Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: November 22, 2011
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 11-35

CITY OF BETHEL SUPPORTS AND APPROVES PARTICIPATION IN FY 2012 WATERFRONT PROJECT NOMINATION TO DENALI COMMISSION'S TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel owns and operates the Bethel Small Boat Harbor, a harbor adjacent to the Kuskokwim River that serves residents of Bethel and visitors from surrounding villages;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor is used extensively by subsistence hunters and fishers as they exercise their rights to harvest fish and wildlife from the Kuskokwim River and adjoining streams, rivers, ponds, and riverbank access points;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers the Bethel Small Boat Harbor a "harbor of refuge" for boaters caught on the Kuskokwim River during storms, natural disasters, or other life-threatening events;

WHEREAS, a hydrographic survey completed by WH Pacific in 2010 revealed a zero footage depth at the deepest part of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor at the mean low low water mark, representing scientific evidence of the need to dredge the harbor because navigability is impractical and nearly impossible;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor has not been dredged since 1997, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led a wintertime excavation (dredging) effort and the City of Bethel contributed funding;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District completed the Plans, Specification and Estimates and preliminary engineering for the mooring basin dredging construction project, and will ascertain the NEPA, environmental permitting, and Right Of Way documents by March 2012;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District is responsible for dredging the maneuvering basin (approximately one-third) and the entrance channel (approximately one-third) of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor every seven years;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District has a cost estimate that the Bethel Small Boat Harbor mooring basin, representing one-third of the entire small boat harbor, can be dredged (excavated) for $1,800,000;

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WHEREAS, eligible applicants can request up to $1,000,000 through the Denali Commission Transportation Program Nomination process to design or construct eligible projects;

WHEREAS, for the FY 2012 Denali Commission Transportation Program nomination period, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District completed and submitted a nomination form on the City of Bethel's behalf to the Denali Commission and requested $1,000,000 to dredge the Bethel Small Boat Harbor mooring basin;

WHEREAS, the remaining $800,000 to complete this dredging project will come from the following sources: $300,000 in left over dredging design money awarded by Denali Commission to Corps of Engineers in 2009, $100,000 in FY 2012 City of Bethel Adopted Annual Budget - "Denali Commission cash match" line item, and $400,000 from Port of Bethel unrestricted fund balance;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council, in conjunction with the City Finance Department, hereby commits the $500,000 in cash matching funds identified in the previous section to the construction dredging project that will dredge the mooring basin in the winter time using excavation equipment;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel pledges to perform maintenance dredging (wintertime excavation) on the mooring basin of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor approximately every seven years as directed and led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council supports and approves the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District's completion of the FY 2012 Denali Commission Transportation Program nomination form on behalf of the City of Bethel and its submission with the Plans, Specification and Estimates and preliminary engineering work in order to request $1,000,000 to dredge (excavate) the Bethel Small Boat Harbor mooring basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bethel City Council commits $500,000 in cash match to the mooring basin dredging project, provided the Corps of Engineers is awarded the grant from the Denali Commission;

ENACTED THIS 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2011 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk