

# **SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION**

**Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson**

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Sophie Weyiouanna - Administrative Assistant

## **Public Meeting**

**Shishmaref Community Center**

**January 13, 2004**

**12:30 p.m.**

Meeting called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chairperson, Luci Eningowuk.

Roll Call.

Shishmaref I.R.A. Village Council present:

Reuben Weyiouanna, President  
Kelly Eningowuk, Vice President  
Luci Eningowuk, Secretary  
Stanley Tocktoo, Member  
Edwin Weyiouanna, Member

Shishmaref City Council present:

Curtis Nayokpuk, Mayor  
Stanley Tocktoo, Vice Mayor  
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member  
Edwin Weyiouanna, Member  
Kelly Eningowuk, Member

Shishmaref Native Corporation Board of Directors present:

Fred Goodhope Jr., Member  
Curtis Nayokpuk, Member  
Reuben Weyiouanna, Member

Elder Representative present: Davis Sockpick

Quorum established.

Staff present: Albert Kowchee, Kawerak Transportation Engineer  
Tony Weyiouanna Sr., Shishmaref Transportation Planner  
Nancy Kokeok, Shishmaref Tribal Coordinator

Introduction of Guests upon arrival at 3:00 PM:

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

Albert Kowchee, Kawerak Transportation Program  
Rob Sampson, USDA-NRCS  
Heather Oleson, USDA-NRCS  
Dave Williams, Corps of Engineers  
Bruce Sexauer, Corps of Engineers

Meeting 12:30 p.m.

Agenda review

Beatrice Davis gave the invocation. Coalition will juggle the agenda due to the flight delay for the guests and will have them present their presentation when they arrive. Meeting will start with item 8&9. Motion made by Reuben Weyiouanna to approve the agenda as revised, seconded by Albert Ningeulook.

Floor turned over to Tony A. Weyiouanna Sr. by Chairperson Luci Eningowuk. Tony Welcomes everyone to the meeting, expected more turnout of guests, but due to weather the flight has been delayed, snacks are coming on the flight when it arrives. Went into the PowerPoint presentation, which included:

- Video clips of the storm footage of October 8, 2002 storm and the footage of November 21, 2003 storm for comparison of the different types of storms we have here in Shishmaref. Mentioned the worldwide coverage we have of our storms and situation on erosion and relocation.
- After this meeting we need to look at updating the Strategic Relocation Plan to update it to help move faster with the relocation project.
- Had overwhelming support to relocate the village to a safe place on the mainland by the people voting for relocation on July 10, 2002
- Kawerak Transportation (KTP) will be coming back in the next couple of weeks to resurvey the Riprap project, project continuing to move forward.
- Alaska Gold Company donated gravel bags to put in temporary beach protection for Shelton Kokeok's home. City hired a small crew to put in the bags and also dug up old gabions and put against the bank for more protection, funding donated from local entities.
- Letters of requests and assistance sent out to:
  - National Park Service (NPS) to discuss proposed road easement to access the gravel from Ear Mountain. Still waiting for word from NPS for a meeting date.
  - Sent letter to Congressman Don Young to have him consider the road to Ear Mountain as one of the region's significant regional projects for construction consideration.
  - Requested to the Corps of Engineers for two Section 14 projects, both for beach protection, one for the School property and the other for the Washeteria property. The School protection project is tentatively funded and is into design and waiting for word from the Bering Straits School District for sponsorship match. There is a 35% match required for Section 14 projects and the required match for the School property project is \$350,000.00. Need to have the match in hand by March of 2004 to start construction this summer.

- Sent a letter to NRCS to continue working with them to find a suitable site for relocation and to assist us in planning the new site for the community. They would like to continue working with the community until the relocation is completed.
- Sent a letter to Denali Commission requesting they establish a pilot project to move Shishmaref, which can later be used as an example to move other communities who are experiencing similar problems so that the cost to move all communities can be lower than trying to move everyone individually not comparing costs etc....
  - Government Accounting Office just completed their report and one recommendation to Congress is that Denali Commission be assigned as the government agency to manage the relocation of communities to safe locations for each community.
- Submitted an application to the Innovative Readiness Program (IRT) to assist the community in the relocation. Once the community has selected a site we will submit specific assistance from the IRT program.
- Have submitted a request to the Alaska DOT to include in their STIP program beachfront protection of the Shishmaref airport. They have included it in their 2004-06 STIP, but the actual construction is slated for construction in 2010 or later. Also opposed the proposed 9% match that the Governors' office is proposing for the future STIP projects.
- KTP will be coming back in a couple of weeks to resurvey the riprap project before construction. Construction to start in March sometimes.
- Set up a meeting with Senator Murkowski's office in Washington D.C. Luci and Kelly to attend the meeting scheduled for January 16, 2004 at 2:00PM. They will be providing the current update to her office and to hopefully find ways to help expedite the relocation of the community on the mainland.
- Floor turned over to Albert Ningeulook for translation into Inupiaq.
- Call for questions:
  - Delegation Representatives to Washington D.C. how many? 3- Luci and Kelly and Julianne Baltar.
  - Good basis to use the proposed 9% ADOT matching requirement to use as a base or example for constructing the road to Ear Mountain for future mineral development.
  - Participation in public meetings is good to voice concerns; we need to voice our concerns.
  - Why is ADOT pushing back the construction of the airport protection project? Due to the scoring of projects and other projects in front of this project from prior years. Curtis Nayokpuk – Mayor mentioned that ADOT is reconsidering our project for resurfacing the airport.
  - State won't do anything for residential erosion problems; maybe we have to go to the Federal governmental agencies for help.
  - The community had a couple of projects approved by Denali Commission and then they were put on hold due to the fact we voted for relocation. The State of Alaska is reluctant to spend money for development here; maybe we need to go to the Federal government who are more willing to help. This is the last year for Senator Stevens to be the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, we need to hurry and submit something.
  - Point Hope took their own initiative to move their community in the past; maybe we need to do the same if we don't get any assistance.

