Introduced by: Mayor Middlebrook
Date: January 25, 2011
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 11-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUCIL SUPPORTING THE EXTENTION OF, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE ALASKA COSTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel City Council desires to promote and strengthen its continued participation in the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP);

WHEREAS, the ACMP has been an important program that promotes a balance between economic development and protection of coastal resources and uses since its inception in 1977;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel first coastal management plan received state approval and federal approval in 1984;

WHEREAS, the ACMP gives Alaskan coastal communities an essential tool to promote responsible development while addressing impacts to coastal resources and uses;

WHEREAS, changes to the ACMP statue in 2003 and changes to the ACMP regulations in 2004 eliminated the Coastal Policy Council, removed consideration of air and water impacts during ACMP project reviews, and diminished the opportunity for meaningful participation in the program by Bethel Region and other coastal districts;

WHEREAS, the coastal communities' having a voice in addressing local circumstances and concerns is vital to the future well-being of traditional ways of life;

WHEREAS, recommendations from the June 2008 evaluation of the ACMP by the federal Office of Coastal, Ocean and Resource Management encouraging the State of Alaska to reevaluate the implementation of the amended ACMP, revisit the requirements for designated areas, provide more technical assistance, and evaluate the effectiveness of retaining the DEC "carve-out" have not been sufficiently addressed;

WHEREAS, the comprehensive 2008 reevaluation of the ACMP initiated by the State of Alaska in 2008 has not resulted in any changes to the program;

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WEHREAS, the ACMP will sunset on July 2011 unless the Alaska State Legislature extends the program; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel Planning Commission recognizes the significance of the coastal planning and supports legislation that will continue the Alaska Coastal Management Program by passing 4-0 in favor of Bethel Planning Commission RESOLUTION NO. 2001-01

WHEREAS the City of Bethel Planning Director, as the Bethel District Coastal Coordinator, is assigned required tasks relating to plan administration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: 1. That the Bethel City Council supports the amendments to the ACMP that will restore checks and balances to the program, all meaningful participation by coastal districts and promote responsible development. 2. The City of Bethel Council supports introduction and passage of legislation that will eliminate sunset provisions for the ACMP, restore the ability of coastal districts to establish enforceable policies for matters not adequately addressed by state or federal law, eliminate requirements for designated areas for the application of enforceable policies, include the Department of Environmental Conservation in project consistency reviews, and establish a Coastal Policy Board to restore checks and balances to the program.

ENACTED THIS 25 DAY OF JANUARY 2011 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk