
Community Strategic Development Plan for Savoonga 2004-2009

Top 10 Overall Community Development Projects

1. Find funding for housing locally
2. New school
3. Secure a place to exhibit and display our local Savoonga artifacts and present/share culture – Museum
4. Continue efforts to build a bed and breakfast or lodging
5. Cultural awareness club to preserve our traditions, lifestyle, language and dancing – adults and youth
6. Motivational activities to keep kids in school
7. Open sport hunting and fishing
8. Continue road project to camps
9. Reindeer processing plant
10. To build a new store



Milton Noongwook, Jerry Wongittilin,
Sally Okoomealingok, and Jotilda Noongwook

Prepared for:

Community of Savoonga
And the Bering Strait Development Council

Facilitated by

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October 2003

Background

The Kawerak Community Economic Development program (CED) worked with the community of Savoonga in updating its Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP). LEDPs analyze local conditions; identify problems and opportunities; and develop goals, strategies and outcomes to address community issues. The CED program contracted with Tom Okleasik, principal of Northwest Planning and Grants Development, to work jointly with CED and Savoonga in facilitating an update to the community LEDP.

By creating a LEDP for Savoonga as a community, local governments (both tribal and city) and entities (local organizations, ANCSA village corporation and community members) worked to develop a tool to identify collective community needs and strategies. The LEDP process facilitated a consolidated effort to implement development strategies that will subsequently increase cultural heritage, local employment opportunities, decrease dependency, and reduce duplication of efforts in various projects and programs. Overall, the goal is to improve the cultural, economic and social well being of the community.



**Figure 1: Planning participant-
Verna Immingan**

Planning Methods

The strategic planning process was based upon (a) the Technology of Participation methods developed by the *Institute of Culture Affairs*, and (b) Denali Commission-USDA-RD-Alaska Humanities Forum *Community Strategic Plan Guide and Form* (May 2001). These combined methods are proven to be effective in encouraging full participation from diverse groups and are best applied with community-based organizations.

This facilitation process was implemented among participant's first brainstorming ideas individually, then sharing and weaving ideas through group discussions, and finishing with review with the full participants confirming new resolves and decisions.

The following Foundational Values or Ground Rules were applied during each planning session:

- *Participation*: each person brings a different insight, perspective and knowledge that formulates the larger picture.

Elders
Youth
Community members

Board/council members
Staff: tribe, corporation, city

- *Respect*: respect and honor each person, view and ideas
Empower each other
- *Teamwork*: each person and role needs to work together to accomplish the goals of the community.
Sharing information and ideas
- *Creativity*: giving permission for the dialogue between the rational (mind) and intuitive (heart) perspectives.
Keep our eyes open
New ways of thinking and approaching subject
- *Action*: moving economic development towards local responsibility and accountability.

The planning process followed a three-step workshop series. Each session built upon the other and provided a comprehensive planning approach taking into account various time frames. The sessions were offered as follows:

Workshop Session	Time Frame
<p>Community Development Strategic Vision, Values and Goals Developed the direction for the community’s strategic development with an overall vision and development goals, and defined the guiding community values.</p>	5-Years (2004-2009)
<p>Strategic Action Plans for Community Implementation Selected priority projects and created strategic actions the community can take in the coming 5-years to begin the actions and movement upward to its vision and development goals.</p>	Initial five years (2004-2009)
<p>Funding and Land Use Considerations Identified potential funding and community investments to implement development goals. Identified potential sites for selection for projects requiring land. Recommended application of community values during implementation of development activities.</p>	Now (2003)

Expectations and Community Overview Data

In beginning the planning session, participants were first asked to share their expectations for the process. The following were given:

Planning Expectations

- Updated community LEDP document including
 - Community profiles
 - Community assessment
 - Community vision and value statements
 - Updated community priorities for community and economic development
 - Top priority action plans for guidance in community implementation
- A local plan so we can implement it
- A plan that will benefit our community
- Get more people involved
- Follow through and strive to do the plan as a community
- Working together
- More tourism development – including cruise ships to Savoonga
- More housing and services for Elders
- Economic development – not dependent on agencies – local empowerment
- More funding – approach for assistance
- Learn from the community members
- Assist in planning facilitation
- Enjoy the community and help small businesses and artists
- Learn from the community planning meetings
- Develop a five-year plan
- Update priorities
- New school, more housing (especially for Elders and teacher housing)
- Try harder



Figure 2: LEDP participants on day 1 of the session.



Figure 3: Savoonga beach area and boats

Current Community Data Overview

The following provides a common grounding of community data, as it exists now in 2003.

Community profile

Savoonga is located on the northern coast of St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, 164 miles west of Nome. It lies 39 miles southeast of Gambell. The City is 36 miles from the Chukotka Peninsula, Siberia. The area encompasses 6.1 sq. miles of land. Savoonga has a sub-arctic maritime climate with some continental influences during the winter. Summer temperatures average 40 to 51; winters average -7 to 11. Temperature extremes from -34 to 67 have been recorded. Average precipitation is 10 inches annually, with 58 inches of snowfall. The island is subject to prevailing winds, averaging 18 MPH. Freeze-up on the Bering Sea occurs in mid-November, with break-up in late May.