- Whatever we decide today, we need to either construct more seawalls or construct new site for the community.
  - Concerning the erosion in the center of the town and the proximity of the homes such as Nora Kuzuguk, Taft's and the others. Are we going to be able to move them to other parts in the community? Hard to get funding due to policy changes now. Very hard trying to find funding for moving the Kokeok's home.
  - Flood insurance for homes, only in effect if the homes receives actual damage from storms. HUD homes should be insured through the housing authority.
  - Old gabions in the area of the KTP's project will be moved to the center area of town, but only temporary.
  - People here are proud to build their own homes and most will try to move their homes instead of watching them go into the sea. This will void the insurance. Constructing homes in the rural areas is very expensive compared to the urban areas.
  - What about the BIA inventory of roads? Can we include fire lanes? We have the main roads on the inventory; the focus of new construction will be in the new relocation site.
  - Richard Kuzuguk- So, what is the hold up on selecting the site? Why don't we declare Tin Creek the new relocation site? 75% of the community members are in favor of moving to that site anyway. When are we going to set it in stone? How come it's taken 3 years for the soils study?
  - Senator Stevens mentioned to the Coalition in the past meeting with him in Anchorage that once we decide on a location for the new site he would work towards funding construction of out houses for the evacuation site.
  - Ruby Jones mentioned that during the last storm she took her own initiative to bring her family to Nome to wait out the storm due to her young children being afraid of being washed out to sea.
  - How long will it take to pick an evacuation site? We have an onsite evacuation plan here in Shishmaref, but not for off the island.
  - Can't we just have an election to vote on the site?
  - Can't we just pick one site out of the two sites? Tin Creek has more room for future development. As a matter of fact, it has almost twice the amount of land for development then the West Nunatuq site.
  - Has anything been considered for economic development? Roads are needed for access for the port, barge access and subsistence sites.
  - We should have some kind of study done for the community for the new site so that we can decide after it is advertised in the community.
- Rob Sampson's report of the NRCS study
    - Started two years ago and came to talk to different people about the area before getting started to learn about the area.
    - Dug all sorts of holes to analyze the soil composition.
    - Didn't quite get enough information of the depth of the water in the lagoon, we'll come back this summer of 2004 to finish this part of the study.
    - Conclusion for both sites, they both have similar soils except Tin Creek has more land for development. Tin Creek the preferred site by the NRCS crew who came to do the study for the new relocation site.
    - Ear Mountain can provide the gravel for the development of the new site.

- Interested in community feed back:
  - How many homes can we put in the sites looked at? 400 at the Tin Creek site and about 200 at the West Nunatuq site.
  - How deep is the permafrost at the sites? Not sure yet, the geologist looked at the water level.
  - How much gravel is needed for the house pads? 5' of gravel needed.
  - Would we need a rock crusher at Ear Mountain? Yes.
  - Are we going to have problems with dust? Maybe, but Ear Mountain has excellent gravel which can be used to reduce dust.
  - How deep does the water need to be for barge access? 7-8' deep.
  - Do you think it is feasible to have bridge access to the coastline for subsistence access? Yes, bridges are feasible if funding is secured. For example, the Anchorage Bridge is estimated to cost around \$200,000,000.00 to cross their inlet.
  - Does the Corps have any comments? No, we just saw the report today and need to take a look at the report.
  - How about using hovercrafts? That is feasible too.
  - Do you think there is enough information to make a decision of the two sites to select a relocation site? Yes, it is a god time to make a decision.
  - Suggestion to put the two sites on the ballot for choosing a site.
  - Community needs to select one of the two sites for NRCS to come back to work on more studies. We need to decide which of the two best suits our needs.
  
- Corp of Engineers- Dave Williams report:
  - Section 14 project
    - Should be able to sign an agreement by the end of the month for the school property project.
    - Proud of Shishmaref for submitting the letter to Congress for funding the school project budget.
  - Tribal Partnership project
    - Meeting to be held soon with the community to decide what to do with this project. 18 months to 2 years to complete the project.
  
- Luci turned the floor over to Reuben since she and Kelly need to catch the plane to Washington D.C.
- Reuben asked the floor if they would like to have a vote by a show of hands for selecting the two sites. Everyone said yes. Yes votes show of hands for Tin Creek- Everyone raised their hands. West Nunatuq- No votes. Tin Creek Chosen as new sit for the new location of our community.
- Follow up meeting suggested to be held this spring.

Motion to adjourn made by Alfred Weyiouanna, Tommy Obruk seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.