

*Shishmaref Interagency **Planning Committee** Meeting # 1*

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: August 25, 2015

Project: DCCED Strategic Management Plan-Shishmaref

Meeting Time: 9:30 to 11:30 am

Location: Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Atwood Conference Center

ATTENDEE LIST:

	Fred Eningowuk, Community Coordinator		Tim Sandstrom, AEA
	Rueben Weyiouanna, IRA	T	Mark Romick, AHFC
	Jackie Schaeffer, CCHRC/WHP		Erin Dougherty Lynch, NARF
	Kristine Tapio-Harper, USDA/NRCS		David Williams, USACE
	Michael Sookiyak, Sr., IRA Shaktoolik	T	Jim Atkinson, NPS
	Dan Bocchia, ANTHC	T	Beth Marino, Oregon State
	Mia Heavener, ANTHC		Ann Gravier, Homeland Security
	Raymond O'Neill, ANTHC		Scott Simmons, AECOM
T	Christy Miller, Tetrattech		Sally Russell Cox, SOA/DCCED/DCRA
	Jimmy Smith, DCRA		Laurie Cummings, HDR
	Glen Price, SNC		Julie Jessen, HDR
	Jed Drolet, AEA		Deanna Kilburn, HDR

T – participated via teleconference

1. Safety Moment, Introduction and Agenda Review – Julie Jessen, HDR

- Julie reviewed the agenda and introduced Sally, Fred and Laurie. She reviewed the ground rules: community's best interest comes first; share the air; address issues; look for the donut, not just the hole; every idea is a good idea.

2. Meeting Purpose, Role of Agency Coordination, Timeline – Sally Russell Cox, DCCED

- The Alaska Community Coastal Protection Project was funded through the federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) by a 2009 grant to the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). The project was inspired by the strategic management plan developed for Newtok. The objective of the project is to increase community sustainability and resilience to natural hazard impacts. Essential components of the project are strong community leadership, agency support and careful, effective planning.
- In order to build strong community leadership, a full-time Community Coordinator works to represent the community at these interagency working group meetings, works with project staff, the interagency group, and with the planning contractor to develop a resiliency plan, and advocates for funding to carry out the resiliency plan. DCRA supports the Community Coordinator in carrying out his or her responsibilities, providing technical and other assistance.

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- The interagency working group, which consists of federal and state agencies, regional and local organizations, and community representatives, works to coordinate resources and provide technical assistance for implementation of the community resiliency plan.
- HDR was hired to work with the community and interagency working group to develop a strategic management plan for how the community and agencies will proceed over the next 10-20 years to accomplish the actions recommended by the community.
- The plan is community driven with technical support from agencies to sequence activities and projects, identify funding sources, critical funding cycles and resource leveraging opportunities. The interagency group also provides assistance in identification of construction windows. The Interagency Working Group provides coordinated assistance to the community to achieve resilience action. The benefits of the group include leveraging of resources, better work coordination, and reduced project timelines and construction schedule conflicts.

3. Community Welcome and Our Story/Our Values – Fred Eningowuk, Community Coordinator

- Fred discussed the community surveys and noted that there was a good response from the community. He talked about how important it is to hear comments from community elders in particular and how important it is for the community to work together to preserve their traditional way of life and encourage youth to remain in/come back to Shishmaref.
- Fred emphasized the difficulty with even mentioning the word “relocation”. He said that it makes it very difficult to get the resources Shishmaref need to maintain and upgrade safe community infrastructure and housing because the view is that if they are going to relocate then there is less interest in investing funds in the community now. Fred expressed some of the community’s frustration with the lack of understanding that relocation is at least a decade away and they need resources now and in the future. The community has also expressed frustration with how many studies have been conducted without action or feedback.
- Fred talked about how the community has been adjusting to climate change, pointing out how it has been necessary to move the fish drying racks to avoid the fish being ruined. He also said that the spring bearded seal harvest is down by 50%.

4. Work to Date – Laurie Cummings, HDR

- Laurie summarized the work that has been accomplished to date. The work began with a literature review, community and value surveys, elder interviews and a community gathering. The report from the meeting and information gathered over the last few months is in process. Once the Interagency Working Group meetings have been held and community input has been received, another community gathering will be held. The Strategic Management Plan will be completed in June 2016.
- Laurie discussed the Draft Vision Statement that was developed subsequent to the surveys and community gathering. She noted that it is a work in progress and that it can and should be modified as the process continues. The draft statement summarizes community identified issues and expresses the hope/desire for the future: Shishmaref is a safe and resilient community. We want to relocate to a new village that respects and honors our Inupiaq culture and traditional values. We will work together and with partners to develop projects and policies to protect our residents, infrastructure, natural environment, and subsistence resources. We will preserve and enhance our community for us and future generations.
- Laurie summarized the community issues which are based on the work completed over the last few months: Inadequate and lack of community infrastructure; inadequate housing; lack of jobs and economic development opportunities; need for extension and maintenance of seawall; lack of evacuation shelter/places of refuge; funding; VPSO contact; substance

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abuse; children and adult activities; encourage youth to return to Shishmaref after college; need Inupiaq tradition and language classes; alternative energy; elder assistance and youth programs; cost of living; port and more heavy equipment needed.

