After the attack the relay stations in this region became early warning stations manned with over 40,000 troops.

After the war, beginning the mid 1950's, the U.S. Army constructed a series of radar stations and Alaska Integrated Communication and Electronic "White Alice" sites in the Norton Sound region to monitor Soviet Aircraft. Each of the 49 sites operated a very inefficient system that consumed enough power each day to supply 25,000 homes. In 1962 the U.S Air Force took over maintenance, and in 1974 it was contracted out to Alascom. The communication systems were replaced by satellites in 1981. One by one, the sites were de-commissioned or demolished. From 1957-1959 the U.S. Air Force sought to establish 23 emergency survival caches. Some were never built and all were abandoned by 1961. There were also plans to build 3 secret airbases in the Norton Sound region with the code name NAM which was never completed. Preliminary equipment and supplies were abandoned at these sites. Items that were left behind at various sites included brake fluid, fuel drums and tanks, anti-freeze, PCB's, and transformers.

In 1984 a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) cleanup program began. There are about 2 dozen sites identified in this region, but the program is underfunded and cleanup efforts are often slow and incomplete. There are 7 identified sites listed near Wales and Tin City. (See page 57-58 for more details)

### **3.3 Government, Corporations, and Service Providers**

#### **3.3.1 Wales IRA Council**

The federally recognized Wales IRA Council was organized in 1939 and conducts tribal government affairs for their membership in the village. The Council owns IRA building and 2 connexes for storage. They operate the ANICA grocery store, sell fuel and gas, have bingo, sell pull tabs and raffles, and operate an EPA/IGAP environmental program. They also host sewing nights, and support the Kingikmiut Dance Group. The Council works closely with Kawerak, Inc., the regional non-profit Native organization.



**Wales Native Store**

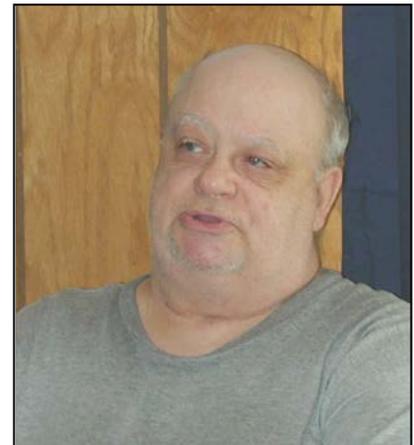
Native Village of Wales  
P.O. Box 549, Wales, AK 99783  
Ellen Richard, President  
Phone: 907-664-3062, Fax: 664-2200

#### **Native Village of Wales IRA Council Members-2011**

President - Ellen J. Richard  
Vice President - Debra Seetook  
Treasurer - Winton Weyapuk Jr.  
Secretary - Anna M. Oxereok  
Member - Frank K. Oxereok Jr.  
Member - Kelly A. Anungazuk  
Member - Sherman E. Richard

#### **3.3.2 City of Wales**

The City was incorporated as a second-class city within an unorganized borough in 1964 and collects and 3% sales tax. City owned/operated services include the washeteria, water and sewer, landfill, heavy equipment operations, and public safety (fire, and search and rescue), and maintain the clinic. The sell washeteria tokens, pull tabs, operate a small store and maintain the roads.



**Mayor Frank Crisci**

City of Wales  
P.O. Box 489, Wales, AK 99783  
Frank Crisci, Phone and fax: 907-664-3501

<b>Mayor</b> (term as mayor ends):	<b>The Honorable Frank Crisci</b> (2012)
<b>City Council</b> (term ends):	Frank Crisci, Mayor (2012) Luther Komonaseak (2012) Matilda Crisci (2011) Lucy Kitchen (2011) Debra Seetook (2011) Michael Ahkinga (2011) Christine Komonaseak (2011)
<b>Advisory Education Committee :</b>	Lena Sereadlook Ellen Jane Richard Debbie Seetook George Johnson Woodrow Kitchen
<b>Municipal Employees:</b>	
Fire Chief	Michael Ahkinga
City Clerk	Florence Seetook
Manager	Frank Crisci
Bookkeeper	Florence Seetook
Public Works	Larry Sereadlook
Washeteria Janitor	Brian Weyapuk
Clinic Janitor	Marie Ningealook
Maintenance	Stanley Milligrock
Animal Control	
Honey Bucket Haul	

The following priorities for FY 2012 were approved for the City of Wales during a regular meeting of the City Council on May, 26, 2011.

1. Wales clinic repair and renovation
2. Sewer and Water – or an appropriate way to handle grey water and waste
3. Repair water transmission line and plan new washeteria
4. New water source or bring present source up to code
5. Address erosion issues at the cemetery site
6. Establish new landfill and cover old dump
7. Construct new Honey Bucket Haul lagoon
8. New City office building
9. New community building
10. Installation of new cable system (television)
11. New equipment for Fire department and search and rescue
12. Renovate City trailer
13. Renovate City water tank – paint
14. Transportation – village to airport, airport to village
15. Disaster and safety shelter
16. Purchase of trailer for hauling materials from Tin City (towed by loader)
17. Playground and recreation area

### **Wales Planning Organizations**

Wales IRA Council	Kawerak’s Community Planning and Development Program
City of Wales	Wales Native Corporation

### **State of Alaska Services & Facilities:**

Court/Magistrate: State of Alaska, Nome Courts, Nome  
Troopers: State of Alaska, Nome

#### **3.3.3 Wales Native Corporation**

The village corporation established under ANSCA is the Wales Native Corporation. This for-profit corporation rents a 4-plex to the school district for the teacher housing, operates a store, rents snow machines, 4-wheelers, trailer and sled, and sells gravel. They also own some non operational cable TV equipment which needs to be upgraded or repaired.



**Teacher Housing is owned by the Wales Native Corporation**

Wales Native Corporation  
P.O. Box 529, Wales, AK 99783

Winton Weyapuk, Jr., President  
Phone and fax: 907-664-3641

**Corporation Employees:**

General manager – Terry Crisci  
Land manager Sean  
Komonaseak  
2 store clerks and 1 alternate  
2 maintenance staff



**Wales Native Corporation cable TV equipment needs to be upgraded or repaired.**

**Wales Corporation Board-2011**

President	Winton Weyapuk, Jr.
Vice President	Joanne Keyes
Secretary	Ellen Richard
Treasurer	Lucy Kitchen
Member	Larry Sereadlook
Member	Davis Ongtawasruk
Member	Christine Komonaseak

### 3.3.4 Regional Corporations

Wales is served by several regional corporations, which are located in Nome or Anchorage.

#### *Local and Regional Government Contacts*

<p>City of Wales Frank Crisci, Mayor <a href="mailto:cityofwales@yahoo.com">cityofwales@yahoo.com</a> P.O. Box 489, Wales, AK 99783 907-664-3501 or Fax: 907-664-3062 Law Enforcement/Fire Propane Sales Pulltabs/Store Washeteria Water Plant Landfill Garage/Storage Buildings</p>	<p>Kawerak, Incorporated P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5231, Fax: 907-443-4452 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:pmikulski@kawerak.org">pmikulski@kawerak.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.kawerak.org">http://www.kawerak.org</a> Tribal Coordinator – 907-664-3062 Fam. Tribal Coordinator – 907-664-2185 Head Start Program– 907-664-3981 Bering Strait Development Council – 907-443-4248 Natural Resources Education, Employment and Job Training Children and Family Services Transportation Administration</p>
<p>Native Village of Wales/IRA Council Ellen Richards, President <a href="http://www.kawerak.org/tribalHomePages/wales/index.html">http://www.kawerak.org/tribalHomePages/wales/index.html</a> P.O. Box 549, Wales, AK 99783 Phone: 907-664-3062 EPA/IGAP, Winton Weyapuk, Jr. Phone: 664-2335 Bingo/Pulltabs/Raffles, Kelly Anungazuk Fuel Sales</p>	<p>Wales Native Corporation Winton Weyapuk, Jr., President Terry Crisci, General Manager Sean Komonaseak, Land Manager <a href="mailto:tcrisci_wnc@yahoo.com">tcrisci_wnc@yahoo.com</a> P.O. Box 529, Wales, AK 99783 Phone and fax: 907-664-3641 Terry Crisci, Store: 907-664-2350 Cable TV Trailer, 907-664-6534</p>
<p>Bering Straits Native Corp. P.O. Box 1008 Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5252 Fax: 907-443-2985 Web: <a href="http://www.beringstraits.com/">http://www.beringstraits.com/</a></p>	<p>Norton Sound Health Corporation P.O. Box 966, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-3311, Fax: 907-443-3139 Web: <a href="http://nortonsoundhealth.org/">http://nortonsoundhealth.org/</a> Wales Health Clinic, Tanya Pelowook Phone: 907-664-3311, Fax: 664-2135 Village Based Counselor, Ellen Richard Phone: 664-2177, Fax: 664-2178</p>
<p>Alaska State Troopers P.O. Box 1050, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-443-2835 <a href="http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/">http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/</a></p>	<p>Norton Sound Economic Dev. Corp. 601 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 415 Anchorage, AK 99503 1-800-650-2248 Web: <a href="http://www.nsedc.com">http://www.nsedc.com</a></p>

### 3.3.5 Other Product or Service Providers

<p>AT&amp;T Alascom 505 East Bluff Drive Anchorage, AK 99501-1100 1-800-252-7266 <a href="http://www.attalasc.com/">http://www.attalasc.com/</a></p>	<p>GCI, Cable P.O. Box 274, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-800-4800 residential 1-800-800-7754 business <a href="http://www.gci.net">http://www.gci.net</a></p>
<p>Mukluk Telephone Co./TelAlaska 1-800-478-7055 1-907-563-2008 Anchorage 1-888-797-5200 Long Distance 1-907-563-2023 Anchorage</p>	<p>Starband, Stargate Alaska – Kenneth Hughes 1-800-4STARBAND Box 1430, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5130 or 304-2175 <a href="mailto:nanuaq@StarBand.net">nanuaq@StarBand.net</a></p>
<p>Hughs Net <a href="http://www.hughesnet.com/">http://www.hughesnet.com/</a> 1-866-627-5932 Alaska Satellite Internet 1-888-396-5623 Fairbanks</p>	<p>Dish Network <a href="http://www.dishnetwork.com/">http://www.dishnetwork.com/</a> 1-888-284-7116 current customers 1-888-825-2557 new customers</p>
<p>Alaska Rural Communication Serv. (ARCS) <a href="http://www.arcstv.org/">http://www.arcstv.org/</a>, Box 200009, Anchorage, Alaska 99520 888-840-0013 or 907-277-6380 or <a href="mailto:steve@akpb.org">steve@akpb.org</a> (technical) 907-277-6300 ext 6002 or <a href="mailto:kim@akpb.org">kim@akpb.org</a> (programming)</p>	<p>Wales Airport Manager P.O. Box 484 Wales, AK 99783 907-664-3471, Daniel Richard, Sr.</p>
<p>Bering Air P.O. Box 1650, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-478-5422 <a href="http://www.beringair.com/">http://www.beringair.com/</a> 907-664-3371, Debra Seetook</p>	<p>Evergreen Helicopters 1936 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, AK. 907-257-1500 Anchorage 907-443-5334 Nome, AK 99762 907-664-0012, Clyde Oxereok <a href="http://www.evergreeaviation.com">www.evergreeaviation.com</a></p>
<p>Northern Air Cargo/Everts Air Cargo P.O. Box 790, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-7348 <a href="http://www.nacargo.com">www.nacargo.com</a></p>	<p>ERA P.O. Box 7660, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2414 <a href="http://www.flyera.com">www.flyera.com</a></p>
<p>City of Wales Store P.O. Box 489, Wales, AK 99783 907-664-3501</p>	<p>Ryan Air Nome, AK 99762 907-664-0013, Ken Anungazuk <a href="http://www.ryanair.com">www.ryanair.com</a></p>
<p>Niviniagvik Store (Corp) P.O. Box 529, Wales, AK 99783 Terry Crisci, Store: 907-664-2350</p>	<p>Wales Native Store (IRA) P.O. Box 549, Wales, AK 99783 Phone: 664-3351, Fuel: 664-2138</p>
<p>Sherman’s Market P.O. Box 532, Wales, AK 99783 907-634-1020</p>	<p>Alaska Native Industries Coop. Assoc., Inc. (ANICA, store), 4634 E. Marginal Way S #200, Seattle, WA 98134-2398 206-767-0333</p>

**Other Product or Service Providers – Continued**

Bering Straits Regional Housing Auth. P.O. Box 995 Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5256 Fax: 907-443-8652	Kawerak’s Head Start Program P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762 Head Start Program– 907-664-3981
Bering Straits School District P.O. Box 225, Unalakleet, AK 99684 907-624-3611, <a href="http://www.bssd.org">http://www.bssd.org</a> Wales School P.O. Box 490, Wales, AK 99783 907-644-3021 HS, 907-664-3031 fax	University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus Pouch 400, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-8400 <a href="http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/">http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/</a>
Education Advisory Council P.O. Box 490, Wales, AK 99783 907-644-3021	Elwood’s Place (Eddie Ongtowasruk) P.O. Box 493, Wales, AK 99783 907-634-1040
Thornton Memorial Lutheran Church P.O. Box 537, Wales, AK 99783 907-664-3481, or 907-634-1029 Dilbert Oxereok, Lay Pastor	Crowley Marine Services, Inc. P.O. Box 700, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2484 <a href="http://www.crowley.com/fuel-sales-distribution/Nome.asp">http://www.crowley.com/fuel-sales-distribution/Nome.asp</a>
Northland Services 21 West 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5738	Alaska Logistics P.O. Box 3512, Seattle, WA 98124 866-585-3281
Wales Whaling Captain’s Association P.O. Box 541, Wales, AK 99783 907-664-2200 or 907-664-3871 Winton Weyapuk, Jr., President	Alaska Power Association 703 W. Tudor Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99503 (907) 561-5547
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. 4831 Eagle St, Anchorage, AK 99503 1-907-561-1818	Bering Sea Women’s Group P.O. Box 1596, Nome AK 99762 907-443-5491
Conner Thomas, Attorney P.O. Box 61, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5226	Johnson’s CPA LLC P.O. Box 1085, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5565
Alaska Dept. of Motor Vehicles P.O. Box 1049, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2350	Alaska Department of Transportation P.O. Box 1048, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-3444
Alaska Legal Services P.O. Box 2230, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2234	Alaska Nanuaq Commission P.O. Box 5044. Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5044, fax 907-443-5060
District Attorney P.O. Box 160, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2296	Elections Office P.O. Box 577, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5285

**Other Product or Service Providers – Continued**

Anvil Mountain Correctional Facility P.O. Box 730, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2241	Seaside Corrections P.O. Box 2129, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-6390
Nome Youth Facility P.O. Box 1750, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5434	Alaska Fish and Game Dept. P.O. Box 1148, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2825
Alaska Dept. of Family and Youth Services P.O. Box 5247, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5247	Nome Job Center P.O. Box 161, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2626
TUMET Industries LLC P.O. Box 1509, Nome, AK 99762 907-387-0630	Alaska National Guard P.O. Box 2831, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-47-2400
Quality Auto Parts/CarQuest P.O. Box 1269, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2886	Builder's Industrial Supply P.O. Box 947, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2234
Outsiders P.O. Box 415, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2108	Alaska Commercial P.O. Box 670, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2243
Nome Trading Company P.O. Box 1390, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-4856	Hanson's Carr's Safeway P.O. Box 1835, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5454
Airport Pizza P.O. Box 1664, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-7992	Milano's Pizza P.O. Box 904, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2924
Wells Fargo Bank P.O. Box 1469, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2223	Credit Union 1 P.O. Box 1105, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-478-2222
KICY P.O. Box 820, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2213	KNOM P.O. Box 988, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5221
Morgan's Snowmachine and Sales P.O. Box 1070, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2155	Wilderness Skidoo P.O. Box 912, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5519
Nome Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 250, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-3879	Nome Visitor's Center P.O. Box 240, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2911
Nome Nugget Newspaper P.O. Box 610, Nome, AK 99762 907-4435235	Nome Veterinary Hospital P.O. Box 1164, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2800
US Natural Resources Conservation Service P.O. Box 1009, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-6096	US Rural Development P.O. Box 1569, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-6023

### Other Product or Service Providers – Continued

US Customs & Border Patrol P.O. Box 1570, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2143	US Federal Aviation Administration P.O. Box 1997, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2502
US Fish and Wildlife Service P.O. Box 2030, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2479	US National Park Service P.O. Box 220, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2522
US Bureau of Land Management P.O. Box 995, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2177	US National Weather Service P.O. Box 1170, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-2321
U.S Post Office, Wales, AK 99783 907-664-3331 907-443-2401 Nome	Search and Rescue-U.S. Coast Guard 1-800-478-5555, <a href="http://www.uscg.mil/D17/">http://www.uscg.mil/D17/</a>
VFW Post 9869 P.O. Box 1776, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-7927	Nome Courts P.O. Box 2110, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5216

### 3.4 Community Infrastructure

#### 3.4.1 Housing

One new home was built in the last 5 years, but there is still overcrowding and a great need for temporary housing for short term and long term guests. Older homes have mold and other maintenance issues. Many homes need better heating systems and to deal with permafrost issues better.