Figure 4: Savoonga beach area and boats



Figure 5: Savoonga coast and beach area

St. Lawrence Island has been inhabited since time immemorial by Saint Lawrence Island Yupik Eskimos. The island had numerous villages and settlements with a total population of around 4,000 by the 19th century. A tragic disease occurred on the island in 1878-80, severely reducing the population.

In 1903, President Roosevelt established a reindeer reservation by proclamation on St. Lawrence Island and the herd was located in the area by Savoonga. By 1914, Savoonga was an established settlement. A reindeer camp was established in 1916 at the present village site, where grazing lands were better, and the herd tended to remain. Good hunting, trapping, and the success of the reindeer herd in the area attracted more residents to Savoonga. By 1917, the herd of reindeer that was moved to the island had grown to over 10,000.

The traditional form of government that existed for countless generations was re-organized in 1934 under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). A post office was also established in 1934. The City was incorporated in 1969. When the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed in 1971, Gambell and Savoonga decided not to participate, and instead opted for title to the 1.136 million acres of land in the former St. Lawrence Island Reserve. The island is jointly owned by Savoonga and Gambell.

Savoonga Population by Race (State of Alaska Information):		Savoonga Population by Gender & Age:	
Population in 2002: ¹	643	Male:	324
White:	28	Female:	319
Alaska Native or Amer. Indian:	613	Median Age:	25.5
Black:	0	Pop. Age 18 and over:	411
Asian:	1	Pop. Age 21 and over:	371
Hawaiian Native:	0	Pop. Age 62 and over:	51
Other Race:	0		
Two or More Races:	1		
Percent Native*:	95.50%		
(*Percent reporting Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races)			
All or Part Alaska Native/Indian:	614		

The isolation of Savoonga has helped to maintain their traditional St. Lawrence Island Yupik Eskimo culture, their language, and their subsistence lifestyle based upon marine mammals. Savoonga is hailed as the "Walrus Capital of the World." Whale, seal, walrus and reindeer comprise 80% of islander's diets. Residents are almost completely bilingual in St. Lawrence Island Yupik and English. Walrus-hide boats are still used to hunt. The sale, importation or possession of alcohol is banned in the village.

The economy of Savoonga is largely based upon subsistence hunting of walrus, seal, fish, whale, birds, and gathering of seafood, greens and berries with some cash income. Eight residents hold commercial fishing permits, and Norton Sound Seafood Products has facilities in Savoonga but has been closed for the past 3-4 years. Reindeer harvests occur with management by the local community residents. Islanders are known for their quality ivory carvings. The abundant numbers of seabird colonies provide an opportunity for tourism by bird-watchers.



Figure 6: Skin boat in Savoonga used for subsistence hunting.

Savoonga Employment Statistics (2000 Census):

¹ The current population of Savoonga is estimated at 665 (10/14/2003) with a trend to be growing.

Total Potential Work Force (Age 16+):	480
Total Employment:	166
Civilian Employment:	166
Military Employment:	0
Civilian Unemployed (And Seeking Work): ²	99
Percent Unemployed:	37.4%
Adults Not in Labor Force (Not Seeking Work):	215
Percent of All 16+ Not Working (Unemployed + Not Seeking):	65.4%
Private Wage & Salary Workers:	24
Self-Employed Workers (in own not incorporated business):	4
Government Workers (City, State, Federal):	138
Unpaid Family Workers:	0

Employment by Occupation:	
Management, Professional & Related:	70
Service:	27
Sales & Office:	51
Farming, Fishing & Forestry:	2
Construction, Extraction & Maintenance:	8
Production, Transportation & Material Moving:	8

Employment by Industry:	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Mining:	2
Construction:	4
Manufacturing:	0
Wholesale Trade:	0
Retail Trade:	19
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities:	12
Information:	5
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental & Leasing:	2
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Mgmt:	4
Education, Health & Social Services:	76
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services:	2
Other Services (Except Public Admin):	8
Public Administration:	32

There are 16 current businesses in Savoonga

Business Name	SIC Codes (Primary - Secondary)	Business Name	SIC Codes (Primary - Secondary)
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² The census report of the civilian unemployed and seeking work is *not a correct count*. More people in Savoonga are seeking work; but miscounted in the census, as there are a limited number of jobs. More people are seeking work (10/14/2003).

