

**SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

P.O. BOX 72100

Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson

PUBLIC MEETING - SHISHMAREF

12NOON

SHISHMAREF COMMUNITY HALL

IRA COUNCIL PRESENT: Reuben P Weyiouanna, President
Darlene Turner, Vice President
Luci Eningowuk, Secretary
Kelly Eningowuk, Treasurer
Tommy Obruk, Member
Edwin J Weyiouanna, Member
Stanley Tocktoo, Member

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: Stanley Tocktoo, Vice Mayor
Melissa Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer
Edwin J Weyiouanna, Member
Kelly Eningowuk, Member

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: Curtis Nayokpuk, Mayor
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member
Robin K Ningeulook, Member

SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION BOARD PRESENT:
Percy Nayokpuk, President
Darlene Turner, Vice President
Reuben P Weyiouanna, Member
Tony A Weyiouanna Sr., Member

SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION BOARD ABSENT:
Curtis Nayokpuk, Member
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member

GUESTS: Peter Schweitzer, Professor, Department of Anthropology, UAF
Elizabeth Marino, Graduate Student, Department of Anthropology, UAF
Stacy Stasenکو, Anthropology Research Assistant 2 - Local

STAFF PRESENT: Tony Weyiouanna Sr., Kawerak Transportation Planner
Sophie Weyiouanna, Project Administrative Assistant
Nancy Kokeok, Tribal Coordinator
Gilbert Pootoogooluk, City Clerk

PUBLIC: In attendance 59 (see attached sign in sheet)

**SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COMMITTEE
NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF ♦ CITY OF SHISHMAREF ♦ SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION
Tony A. Weyiouanna Sr., Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner
Phone (907) 649-2289 Fax (907) 649-4461
Sophie Weyiouanna, Administrative Assistant, (907) 649-2290**

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Stacy Stasenکو opened the meeting at 12:25pm.

Peter Schweitzer – Professor, Department of Anthropology UAF, Elizabeth Marino – Graduate Student, Department of Anthropology UAF and Stacy Stasenکو – Anthropology Research Assistant 2, introduced. Rest of the people involved in the study includes: Matt Ganley – BSNC, Deanna Kingston, UAF, and Karen Kosiak, UAF.

Purpose of the meeting is to give the first presentation of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – Alaska District Project: “Collocation Cultural Impact Assessment Coastal Erosion Protection and Community Relocation Shishmaref, Alaska”.

The Corp of Engineers is to review and develop cost for several options, including: moving Shishmaref to a new site on the mainland, or move the community of Shishmaref to Nome or Kotzebue. Shishmaref peoples’ input needed on the effects of moving to Nome or Kotzebue. All the input gathered from Shishmaref, Nome and Kotzebue on the Cultural Impact Assessment on the well-being, way of life if move to another city/village, this will be heard directly at the Congressional level. Main body of the report – what consequences of moving to another community would be. Studies of King Island people will be done and what their impact was on their relocation to Nome and will be compared to Shishmaref.

Sample questions from the interview reviewed. Will be interviewing 30-60 people (elders, young people, community members), no one under the age of 18 will be interviewed because of legalities. Elizabeth Marino will be here for 2 weeks, Peter Schweitzer 1 week, Stacy Stasenکو – indefinitely.

Timeline – August 19 – September 3, 2004, first round of interviews. Second round of interviews January – February 2005. Draft report June 10, 2005 due to Corp of Engineers. Presentation of draft report to the community of Shishmaref July 2005 at a public meeting. Final draft report – August 19, 2005, final report September 23, 2005.

Volunteers needed to interview – contact Stacy Stasenکو @ 649-3661, Elizabeth and/or Peter @ 649-3098.

Johnson P Eningowuk commented on subsistence lifestyle in Shishmaref – Shishmaref has very few regulations on subsistence and if moved to another city/village, the people would be regulated by Fish & Game Nome is in District 22(D), Shishmaref 22(E) which is a completely different district, as well as Kotzebue. The people of Shishmaref would be competing with different people, and on their property, Shishmaref has their own hunting rights here, if move to a different community we’d be hurting our lifestyle, culture, language this has to be taken into consideration.

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Morris Kiyutelluk – have to consider if move to another community/village, it took our people over generations to settle here, study weather, hunting areas, depend on weather conditions, if move to another place would have to re-learn the weather/hunting areas etc. It would take one generation to settle for subsistence in Nome or Kotzebue, backlash if use their hunting spots would alienate both parties – Can't place different values on removing one culture for ones that are already in place.

Clifford Weyiouanna – there is no way Shishmaref can be compared to the move with King Island, that is a totally different reason why they moved to Nome, Shishmaref is much different than that. The reason King Island moved was because the BIA closed the school.

Peter Schweitzer mentioned that Shishmaref will be compared with the move from King Island but not for the same reasons, will try and make it clear on the report how different Shishmaref is from King Island.

Why do so many people from Anchorage, Nome, surrounding villages come to Shishmaref to subsist? There are a lot of people that subsist here. Clifford Weyiouanna volunteered to be interviewed.

Reuben Weyiouanna questioned if the work Josh was doing here is for the same thing? The work Josh was doing here is a different project, doing extensive documentation on subsistence use here in Shishmaref; the information gathered will be put in with the report.

Johnson Eningowuk commented that it's important to be interviewed, in order for the Government to spend billions of dollars to relocate Shishmaref, got to convince them somehow and tell them why it is important to stay within the location. Got to give a good reason.

Copies of the sample questionnaire will be made for whoever's interested. Will be at the Kawerak Transportation Program Office.

Tony Weyiouanna Sr. – on researches done before for the communities that have been forced to move, there shows some social problems, same thing will happen to the community of Shishmaref, the effects of moving will need to be researched. Subsistence is the way of life.

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Mary Huntington – Should include on the interview questions – school/job availability. Peter mentioned that these topics will be included in the “cultural impact” portion of the questionnaire.

It was brought up that in the future for this type of deal, let whoever know that getting interviews etc., during the subsistence time of year is hard to get people involved. Peter commented that they had no preparation time, they found out they’d start on this in July of 2004 and have one year to complete the report.

Question asked if there is anything that is going to be done on the seawall in front of the school property this summer. Peter replied that they are not qualified to answer that question, will have to ask the Corp of Engineers.

Tony Weyiouanna Sr., informed the public that the Coalition did shoreline protection for the past couple years. Media coverage done for the past couple years for exposure. Public meetings are very important for the people to express what’s on their minds. An Agency meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2004 at Anchorage during AFN in the DCED conference room. Topic: How to make relocation a reality.

Meeting over at 1:40pm.