**Newer housing units in Lot 55.**



**Vacant house is a newer home which the siding has blown off of during storms.**



**Tanya Pelwook's house has experienced the same problem.**

While population trends are steady, the housing units are aging in the community and need to be replaced.

The following housing data is from the 2010 U.S. Census, and based on a total population of 145 in 2010. Additional detail will be available from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Census and Geographic Information Network and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder.

**Housing Units**

Area	Total	Occupied	Vacant
Wales	51	43	8

**Housing Characteristics in 2000 based on population of 152:**

<b>Total Housing Units:</b>	<b>59</b>
Occupied (Households):	50
Vacant Housing:	9
Vacant Due to Seasonal Use:	1
Owner-Occupied Housing:	33
Median Value Owned Homes:	\$65,000
Renter-Occupied Housing:	17
Median Rent Paid:	\$400
Total Households:	50
Avg. Household Size:	3.04
Family Households:	28
Avg. Family Household Size:	4.43
Non-Family Households:	22
Pop. Living in Households:	152

The following Census figures are estimates, based on a sample. The percent of all households sampled in Wales during the 2000 Census was 49.2%.

**Housing Structure Types in 2000:**

Single Family (Detached):	53
3 or 4 Units:	4

**Plumbing/Kitchen/Phones/Heating in 2000:**

Total Households:	50
-------------------	----

Percent of Households That Lack Complete Plumbing (lack sink, bath/shower or flush toilet):	95.9%
Lack a Complete Kitchen (lack stove, fridge or running water):	95.9%
Lack Phone Service:	16.3%
Heat Using Electricity:	0.0%
Heat Using Fuel Oil, Kerosene:	100.0%
Heat Using Other:	0.0%
Use No Fuel:	0.0%



**Wales School**

### 3.4.2 Schools

**School/Education/Library** - The Bering Strait School District operates schools in 15 villages in the Bering Strait region. The student population is 99% Alaska Native, and the student/teacher ratio is 6.3. The dropout rate for 9-12 grades is 10.5%. In 2009 the expense per student annually was \$25,792.

In 2009 there were 33 students and 9 teachers in the K-12 Wales Schools. The Kawerak Head Start program has 7 students and 1 teacher, and 2 teacher aides. University of Alaska Fairbanks-Northwest Campus provides distance delivery college classes.

The Wales schools need more teachers, more bilingual and cultural programs, more Native teachers, and more after school activities. There is a great need for job training and technical skills classes taught at the local level.



**Wales washeteria and water tank**



**Honey bucket pick up site. The City is running out of usable bins and needs to purchase more.**

### 3.4.3 Water and Sewer

Two new groundwater wells have been drilled. A new pump house and  
Wales Local Economic Development Plan 2011- 2016

watering point enclosure was built for it. A new transmission line is needed. Currently, water is derived from Gilbert Creek during the summer, and residents haul treated water from a 500,000-gallon storage tank at the washeteria. Some use untreated water from Qargitzamiut and Village Creeks. Almost all residents and local entities use honeybuckets. A city-owned honeybucket haul system is in place. The City of Wales has a need to obtain more Honey bucket bins, and is trying to obtain some bins from Village Safe Water. The washeteria, teacher housing, and school are served by piped water. The clinic and IRA buildings are piped for water but need to be repaired and upgraded before they can be used. There are septic systems at the school, teacher's housing, and the clinic. A Master Plan to implement a piped system has been completed.



School water tanks.

**Water Distribution, Source & Treatment Systems:**

Water System Operator:	City
Washeteria Operator:	City
Piped Water System:	No
Central Watering Point (Haul):	Yes
Multiple Watering Points:	No
Water Truck (Delivery):	No
Individual Wells:	No
Community Well Source:	Yes
Surface Water Source:	Yes
DEC Water Permit Number:	340191
Water Is Filtered:	Yes
Water Is Chlorinated:	Yes

**Sewage Collection Systems:**

Sewer System Operator:	City
Piped Sewer System:	No
Honeybucket Haul:	Yes
Honeybucket Pits:	No

Individual Septic Tanks:	Yes
Community Septic Tank:	Yes
Sewage Pumper:	Yes
Sewage Lagoon:	No
Sewage Lift Station:	No
Outhouses:	Yes

### 3.4.4 Landfill

The Class 3, 9932-BA001 landfill is not permitted and is maintained by the City of Wales. The Native Village of Wales operates an EPA/IGAP grant which helps with the annual clean up, recycling, and other environmental issues. There are several abandoned empty AVEC fuel tanks near the airport that need to be removed.



Water drainage is a problem at the dump.



Fences need to be higher and repaired to prevent trash from littering the surrounding tundra.

### 3.4.5 Electricity

Electricity is provided by Alaska Village Electric Cooperative and the City of Wales as a diesel source at 15.43 cents/KWH.



Due to the rising cost of energy, there is local interest in repairing the windmills in Wales which have not been operational for several years.



-Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. - City of Wales - Electric Operator-William Crisci and Brit Oxereok, P.O. Box 489, Phone: 907-664-1818

**Electric Utility:**

Electric Utility Name:	<b>AVEC</b>
Utility Operator:	REA Co-op; City
Power Source:	Diesel
FY 2009 Rate:	64.8 (Only data for PCE Communities is available on this system)
Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Subsidy:	Yes
FY 2009 Total kWh Generated:	593,995 kWh
FY 2009 Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Rate:	49.40 cents/kWh (For consumption up to 500 kWh monthly)
FY 2009 Average Effective Residential Rate:	15.43 cents/kWh

Link to the most current PCE Report: [www.akenergyauthority.org](http://www.akenergyauthority.org)



**Consolidated bulk fuel storage**



**Power plant fuel tanks**

**3.4.6 Fuel**

Local sales by the Native Village of Wales Fuel, Wales IRA Council, P.O. Box 549, 664-2138.

Bulk fuel tanks currently in use:

OWNER	CAPACITY (in gallons)
Bering Straits School District	43,500
AVEC	51,100
City	3,500
National Guard	2,900
IRA	102,200
City of Wales (Water Plant)	7,900

### 3.4.7 Existing Transportation Systems

Wales is accessed by air and sea only. Although there is a 6.5 mile road to Tin City and trails around Wales leading to other places like Shishmaref. There is a State-owned 4,000' gravel airstrip. Scheduled and charter flights are available daily, weather permitting. Heavy freight and cargo is delivered by barge to Tin City and hauled by truck to Wales via the road, which is in dire need of repairs.

There are no roads connecting Wales with any other villages. Because of its location access to Wales is primarily by air and sea. In the winter Wales can also be accessed over land (trails) or sea ice. There are some local roads in the village with culverts to help drainage. The roadways in Wales are typically less than ten feet wide except for the major routes, which are between ten and twenty feet wide. As most of the motor vehicles in the community are snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles, there are few conflicts involving approaching vehicles attempting to pass each other. Local speed limits are not posted. Dust is a growing problem in spring and summer. Dust control on the streets and runway is listed as the community's number three priority. Local roads need maintenance in the spring and fall. There is a need for street lights in the community. The city is seeking ways to improve local trails. There have been some local trail staking efforts. ATVs' are used in summer and snowmobiles are used in winter.



Wale Airport.

Wales's isolated location with no seaport and iced-in conditions during the winter means a daily dependence on air transport. The State-owned 4000 foot long by 100 foot wide gravel airstrip is maintained. Daily air service is available from Nome. Local airlines include Bering Air, Everts, and ERA. A crosswind runway is needed, as well as an enclosed shelter with restroom facilities where customers can wait for flights in foul weather conditions. More transportation staff is needed.

Wales is serviced by different barging companies during the ice-free summer months. Barges cannot currently land at Wales because there is no dock. Supplies are lightered from Nome and offloaded on the beach.

Fuel is delivered to off shore of Wales and transported from the ship to the tanks via long hoses. Aluminum boats are a popular method of sea travel.

The community is interested in the construction of a docking facility for barges and cruise ships, as well as a small boat harbor for local and subsistence use.



Communications facilities and equipment withstands some very harsh winter weather, but is a vital link to the outside.

### 3.4.8 Communications

In-State Phone:	United Utilities
Long-Distance Phone:	AT&T Alascom
Internet Service Provider:	GCI. Inc. – Michael Ahkinga
TV Stations:	ARCS-currently not operating
Radio Stations:	KICY-AM; KNOM-AM, KNSA, KOTZ

Cable Provider:	Dish Network
Teleconferencing:	Alaska Teleconferencing Network
Ham Radios:	Wales Volunteer Fire Department
VHF Radios:	Local camps
Postal Mail:	United State Post Office, Fedex, UPS,
Deliveries:	Alaska Air Gold Streaks, Local airline hand carries

The Wales post office building was built in 2001. Bypass mail is often delayed, lost, or damaged during shipping. The Post Office has an “Incinolet” toilet. It takes about 45 minutes to burn instead of flush. The postal staff did not notice much of an increase in the utility bill after fixing it after a period of disrepair. The operation and maintenance is relatively easy, but they do have to tend to it regularly to keep it functioning properly.



Post Office.

### Alaska Rural Communications Service

\*Information from Wikipedia

#### Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS)

Branding: ARCS

Channels: Analog, see list below

Affiliations: Various

Owner: Alaska Public Broadcasting

Transmitter Owner: State of Alaska

The *Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS)* is a statewide network of low-powered television stations, serving 235 communities throughout the Alaskan Bush areas. The network is based in Anchorage, Alaska and is operated by Alaska Public Broadcasting, a joint venture of Alaska Public Media and AlaskaOne. Programming is beamed via satellite to the rural transmitters owned by the Alaska state government.

Programming on ARCS is a selection of programming from four broadcast networks (NBC, CBS, FOX, MyNetwork TV) and syndication via the Anchorage stations: plus PBS programming from AlaskaOne and KAKM. Anchorage stations provide their programming to ARCS free of charge

with the condition that advertising is allowed to remain. There is currently no ABC or CW programming available on ARCS because KYUR has declined to participate, citing an unwillingness to give their programming away for free.

Even though much of ARCS's programming contains commercials, the operation of ARCS is partially funded by donations from its viewers, just like member stations of PBS.

**List of stations - ARCS is seen on the following low-powered television stations (few residents are able to access ARCS):**

- K13SH Adak
- K12NS Akiak
- K04LK Akutan
- K04ND Alakanuk
- K02KB Allakaket
- K11QI Ambler
- K09RS Anaktuvuk Pass
- K07SS Angoon
- K11QN Aniak
- K04LI Arctic Village
- K04LJ Atka
- K06LG Chuathbaluk
- K06LK Clarks Point, Etc.
- K06LP Circle Hot Springs
- K13RR Tok

### **3.4.9 Health Care**

#### **Health Care:**

Clinic/Hospital: Toby Anungazuk, Sr. Memorial Health Clinic (Wales)

Phone Number: 907-664-3311

Operator: Norton Sound Health Corporation - NSHC (907 443-3311)  
[www.nortonsoundhealth.org](http://www.nortonsoundhealth.org)

Owner: City of Wales

Facility Status: Community Health Aid Program CHAP site

Health Comments: Emergency Services have coastal and air access. Emergency service is provided by a health aide.

The City is the lease holder and holds the contract with IHS. They are responsible for maintenance. ANTHC recently performed a code survey and the City of Wales has sent in letters to State of Alaska concerning clinic needs.

The clinic was built in 1996 and needs to be replaced and relocated. The current entryway needs to be repaired and repositioned and more exits added. The clinic needs more space, better equipment, new vehicles, and faster medivac services for emergencies. Access to Wales is delayed in poor weather which places a strain on the clinic as patients await transport. There is a need for a morgue and

enclosed vehicles for winter (new snowmachine) and summer (boat, ATV and trailer, track vehicle) for ambulance transport of patients.

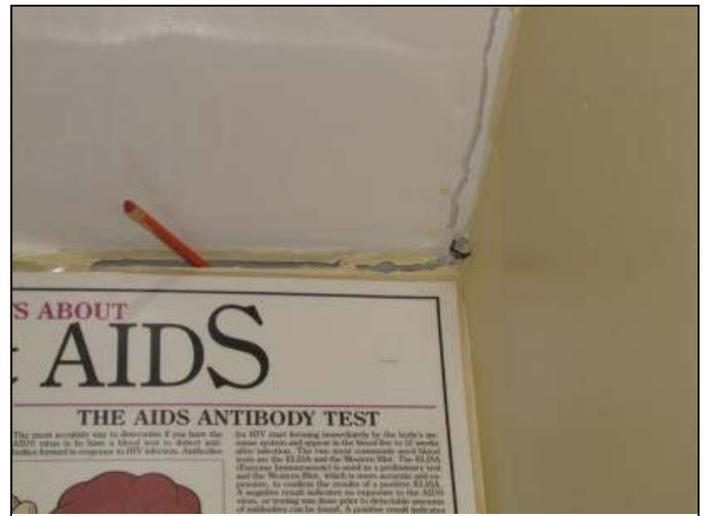
There are two health aides on staff and one travel clerk. A public health nurse comes to administer vaccinations twice annually. A medical doctor and a physical therapist come annually to Wales to see patients. Eye doctors, dentists, and audiologists come annually. It is estimated that 7-10 residents must go to Nome for treatment each month and 2-5 go to Anchorage for treatment each month. Backup generators are needed. There is a great need for more storage areas for supplies and filing areas to keep exam rooms free of clutter. Security cameras and personal pagers are needed to assure the safety of healthcare workers who may need assistance while tending to patients. Phones are needed in all rooms for staff security.



**Toby Anungazuk, Sr. Memorial Clinic.**

The back door of the clinic is drafty to the point of shutting down operations at points during the winter. The door is covered up with a tarp to try and stop the draft but is not an adequate permanent solution. The area fills up with snow to the point of rendering the door inaccessible throughout most of the winter. The building has large cracks that formed soon after the clinic was built and have been widening and spreading since.

For over nine years a large puddle has been forming underneath the building which might be causing some of the structural problems. The clinic has a septic, and the City used to pump it out. This has not been done in several years because the septic pump broke, so the sewage drains no longer work. The clinic uses honey buckets and empties grey water via



**Large cracks in the ceiling of the clinic.**

buckets in the same fashion as the tribe, corporation, and local residents. NSHC is aware of this situation. Patients are transported via personal snow machine with no reimbursement for gas, which is presently \$7.73/gal. The boiler itself does not adequately heat the building so a monitor is used as secondary heating source. Once the vent became clogged with snow and the clinic filled with carbon monoxide. The building was not available for services until the carbon monoxide

was aired from the building. The village looks to the clinic in emergency situations. The health aides at times feel situations are outside their scope and dangerous to them personally. Nevertheless, they are still looked to. In the event of fires, they respond with trauma bags to assist community members that need help. There is no known community emergency plan. Emergency phone numbers are posted at the Native Village of Wales regarding who to call in the event of a fire emergency.