ALII NEUI SHOP Timothy Alowa P.O. Box 8 907-984-6326	7222 5800	SAVOONGA NATIVE STORE (ANICA & IRA) P.O. Box 160 907-984-6134 907-984-6132 907-984-6133	4451 5900
ALOWA'S LODGING Roland Alowa P.O. Box 8 907-984-6212	7211 7213 7000	SAVOONGA TEEN CENTER City of Savoonga P.O. Box 40 907-984-6444	8134
BRANDON'S SNACK SHOP (temporarily closed) Paul Asicksik P.O. Box 26 907-955-3401	4529 4539	SCHOLARSHIP SNACK SHOP P.O. Box 239	4539
JOSEPH & KAREN K. IYA, JR. (child care) P.O. Box 15	6244	ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND DRUM BEATS (art) John and Arlene Waghiiyi, Jr. P.O. Box 74	4539 4219
KAVA COFFEE SHOP Maynard Kava P.O. Box 94 907-984-6188	7222	TANON'S SNACK & GIFT SHOP (temporarily closed) Adora Noongwook P.O. Box 64 907-984-6065	4532
NANA'S STORE (not in operation yet – new) Sally Seppilu P.O. Box 233	4529	YAVA'S (temporarily closed) Denny Akeya P.O. Box 138 907-984-6984	4451 4452
REGGIE WONGITTILIN (child care) P.O. Box 171 907-984-6968	6244	YUGNI (accommodations) Maynard Kava P.O. Box 94 907-984-6188	7222, 5800
BSSD STUDENT CO-OP Student operated	Snacks		
CITY LOGDING	Accommodations		



Figure 7: Alowa Lodge



Figure 8: Alanga Lodge (closed 10/2003)

Utilities are operated by Savoonga Joint Utilities, a non-profit arm of the City, and run by a Utility Board. Alaska Village Electrical Cooperative (AVEC) locally provides electricity. Well water is treated and stored in a 100,000-gallon tank. A new circulating water and sewer utilidor system, including household plumbing, came on-line in January 1999. All resident homes have water and sewer except for 3 homes that currently haul water and honey-buckets, and need to be connected to the system. A new landfill was recently completed.



Figure 9: AVEC power plant in Savoonga



Figure 10: Savoonga water system

Savoonga's isolated location with no seaport and iced-in conditions during the winter means a dependence on air transport. There is a State-owned 4,400' gravel airstrip. Regular air service is available from Nome. There is no dock, so supplies must be lightered from Nome and off-loaded on the beach. Locals want a small boat harbor and dry dock.

Profile of Community Organizations

Tribe – the federally recognized tribe is the Native Village of Savoonga - P.O. Box 120, Savoonga, AK 99769, Phone: 907-984-6414, Fax: 907-984-6027.



Figure 11: Savoonga IRA hall and office building



Figure 12: IRA garage



Figure 13: IRA shop building



Figure 14: New EDA multi-purpose building (IRA owned)



Figure 15: Savoonga Native Store (partnership between ANICA & the IRA)

Village Corporation – Savoonga Native Corporation - P.O. Box 160, Savoonga, AK 99769, Phone: 907-984-6613. Did not participate in ANCSA; full title to former reservation lands held jointly with Gambell.

City of Savoonga - P.O. Box 40, Savoonga, AK 99769, Phone: 907-984-6614, Fax: 907-984-6411. Sales Tax is 3%. Municipal Building owned by City. The City operates a lodging facility for visitors.



Figure 16: City of Savoonga building



Figure 17: City of Savoonga garage

Churches

- Seventh Day Adventist, 907-984-6026
- Presbyterian Church, 907-984-6420



Figure 18: Presbyterian Church

Public Safety

- Savoonga Police Department/City Jail, George Kava, VPO, City of Savoonga, P.O. Box 40, Savoonga, 907-984-6011, 907-984-6614
- Alaska State Troopers, P.O. Box 1050, Nome, 907-443-5525, 1-800-443-2835, 907-443-2441 M-F, 8-5 only, 907-443-2835,
- Savoonga Volunteer Fire Department, Savoonga First Responders/Rescue Team Fire Chief-Elvin Noongwook, 907-984-6234, 907-984-6737, 907-984-6756
- Volunteer Fire Dept. Bingo, P.O. Box 40, 907-984-6614
- Alaska Army National Guard Armory, 907-984-6415



Figure 19: Savoonga fire hall and building



Figure 20: Public Safety building



Figure 21: Army National Guard building

Utilities –

- Electricity is provided by Alaska Village Electric Cooperative as a diesel source (AVEC cost 32.2 cents per Kilo Watt Hour, 907-984-6614.

-Water and Sewer System Operator – City of Savoonga, Shirley Kiyuklook, Agatha Mokiyyuk, P.O. Box 40, Savoonga, 907-984-6614

- Washeteria Operator – City of Savoonga.



Figure 22: Savoonga Washeteria



Figure 23: Inside the washeteria

-Water/sewer/landfill, Manager-Warren Toolie, Utilities clerk-Susan Waghiyi, Water plant operator-Mitchell Kiyuklook and Douglas Gologergen, City of Savoonga, 907-984-6634 Savoonga Joint Utility, 907-984-6041 water treatment plant, 907-984-6462 water and sewer, 907-984-6463 water and sewer



Figure 24: Savoonga water system building



Figure 25: Water tank

Communications-

- Telephone Service is provided by United Utilities Inc, Anchorage, 907-561-1674, 1-800-478-2020

- Long distance telephone services are available from the following: United Utilities, GCI (P.O. Box 274, Nome, 907-443-2550, 1-800-800-4800 residential, 1-800-800-7754 business, 1-800-770-7886 administrative) and AT&T Alascom (P.O. Box 191, Nome, 907-443-2461, 1-800-252-7266, 1-800-955-9556 business, 1-800-967-5363 internet, 1-800-252-7521 trouble reports, 1-800-899-6737 TTY/TDD operator)



Figure 26: United Utilities



Figure 27: GCI Dish

- Satellite TV Provider is Dish Network, 1-800-333-3474. Note: there is no local cable TV provider.