- Laurie reviewed the community's draft guiding principles: Residents must be safe from natural hazards, flooding and erosion; respect, honor and encourage individual views/ideas; make decisions openly and include local input; encourage local hire and use funds wisely, develop in a manner that strengthens the community and respects Shishmaref's traditional culture

5. Other Area Projects – Group

- ANTHC – Rural sanitation; energy audits (training local operators); upgrades 2016
- Dredge reservoir
- Raw water transmittal line; washeteria improvements – 2017
- AEA – Regional energy plan for Bering Straits – draft
- ANTHC – Sanitation Facilities Master Plan (2010)
- National Center for Atmospheric Research ID research needs
- USACE – two phases of revetment projects complete – Need cost share agreement for completion of the third phase
- AECOM/DOT&PF – Relocation Determination – Deer Mtn. Study (FHWA) final report pending October 2015 (three sites were identified)
- AEA – Rebuild tank farm – final design for construction 2016
- IRA – road paving
- New teacher housing (2015)
- ANTHC/AEA renewable energy grant – heat recovery for community buildings
- Airport relocation studies
- Update Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- New houses (July 2014)
- Wind turbines

6. Issues and Solutions – Group

Issues:

- Land ownership (NPS) – need determination of ownership and park boundaries with the impact of climate change taken into consideration
- USDA has soils information; melting permafrost
- Need climate appropriate, adaptable design
- Need access (maintain) to potential sites
- Need study to evaluate relocation vs. defense -- USACE needs timeline to show budget and schedule for implementation of action items; aging infrastructure needs replacement
- Immediate vs. long term needs; attachment to land and place – cultural connection, subsistence; need community and cultural cohesion;
- "Relocation" impact on funding; the word impacts quality of life; negative comparison with communities not relocating
- Need assistance from agencies to develop comprehensive list for base EA/EIS document that will address multi-agency requirements
- Need for moveable/relocatable infrastructure and housing

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- Food security-cost and availability; need to address cost of living issues
- Need opportunity to develop and maintain paved roads to improve haul system (upgrade opportunities) – sanitation system – new infrastructure that can be moved

Solutions/Opportunities/Funding:

- Capacity/organizational support-take advantage of training opportunities for local work force. Will help to encourage youth to stay or return after college if there are local employment opportunities
- Research – subsistence, cultural (funding, leverage), coastal dynamics, erosion (NPS)
- NPS – Bering Land Bridge; support position on Deer Mountain relocation; have overlapping interests with Shishmaref but has small staff and budget; would support recommendation to Congress for road and land swap. Could provide auxiliary assistance through alignment of research efforts, e.g. subsistence; cultural/social; shipping/oil exploration; fine tune to community desires; “leap frog” relocation rather than a major move.
- Tribal Conservation District
- Lifewater Engineering sewer system for centralized sanitation (mini-system) – include lessons learned in document

Funding Resources

- Small scale solar and solar/thermal; Renewable Energy Grant Fund; Power project loan fund (upgrades); Office of Indian Energy – DOE; AEA and Denali Commission – rural power system (AVEC partnership); bulk fuel upgrade; DOE – start funding Marsh Creek
- BIA Transportation funds – research available programs, possible coordination with NPS
- HUD 184 (Repay loan) – build sustainable, moveable housing and community building; Kawerak match for road project – IRR funding
- Community Assistance Program
- RCAC – Rural Community Assistance Corp.
- Indian Health Services
- RDA
- EPA
- Village Safe Water Program

Next Steps – Julie Jessen

- Community review of proposed solutions
- Homework Assignment: Agency options for technical and/or financial solutions
- Next Meeting: Synergy; October 13-14, 2015 – Location TBD

**Shaktoolik Interagency Working Group Meeting
August 24, 2015**

**Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of
Community and Regional Affairs
Atwood Conference Center
550 W. 7th Avenue**

1-800-315-6338; access code 45881#

1:30—3:30 PM

	Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
1.	<u>Karlene Sagoonick</u>	<u>Native Village of Shaktoolik</u>	<u>KSagoonick@kawerak.org</u>	<u>955-3701</u>
2.	<u>Fred Sagoonick</u>	<u>Stk Native Corp</u>	<u>fsusago@yahoo.com</u>	<u>955-3241</u>
3.	<u>Egan Jones</u>	<u>SICK CITY</u>		
4.	<u>GREG MAGEE</u>	<u>ADEC/USW</u>	<u>GREG.MAGEE@ALASKA.GOV</u>	<u>269-7613</u>
5.	<u>GEORGE WILSON</u>	<u>ADEC/USW</u>	<u>GEORGE.WILSON@ALASKA.GOV</u>	<u>269-7616</u>
6.	<u>Mia Heavener</u>	<u>ANTHC</u>	<u>MIA.HEAVENER@ANTHC.ORG</u>	<u>721-7229 3539</u>

	Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
7.	JACKIE SCHAEFFER	WHPACIFIC (CHRL SNC)	jschaeffer@whpacific.com	339-5323
8.	Jimmy Smith	DCRA	jsmith@AKASKA.GOV	269 4132
9.	Michael Sookingol	SKKIRA	ms54404@yahoo.com	956-1070
10.	David Williams	AK Corps of Engineer	david.p.williams@ usace.army.mil	907-696-3685
11.	Laurie Cummings	HDR		
12.	Meera KOLLER	AVFC		
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