### **Emergency Fire Contact Numbers are: 664-2124 and 634-1004**

Summary of Clinic needs:

1. New Building or major renovation
2. Solve septic issues
3. Better insulation and adequate heat source
4. Vehicle and gas for patient transport
5. Satellite phone needs to be set up
6. Local Law Enforcement or increased clinic security
7. New Locking filing Cabinets
8. File and medicine cabinets - existing cabinets are getting old
9. Bedding
10. Heating lamps in case of birth
11. Washer hooked up and running
12. New Refrigerator
13. Repair back door
14. New gurney
15. Larger dental chair
16. Need for more patient escorts and night watch staff
17. Need for a community holding cell for violent patients
18. Need for extra exam room for visiting dental care, eye care, or specialists.
19. Need for new office chairs, exam room stools, and waiting room chairs
20. Need for a larger trash bin and more regular trash pickup
21. Need for better maintenance and cleaning (insect control, waxed floors, etc.)



**Henry, Debra, Raymond Jr., and Raymond Seetook, Sr. at Raymond Jr.'s graduation.**

### **3.4.10 Municipal Buildings**

City owned sites include: City office building (igloo - used only for storage now), a storage building, city trailer, code red equipment connex, water plant, water tanks, landfill, washeterias, old US Navy buildings, and the clinic. The city offices are small and need a new building.

### 3.4.11 Tribal Buildings

The Native Village of Wales owns the multipurpose building, and two storage connexes. They have three rental rooms for out of town guests, rent office space to other agencies, and rent the community hall for various events.

### 3.4.12 Public Safety

The city works with the Alaska State Troopers on Law Enforcement issues. The community currently has no Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), but the tribe is working with Kawerak to solve holding cell and housing issues so that they can obtain a VPSO in the near future. The Volunteer Fire Department operates under the city of Wales. A local Volunteer Search and Rescue team is active and collaborates with other Search and Rescue teams in the region. Volunteers and local



Wales IRA building and Code Red equipment (foreground).

entities in the community respond to local emergencies as needed. Fire and Search and Rescue equipment are stored in various locations at the city and tribe. The City of Wales has the Code Red equipment and a trailer with a pressurized foam system, but it does not have the tank which is required to operate it. They also have an extra pump. The Code Red equipment doesn't pump very much water, especially if the fire is far from the water source. The equipment has been used once but still has enough material to fight another major fire. The City of Wales wants a system to obtain water via a suction hose from a pond. A system like this would need a submerged source point with a filter to keep it from getting clogged and a two inch hose to fill the pumper and another to fight the fire with.

There are six people on the city insurance to fight fires. Mike Ahkinga is the state recognized fire chief and was sent trained. Steve Shrek with AK State out of Fairbanks is a contact for training related matters with fire fighting and the City of Wales.

**Current Wales Search and Rescue Needs** - President - Rueben Olanna Sr.  
Search and Rescue storage is in the IRA and old city office.  
Call Winton Weyapuk, Jr. (907) 664-2200

- 2 or 3 – 570 Arctic Cat Snowmachines
- 1 – 70 hp Yamaha motor
- 2 – Basket sled for snowmachines
- 2 or 3 – Satellite phones
- 4 to 6 – GPS Garmin type
- 1 – home-based CB with antenna
- 6 to 8 – handheld VHF radios

- 6 – heavy duty sleeping bags
- 8 – 6 gallon gasoline container
- 4 – flash lights
- 10 – head lamps
- 10 – strobe lights
- 8 to 10 – First aid kits
- 4 – dome tents
- 10 to 20 pairs – winter warm gloves
- 10 to 20 pairs – glove liners
- 10 to 20 pairs – warm socks
- 2 – canvas tarps 10 x 12
- 3 – Visquine tarps 10 x 12
- 8 – round shovels
- 3 – camp stoves, 2 burner type, portable hot plates.
- 4 – binoculars Steiners 10 x 20 or 20 x 40
- 4 – water kettles
- 6 – thermos bottles



Karmen Tittle and Vanessa Tingook at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Games, 2009.

### 3.4.13 Libraries and Museums, Cultural Buildings

The school operates the library for the community. It is closed in the summer months unless special arrangements are made to have it open during other times. The tribe is developing a small library for community use at the Community Hall. There are some local cultural events and dances and the annual Wales Dance Festival usually in September. The school and the IRA both have showcases to display local art.



(Left to right) Lorna Smith, Karen Sonray, Vivien Olin, Faye Ongtowasruk, Helen Pootoogooluk, Nellie Weyiouanna, Mary Huntington, Barbara Weyiouanna, Rachel Stasenکو, Loretta Parker, and Lena Sereadlook.

### 3.4.14 Cemeteries and Graves

There is one cemetery and some isolated gravesites in and around Wales and on the mountain. There is a need to re-locate, improve and expand the cemetery and to record names and re-mark graves.



**Thornton Memorial Lutheran Church.**



**School playground equipment.**

### **3.4.15 Public buildings, lands, churches, parks, camps, and recreational areas**

The Native Village of Wales runs the multipurpose building where local events are held. The ocean is used for boating. Village Creek is a local swimming area. Local trails are used for ATV's, snow machines, and hiking. Wales has one church with intermittent vacancies in the pastorate. The Thornton Memorial Lutheran Church building was built in the 1898 and is so energy inefficient that services are held in the parsonage. The community needs a basketball or softball field. The playground is owned by school and needs to be relocated and upgraded with new swings. Various events, picnics or feasts are held outdoors or at the community hall such as the Annual Kingikmiut Dance Festival, annual tribal or corporation meetings, school picnic, NSHC picnic, the city hosted Cape Prince of Wales Day feast, thanksgiving and Christmas feasts, 4<sup>th</sup> of July games, and other events.

## **4.0 Population and Growth Trends**

### **4.1 Wales Census Data**

The following Population data is from the 2010 U.S. Census. Additional detail will be available from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Census and Geographic Information Network and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder.

#### **Population – All Ages**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Race Alone</b>						<b>Two or More Races</b>	<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	
		<b>White</b>	<b>American Indian/ AK Native</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Other</b>		<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Not Hispanic</b>
Wales city	145	9	123	0	0	0	0	13	0	145

### Population – Age 18 and Over

Area	Total	Race Alone						Hispanic/Latino		
		White	American Indian/ AK Native	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More Races	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Wales city	93	9	79	0	0	0	0	5	0	93

Population History			
1880:	400	1950:	141
1890:	488	1960:	128
1900:	0	1970:	131
1910:	337	1980:	133
1920:	136	1990:	161
1930:	170	2000:	152
1940:	193	2010:	145

The 2010 U.S. Census recorded a population of 145 people. Alaska Natives represented 94% of the population.

#### Population by Gender in 2000 Census:

Male: 80  
Female: 72

#### 4.2 Employment and the Economy

The economy of Wales is based on subsistence hunting and fishing, trapping, and Native arts and crafts. A private reindeer herd is managed out of Wales and local residents are employed to assist in the harvest.

The entire population depends on subsistence hunting and fishing activities, which are supplemented by part-time, wage earnings. Year-round jobs are limited; unemployment is high. Most residents spend the entire summer at camps doing subsistence hunting and fishing. Whales, seal, walrus, polar bear, moose, musk ox, caribou, clam, crab, salmon, and other fish are utilized. An increase in the predator population has had a negative effect on the moose populations. Beluga and bowhead whale, caribou, Brandt ducks, geese, and ptarmigan are also utilized. Seafood harvests include: salmon, trout, tom-cod, white fish, herring, flounders, and blue cods. The decline of fishing in 2003 imposed stricter regulations on silver salmon. Several kinds of duck and murre eggs, roots, greens and



Carrie Jean Koenig modeled traditional Wales clothing the 2010 Kawerak Regional Conference.

berries are gathered.

The school, native store, post office, city, IRA, Kawerak, Norton Sound Health Corporation, and airline agents provide the local employment. Construction jobs provide seasonal employment. Ivory and bone carving, sewing, knitting, beading, wood carving, and ulu making contributes some cash for local artists. Reindeer are managed by the Ongtawasruk Family.

**Business Licenses in Wales**

The records below 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



Raymond Seetook Jr., relief substitute at the Wales Native Store.

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Business License Number</b>
City of Wales Store	906609
Elwood's Place	950849
Native Village of Wales	951012
Wales City Council Fuel Sales	946177
Wales Native Corporation	7059
Wales Native Corporation	14008
Wales Native Corporation	14009
Wales Native Corporation	253899
Wales Native Store	292275

*License Search website: <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/search1.htm>*

**5.0 Environmental Scan**

**5.1 Soils and Topography**

Soils typically consist of a thin organic layer (0.5 foot) lying on top of beach sand and lagoon deposits and are generally well drained. Well logs reveal that the city is underlain by 25 to 45 feet of beach and dune sand; coarse gravel and clay underlie the sand. Bedrock in the area is limestone. Wales is located within the zone of continuous permafrost. Permafrost is shallow to deep and has been found at depths of four to six feet locally.

Cape Mountain rises abruptly above Wales (to the southeast) to a height of 2,289 feet

and forms the terminus of the continental divide separating the Arctic and Pacific watersheds. The land to the northeast along the Chukchi Sea is very flat and poorly drained, with numerous thaw ponds and lakes.

Storm surges and wind-driven storm waves are the major causes of coastal flooding at Wales. With the exception of a few buildings on the hillside, the entire village is within the 100 year floodplain. Shoreline erosion and longshore drift are ongoing processes at Wales. They present some problems, but no erosion rate has yet been established.

### 5.2 Vegetation

Vegetation on the Seward Peninsula is principally tundra, with alpine dryas-lichen tundra and barrens at high elevations and moist sedge-tussock tundra at lower elevations. Patches of low-growing ericaceous and willow-birch shrubs occur on better-drained areas. Vegetation consists primarily of sedges, berries, and mosses. Local residents harvest a variety of berries, roots, mushrooms, and greens from the land.



Salmon berries.

### 5.3 Climate

Wales has a maritime climate when the Bering Strait is ice-free, usually June to November/December. After the freeze, there is an abrupt change to a cold continental climate. Average summer temperatures range from 40 to 50; winter temperatures range from -10 to 6. Annual precipitation is 10 inches, including 35 inches of snow. Frequent fog, wind and blizzards limit access to Wales.

### 5.4 Wildlife

A wide variety of fish and wildlife are present around Wales. Moose, caribou, wolf, lynx, wolverine, beavers, porcupines, duck, geese, and other waterfowl are present. Seal, beluga whale, all species of salmon, whitefish, lingcod, tomcod, smelt, pike, and trout are present in the area waters of Wales. No critical habitat areas, refuges, or sanctuaries are listed in the area surrounding the community. No known endangered species habitats are located within the planning area.



View of Razorback Mountain.

### 5.5 Historic Preservation

There are some historical campsites should be respected

when selecting areas for future development.

### 5.6 Seismic, Flood, Erosion, and Wetland Information

Both the cemetery and one elder house are located too close to the shore and need to be relocated. Much of the land within city limits is wetland and unsuitable for building.

#### Wales | City Office: (907) 664-3501 | Revised:

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> class city</b>	<b>LAST FLOOD EVENT</b>	
<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>FLOOD CAUSE</b>	
<b>BUILDINGS</b>		<b>ELEVATION</b>	
<b>RIVER SYSTEM</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>FLOOD OF RECORD</b>	<b>1974</b>
<b>COASTAL AREA</b>	<b>Bering Strait</b>	<b>FLOOD CAUSE</b>	<b>storm surge</b>
		<b>ELEVATION</b>	<b>14.0 MSL</b>
<b>NFIP STATUS</b>	<b>not participating</b>	<b>WORST FLOOD EVENT</b>	
<b>FLOODPLAIN REPORT</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>FLOOD CAUSE</b>	
<b>FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>FLOOD GAUGE</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Comments:</b>			
<b>1974 flood level</b>			<b>14.0 MSL</b>
<b>Recommended building elevation</b>			<b>16.0 MSL</b>

The November, 1974 flood level approximates the 100-year return interval storm.

#### Floodplain Manager (907) 753-2610

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.

### 5.7 Land Status

#### ANCSA Land Entitlement:

Village Corporation:	<b>Wales Native Corporation</b>
12(a) Land Entitlement:	92,160 acres (see note 1)
12(b) Land Entitlement:	16,640 acres (see note 2)
Other Land Entitlements:	

**14(c)(3) Land Status:**

14(c)(3) Status:	Completed (see note 3)
14(c)(3) Comments:	
14(c)(3) Agreement Signed:	No
Map of Boundaries done:	Yes
Date Plat Filed:	01/22/1992
Plat Number:	92-1
Recording District:	Cape Nome
Municipal Land Trust:	No
Appropriate Village Entity:	n/a (see note 4)

**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 reconvey 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.

**5.8 Designated Land Status and Management Issues**

There is the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge near Wales, according to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers near Wales, according to the U.S. National Park Service. Wales is included in the Bering Strait Coastal Resource Service Area. Development in Wales may be subject to the Bering Strait Coastal Management Plan. State land includes the airport. No Native Allotments exist within the city limits. There are some local right of way and easements issues to consider before developing certain projects. There is a local concern over trespassers. There is known contamination at 7 sites near Wales or Tin City. In 1984 a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) cleanup program began on the following sites:

1. *Cape Prince of Wales Aircraft Warning Station* located at the western tip of the Seward Peninsula, adjacent to the village of Wales. It is 18,500 acres containing transformers, fuel, and PCB's. It was cleaned up and 35,000 drums and 140 tons of unsafe material removed. The site was closed in 2002. The closest site is within 600 feet of the village. No contamination was found in Village Creek.
2. *Cape Prince of Wales Naval Field* located 500-700' from the shore, a 5 acre piece of land within the Cape Prince of Wales Aircraft Warning Station above. The Navy handled the cleanup in 1996 of this land which is owned by the Wales Native Corporation. Wastes removed included chlorodifloromethane, acids, flammable liquids, dry metal salts, photo processing chemicals, waster mercury, oil, diesel, sodium hydroxide, solvents, non-regulated materials, used protective

equipment, scrap metal, empty containers, and asbestos. More cleanups occurred in 1999 that met the criteria for closure in 2003. The second cleanup involved removal of contaminated soil, excavated drums, removal of batteries, and demolition of buildings.

3. Tin City Aircraft Control and Warning Station and LRRS located near the end of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, 5 miles southeast of Wales. It consists of an upper and lower camp connected by a tramway. In 1991 a leak was discovered in underground storage tanks and the tanks were removed. There was intensive fuel contamination (about 13,000 gallons of fuel released into the soil). No cleanup efforts were done beyond the removal of the tanks. No records were filed after 1996.
4. Tin City Air Force Station located five miles southeast of Wales. There were 5 reported spills in 1982, unknown quantities of petroleum products, PCB's, heavy metals, solvents, acids, bases, and inorganic materials. Cleanup included removal of contaminated soil. Two sites still need work before the site can be closed.
5. Tin City White Alice Site located 7000' northeast of the Tin City Airport. It was constructed by the Army in 1957, and turned over to the Air Force in 1958. It was deactivated in

1975, and turned over to the Navy in 1978. In 1983 the Navy began operating the facility as a Minimally Attended Radar Unit (MAR). Contaminants have been identified as PCB's and petroleum hydrocarbons in the soil and concrete floors, as well as a diesel spill, and asbestos in the buildings. There was some cleanup efforts in 1984 where fuel tanks were drained, 20-25



2010 Walk for Life Event.

tons of solid wastes, 40-170 barrels of PCB contaminated soil was removed. In 1999 more cleanup was done of the bulk fuel tank area, piping, garage, and soils. In 2005 the site was approved as meeting requirements and safe.