- Internet service is available through GCI.

- US Post Office, 907-984-6213



Figure 28: Savoonga post office facility

Fuel Storage – Village Store (279,000 gals.); City (28,500); AK DOT (9,500); National Guard (7,500); AVEC (136,200); Bering Straits Schools (149,500); Presbyterian Church (5,900)



Figure 29: AVEC and ANICA fuel tanks



Figure 30: Old School fuel tanks

Education, Library, and Youth Programs

- Bering Straits Schools, P.O. Box 225, Unalakleet, AK 99684, Phone 907-624-3611, Fax 907-624-3099, web: <http://www.bssd.org>. The school is attended by 296 students (all grades).

- Hogarth Kingeekuk Sr. Memorial High School, 907-984-6811 high school, 907-984-6850 elementary school, 907-984-6055 counselor, 907-984-6915 gym/staff lounge

- Savoonga Advisory Education Committee
- Peer Helpers program (with BSSD)



Figure 32: Savoonga BSSD school facilities



Figure 31: Savoonga playground

-Savoonga Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box239, 907-984-6128

-Head Start by Rural CAP, 907-984-6714



Figure 33: Savoonga Head Start facility (Rural CAP)



Suzanne Alowa



Nolan Iknokinok



Clifford Iknokinok

-Distance delivery post-secondary education by Northwest Campus-UAF, Pouch 400, Nome, AK 99762, Phone 907-443-2201, and UAF Learning Resource Center, 907-984-6346

-Kawerak Adult Basic Education and Education Tutor, 907-984-6417 Violet Kingeekuk

-City of Savoonga, Savoonga Teen Center, P.O. Box 40, 907-984-6444



Figure 34: Kawerak learning center in Savoonga



Figure 35: Savoonga Teen Center building

-Kawerak, Inc., Youth Opportunity Grant Program, Youth Development, 907-984-6251
Colleen Kingeekuk and Joni Waghiyi, 907-984-6250

- Church youth groups

-Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program by the Native Village of Savoonga, 907-984-6211 Carolyn Kava

Housing –

- Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA), P.O. Box 995, Nome, AK 99762,
Phone 907-443-5256, Fax 907-443-2160.

-Native Village of Savoonga – BIA Housing Improvement Program



Figure 36: New HIP house in Savoonga being built with local hire crew

Transportation –

- US Dept. of Transportation, FAA AWOS, 907-984-6135
- Bering Air, Nome, 907-443-5464 reservations, 907-443-5422 accounting, 907-443-5620 Russian travel
- Olson Air, Nome, 907-443-5017
- Grant Aviation
- Hageland
- Cape Smythe Air Service, 907-984-6446, 907-984-6640
- Flight Alaska
- Arctic Transportation, Nome, 907-443-5482
- Village Air Cargo

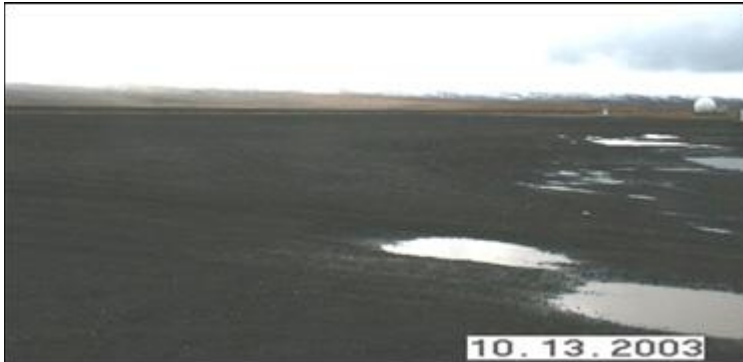


Figure 37: Airport runway



Figure 38: Airport building

Regional Native Non-Profits - Kawerak, Incorporated, P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762, Phone 907-443-5231, Fax 907-443-4452, web: <http://www.kawerak.org>, Tribal Coordinator, 907-984-6414 Valerie Noongwook

Regional Development –

- Bering Strait Development Council, P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762, Phone 907-443-9005, Fax 907-443-2591, web: <http://www.kawerak.org>
- St. Lawrence Island Economic Development Council, P.O. Box 169, 907-984-6614 Paul Rookok in Savoonga, 907-985-5214 Paul Apangalook in Gambell

Health Care - Norton Sound Health Corporation PO Box 966, Nome, AK 99762, Phone 907-443-3311, web <http://nortonsoundhealth.org/> Local health clinics includes Savoonga Health Clinic (new clinic owned by the City of Savoonga, and old clinic owned by the Indian Health Service).

-Norton Sound Health Corporation, Village Based Counseling Program, 907-984-6635

-Suicide Prevention, City of Savoonga, P.O. Box 40, 907-984-6614



Figure 39: Savoonga health clinic



Figure 40: Old health clinic owned by PHS

Fisheries and Subsistence –

- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Community Development Quota (commercial fishing), 601 W. 5th Ave., Suite 415, Anchorage, AK 99503, Phone 907-274-2248, Fax 907-274-2249, web: <http://www.nsedc.com>.

