

Newtok Planning Group Meeting Notes for Thursday, January 18, 2007

In attendance: Sally Russell Cox, Ruth St. Amour (Alaska Division of Community Advocacy); Greg Magee, Jon Menough (Village Safe Water); Brenda Kerr, Clarke Hemphill (Corps of Engineers); Gary Brown, Scott Simmons (Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management); David Vought (HUD); Bob Walsh (Office of Senator Murkowski); Crystal Leonetti (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service); DanaLyn Dalrymple (Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP representing Newtok Native Corporation); Michael Bird (Coastal Villages Region Fund); Nicole McCullough (ASCG, Inc. representing Newtok Native Corporation for BIA Roads Project); Gabriel Mahns, Pat Oien (Federal Aviation Administration).

Scheduling Work Session and Gantt Chart Development

A scheduling work session was held to develop a Gantt chart which Newtok Planning Group (NPG) members could use as a general guide and timeline for village relocation activities in Newtok and Mertarvik. This Gantt chart will be brought to future NPG meetings so that it can be updated as necessary.

Prior to the work session, Sally Russell Cox emailed NPG members the following questions which NPG members were asked to respond in preparation for a future “scheduling work session” (the responses have been compiled in an Excel spreadsheet):

- 1. What type of assistance for infrastructure and services can your agency provide to Newtok in its relocation efforts? (Specify program(s) and authority)*
- 2. What must happen before your agency/organization can provide assistance to Newtok at the new village site? (community plan, level of population/infrastructure at new site, etc.)*
- 3. Is there a triggering entity that must make the request for assistance? (Does the community/other entity need to make the request for your agency’s assistance?)*
- 4. Are there cost-sharing requirements associated with your agency’s assistance?*
- 5. What are your deadlines and funding cycle?*
- 6. What is the general time frame for assistance to be carried out (planning, design, construction), once funding has been appropriated?*

An oversized Gantt chart with a 5 year timeline was taped to the wall. Sally Russell Cox and Brenda Kerr facilitated the work session. Participants were given sticky note pads and asked to write the type of assistance they could provide to Newtok and place the sticky notes on the chart, showing where in the timeline the assistance would begin and generally end. Everyone was asked to describe to the group the type of assistance, time parameters, and dependencies. Much discussion ensued and sticky notes were arranged and rearranged. An electronic Gantt chart has been created in MS Project with the results

Newtok Planning Group
Notes from January 18, 2007 Meeting

form the work session. This will be emailed to NPG members and will be printed on 24" x 36" plotter paper for mark up/updates at future NPG meetings.

Agency Updates

- ASCG, Inc. is preparing a hazard mitigation plan for Newtok, which should be completed in March or April 2007.
- Hazard mitigation funds become available any time there is a federal disaster declaration. Application for the funds must be made within one year of the disaster, and need not be directly related to that disaster. Such funds could be used for a phased relocation of structures from Newtok to Mertarvik.
- There will be a need for surveying at Mertarvik, for property descriptions. A limited amount of surveying could be done this summer as part of the Corps' geo-tech work, subject to agency partnerships.
- FAA plans to conduct a wind study in December 2007.
- The Corps may build the construction camp/multi-use building as early as 2008.
- Newtok Traditional Council could apply for ICDBG grants from HUD for up to \$500,000 per year. 20% of the grant amount can be spent on soft costs such as planning. Potential grant projects include economic development, road construction, or rehab of houses.
- AVCP Regional Housing Authority could use Newtok's NAHASDA funds to conduct an assessment of housing needs.
- There may be a need for workforce development, to prepare local residents for participation in the construction projects.
- Newtok Native Corporation could set up an 8a company to more easily participate in federal contracting.
- Coastal Villages Region Fund has set up a 40-foot modular building in Newtok to provide office space and meeting space. CVRF anticipates building a fisheries support center in Mertarvik, which provides a shop for vehicle repair and similar activities.
- ASCG, Inc. is working on Newtok's BIA Indian Reservation Roads Inventory, which should be completed by March 15. The completed inventory will increase the funds available to Newtok for road work.
- As the legislative session has begun, Newtok may consider preparing a funding request for the capital budget, and may also wish to engage the staff of their elected officials (Senator Lyman Hoffman and Representative Mary (Kapsner) Nelson).
- The financial feasibility of infrastructure at the new site will require study. The current site of the community will continue to need services for several more years.
- The impacts of erosion should be included in project timelines.