6. Alaska Air National Guard Wales Federal Scout Armory located on the road to the Wales Airport. There was an investigation in 1999 of fuel contamination in the soil. The levels sampled de-ranked it as a medium priority for clean up. No further files were completed.
7. Air Force Cache #22 located 100 miles northwest of Nome, and 18 miles northeast of Wales. The site was transferred from the BLM to the Air Force in 1957 and relinquished back in 1961. No contamination could be found in 1988.

## 5.9 Land Use Potential

Within Wales there are some possible land areas for future development projects if care is taken not to build on existing gravesites or wetlands. There are known sites near city limits which should not be used due to contamination or other issues.

## 6.0 Opportunities and Barriers to Development

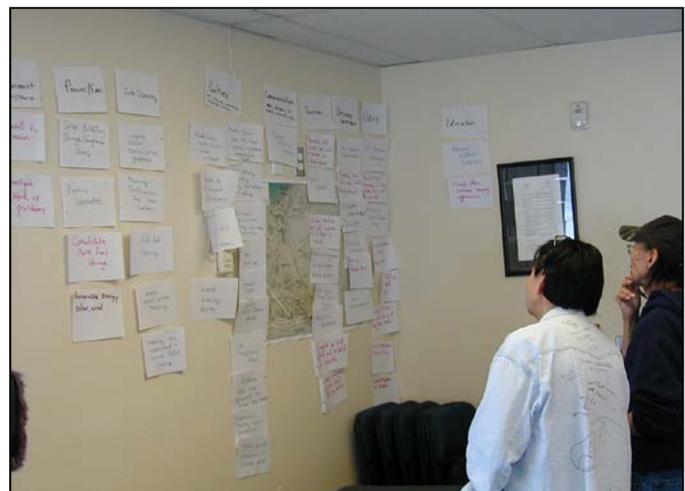
### 6.1 Development Opportunities, Trends, and Strengths

What are our development opportunities, current trends in Wales, or strengths and assets that will help us as we plan and complete projects in our community?

- *People and Organizations* – Local store is well stocked due to better planning, more participation in public meetings, several local heavy equipment operators, local grant writers and book keepers, joint meetings, collaboration.
- *Health and Safety* – We care about the safety of our people and help each other in times of emergency, we support families in times of loss.
- *Economy* – We help each other and share.
- *Education, and Training* – More people are willing to go to college or training to improve their skills, some seek to obtain their GED or driver's license.
- *Culture* – Annual Kingikmiut Dance Festival, our elders are involved with our youth, Elder representation on councils, Inupiaq classes, Bi-lingual, bi-cultural teacher in the school, regional church conference.
- *Environmental or Land Issues* – Good local gravel source, available land within city limits for development projects.
- *Infrastructure* – Better communications systems, more flights to Wales weekly, local



Wales Native Store.



Joanne Keys and Winton Weyapuk, Jr. reviewing project ideas for the future.

heavy equipment available for projects.

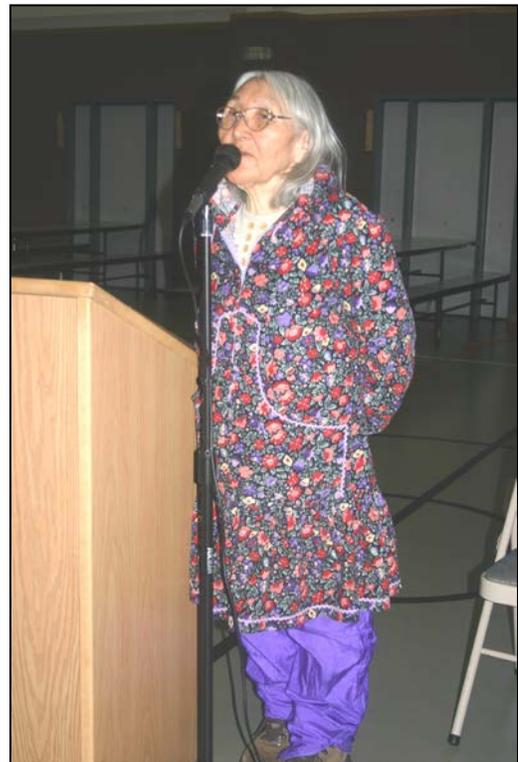
## 6.2 Development Barriers, Hazards, and Areas of Concern

What are development barriers, hazards, or areas of concern that we need to consider as we begin development projects?

- *People and Organizations* – Need more financial accountability and annual audits, need to get information in a more timely manner to meet deadlines for paperwork or grant applications, need for more trained workers, need more book keepers, need full time grant writers for all entities.
- *Health and Safety* – No local VPSO, need a new clinic, need youth activities, need a public safety building, more health care staff and specialist visits.
- *Economy* – Few local jobs available, high cost of fuel, high cost of food.
- *Education and Training* – Need more job skill training, need more village based training, need more local scholarships, high dropout rate, skilled local people need to get recertified regularly.
- *Culture* – We are a small community and people wear many hats, our best hunters are often needed on projects during hunting season.
- *Environmental or Land Issues* – Development projects often generate a lot of trash that gets left behind, wetlands and the need for permits holds up projects, archaeological or contaminated sites, erosion, fuel leakage during the delivery process, harsh weather and short construction season, global pollution, permafrost, wetland and water issues.
- *Infrastructure* – Need more heavy equipment storage areas and better maintenance, lack of sewer and water, need more local vehicles, need more hotels,



Frank Louie Adloot Komonaseak with his father, Nathan Komonaseak.  
His mother is Vanessa Tingook.



Faye Ongtowsruk.

housing, and office space for construction projects.

## 7.0 Wales Vision, Goals, and Values

### 7.1 Wales's Community Vision (developed in 2003):

To build our community healthy and strong by enhancing cultural and traditional values for present and future generations through strengthening modern economic opportunities while promoting our community.

### 7.2 Wales Development Goals and Objectives:

#### Goals:

1. Providing facilities, programs, and resources to raise the standard of living for a strong and healthy community.
2. Protecting and sustaining a clean environment and mediating the effects of global change through collaboration
3. Living, maintaining, and documenting our knowledge, skills, traditions, tribal laws, and cultural values to enhance the quality of life and promote community harmony

#### Objectives:

1. To promote safer, healthier living for everyone in our community
2. To improve access in and out of the village for safety, social, economic, and subsistence needs
3. To improve the standard and cost of living and reduce over-crowding
4. To create and support more local opportunities for jobs
5. To provide a safe environment, healthy activities, and effective health care to protect our future
6. To protect our subsistence and natural resources while developing economic projects
7. To honor, respect, and love our elders, ancestors, and others
8. To improve energy efficiency, reduce the cost, and research and develop alternative or renewable energy

### 7.3 Wales Community Values and Development

#### 7.3.1 Wales Values

##### Families

- To love, comfort, care for our elders and families
- To respect and honor our elders, cultural and traditional values, and our 'HOME.'



Seetook's meat and fish drying rack.



Kira Kimberly Weyapuk.

- We value that we are a historical hub community
- Culture continues when we get a whale and share it, celebrate with dancing—quyaniuq
- We value passing on knowledge to our youth
- We never forget where we come from



Tristan Oxereok, two weeks old, son of Helena Oxereok.

### **Social Relationships**

- We have a welcoming and friendly attitude

### **Respecting the land and wildlife**

- We value protecting the land, air, sea, and water
- We value our unique location and protect our special places
- We value that our subsistence way of life continues to be practiced

### **Community Pride**

- We believe in teaching our youth to respect and help elders and one another
- Our community members help one another in times of emergencies and crisis
- We live our traditional values and honor our Kingikmiu way of life

### **Community respect and obligations**

- We value and serve our community
- We value obeying laws
- We value quality community services
- We value our spirituality



Community Planning Workshop participants – Clifford Seetook, Pete and Lena Sereadlook (left to right in the back) and Kelly Anungazuk, Joanne Keyes, Anna Oxereok, Ellen Richard, and Tanya Pelowook (left to right in front).

### 7.3.2 Applying Values to Community Development

The things that we must remember when we develop and plan important projects or programs are that we should always:

- Be efficient because grant opportunities are limited
- Be financially responsible and accountable in managing our funds
- Involve and consult our teenagers about projects and programs
- Support and take responsibility for our community caregivers
- Teach our children our history and survival skills
- Listen to our elders for their experience and traditional knowledge
- Honor and respect our elders
- Develop projects for the benefit of all our children, and future generations
- Respect our land and all animals
- Value local employment and training opportunities
- Seek local hire on projects in our community
- Provide safety for families
- Have pride in our community and get local support for development projects
- Develop pay scales and policies based on skills and education to prevent unfair hiring policies
- Always have drug and alcohol free employees
- We should always do background checks on our employees.
- Acknowledge our source of living
- No fighting, work together, and be happy
- Do things right



Shawna Keyes sharing a future project idea for Wales.



Lay Pastor, Gilbert Oxereok.

## 8.0 Development Priorities and



Future project ideas for Wales which were developed during a public community planning workshop in 2011.

### Implementation

There were 10 priorities identified by the Wales Planning Committee and approved by the City of Wales and the Wales IRA Council in order to improve the economic development for the community. In order to provide a thorough understanding of each project, the following information is given:

- |                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Project Description           | 2. Project Implementation             |
| Background                       | Plan of Action                        |
| Project Needs and Benefits       | Organizations Responsible and Contact |
| Potential Constraints to Project | Information                           |
| Development                      | Funding Possibilities                 |

### Jointly Approved Top Priorities for the community of Wales 2011-2016

1. Bulk fuel
2. Airport upgrade, crosswind runway and roads
3. Build new clinic and washeteria
4. Honeybucket Lagoon and dumpsite
5. Seawall, boat harbor, and fishing
6. Cemetery
7. Repair housing
8. Public safety
9. Heavy equipment storage
10. Water and sewer, water line
11. Renovate church, teen center
12. Long and short term housing
13. New power plant
14. Mining

## 8.1 PRIORITY #1 Bulk Fuel

### 8.1.1 Project Description

#### Background

The existing tanks were built in the 1990s, primarily with block grant funds. The tank farm is owned by the city and the portion for public sales is managed by the tribe. The tanks are old and need to be replaced. If they continue to be used they will need major repairs and renovations.

Bulk fuel tanks currently in use:

OWNER	CAPACITY (in gallons)
Bering Straits School District	43,500
AVEC	51,100
City	3,500
National Guard	2,900
IRA (tank farm)	102,200
City of Wales (Water Plant)	7,900

As new facilities and buildings were built, the demand for fuel in Wales has increased while the capacity to store fuel has remained the same. There have been fuel shortages in Wales at various times of the year for several years now. During times of shortage, residents purchase from Tin City or Shishmaref, a long and sometimes dangerous trip by snow machine and sled.



**Bulk fuel tanks are over 20 years old and need to be replaced.**

#### Project Needs and Benefits

The expansion of storage capacity of the fuel tank farm will meet the existing demand and help

eliminate fuel shortages that occur throughout the year. Eliminating fuel shortages will improve the well-being and safety of residents in winter when they have to travel to get fuel. The State of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) Rural Energy Group estimates that a village of this size needs at least three 25,000-gallon tanks for fuel to meet existing demand. An upgrade of the fuel dispensing system with 24-hour availability is desirable as well.

#### Potential Constraints to Project Development

A lead agency cannot proceed with the project until all of the land use issues are solved and the necessary easements and right of ways obtained. Another obstacle is planning and acquiring funding in time for the construction season.

## 8.1.2 Project Implementation

### Plan of Action

- Conserve fuel as much as possible, institute theft prevention measures, and maintain emergency action plans for times of shortages. Restrict sales when supplies are low.
- As a short term solution seek funding to perform renovations and repairs on existing tanks.
- Work with all entities to consolidate a bulk fuel purchase for the community using assistance programs.
- Make sure current tanks are filled to capacity on the last shipment of the season. Form agreements to utilize all available storage tanks in Wales.
- Work with local entities to identify project goals for new tank farm. Determine which entity will be the lead agency on the project and develop resolutions and MOAs. Develop a preliminary plan based on the decisions made. Select site and solve land issues for new tank farm.
- Obtain grant writer or project planning training and seek technical assistance from outside agencies. Begin more detailed project planning.
- Apply for funds to build a new tank farm. Explore options of using the current tanks or dismantling the old tank farm once the new tank farm is built.
- Obtain gravel to prepare site and begin construction.

### Organizations Responsible

1. City of Wales – current tank owners
2. Native Village of Wales – operators
3. Wales Native Corporation – possible future land issues
4. Bering Strait School District – consumer
5. AVEC – power provider

### Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information

- ***Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation***  
(Consolidated Bulk Fuel purchase)  
<http://www.nsedc.com>
- ***Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority***  
***Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)***  
<http://www.aidea.org/>
- ***Kawerak, Inc.*** - Energy Development Specialist – Walter Rose  
<http://www.kawerak.org>
- ***Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC)***  
<http://www.avec.org/>
- ***Rasmuson Foundation***  
[www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- ***Denali Commission***  
<http://www.denali.gov>

## 8.2 PRIORITY # 2 - Airport upgrade, crosswind runway and roads

### 8.2.1 Airport Project Description

#### Background

The Wales airport has daily flights (weather permitting) from several regional airlines. Each airline has local agents. Wales depends on its runway for deliveries of freight and mail. Wales depends on the runway as the primary means of access in and out of the community, which can be critical in times when healthcare is needed. The gravel runway is regularly maintained. The length is acceptable for most aircraft currently flying to Wales. There is no crosswind runway, and flights are canceled due to winds when necessary. The current material on the existing runway has some issues and is eroding faster than expected.



Residents all over the region desire terminals where passengers can wait inside for planes to arrive. The Wales airport only has storage for maintenance

#### Project Needs and Benefits

Well maintained runways are safer, last longer, and provide easier access for freight, medical services and supplies, mail service, emergency services and supplies, and for passenger transport. Improvements are necessary due to the harsh weather conditions, washouts, and erosion. Erosion from spring runoff needs attention before it becomes a major problem. Wind has always been a major factor in cancelling flights to Wales, so a crosswind runway is needed, especially when transporting critical patients, or when visitors are coming to the community to provide important services (mechanics and medical staff). The condition of the facility raises some safety and maintenance cost issues. The airport is critical to daily life in Wales.

#### Potential Constraints to Project Development

An adequate gravel source will need to be developed in order to carry out the project.

### 8.2.2 Airport Project Implementation

#### Plan of Action

- Pass joint resolution supporting the airport improvements.
- Explore land options and material source locations for gravel.
- Explore other funding sources to help raise the APEB score to get the project funded sooner.
- Update TERO ordinances and get local people trained so they can be employed in the project.
- Keep in close communication with the DOT to see how Wales can help keep the project on schedule.
- Update the Kawerak Long Range Transportation Plan to reflect airport road needs.

#### Organizations Responsible

1. State of Alaska Dept. of Transportation – airport and airport roads
2. City of Wales – city streets, MOA's
3. Wales Native Corporation – land owners, gravel
4. Native Village of Wales – BIA roads, IRR funding
5. Kawerak Transportation Program

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- *State of Alaska Department of Transportation*  
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>
- *Alaska Aviation System Plan (AASP)*  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/forms/AASPIinitialWebSite.pdf>
- *Rural Airport Documents*  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/Documents.shtml>
- *Denali Commission*  
<http://www.denali.gov>
- *Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*  
<http://www.faa.gov/>

### **8.2.3 Road Project Description**

#### **Background**

The tribe has worked with the Kawerak Transportation Program to develop a long range transportation plan for roads. Kawerak completed an aerial mapping project that developed new area maps in 2004. The mapping project was necessary for almost all new construction projects in the region. Some dust control projects have been completed on the Wales roads. The dust control efforts were effective in reducing the dust, but they need to be better timed in order to have a greater effect. Some snow fencing, culverts and drainage ditches have improved the road conditions within the city limits. The city takes care of snow removal, minimal road maintenance, and has ordinances regarding local speed limits. Some Wales residents own camps at sites outside of the community. Travelers take the roads to the ends of the village and then must take unimproved earth roads and trails to subsistence areas.