- Savoonga Whaling Captain’s Association

-Savoonga Whaling Captain’s Wives Association



Figure 41: Milton Noongwook holding one end of the hand thrown harpoon.



Figure 42: Milton Noongwook shows the other end.



Figure 43: Colin Noongwook holding a whaling "backup" gun that is used once the initial strike is made.



Figure 44: The "bomb" that ignites once the hand thrown harpoon strikes.

Community projects funded and/or completed since 1999

Community Project Area	Description	Amount
Capital Projects and Infrastructure	<u>Water & Sewer</u>	
	2001- ANTHC- Water and Sewer Project - IHS \$1,875.0; DEC \$625.0. Construct 700 ft of utilidor & plumb 16 houses in the N. service area; construct 56 mainline connections & 3,500 ft of combined service line in the W. service area; plumb 52 houses in the W. service area; re-align the raw water transmission main	\$2,500,000
	2001- DEC/VSW- Water and Sewer Project	\$2,500,000
	2000- ANTHC- Water and sewer utilidor in the North and West sections of the Village - IHS \$300.0, USDA \$1,772.2, DEC \$590.7, EPA \$1,875.0, AHFC \$625.0. Plumbing in 20 homes & public buildings; northwest utilidor, service line; raw water transmission realignment	\$2,663,000
	2000-DEC/VSW- Water/Sewer - Federal Direct to community \$1,772.2	\$2,363,000
	<u>Roads & Transportation</u>	\$2,220,000
	1999-BIA- Grade & Drain Community Streets & Landfill Access Road - 5.46 km	
	1999-DCED- Heavy Equipment maintenance and repair –to the City of Savoonga	\$26,542
	<u>Community Buildings</u>	\$25,101
	2003-DCED -Recreational Youth Center - Capital Matching	
1999-DCED- Renovate Teen Center and Purchase Equipment - Capital Matching	\$26,316	
<u>Energy</u>		
Fuel storage upgrades and new tanks (ANICA tanks) - 1999		
Health and Safety	2002-DCED-Safety Building & Teen Center Renovation - Capital Matching	\$26,316
	2001-DCED- Renovate Safety Building & Teen Center - Capital Matching	\$26,316
	2000-HUD- Complete Health Clinic Construction - Denali Commission \$285.0	\$285,000

Community Project Area	Description	Amount
Housing	2000- BSRHA- Constructed 10 single-family units - HUD NAHASDA and AHFC funds BIA-HIP operated by the Native Village of Savoonga (built at least one new house and completed housing renovations as well)	\$2,000,000
Environment	1999-COE- Project administered directly by the military. Northeast Cape, St. Lawrence Island - Building Demo/Debris Removal & Containerized HTWR - Awarded June 1999 Native Village of Savoonga – EPA Indian General Assistance Program (I-GAP) – 2000 \$75,000; 2001 \$90,000; and 2002 \$100,000. Tribal environmental capacity building for local issues and concerns.	\$8,297,561 \$265,000
Business Development	2001- EDA- Multi-purpose Community Center - Norton Sound Fisheries Disaster 1999-DCED - Bed & Breakfast Feasibility Study - Mini-Grant	\$1,000,000 \$65,300
Governance	2000-dced Renovation of City Municipal Building - Capital Matching	\$25,000
Education and Training	Kawerak Education, Employment and Training – carpentry training in Savoonga – 2002 (Compact and Denali Commission funded)	

Planned or Potential Community Projects Being Sought

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description	Project Stage	Agency Cost	Total Cost
DOT&PF	2002	Planned	Airport Snow Removal Equipment - Grader	N/A	\$0	\$230,000
COE	2003	Planned	Harbor/Construction	Preliminary	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
N/A	2003	Potential	Multi-Cultural Recreation Center	N/A	\$0	\$0
N/A	2003	Potential	Bed & Breakfast Facility	N/A	\$0	\$1,000,000

Accomplishments from the 1999 LEDP – Listed by Priority Project

PRIORITY #1: WATER AND SEWER

<p>2001- ANTHC- Water and Sewer Project - IHS \$1,875.0; DEC \$625.0. Construct 700 ft of utilidor & plumb 16 houses in the N. service area; construct 56 mainline connections & 3,500 ft of combined service line in the W. service area; plumb 52 houses in the W. service area; re-align the raw water transmission main</p> <p>2001- DEC/VSW- Water and Sewer Project</p>	\$2,500,000
<p>2000- ANTHC- Water and sewer utilidor in the North and West sections of the Village - IHS \$300.0, USDA \$1,772.2, DEC \$590.7, EPA \$1,875.0, AHFC \$625.0. Plumbing in 20 homes & public buildings; northwest utilidor, service line; raw water transmission realignment</p>	\$2,500,000
<p>2000-DEC/VSW- Water/Sewer - Federal Direct to community \$1,772.2</p> <p>All but 3 homes are now hooked up to water and sewer and they will be connected soon</p>	\$2,663,000
	\$2,363,000