#### **Project Needs and Benefits**

There is a need for wider roads, improved road maintenance, and more new road construction projects within the city limits and leading to the airport. Wider roads and improved road maintenance within in the community would allow larger vehicles to travel and pass each other. This would also prevent damage to the land, and assure the safety of all travelers in the area. More roads within the community would extend to future development and construction sites. There is also a need for more summer and winter trail staking which would assure traveler safety and protect the tundra. The tribe hopes to extend the road, which will improve tribal access to subsistence areas and camps. Bigger roads will allow larger vehicles and boat trailers to access the area, prevent damage to the tundra and trails, and assure the safety of travelers to the area. This would allow larger groups of members to travel to camp to share the hunting and subsistence work and have a cultural experience together at camp. More children would be able to accompany the families and be involved in healthy summer activities.

#### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The process to assist tribes with road development is costly and time consuming. Construction costs have risen and funding has been reduced to transportation programs. Construction seasons are very short. Further, the Kawerak Transportation Program serves nineteen tribes in the region, all of which have transportation needs just as serious as Wales. The Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads Program is understaffed and must serve the all the tribes in the United States. Also, easement and land ownership issues can delay projects for years.

## 8.2.4 Project Implementation

### Plan of Action

- Keep communication lines open with the Kawerak Transportation Program and the BIA Roads Program and inform the tribal members of all planned road improvement projects.
- Determine who owns all of the land for the potential road projects and begin meetings to solve the land issues for the future road project.
- Work with agencies to prioritize future road project ideas to be written into the long range transportation planning documents, so they can be recommended and approved.
- Monitor gravel sources for the projects based on projected gravel needs for all community projects. Work to develop new gravel sources as needed.
- Use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Enlist local and regional volunteers and donations for trail staking projects.
- Write policies that identify how the community will mark and maintain the trails and roads.

### Organizations Responsible

1. State of Alaska Department of Transportation – airports and airport roads
2. City of Wales – city streets
3. Native Village of Wales – BIA roads, IRR funds
4. Wales Native Corporation – land owners
5. Kawerak Transportation Program – road projects and planning

### Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information:

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Roads Program**  
<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/Transportation/IRR/index.htm>
- **Bureau of Land Management**  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/afo.html>
- **Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (Trails)**  
<http://www.nsedc.com>
- **National Park Service Historic Preservation**  
[www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal)
- **US Dept. of Health & Human Services**  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>
- **Private foundations and local donations**

## 8.3 PRIORITY # 3 Build new clinic and washeteria

### 8.3.1 Clinic Project Description

#### Background

The current clinic was built in the 1980s and is no longer adequate to meet the needs of the people in Wales. The size of the clinic creates a challenge for health care providers to abide by the requirements for privacy established in the 2003 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), especially when multiple patients are waiting to be seen.

The current site for the clinic is too close to the bulk fuel tanks and the entryways fill in with snow drifts frequently. The building has shifted a lot over the years and there are cracks in the walls up to ½ wide in some places. Doors and windows do not seal properly. The building is not energy efficient.



**Toby Anungazuk, Sr. Memorial Clinic**

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

A new larger clinic will improve the ease of compliance with HIPPA laws. More storage space is needed for supplies and files. Most importantly, a new clinic will improve the care that is given to the patients in Wales.

Another concern is that there is no morgue storage for the deceased in the clinic. The clinic desperately needs more space, better equipment, and faster medivac services for emergencies. Access to Wales is delayed in poor weather which places a strain on the clinic as patients await transport. There is a need for vehicles for winter (new snowmachine with enclosed sled) and summer (boat, ATV and trailer, track vehicle) for ambulance transport of patients.

One health aide and one travel clerk are on staff at the clinic. Specialists and a public health nurse come several times annually. A medical doctor and a physical therapist come bi-annually to Wales to see patients. Eye doctors, dentists, and audiologists come annually. It is estimated that 7-10 residents must go to Nome for treatment each month and 2-5 go to Anchorage for treatment each month. The clinic also needs a regular maintenance/janitorial worker to tend to the building. Reliable backup generators are needed. Fuel tanks need to be closely monitored to avoid outages. Trash needs to be removed daily and supplies stocked. There is a great need for more storage areas for supplies and filing areas to keep exam rooms free of clutter. The current clinic is too small to meet the needs of the community. The community has made planning a new clinic its number three priority.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Declining funding and delays have slowed the progress for clinic improvements in all rural communities in the region. Wales also has a short construction season and high transportation costs for materials.

## **8.3.2 Clinic Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Work with city council to determine project goals. Develop a preliminary project plan. Select site. Investigate any easement or environmental issues. And determine the availability or access to utilities.
- Obtain gravel or backfill to prepare the site for construction using local funds if possible.
- Seek grant writing or project planning training for city staff. Also seek technical assistance from outside entities.
- Identify possible funding sources and partners.

- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak’s grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to contact funding sources, seek matching funds from the community and outside agencies, and apply for funds needed to complete the project.

**Organizations Responsible**

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Wales Native – land owners
3. Native Village of Wales – community planning and possible grant writing, possible project partner

**Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information:**

- **Norton Sound Health Corporation**  
<http://nortonsoundhealth.org/>
- **US Department of Health and Human Services**  
<http://www.hhs.gov/>
- **CDBG - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development**  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>,
- **ICDBG -** <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>
- **USDA Rural Development Housing and Community Facilities Program -**  
[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/success%20stories/Helth\\_Clinic\\_Wales\\_AK.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/success%20stories/Helth_Clinic_Wales_AK.htm)
- **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)**  
<http://www.anthc.org/>
- **Rasmuson Foundation –**  
[www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- **Denali Commission**  
<http://www.denali.gov>
- **Private Foundations and local donations**

**8.3.3 Washeteria Project Description**

**Background**

Wales is a community without a piped water and sewer system. Water is accumulated in the summer to fill the holding tank. This water has to last for all of the community all year. Only the school and the teacher housing have access to piped water and sewer. The small washeteria operated by the city provides a place to wash clothes (\$3 per load) and shower (\$3 for 15 minutes).

The washeteria has limited hours of operation and is always very crowded. Residents self haul water/ice from creeks/lakes. Residents may obtain drinking water for 25 cents per gallon. In 2011 there was an issue with low levels of radiation in the water. Most residents self haul water or ice from nearby creeks or ponds as it tastes better than the city water or because they have limited funds to purchase water. Many families have no other choice but to buy the city water as they have no means to obtain water from the creeks and ponds. The city



**The washeteria is not adequate to serve the needs of the growing community**

honey bucket haul system is limited forcing residents to have disposal issues as site is some distance away from the village.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

The public washeteria is critical to the sanitation and health of the residents of Wales. The washeteria has limited hours and is always crowded. The current washeteria is in poor condition and poorly maintained due to limited city funding. There are a limited number of shower stalls, washers and dryers. These are often down for repairs, sometimes for weeks or months waiting on parts or city funds to purchase them. Regular testing of the water is needed to monitor for contaminants.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The City of Wales has many responsibilities and very limited funding to plan a project of this size. The construction season is short, and transportation costs for materials are high.

## **8.3.4 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Work with the city council and other local entities to determine project objectives for renovation or new construction. Develop a preliminary project plan based on the decisions.
- Seek grant writing or project planning training for city staff. Also seek technical assistance from outside entities.
- Identify possible funding sources and partners.
- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to contact funding sources, seek matching funds from the community and outside agencies, and apply for funds needed to complete the project.

### **Organizations Responsible**

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Wales Native – land owners
3. Native Village of Wales – community planning and possible grant writing, possible project partner

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information:**

- ***CE2 Engineers***

<http://www.ce2engineers.com>

- ***State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation***

Division of Water, Village Safe Water Program Village Safe Water (VSW)

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/vsw/index.htm>

- ***State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Dev.***

<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/>,

- ***Norton Sound Health Corporation - Office of Environmental Health***

<http://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/>

- ***Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Environmental Engineers)***

<http://www.anthc.org/>

- ***CDBG - Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development -***

<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>,

- ***ICDBG -*** <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>

- *Rasmuson Foundation*  
[www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- *Denali Commission*  
<http://www.denali.gov>
- *Private Foundations and local donations*

## 8.4 PRIORITY #4 Honeybucket lagoon and dumpsite

### 8.4.1 Honeybucket Lagoon Project Description

#### Background

Except for the school and teacher housing there is no piped water or sewer system in Wales. Residents haul their own water and use a honeybucket haul system for sewage. The sewage lagoon is near the edge of the city limits. The city has bins located at various places around the community, but is not always able to regularly maintain service to haul them to the lagoon. Residents often must haul their own sewage waste to the site.

#### Project Need and Benefits

The current sewage lagoon is old. The site needs to be evaluated and upgraded or closed and a new lagoon constructed. The city needs to retain staff and obtain more efficient bins and equipment to adequately haul sewage. Elders, disabled, and economically distressed families do not have the resources to properly dispose of waste. Proper storage of solid waste will protect the environment and the health of all residents and visitors, and also improve the quality of life in the community.

#### Potential Constraints to Project Development

Many of Alaska's rural villages still use honey bucket haul systems. Funding sources for new sewage lagoon projects are competitive and limited. Wales is a small community and most of the funding goes to other communities where the needs are considered to be greater and serve more people. Some funding sources may be reluctant to award grants hoping that piped sewer and water systems are developed soon. However, Wales is further north and one of the most difficult places to develop piped water and sewer systems. Construction seasons are short and transportation costs for materials are high. Also the city honeybucket bins are old and need to be replaced or new liners obtained. The number of visitors and long term guests has also increased in Wales, so the water and sewer (honeybucket haul) needs have grown.

### 8.4.2 Project Implementation

#### Plan of Action

- Work with the city council and other local entities to determine project objectives for renovation or new construction. Develop a preliminary project plan based on the decisions.
- Seek grant writing or project planning training for city staff. Also seek technical assistance from outside entities. Set up a meeting with agencies like NSCH, ANTHC, VSW (State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, and Village Safe Water Program) to discuss priority projects.
- Identify possible funding sources and partners.

- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak’s grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to contact funding sources, seek matching funds from the community and outside agencies, and apply for funds needed to complete the project.

**Organizations Responsible**

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Native Village of Wales – possible project partner
3. Wales Native Corporation – land issues

**Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- **CE2 Engineers**  
<http://www.ce2engineers.com/>
- **State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Division of Water, and Village Safe Water Program Village Safe Water (VSW)  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/vsw/index.htm>,
- **State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Dev.**  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/>
- **Norton Sound Health Corporation - Office of Environmental Health**  
<http://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/>
- **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Environmental Engineers)**  
<http://www.anthc.org/>

**8.4.3 Dump Site Project Description**

**Background**

The Wales landfill is owned and maintained by the city and located near the edge of city limits. Staff are trained how to properly dispose of old batteries. The Wales landfill is not very deep. The fences are not tall enough to contain the waste, and debris tends to blow over the fences and litter the surrounding tundra. The landfill was designed in 1980’s to last for twenty five years. Fencing improvements has allowed the landfill to increase its useful life, but now improvements are even more critical. The tribe received an Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant to operate an environmental program that has helped.



The city manages the dump and the tribe operates an EPA/IGAP environmental program

The heavy equipment for the landfill is city owned and used for all other projects in Wales. The landfill needs its own dedicated equipment and adequate storage facilities for the equipment in the winter. Construction debris and larger items like old washing machines and

vehicles take up valuable space in the limited landfill. Kawerak, the regional non-profit that serves the tribes of the Bering Strait, operates a regional backhaul project. The backhaul project is designed to remove hazardous and recyclable materials to prolong the useful life of each rural landfill and protect the community and the environment. The Wales IGAP program coordinates with Kawerak's regional backhaul program to send out e-wastes, lead acid batteries, aluminum cans and other items to recyclers.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

Safer ways to dispose of hazardous materials are needed to protect the environment and the water supply in Wales. More heavy equipment is needed to help manage the landfill, especially a dozer. A good storage building would add many years to the life of any equipment obtained. A larger landfill is needed to accommodate the needs of the community.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The Wales landfill has limited staff to manage the landfill or plan and carry out upgrade projects. Regional technical engineers are limited to assist with new project designs. Funding sources for landfill development projects are limited and not usually oriented toward new construction projects. The shipping and delivery costs are very high on all construction materials. Construction seasons in the region are short. Land issues may need to be resolved and permits obtained. When a new landfill site is built, a plan will be needed to close the old landfill site.

## **8.4.4 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Contact or visit other communities like Elim or Koyuk that are currently renovating landfills to get information and ideas and see the issues they are facing and the solutions they have identified.
- Obtain copies of existing maintenance and hazardous waste plans from other communities and complete the plans for Wales's waste management plan and hazardous waste management plan.
- Write plans identifying the purpose, type of items needed, material and shipping costs, and construction costs for needed landfill improvements.
- Select a construction site and obtain site control. Investigate easement or environmental issues. Obtain permits.
- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds from the community, and apply for funds.
- Find funding opportunities to train and hire workers to manage the renovations or construction in compliance with policies.

### **Organization Responsible**

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Native Village of Wales – IGAP program
3. Wales Native Corporation – possible land issue

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Indian General Assistance Program

<http://www.epa.gov/indian/programs.htm>

- *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project  
[www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#EPA-OSWER-OSW-08-03](http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#EPA-OSWER-OSW-08-03)

- ***Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)***  
<http://www.anthc.org/>
- ***Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation***  
<http://www.nsedc.com>
- ***Rasmuson Foundation***  
[www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- ***Private Foundations and Local donations***
- ***Solid Waste Alaska Network (SWAN)***  
<http://www.ccthita-swan.org/funding/IGAP.cfm>
- ***Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council Report***  
[www.yritwc.com/Presentations/contamination\\_awareness.pdf](http://www.yritwc.com/Presentations/contamination_awareness.pdf)

## **8.5 PRIORITY # 5 Seawall/boat harbor/fishing**

### **8.5.1 Seawall Project Description**

#### **Background**

Wales is located on Cape Prince of Wales, at the western tip of the Seward Peninsula, 111 miles northwest of Nome. It lies at approximately 65.609170 North Latitude and -168.087500 West Longitude. (Sec. 05, T002N, R045W, Kateel River Meridian.) Wales is located in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 2.8 sq. miles of land and 0.0 sq. miles of water. There is no record of damage in Wales from earthquakes or tsunamis. However, Wales is subject to ice-jam and stream-overflow flooding from creeks. Prior to 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had reported a low frequency of flooding at Wales and had found Wales be in a low flood hazard area.

However in spring the ground around Wales is very wet due to the snowmelt making navigation treacherous. Over the last ten years, the coastal area is threatened by more frequent and stronger fall storms, stronger winds, more floods, and less snow. The natural barrier of sea ice that has protected the community of Wales has greatly declined due to climate changes. The storms of 2003, 2004, and 2005, and 2011 were devastating and have left the residents vulnerable to future storms. The storm caused a tremendous amount of damage throughout the Norton Sound region during the Nov. 2011 storm and left no community in this region untouched. Coastal erosion from the waves warrants concern to the residents of Wales.

The community lacks a breakwater barrier to protect the village from the destructive waves when storms hit the community from the north, south or west. Several areas along the coastline used by the people in Wales are vulnerable to erosion and flooding during the storm season. The beaches have historically been susceptible to damage and erosion from storm conditions, tidal surges, and from the sea ice conditions. The next devastating storm can quite possibly erode much of the lower end of the community away.

Wales has a maritime climate when the Bering Strait is ice-free, usually June to November. After the freeze, there is an abrupt change to a cold continental climate. Average summer temperatures range from 40 to 50 °F; winter temperatures range from -10 to 6 °F. Annual

precipitation averages 10 inches, with 35 inches of snow. Frequent fog, wind, and blizzards limit access to Wales.

Wales is currently working on developing a Hazard Mitigation Plan. The area from the south side near the school all the way north to the cemetery are subject to flooding and erosion and would benefit by having an adequate seawall. Several private homes, the church, teacher housing, the store, city storage buildings and the airport are all located in the threatened zone.

Erosion or seawall projects are conducted by the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers in four phases. There is an approximate five to eight year timeline by the Corps. To qualify for the program, the shoreline to be protected must be publicly owned or used. Private land may qualify if the project is necessary to protect nearby public facilities.

1. Reconnaissance Phase Description-This phase is 100% federally funded and is performed to identify if there is a federal interest and/or economic justification in proceeding to the next phase (feasibility study).
2. Feasibility Study-The purpose of this study is to evaluate alternatives, determine costs and benefits and if there is a plan that has feasible engineering, is environmentally acceptable, and can be economically justified.
3. Pre-construction, engineering, and Design-This phase is cost shared 75% federal and 25% local.
4. Construction-This phase is cost shared and is usually 80% federal and 20% local. All village entities need to send a letter to their congressional delegation requesting them to name the study in order to add funding to the Corps of Engineers budget for them to start work.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

The natural barrier of sea ice that has protected the community has greatly decreased. The storms of spring and fall left the homes, businesses, and public property vulnerable to loss of lives and property. Coastal erosion from the pounding waves is a concern since there is no breakwater barrier or seawall to protect Wales. In the event of a storm with winds greater than the last storm vital infrastructure could be lost. In order to mitigate these concerns; an adequate breakwater, seawall, rock revetment and other erosion control measures are needed to protect life and property in Wales. The community also needs to swiftly complete the various steps to finish the Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for erosion project funding and assistance.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Many of Alaska's coastal communities are in similar danger from erosion and funding is limited. The rural location and relatively smaller population of Wales makes it harder to compete for funding and convince outside agencies of the severity of the problem. Wales was not eligible for some funding sources because they did not have a Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is a time consuming document to produce involving multiple agency input.

## 8.5.2 Project Implementation

### Plan of Action

- Keep good communications with VSW, DOT, Kawerak, and other agencies on erosion issues in Wales. Keep the community aware of the project through posters, radio announcements and public meetings.
- Work with the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers to begin planning the project.
- Continue to seek funding for all stages of the project. Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds from the community, and apply for funds for the various stages of planning and construction: easements, environmental studies, gravel, permits, construction, business plan, inspections, and policies and procedures for center operations. BIA funding is potentially available through KTP only if the seawall will protect existing roads nearby.
- Continue contact Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other agencies for assistance in completing a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Keep in close contact with Golovin, Shaktoolik, and Savoonga who are also working on these kinds of plans.
- Form a Wales emergency planning committee to set achievable goals for obtaining emergency supplies, possibly getting an alert siren for the community, and looking into other options for renovation of old buildings for use as storage or an emergency evacuation shelter.

### Organizations Responsible

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Native Village of Wales – possible project partner
3. Wales Native Corporation – land issues and gravel
4. Wales Volunteer Fire Dept. /Search &Rescue – emergency planning

### Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information

- ***Kawerak Transportation Program***  
<http://www.kawerak.org>
- ***U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management***  
<http://www.fema.gov/assistance/index.shtm>
- ***U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska***  
<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/hm/default.htm>
- ***Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)*** - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Division of Community Advocacy  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>
- ***Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)***  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>

## 8.5.3 Boat Harbor Project Description

### Background

Residents use skin boats and skiffs for transportation to and from Diomedes, as well as to subsistence camps along the shoreline. Several areas including a main site on the west side used for boat launching are very busy in the summertime. Because freight and fuel barges unload in a different area there is rarely a conflict with small boat traffic. The community relies heavily on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering. All of the water in the area

provides a productive habitat for salmon, a variety of marine fish and mammals, and birds such as ducks and geese. Skiffs are used extensively by residents to access these habitats as well as other areas for hunting and berry picking. There is no loading dock so when barges unload on the beach. The heavy equipment rips up the shoreline making it harder for 4-wheeler traffic.

There are 51 houses and less than 20 hunting/fishing boats in Wales. The largest boats are 20 feet and the smallest are 16 ft. There is no moorage or dock so boats are generally pulled up along the shoreline in front of the community when not in use. They are frequently damaged due to the repeated stress of being dragged across the ground. Damages are most prevalent when landing and launching in adverse weather conditions. Vessel damage associated with hauling the boats out along the shoreline include popped rivets, split aluminum welds, cracked fiberglass, and damaged propellers.

### **Project Need and Benefits**

Development of a small boat harbor facility near the cove at the south side near the school would provide protected moorage for boats operating out of Wales. Care would be needed to avoid damage to the site where clams are harvested. The current navigational conditions cause operational inefficiencies. Protected moorage would decrease delays and damages to vessels. There may also be an increase in commercial fishing if protected moorage existed in Wales. If a larger harbor were constructed for barge unloading there would be safer unloading of freight. With protected moorage, subsistence hunters and fishers will have better access to the sea. The life of a skiff in Wales will increase because they will not have to be pulled up onto the beach in order to navigate the surf zone. Some large rocks may need to be removed from the shallow water to improve safety. If the skiffs can moor in calm water, hull damage will be significantly reduced. The damage to the skiff props would decrease if there were a protected harbor. Propellers are damaged when coming into shore and hitting bottom because of wave action or misjudging the depth along the beach. The average life of a skiff is approximately five years. This average life would be increased to an estimated 10 years if protected moorage were available. Shifting sands along the shore mean everyone has to move their boats each time the wind changes directions.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

One potential restraint is obtaining the matching fund requirements. Another hurdle is the completing a required feasibility study.

## **8.5.4 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Do an initial inventory of how many vessels are in Wales, and how many boats visit Wales each year from other places.

Contact the Corps of Engineers to see if there is federal interest in navigation improvements in Wales, given the existing and anticipated future conditions. Develop a Project Description – sample: A small boat harbor would consist of a dredged channel from deep water into the harbor. A 500-foot long by 50-foot wide basin would be excavated for the harbor. The basin would have a bottom elevation of –4 feet. The haul out area would accommodate 30 boats in the 16 to 30-foot range. Develop a pre-project plan and local Feasibility Study.

- Construction and dredge equipment is available in Nome, which would minimize the cost of mobilization and demobilization.

- Small boat harbor projects are usually conducted in four phases by the Corps. Phase 1 & 2 may be able to be streamlined depending on the depth of a local or independent Feasibility Study.

Phase 1-Reconnaissance Phase-The Corps will need to perform a federally funded reconnaissance study of a proposed boat harbor in Wales and determine if there is federal interest in proceeding with a feasibility study of navigation improvements.

Phase 2-Feasibility Study-The next step is for the City of Wales to enter this phase. According to the Corps, the purpose of the Feasibility Study is to: Evaluate alternatives for the small boat harbor, Determine project costs and benefits, Determine if there is a plan that has feasible engineering, is environmentally acceptable, and can be economically justified

Phase 3-Pre-construction, Engineering, and Design-This phase usually lasts one year and is cost shared 75% federal and 25% local.

Phase 4-Construction-This phase usually lasts one to three years. The phase is cost shared depending on the water depths of the project. It is usually 80% federal and 20% local.

#### City of Wales

- The City is the usually designated as the Local Sponsor of this type of project and the Tribal Government provides supporting letters and resolutions. Begin the process of developing a Feasibility Study Agreement with the Corps. The estimated cost of the feasibility phase requires a 50% cost share from Wales. Entering into this agreement with the Corps may require numerous communications and follow-ups for informational purposes during this process.
- Contact the State Harbor Engineer in order for Wales to be placed on the annual appropriations list for legislative funding requests. The state most likely will not fund 100% of the matching fund requirement. Wales will have a better chance of getting an appropriation if they can come up with half of their matching fund requirement before making the funding request.

#### City of Wales and the Native Village of Wales

- Begin developing grants and contacting agencies for the 50-50-match. Both Councils need to coordinate efforts in searching for and acquiring both federal and state funding required for the 50% match.
- NSEDC has participated in small boat harbor studies and projects related to fisheries. Both Councils should coordinate in submitting a proposal to NSEDC for funding. Proposals are reviewed by the NSEDC Board biannually at their April and October quarterly meetings.

#### **Organizations Responsible**

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Wales Native Corporation – collaborating partner
3. Native Village of Wales – land issues and gravel

#### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- *State of Alaska Harbor Engineer* (DOT&PF)  
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/desports/>
- *Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation* (NSEDC)  
<http://www.nsedc.com>
- *United State Department of Agriculture USDA* –

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>, -

- **Denali Commission** -

<http://www.denali.gov>

- **U.S. Army engineer District**, Alaska

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/hm/default.htm>

## 8.6 PRIORITY #6 Cemetery

### 8.6.1 Project Description

#### Background

There is one main cemetery in Wales. There are several historical and individual grave sites in and around the village. Over the years there have been issues with exposed coffins, serious erosion, unmarked graves, and some markers are buried. Residents love their families and want to honor and respect those who have passed on before.



Some improvements have been made at the cemetery, but the site is too close to the shore and threatened by erosion.

#### Project Needs and Benefits

The main cemetery is too close to the shore. It is full and in need of maintenance or expansion. The cemetery needs to be renovated and maintained or relocated. The other historical and individual grave sites need to be protected or relocated. All graves need to have proper markers. Protecting the cemetery will honor Wales' ancestors and teach the children to have respect. It will also make the community safer and more beautiful.

#### Potential Constraints to Project Development

The main project constraints are solving any land issues, documenting the gravesites correctly, and raising local funding to purchase materials to accomplish the work.

### 8.6.2 Project Implementation

#### Plan of Action

- Involve the youth and volunteers to form a local "Heritage Group" to interview elders to get their help to map and identify all graves in the community. Make posters to advertise the project and encourage public participation.
- Meet with the entities to discuss land issues and options for expansion or a new cemetery site.
- Research the costs and options for new fencing, markers, etc. Write a plan for expansion, relocation, or new cemetery construction.
- Obtain funding, order supplies, and hire or obtain local volunteers to build or expand the cemetery according to plans.

#### Organization Responsible

1. The Native Village of Wales – lead agency
2. The City of Wales – possible project partner
3. Wales Native Corporation – land owners

## **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- *National Park Service*

<http://www.nps.gov/bela/>

- *Local and regional donations and fund raising*

## **8.7 PRIORITY #7 Repair housing**

### **8.7.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

Housing is at a critical level in Wales. There is severe over-crowding with several generations of families living in each house. Homes are older, costly to maintain, and not energy efficient. Elders need to have their own homes to better care for their health and well-being. Middle age and younger families need housing to meet their needs. Single adults need to have access to housing as well so that they can be more self-sufficient. Adequate housing is needed for healthcare and law enforcement professionals. Modern adequate housing will honor and respect all member of the tribe and raise the standard of living in Wales.

There is a lack of housing for elderly, single adults, young married couples or families, and low-income families in Wales. Many families may not be able to qualify for home loans and there is a shortage of rental properties currently in Wales. Duplexes or small rental homes could serve as transitional housing for residents who are trying to qualify for home purchases. The current process of obtaining new living units for any tribe is a complex and lengthy system. The Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority operates on the system called the Mutual Help Model based on block grants. With this funding, eligible families are approved for housing units and an aggregate 6-10 new homes are built in Bering Strait communities about every 10 years. The only new home build recently in Wales was one for an elder, which is located dangerously close to the shore. Wales is very unlikely to be getting any new house for several years, because block grant funding for housing has decreased over the years while construction costs have risen. There is a newer method of funding housing called leveraging, which is more complex. It has had some success in other areas of the country and may work for an apartment building project.

Existing homes are old and in dire need of repair. Most homes could benefit with the addition of one or two extra bedrooms. Doors and windows need to be upgraded to more energy efficient models. Insulation in floors, walls, and ceilings should be improved to arctic standards. Foundations need to be examined and repaired. Arctic entryways would make some homes more energy efficient. Also ventilation systems and boilers need to be upgraded to assure for heat efficiency and healthy indoor air quality and less mold issues. One home damaged by fire needs to be repaired so that it can be occupied again.

#### **Project Need and Benefits**

The population has not changed drastically in Wales since 1950, but the population cannot increase due to the lack of available housing. Many tribal members have opted to leave Wales to find adequate housing in Nome or other villages in the region. Each time a person leaves Wales to go live elsewhere, the community loses skilled workers, social and traditional ties, and vital participants in community affairs. If more homes and rental units were available to the tribe than more people would remain and contribute to the community and culture. There is a need for rental units for elders, single adults who no longer desire to live with their parents, young married

couples or families, families in transition or on fixed incomes, and even temporary housing for stranded guests (a chronic issue in Wales). Also if existing homes were enlarged, repaired, and upgraded to be more energy efficient, it would improve the quality of life for the residents of Wales and their guests.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Some constraints would in determining eligibility of families for assistance for repairs to existing home or any future new housing units. It will take time to gather information in order to apply for funding. Other constraints would be the bureaucratic process of leveraging options or other assistance options to obtain new housing for Native communities. Some funding sources have stringent compliance regulations. The high cost of shipping reduces the funding available to build homes. Other constraints would be selecting a site for the project, obtaining easements, and solving environmental issues.

## **8.7.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Conduct a survey to determine the local repair needs and number of new units needed.
- Develop preliminary plans for the size and projected cost of the project. Do a local feasibility study in order to determine profitability of the project. Explore insurance options.
- Select potential sites for the project and look into easement and environmental issues as well as access issues to utilities.
- Write management and maintenance policies for the apartment units if they are part of the plan. Develop application forms and lease agreements forms.
- Secure funding and project partners for the various stages of planning and construction. The tribe can apply for the ICDBG grant on its own with assistance from the BSRHA, or they can look into leveraging options.
  - Title VI options – This is a program where they tribe borrows against future block grant allocations.
  - Partnering – There are USDA programs for low interest loans to build houses for eligible families.
  - Section 184 – There is a program where the tribe can use a commercial bank to obtain funds for new housing.
  - Site Preparation- backfill and bring up to grade.

### **Organizations Responsible**

1. Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority
2. City of Wales
3. Native Village of Wales
4. Wales Native Corporation

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- ***Bering Strait Housing Regional Authority***  
<http://bsrha.org/>
- ***State of Alaska Mini-Grant Program***  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/minigrant.htm>

- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Division of Community Advocacy  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>
  - **Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)**  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>
  - **AHFC**  
<http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/home/index.cfm>
  - **Wells Fargo Bank**  
<http://www.wellsfargo.com>
  - **USDA Rural Development Housing and Community Facilities Program** –  
[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/success%20stories/Helth\\_Clinic\\_Wales\\_AK.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/success%20stories/Helth_Clinic_Wales_AK.htm)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM),**  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>

## 8.8 PRIORITY #8 Public Safety

### 8.8.1 Project Description

#### Background

Police –The City of Wales currently has primary responsibility and works with the troopers as needed for law enforcement issues. There is no designated law enforcement staff and the city workers deal with each issue that comes up as they are able. The city has agreed to allow the tribe to begin working on an MOA with Kawerak for the VPSO program. The tribe is currently trying to solve the VPSO housing, holding cell, and VPSO office solutions so they can obtain a VPSO for the community.



VPSO Jack Linn, Jr.; VPSO Program Director, Gina Appolloni, and VPSO Tim Pehle at the 2010 Kawerak Regional Conference, The Native Village of Wales is currently working with Kawerak to obtain a VPSO to serve in Wales.

Fire – Code Red box located near the IRA building. There is a local volunteer fire department.

Search and Rescue –The Wales search and rescue volunteer team has a limited amount of search and rescue equipment which is stored in various places. Most volunteers utilize their own personal vehicles to conduct search missions. Food and other supplies for actual searches of missing persons are donated by the community and other regional agencies.