PRIORITY #2: PUBLIC SAFETY

<p>2002-DCED-Safety Building & Teen Center Renovation - Capital Matching</p>	\$26,316
<p>2001-DCED- Renovate Safety Building & Teen Center - Capital Matching</p> <p>Installation of fire hydrants</p> <p>City postings regarding curfew and public safety</p>	\$26,316

PRIORITY #3: PRESERVE SUBSISTENCE

<p>1999-COE- Northeast Cape, St. Lawrence Island - Building Demo/Debris Removal & Containerized HTWR - Awarded June 1999</p> <p>School received mini-grants to teach traditional knowledge to youth</p> <p>Savoonga Whaling Captain's workshop annually on hunting and traditional skills</p>	\$8,297,561
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PRIORITY #4: ALCOHOL AND DRUG PREVENTION AND COUNSELING

2000-HUD- Complete Health Clinic Construction - Denali Commission \$285.0 Village based counseling services	\$285,000
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PRIORITY #5: YEAR ROUND RECREATION FOR CHILDREN

2002-DCED-Safety Building & Teen Center Renovation - Capital Matching	\$26,316
2001-DCED- Renovate Safety Building & Teen Center - Capital Matching	\$26,316
2003-DCED -Recreational Youth Center - Capital Matching	
1999-DCED- Renovate Teen Center and Purchase Equipment - Capital Matching	\$25,101
New play ground built	\$26,316
Sing and dance once a week at the Fire Hall	
Modern dances every weekend	
Kawerak Youth Opportunity service	
Summer camp activities for Elders and youth (2002)	
Public library moved to the school	
Youth council formed (2001)	
Church youth group (started 2-3 years ago)	
Gym open daily	

PRIORITY #6: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

2001- EDA- Multi-purpose Community Center - Norton Sound Fisheries Disaster	\$1,000,000
1999-DCED - Bed & Breakfast Feasibility Study - Mini-Grant	\$65,300
St. Lawrence Island Economic Development Corporation – Paul Rookok contact	

PRIORITY #7: OJT-ON THE JOB TRAINING

<p>Kawerak carpentry training in 2002</p> <p>Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority carpentry training</p> <p>IRA Haz-wopper training</p> <p>Driver's education class</p> <p>City and IRA assist people to complete employment applications</p> <p>CPR training</p> <p>Weekly Firemen's training annually</p> <p>More local hire on Housing Improvement Projects (HIP) and road projects</p>	
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PRIORITY #8: GRANT WRITERS

<p>Savoonga sent 2-3 people to Kawerak's Grant Writer Symposium for training during the last 3 years (since 2000)</p>	
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PRIORITY #9: COMMUNITY RECREATION ACTIVITIES

<p>2001- EDA- Multi-purpose Community Center - Norton Sound Fisheries Disaster</p> <p>Elder's lunch program – still in operation daily (new) and year-round</p>	<p>\$1,000,000</p>
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PRIORITY #10: ROAD TO CEMETERY AND GRAVEL PIT

<p><u>Roads & Transportation</u></p> <p>1999-BIA- Grade & Drain Community Streets & Landfill Access Road - 5.46 km</p> <p>1999-DCED- Heavy Equipment maintenance and repair - Leg. Grant; Grant has not been executed as of 12/30/98</p> <p>Completed road project in 2003</p>	<p>\$2,220,000</p> <p>\$26,542</p>
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ANCSA Land Conveyance Status

ANCSA Land Entitlement:

Village Corporation: **Savoonga Native Corporation**
12(a) Land Entitlement*: 0 acres
12(b) Land Entitlement**: 0 acres
Other Land Entitlements: 1,135,843.0 acres 19(b) to Gambell & Savoonga; Former Reserve

14(c)(3) Land Status:

14(c)(3) Status***: Not Required
14(c)(3) Comments: Lands jointly held with Gambell. Surface and subsurface rights to former St. Lawrence Island Reserve lands.
Municipal Land Trust: No

Environmental Scan

Trends - both positive & negative in regards to community development

Positive

- ▲ Increasing cooperation between organizations
- ▲ Increase of seasonal employment available
- ▲ IRA increased the number of projects this year
- ▲ Employment is increasing – more jobs available



Figure 45: Milton Noongwook posting ideas

Negative

- ▼ Decreasing government aid
- ▼ Decreasing number of Savoonga high school graduates finish college
- ▼ Decrease in state funding – revenue sharing decreased 20% this past year
- ▼ Decreasing spirituality
- ▼ Decreasing number of long-term teachers in the school

Strengths

Community

- ✓ Strong sense of community
- ✓ Sense of unity
- ✓ Friendly people towards visitors
- ✓ Good road projects – completed
- ✓ Capable motivated workers on projects
- ✓ Good dedicated leaders that serve – long and persistent

Cultural strengths

- ✓ St. Lawrence Island Yupik language and culture
- ✓ Traditional ways
- ✓ Spirituality
- ✓ Ivory carvers
- ✓ Subsistence way of life
- ✓ Sharing subsistence foods
- ✓ Respect for environment
- ✓ Maintaining traditional songs
- ✓ Sense of humor