#### Project Needs and Benefits

The residents of Wales care about the safety of all members of the community and want to have a local VPSO to ensure public safety. There is a need to control night riding, vandalism, and mischief, enforce the curfew, and have more control of animals in the community. Wales needs a safer and more well-trained fire fighting and search and rescue teams. Residents want more investigation into accidents and deaths and want to prevent violence and substance abuse.

The benefits of the constructing a new public safety building will include better office space, safe adequate storage space, adequate rest rooms and showers, and security for all police, fire, and search and rescue needs. It will help prolong the life of the equipment. Most of all, it will ensure that that the VPSO and all volunteer workers have ready access to needed equipment during an emergency. It will provide securely locked storage areas for vehicles, supplies and other property. Better equipment like night fire safe boots, clothes, fire safe coats, vision goggles, fish finding equipment, radios, and exercise equipment will insure workers are strong and have all the things needed to do the job right. The building would be comfortable and energy efficient. Installing the community alert emergency siren will help workers respond faster to emergencies and alert the entire community to danger. Additional outdoor storage sheds will improve accessibility to equipment and provide storage for other emergency supplies like fuel, inflatable shelters, generators, extra food and water, and medical kits. Obtaining a new four-wheeler will assure workers always have access to transportation in an emergency.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Planning, funding, solving land issues, high freight costs, and the short construction season are the main project constraints.

## **8.8.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- The tribe will continue to work with Kawerak to obtain a VPSO for the community of Wales.
- The Volunteer Fire Dept. and Search and Rescue teams will try to attend regional training opportunities as they are able and collaborate with other communities on emergency issues that come up.
- Assess current buildings and needs for the future and begin some initial floor plans for a new building. Be sure to include all outdoor storage containers and sheds. Select a few potential sites and address land issues so a decision can be made. See what local resources are available to count as a match.
- Develop a list and research all of the new equipment and vehicle needs of the police, fire, and search and rescue teams. Develop a resource list and prices including freight.
- Review policies and procedures that exist or need to be developed for the new public safety building. Decide how or if other agencies will use the building or share expenses.
- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Once funding is secured, hire a grant manager and project manager to plan and begin construction. Develop temporary storage plan for construction materials.
- Write up a plan and schedule for moving equipment into the new facility when it is available.

### **Organizations Responsible**

1. City of Wales – Emergency planning, ordinances, assist Troopers
2. Native Village of Wales – VPSO program
3. Volunteer Fire Dept./Search & Rescue
4. Wales Native Corporation – land issues and gravel

## Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information

- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Division of Community Advocacy  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>
- **Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)**  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>
- **Rasmuson Foundation** –  
[www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- **Denali Commission** –  
<http://www.denali.gov>
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
- **State of Alaska Legislature** - Appropriations, Senate: <http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/> ,
- **State of Alaska House of Representatives** - <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/>
- **United States Legislature**- Appropriations, Senators: <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/fos.php> , Mark Begish: <http://begish.senate.gov/public/>, Lisa Murkowski: <http://murkowski.senate.gov/public/>
- **United States House of Representatives** - <http://www.house.gov/> , Don Young: <http://donyoung.house.gov/>
- **REVL Communications** – 650 West 58<sup>th</sup> Suite J. Anchorage, AK 99518, Seth Burriss, [revlsale@revlinc.net](mailto:revlsale@revlinc.net), 907-563-8302
- **Federal Communications Commission (FCC) License** - <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

## 8.9 PRIORITY #9 Heavy Equipment storage

### 8.9.1 Project Description

#### Background

The current City storage buildings are in very poor condition and need to be replaced or drastically renovated. Storage is also needed for the search and rescue equipment, emergency supplies, firefighting equipment, and for the VPSO equipment.

#### Project Needs and Benefits

Indoor storage is more secure and prolongs the useful life of heavy equipment in the Arctic.

#### Potential Constraints to Project Development

Potential constraints are finding available sites, short construction season, high cost of transportation of project supplies, and finding funding sources for the project.



Current city storage areas are not large enough to house all heavy equipment.

## 8.9.2 Project Implementation

### Plan of Action

- Assess current buildings and needs for the future and begin some initial floor plans for a new building. Select a few potential sites and address land issues so a decision can be made. See what local resources are available to count as a match.
- Review policies and procedures that exist or need to be developed for the new storage building. Decide how or if other agencies will use the building or share expenses.
- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Once funding is secured, hire a grant manager and project manager to plan and begin construction. Develop temporary storage plan for construction materials.
- Write up a plan and schedule for moving equipment into the new facility when it is available.

### Organization Responsible

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Native Village of Wales – possible project partner to store dump truck and bobcat
3. Wales Native Corporation – land issues, gravel needs, possible project partner

### Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information

- **Rasmuson Foundation** – [www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- **Denali Commission** – <http://www.denali.gov>
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Division of Community Advocacy <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>
- **Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)** <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>
- **State of Alaska Legislature** - Appropriations, Senate: <http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/> ,
- **State of Alaska House of Representatives** - <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/>
- **United States Legislature**- Appropriations, Senators: <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/fos.php> , Mark Begish: <http://begish.senate.gov/public/>, Lisa Murkowski: <http://murkowski.senate.gov/public/>
- **United States House of Representatives** - <http://www.house.gov/> , Don Young: <http://donyoung.house.gov/>

## 8.10 PRIORITY #10 Water and sewer, waterline

### 8.10.1 Project Description

#### Background

Wales does not have a water and sewer system for residents. Piped water is only available at the school and in teacher housing. The washeteria is small and has limited hours of operation (very crowded). Residents pay \$3 per load to wash clothes, \$3 for a 15 minute shower, and \$.25 per

gallon for drinking water at the city watering site. ). In 2011 there was an issue with low levels of radiation in the water. Currently, water is derived from Gilbert Creek during the summer, and residents haul treated water from a 500,000-gallon storage tank at the washeteria. Residents also self-haul untreated water/ice from Village Creek and other nearby creeks/lakes. The city honey bucket haul system is limited forcing residents to have disposal issues as site is some distance away from the village. There are two septic systems: one for the school and a second for teacher's housing, the clinic, and city building. The clinic no longer is using the septic tank and no longer has access to piped water due to maintenance issues. Residents pay a \$20 fee on their utility bill for honey bucket haul fees. Two groundwater wells have been drilled anticipating future water and sewer needs. A pump house and watering point enclosure are needed.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

Residents self-haul water from the city watering site or the nearby creeks and streams and use a honey buckets haul system for sewage which is a hardship and an inconvenience, but more importantly it creates sanitation problems. The health and well-being of all residents would improve with their inclusion to the system. Wales also needs to prepare now for upcoming construction so new buildings like a new power plant, clinic, or apartment building will have access to sewer and water.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Many of Alaska's villages have inadequate water supply and waste disposal and funding is limited. Funding usually goes to other communities where needs are greater. Some sources may be reluctant to fund the beach extensions in Wales because the homes there are very susceptible to flooding and fall storms.

## **8.10.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Hold local meetings to determine sewer and water priorities, based on which community projects are funded and scheduled to begin.
- Set up a meeting with VSW (State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Village Safe Water Program) to discuss available options. Contact: Project Engineer 907-269-7610
- Call CE2 Engineers or a similar agency to explore options. <http://www.ce2engineers.com/>
- Train a city grant writer or work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds. Identify funding sources and submit an application for design and construction funds.

### **Organizations Responsible**

1. City of Wales – lead agency
2. Wales Native Corporation – land issues and gravel
3. Native Village of Wales – IGAP program

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- *State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development*, <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/> Contact: 907-443-5459

- *State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water Village Safe Water Program*) <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/vsw/index.htm>

## 8.11 PRIORITY #11 Renovate church, teen center

### 8.11.1 Project Description

#### Background

Church was built in 1898. Services are currently being held in the parsonage because the church building is not energy efficient in the winter time. The space available limits the number of people able to attend religious services. Current community and youth activities happen at the school or the IRA building. The school is closed all summer and not available in evenings unless there is a sporting event going on. The IRA building is used for other purposes and not always available. There is very little storage for youth activity supplies.

For thousands of years the tribe has maintained a unique and separate identity and culture. This task has not always been easy. Some tribal members have left Wales to go live in other areas of the state and country. As elders pass on, the traditions, cultural practices, and depth of the language is slowly being lost. The tribe has noticed that there are fewer organized religious or cultural activities in Wales. The elders believe that the key to a strong community is to have more opportunities to interact at community activities of all kinds. Today, much of the focus is on making a living and surviving in this modern world. Each year fewer tribal members go out to camp or participate in subsistence hunting and gathering of berries and greens. Fewer young people are interacting with adults and elders to learn to dance, drum, or sing, and fewer tribal members are learning to fish, hunt, butcher and store food, cook traditional foods, carve, bead, sew, and make sleds or boats.



**The church is over 100 years old and no longer suitable as a public meeting place. It is not energy efficient or structurally sound. Church services are currently being held in the parsonage.**

#### Project Needs and Benefits

The community needs an adequate church facility to hold religious meetings and a drug-free, supervised place for teens to hang out with structured activities to keep them from being bored. Having adequate facilities for religious and social activities will give the community a sense of belonging and provide a healthy place to interact, exercise and be involved in recreational activities.

A designated teen center would assure teens have a place to exercise and socialize. There would be adequate storage for supplies for games, crafts, and other activities. A variety of programs could be held at various times. It would be a great place for elders to interact with the youth to share traditional knowledge. Having a teen center will show the youth how important they are to the community. It may minimize the night riding, curfew breaking, and

mischievous. Teens will be happier and active doing fun things. When there is a well maintained teen center, funders may be more willing to assist with program supplies and equipment.

It has always been important to the tribe to include elders and youth in cultural activities so that traditions, cultural skills, and language are not lost. Having a place to interact and organized activities on a regular basis will give the tribe more opportunities to share and learn from each other. The young people will be able to interact with role models in the tribe, and elders will be able to pass valuable knowledge on to the next generation. It would strengthen the tribe's identity and unique culture and provide healthy activities for all members of the tribe. The skills gained will help the tribe to preserve the culture and share it with others.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Care would need to be taken to construct energy efficient facilities where they restrooms are located in a smaller section of the building that could be easily heated by a small furnace, so that heat could be turned off or reduced in rest of the building when not in use. Other constraints would be obtaining funding for maintenance, programs, and staff. The best approach will be a creative approach that utilizes a variety of volunteers and agencies.

The rural aspect of Wales offers many challenges for all members of the community in regards to cultural, social, and recreational programs. Funding sources are limited, competitive, or only focus on certain demographic groups or themes. Few funding sources will finance cultural facilities or activities for extended periods of time. Therefore, cultural programs of any tribe must constantly seek funding from a variety of sources and be creative in how programs are designed and implemented. Funding is one of the major challenges for any building project.

## **8.11.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Meet with the church and church leaders to determine the needs of the new or renovated church.
- Form a local list of all teens that will use the facility for the next 5 years. Be sure to include children who will become a teen in the next 5 years as well as current teens. Conduct a local survey of parents and youth to get ideas for the project.
- Form a Wales Cultural/Youth Activity Planning group with representatives from elders, adults and teens. List activities that do not require much funding using donated space, supplies, and volunteers. Work with other tribes and organizations to have joint cultural activities.
- Outline the goals of the projects. Develop lists of possible programs and activities to hold inside the center.
- Estimate needed space and begin some initial floor plans. Ask other communities with teen centers if they will share building designs with Wales to help save planning costs.
- Approach the city and corporation to determine a possible site for the new church and the new youth center.
- Have a local contest for a youth artist to draw the future teen center. This will inspire the community and show funders that the youth are committed to the project.
- Do local fund raising for the gravel pad or other planning costs.
- Select sites and identify possible funding sources and partners.

- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak’s grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds from the community, and apply for funds for the various cultural activities selected in the priorities
- Site preparation, gravel and backfill. Explore easement and environmental issues and access to utilities.

### **Organization Responsible**

1. Thornton Memorial Lutheran Church
2. City of Wales – possible lead agency on teen center
3. Native Village of Wales – possible lead agency on teen center
4. Wales Native Corporation – land issues and gravel
5. Kawerak Wellness Program - programs

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- ***CDBG - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development***  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>
- ***Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)***  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>
- ***Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDG)***  
<http://www.nsedc.com>
- ***Rasmuson Foundation***  
<http://www.rasmuson.org/>
- ***National Park Service Historic Preservation***  
[www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal)
- Norton Sound Health Corporation  
<http://nortonsoundhealth.org/>
- US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Native Americans (ANA)  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>
- Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority  
<http://bsrha.org/>
- ***M. J. Murdock Trust***  
<http://www.murdock-trust.org/>
- ***private foundations and local donations***
- Americorps/BIRCH  
<http://www.ruralcap.com/cod/BIRCH/index.cfm>
- ***Boys and Girls Club***  
<http://www.bgcalaska.org/>
- ***UAF- Northwest Campus-Cooperative Extension Program***  
[http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=category&sectionid=5&id=53&Itemid=33](http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=category&sectionid=5&id=53&Itemid=33)
- ***Elders/children/teens/volunteers***
- ***Partner programs (AEWC, NSHC, BSSD, clubs, church)***
- ***Wales Youth committee***

## **8.12 PRIORITY #12 Long and short term housing**

### **8.12.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

Historically Wales has strong ties to the people of Diomedes and other surrounding communities like Shishmaref. Harsh weather conditions often make winter trail, sea and air travel difficult. Diomedes is an island and has no land based runway, just an ice runway on the frozen sea in winter if the ice is thick enough. Diomedes does have a heliport for helicopter landings. However, when the ice runway is unavailable helicopter flights are on a weekly basis and used primarily for transport of mail. Passengers often can get a helicopter ride out of Diomedes in the winter, but have a harder time getting a seat to return and get stranded in Nome. Staying in Nome is costly so these stranded Diomedes residents often fly to Wales to await a flight to Diomedes, having friends or family in Wales who are willing to help them.

#### **Project Need and Benefits**

Housing is already at a critical level in Wales, with several generations living in one household. Adding a stranded guest to an already crowded household puts a strain on everyone, as guests can be stranded for weeks even months awaiting a flight. Also when one stranded guest leaves another one arrives to take their place. Having long-term guests in overcrowded homes is inconvenient and residents and guests have no privacy. If the communities of Diomedes and Wales could collaborate to build a bunkhouse in Wales for stranded visitors it would solve a huge problem for both communities and allow for safe housing of the stranded individuals.

#### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Some constraints would be creating a workable business plan and finding adequate funding for the project. It will take time to gather information in order to apply for grants. Other constraints would be the bureaucratic process of leveraging options or other assistance options to obtain new housing for Native communities. Some funding sources have stringent compliance regulations. The high cost of shipping reduces the funding available to build homes. Other constraints would be selecting a site for the project, obtaining easements, and solving environmental issues.

### **8.12.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Conduct a survey to determine the needs and number of units needed.
- Develop preliminary plans for the size and projected cost of the project. Do a local feasibility study in order to determine profitability of the project. Explore insurance options.
- Select potential sites for the project and look into easement and environmental issues as well as access issues to utilities.
- Write management and maintenance policies for the apartment units. Develop application forms and lease agreements forms.
- Secure funding and project partners for the various stages of planning and construction. The tribe can apply for the ICDBG grant on its own with assistance from the BSRHA, or they can look into leveraging options.
  - Title VI options – This is a program where they tribe borrows against future block grant allocations.

- Partnering – There are USDA programs for low interest loans to build houses for eligible families.
- Section 184 – There is a program where the tribe can use a commercial bank to obtain funds for new housing.
- Site Preparation- backfill and bring up to grade.