Figure 46: Elsie Kava still uses a traditional bird wing broom to sweep floors

Environmental strengths

- ✓ Geographic isolation
- ✓ Reindeer herd
- ✓ Walrus ivory available
- ✓ Fisheries – halibut and grayling
- ✓ Abundant wildlife
- ✓ Flora and fauna
- ✓ Pristine wilderness
- ✓ Birds – rare birds, breeding and residential birds, new birds spotted here
- ✓ Biosphere supports a variety of life – ground, sea

Unique things about Savoonga to build upon for local economic development

- ✓ Land ownership
- ✓ Unique birding opportunities

Community Assets

- ★ Young population – future leadership
- ★ Dedicated leaders
- ★ Traditional lifestyle
- ★ Regular joint meetings – City-IRA-Corporation-other local entities – sharing of information and coordination
- ★ IRA owns its own buildings – office and 2 shops
- ★ IRA owns 8 pieces of heavy equipment
- ★ Trained heavy equipment operators locally
- ★ New EDA multi-purpose building (near completion)

Internal Weaknesses to the community (considerations to address)

- ◆ Lack of planning
- ◆ Duplication of efforts
- ◆ Not spending money wisely
- ◆ Selling ivory cheap
- ◆ Lack of respecting self and Elders
- ◆ Lack of safety in public places
- ◆ Small population
- ◆ Breakdown of family unity
- ◆ Changing cultural/societal structures

- ◆ Loss of language
- ◆ Chemical dependency
- ◆ Making home brew
- ◆ Gambling
- ◆ Smoking/tobacco use, especially among youth
- ◆ Public apathy
- ◆ Passiveness
- ◆ Alcohol and drug abuse
- ◆ Loss of cultural identity
- ◆ Dissolution of corporation stocks
- ◆ Decreasing spirituality

External Challenges & Threats to local economic development

- ❖ Paying taxes
- ❖ Acculturation to Western society
- ❖ High cost of living
- ❖ Cancer –related deaths
- ❖ Nome’s environment
- ❖ Airline monopolies – high fares
- ❖ Global warming
- ❖ Opposition/aggression to subsistence
- ❖ Government funding cuts
- ❖ Legislative urban bias
- ❖ New high school qualification requirements
- ❖ Inflation
- ❖ By pass mailing delivery system changed
- ❖ Permits and license requirements and fees to set up a business

Areas of Concern with community development

- Insufficient funds
- Insufficient government funds
- Dependence on outside help
- Destroying the environment
- Few places for tourists
- Few career opportunities locally - not enough local jobs that tend to be low paying jobs
- Bumpy roads
- Lack of housing
- Lack of education and training
- Few family support services
- Access to readily available health care
- High school drop-outs – not enough opportunities after school
- Insufficient educational standards
- Not disaster ready
- Insufficient fuel supplies
- Insufficient/unstable generator
- Threats to subsistence
- Communication infrastructure
- Abandoned fuel tanks
- Need for a new school
- Shortage of teacher housing
- Not enough Native teachers
- Need for a school bus
- High price of food
- Too few local stores – lack of competition leads to higher prices
- Food stamp program does not meet local prices compared to Anchorage
- Freight costs too high
- Need for direct flights to St. Lawrence Island from Anchorage for reduced freight costs (like in the 1980's)
- Desire to make Savoonga a hub for the region – previous efforts but did not happen – political opposition

Opportunities in economic development in Savoonga

Natural Resources

- ★ Guiding – birding, fishing, hunting
- ★ Bird watching
- ★ Marketing traditional foods
- ★ Sport fishing for halibut
- ★ Learning how to prepare traditional foods
- ★ Re-open processing plant
- ★ Marketing/bartering whale and seal oil
- ★ Skin sewing
- ★ Establishing a tannery
- ★ Use alternative energy resources
- ★ Marketing ivory carvings
- ★ Mining and panning for gold

Infrastructure

- ★ Create a community shop center
- ★ Complete water and sewer
- ★ Do shore side improvements – landing area and dock
- ★ Ivyghteq River bridge
- ★ Community website to use Internet capacity
- ★ Harbor to support fuel delivery, freight, and transportation for subsistence hunting and fishing, and commercial fishing

Business and Industry

- ★ Increase airline and retail competition
- ★ Decrease cost of living
- ★ Create bed and breakfasts
- ★ Create a lodge
- ★ Develop tourism activities
- ★ Create a museum
- ★ Establish a restaurant
- ★ Establish a bakery
- ★ New store (competition)
- ★ Bank
- ★ Reindeer processing plant
- ★ Encourage small business development

Quality of life

- ★ Create a town clean-up program
- ★ Increase Elder activities
- ★ Establish a boy/cub scouts chapter
- ★ Increase youth activities
- ★ Preserve our culture
- ★ Getting youth interested in technology/computers
- ★ Better land use planning
- ★ New generator
- ★ New public safety building
- ★ Sub-regional health clinic

Workforce

- ★ Expand childcare services
- ★ Develop community schools program
- ★ Job databank – database of experienced and skill local people
- ★ More job training workshops with Kawerak and others

Local Economic Development Planning

The next step in updating Savoonga's Local Economic Development Plan was to define the community vision and development goals for the next 5-years. This was accomplished by presenting a focus question to the group. This provided the beginning to define the future of the community. The question presented was:

What are the future community projects and activities Savoonga as a community can further develop to enhance the local economy which best build on the identified cultural strengths, economic opportunities, and current community assets over the next 5 years (2004-2009)?