### **Organizations Responsible**

1. Cities of Wales and Diomedé
2. Native Villages of Wales and Diomedé
3. Wales Native Corporation and Diomedé Native Corporation

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- **CDBG - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development**  
<http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>
- **Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)**  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>
- **Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority**  
<http://bsrha.org/>
- **Rasmuson Foundation**  
<http://www.rasmuson.org/>
- Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority  
<http://bsrha.org/>
- **M. J. Murdock Trust**  
<http://www.murdock-trust.org/>
- **private foundations and local donations**
- **State of Alaska Legislature - Appropriations, Senate:** <http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/> ,
- **State of Alaska House of Representatives -** <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/>
- **United States Legislature- Appropriations, Senators:** <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/fos.php> ,  
Mark Begish: <http://begish.senate.gov/public/>, Lisa Murkowski:  
<http://murkowski.senate.gov/public/>
- **United States House of Representatives -** <http://www.house.gov/> , Don Young:  
<http://donyoung.house.gov/>
- **Alaska Housing Finance Corporation**  
<http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/home/index.cfm>
- **Wells Fargo Bank**  
<http://www.wellsfargo.com>
- **USDA Rural Development Housing and Community Facilities Program –**  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

## **8.13 PRIORITY #13 New power plant**

### **8.13.2 Project Description**

#### **Background**

The existing power plant was built in the 1970's. As the needs of the community have grown and new facilities were built the demand for power has increased while the capacity remained the same.

### **Project Need and Benefits**

Adequate power capacity will be needed to power to the water source to get ready for sewer and water. In the mean time Wales needs reliable electric power in order to upgrade the washeteria, to upgrade to combine wind power with diesel sources, and to repair the existing power poles that are in very poor condition and a hazard.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Another obstacle is acquiring funding in time for the construction season.

## **8.13.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- All of the landholders along the route must be contacted with the intent of getting agreements for the necessary easements for the intertie.
- Contact the Denali Commission for program and funding updates.
- Open communication with AVEC on developments.
- Develop plans for the current tank farm when the new one is complete.
- Conserve fuel as much as possible, institute theft prevention measures, and maintain emergency action plans for times of shortages.
- Seek funding opportunities and make applications to expand the corporation tank farm. Explore options of using the current tanks once the new tank farm is built.
- Make sure current tanks are filled to capacity on the last shipment of the season.
- Restrict sale to residents only to avoid shortages
- Institute reliable theft prevention measures
- Form agreements to utilize all available storage tanks in Wales.
- Work closely and preplan with AVEC and BSSD regarding a plan of action in times of shortage.



**Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC).**

### **Organizations Responsible**

1. Alaska Village Electric Cooperative - <http://www.avec.org/>
2. City of Wales
3. Wales Native Corporation
4. Native Village of Wales

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- *Alaska Village Electric Cooperative*  
<http://www.avec.org/>
- *Denali Commission*  
[www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov)
- *Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority*  
<http://www.aidea.org/>

## 8.14 PRIORITY # 14 Mining

### 8.14.1 Project Description

#### **Background**

Wales has been using local sources for recent gravel needs. All the gravel sites are being depleted with each new road or construction project. Wales is rich with other potential minerals that could be developed for economic development.

#### **Project Need and Benefits**

The permafrost at most construction sites in Wales makes the need for good gravel necessary for all new construction and road projects in the community. Having a new gravel source in Wales will allow for future progress and new development projects. Safely mining other potential mineral resources would be a boost to the local economy and provide local jobs.

#### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Preliminary mineral surveys, land issues, short construction seasons, heavy equipment needs, high freight costs, and project funding are the major constraints to the project. The final Aviation Project Evaluation Board (APEB) score for the proposed airport improvement project which was approved in 2001 is 115. This is not a high enough score to be scheduled for airport improvement funding very soon. This means that it is possible that existing gravel sources could be depleted before the Alaska Department of Transportation develops a new source for the airport project.

### 8.14.2 Project Implementation

#### **Plan of Action**

- Develop a list of planned or potential development projects proposed for the next five years and do a local estimate of the amount of gravel that will be needed.
- Assess the existing gravel sites to estimate the volume that can efficiently be developed from them.
- Keep accurate local data on timelines for various development projects.
- Keep in close contact with funding agencies regarding gravel needs for projects and advocate for assistance with gravel site exploration for future needs.
- Obtain a copy of the Alaska Department of Transportation report for the planned airport project that identifies the volume and type of gravel necessary for the airport project and potential future gravel development sites.
- Work with the city and tribe to seek grant funding for mineral surveys to identify sites for future gravel sources for development projects.
- Identify a village site to store crushed rock for future development needs

#### **Organizations Responsible**

1. Wales Native Corporation – lead agency
2. Native Village of Wales
3. City of Wales

#### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- *Bering Strait Native Corporation*

<http://www.beringstraits.com/>

## 9.0 Community Project Lists

**Completed projects** that were on the idea list in the 2004-2009 Local Economic Development Plan - Better preparation for grants to avoid stressful deadlines, encourage job growth through local job bank and job fairs at the school, and condemn and demolish old homes.

**Ongoing projects** that are in progress from idea list in the 2004-2009 Local Economic Development Plan - Recording and mapping of cemetery, host outdoor community activities, hiking, baseball, picnics, maintain roads in town, winter snow sweeps, a few shelter cabins available, suicide prevention, trail markers, purchase jack hammer for cemetery renovations, teach youth to respect elders, land and one another, maintain a cleaner environment, youth assisting elders volunteer program, continue and expand village cleanup programs, enforce TERO, better phone systems, local vehicle rental for tourists, purchase fire equipment (self contained unit that can be pulled by a or trailer, honey bucket haul roads (access to lagoon), solve bulk fuel storage compliance issues, longer post office hours, assist residents with housing paperwork, fair employment policies (no nepotism), training for city government workers, new teacher housing, compile a list of plant and wildlife for tourists, bi-lingual/bi-cultural training (art, language, traditions, and dance), home visit medical assistance, power plant maintenance, replace old houses, advocate changes in moose season regulations, more animal control, elder assistance with fuel and stove oil.



Clockwise around the table from the top: Cecelia Tingook, Frank Oxereok, Jr., Ellen Richard, Anna Oxereok, Debra Seetook, and Bryant Hammond (Kawerak).

**Long term project** – Build a deep water port and boat dock.

### Future Project Ideas For Wales

- **Elder projects** – financial assistance for Elders medical needs; elders fuel and stove oil delivery assistance; Elder's lunches; record Elder's knowledge of history, weather, stories, and survival skills; local transportation or taxi for Elders; fund local certified nursing assistant to help Elders; initiate a Wales Elder's Day.
- **Cultural projects** – purchase equipment and strain staff to use audio video equipment to record local events, develop an adult dance group, teach youth traditions and cultural values, teach youth how to hunt, store and preserve subsistence foods, teach sewing, tool making, carving, sled building, boat making, start a traditional hunting gear production business, make a Kingikmiut dictionary, build a kugzri (social hall), teach and enforce tribal traditional laws, trade fairs with Russia and other villages.
- **Housing** – build new and repair old housing, more housing for young families, low income housing, seek help for working families to get housing, improve elder housing, renovate livable vacant homes in Wales, hold joint meeting with Diomedé about people getting stranded, develop housing for long term visitors.

- **Power/Fuel projects** – new bulk fuel storage tanks, annual bulk fuel purchase, replace old generators and old backup generators, power plant maintenance, consolidate bulk fuel storage, develop renewable and alternative energy like solar and wind, develop our own electrical company.
- **Jobs and Employment** – life skills and job training, help people obtain a driver's license, more local jobs, more childcare or daycare providers.
- **Communications** – new cable TV equipment, improve local access to ARCS channel, faster reliable internet, develop website to promote local art, work with the Bering Strait Inuit Council to promote local artists.
- **Healthcare** – build new clinic with dentist room, more frequent medical staff visits to Wales that stay longer to provide services, local treatments for seasonal affective disorder, act on local morgue plans, provide more fresh vegetables and fruits in Wales, obtain a local traditional healer and midwives.
- **Waste Management** – new dumpsite (fenced in, well managed and clean); obtain and manage burn box for the landfill, new or improved honeybucket lagoon.
- **Tourism**–Develop a local tourism plan, promote ecotourism; tourism brochure, gift shop, display native art and explain the use of tools for tourists; information center for tourism; renovate old church and use as museum and historical landmark; Train local guides for out of region musk ox hunters; Wales website; Obtain showcases to exhibit local art and artifacts; Rebuild “sod home” at 1<sup>st</sup> inlet with proper ventilation.
- **Community Entities** – Full time grant writers for all entities; Hire respectful, honest, and accurate bookkeepers; Encourage the community to help one another; Joint effort on important local projects; More training for tribal courts; Tribal IRA to work more with the residents.
- **Economy and Cost of Living** – Compile cost of living in Wales, seek cheaper sources for goods; Community storage areas, freezer and siqluaq (underground freezer).
- **Honoring Ancestors** – Relocate cemetery, Re-map cemetery and fix grave markers, identify new cemetery site; relocation of existing cemetery; re-erect monuments from Gilley's affair; company regulations on film making and picture taking.
- **Education** – Improve school curriculum and programs; need more local scholarships; record Elders' stories; provide more cultural learning opportunities.
- **Transportation** – Repair roads, pave runway and build crosswind runway; new dump truck; compactor for roads; upgrade “raise” road (airport); maintain road between airport and village and south end bridge; airport shelter and storage; Tin City road maintenance, boat harbor.



Clockwise around the table from the top: Sean Komonaseak, Sr., Fred Seetook, Winton Weyapuk, Jr., Clifford Seetook, Shawna Keyes, Nevaeh Richard, Anna Oxereok, Lena Sereadlook, Ellen Richard, Joanne Keyes, and Mary Ann Olanna.

- **Business Development** – More “sleepers’ lodges, hotels; fast food café (coffee shop, bakery etc); promote local arts and crafts through internet; local transportation (taxi service); laundry services, new Wales Native Corporation building to house office, store, and lodging, develop fishing industry.
- **Social** – Teen Center (cultural and western activities), Kingikmiut Dance Group building, youth activities, outdoor basketball court, build public playground and ball fields, clubs and programs for children (4-H, Scouts, Boys and Girls Club), Recreational activities and outdoor summer community events, grants for youth camp, local fishing derby, obtain audio video equipment for recording events.
- **Sewer and Water** – New washeteria building, bigger water tank; purchase washeteria dryers, more washers, upgrade showers, more storage; septic tanks in place of HBH; complete phases to obtain sewer and water.
- **Job Training** – Training and certification for local workers; training to understand and utilized BIA funding; first aid, ETT, EMT training.
- **Public Safety** – Obtain VPSO, VPSO housing, public safety building with a holding cell; obtain satellite phones for hunters and boaters and repeaters; better emergency shelter for local residents; arctic knowledge and safety training (boating, weather, travel, food); childcare protection team; neighborhood watch program.
- **Public Buildings** – New city multipurpose building, Teen center; community repair shop; facility for cultural learning and recreational activities; apartment or duplex building for visitors; building for KDF (housing, kitchenette, etc) with display case for local carvers and sewing; build new energy efficient church; use US Navy buildings.
- **Environment** – Seawall to prevent erosion; investigate musk ox problems.
- **Natural Resources** – Encourage mining and gravel development in non-subsistence areas; finding hard rock for seawall project; fisheries development; collect wool to sell (qiviut); protect our reindeer herd; making natural plant herbs; new crafts utilizing seashells; fox farm.



Bryant Hammond – Kawerak’s Planning Development Specialist.

### Review and Update Process

The Joint entities agreed to review the priorities annually and add addendums to this plan as needed.

## Maps



Current maps of the community are available through the Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program or the Kawerak Transportation Program.

### Public Participation

#### Public Planning Meeting – January Feb. 28, 2011

##### Sign In 03/01/11

- Debra Seetook
- Anna Oxereok
- Winton Weyapuk, Jr.
- Kelly J. Anungazuk
- Lena Sereadlook
- Pete Sereadlook
- Clifford Seetook
- Joanne Keyes
- Ellen J. Richard
- Tanya Pelwook
- Ellen J. Richard
- Joanne Keyes
- Tanya Pelwook

### Sign In 03/02/11

- Anna Oxereok
- Shawna Keyes
- Ellen J. Richard
- Janelle Cothorn
- Joanne Keyes
- Molly Mazonna
- Winton Weyapuk, Jr.
- Mary Ann Olanna
- Debra Seetook
- Clifford Seetook
- Sean Komonaseak
- Fred Seetook
- Lena Sereadlook

### Sign In 03/03/11

- Joanne Keyes
- Anna Oxereok
- Ellen Richard
- Winton Weyapuk, Jr.
- Debra Seetook
- Frank Oxereok, Jr.
- Sean Komonaseak, Sr.
- Clifford Seetook
- Veronica Oxereok
- Lena Sereadlook
- Mary Ann Olanna
- Cecelia Tingook

### Sign In 03/04/11

- Mary Ann Olanna
- Lena Sereadlook
- Sean Komonaseak, Sr.
- Debra Seetook
- Ellen Richard
- Clifford Seetook
- Anna Oxereok
- Frank Oxereok, Jr.
- Winton Weyapuk, Jr.
- Joanne Keyes

### **Entities Meetings to Update Identified and Approved Priorities.**

- City of Wales – 5-26-11
- Wales Native Corporation – 5-13-11
- Native Village of Wales – 6-7-11



**Facilitator of the Wales Community Planning Workshops: Pearl Mikulski, Kawerak Community Services Vice President standing in front of the Wales School.**

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**Prepared for the Community of Wales and The Bering Strait Development Council  
by  
The Wales Planning Organizations and Kawerak Community Planning and Development**

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Native Village of Wales (IRA)  
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**Joint Entities Resolution**  
**Native Village of Wales**  
**City of Wales**  
**Wales Native Corporation**  
**JOINT RESOLUTION # 14-06**

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF WALES ADOPTING THE UPDATED WALES 2012-2016 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LEDP) PRIORITY LIST.

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Wales Traditional Council is the federally recognized governing body of the tribal members of Wales, Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of Wales is the municipal governing body of Wales, Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Wales Native Corporation is the village corporation established under ANCSA; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Traditional Council, City Council, and Corporation Board is to serve the people, community, and businesses of the tribe by promoting economic opportunities that improve the economic, social, and environmental quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Traditional Council, City Council, and Corporation Board are responsible for the planning and implementation of economic development activities for the tribe in Wales, Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Traditional Council, City Council, and Corporation Board are responsible for the development and implementation of a community economic development strategy to guide the economic growth of the village in order to help increase local employment opportunities, foster a more stable and diversified economy, and improve the quality of life for residents, while maintaining the cultural heritage of the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Traditional Council, the City Council, and the Corporation Board have updated the priority list for the five-year LEDP that states the community's goals necessary for guiding future growth and economic development of the village; and,

WHEREAS, the economic development priorities listed in the LEDP were reviewed, updated, re-prioritized, and approved by the joint council during a meeting held on July 23, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this priority list; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Wales Tribal Council, City Council, and Corporation Board approve and adopt the updated priority list for the LEDP for the tribe in Wales, Alaska, applicable between 2012 and 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17 economic development Priority Projects listed below for the Native Village of Wales, as reviewed, updated, re-prioritized, and approved on July 23, 2014, are:

1. Bulk Fuel
2. New Clinic
3. HBH Lagoon/Dumpsite
4. Seawall Lagoon, Boat Harbor and Fishing
5. Cemetery
6. Repair Housing
7. Public Safety
8. Heavy Equipment/Storage
9. Water & Sewer Line
10. Renovate Church
11. Youth Center
12. Long & Short Term Housing
13. New Power Plant/Wind Solar Energy
14. Gravel Business
15. Grader
16. Snow Fencing
17. Tourism

**CERTIFICATION:** I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a convened meeting of the Wales Traditional Council, City Council, and Native Corporation Board on July 23, 2014.

[Redacted Signature]

President, Wales Traditional Council

9/9/14  
Date

[Redacted Signature]

Secretary

9-9-14  
Date

[Redacted Signature]

Mayor, City of Wales

09/10/14  
Date

[Redacted Signature]

Secretary/City Clerk

09-09-2014  
Date

[Redacted Signature]

President, Wales Native Corporation

9/13/14  
Date

[Redacted Signature]

Secretary

09/09/2014  
Date