In regards to:

- Fostering a stable and diversified economy building on cultural strengths
- Sustaining and creating village employment opportunities
- Improving the living conditions in the community and region
- Strengthening the skills and qualifications of the local workforce
- Community services to best meet local needs
- Facilities and infrastructure for economic development



Figure 47: LEDP planning session with participants Milton Noongwook, Sally Okoomealingok and Jerry Wongittilin.

Based upon this question, the overall community vision statement was developed to be:

Savoonga's Community Vision Statement:

We envision Savoonga as a community to be by 2009 –

- **More healthy living conditions**
- **Knowledgeable in health and social well-being**
- **Self-governed, sufficient and successful**

To make this vision a reality within 5 years, the participants formalized 3 focal development areas with goal statements and a total of 13 development objectives. The goals, objectives and associated projects are presented in priority order as follows.

Savoonga Development Goal 1: Preserving the knowledge passed on from our Elders and to learn different aspects of western society for a brighter tomorrow.

Development Areas: Education and Training, Health, Social, and Culture

Objectives with associated prioritized projects:

A. To secure the health, safety and well being of the community.	B. To keep our youth happy and healthy.	C. To enhance education in the community for higher education, wages and orientated to be culturally orientated to the community so there can be better education for all students.	D. To enhance and preserve cultural and spiritual values and/or beliefs utilizing the knowledge of our Elders.
1. Develop and operate a sub-regional level clinic – improve access and quality of health care	1. Motivational activities to keep kids in school.	1. Comply with the No Child Left Behind act – improve local education.	1. Elder care center
2. Landfill/dump management for safety and hazardous materials disposal	2. Establish a boy and girl scout chapter(s) to increase youth activities.	2. Resource book put together for youth.	2. Services for Elders – fuel delivery
3. Back-up generator for stable electricity	3. Construct and operate a recreation center – with basketball court and weight room.	3. Organizations continue supporting students seeking to obtain a degree and those going to college.	3. Create more events and activities for youth.
4. Dust control		4. To train our youth to be leaders.	4. To preserve cultural and traditional lifestyles through classes and schools.
5. Complete water and sewer to remaining homes.		5. Technical school for our youth.	5. Cultural awareness club to preserve our traditions, lifestyle, language and dancing – adults and youth.

<p>A. To secure the health, safety and well being of the community.</p>	<p>B. To keep our youth happy and healthy.</p>	<p>C. To enhance education in the community for higher education, wages and orientated to be culturally orientated to the community so there can be better education for all students.</p>	<p>D. To enhance and preserve cultural and spiritual values and/or beliefs utilizing the knowledge of our Elders.</p>
<p>6. New public safety building.</p>		<p>6. Vocational technical training center for St. Lawrence Island.</p>	<p>6. Enhance spiritual values whether they are western or Native beliefs – revivals.</p>
<p>7. To hire and retain a VPSO.</p>		<p>7. Develop a community schools program (after school activities)</p>	<p>7. Continue youth and Elders conferences on the Island and surrounding Far East visitors to exchange knowledge, ideas, tactics.</p>
<p>8. Responsible parties to enforce curfew for under age children.</p>		<p>8. More certified professionals – i.e. CPAs, PAs, grant writers, electricians, carpenters, engineers, architects, plumbers, etc.</p>	<p>8. Continue with annual community clean-up</p>
<p>9. Responsible parties to stop nighttime riding.</p>		<p>9. Art classes by Elders for helping to bring back traditional fancy clothing and study of Bering Sea designs, how to do, and associated stories.</p>	<p>9. Video and TV production of Savoonga culture, history, modern, stories, and “how to” e.g. art, tools, nenglu construction.</p>

<p>A. To secure the health, safety and well being of the community.</p>	<p>B. To keep our youth happy and healthy.</p>	<p>C. To enhance education in the community for higher education, wages and orientated to be culturally orientated to the community so there can be better education for all students.</p>	<p>D. To enhance and preserve cultural and spiritual values and/or beliefs utilizing the knowledge of our Elders.</p>
<p>10. Have outside entities remove trash and left over materials from projects.</p>		<p>10. Community classes to re-learn traditional tattoo – reasons, designs, methods, knowledge</p>	<p>10. Secure a place to exhibit and display our local Savoonga artifacts and present/share culture (skin boats, sleds, dog harnesses, tools, arts, etc) – museum.</p>
<p>11. Recycling center on St. Lawrence Island</p>		<p>11. Savoonga needs more Native teachers.</p>	<p>11. Continue opportunities for dancing and gathering with other Native peoples through dances and festivals.</p>
		<p>12. Develop a Savoonga community orientation by local people for new school teachers</p>	<p>12. Continue efforts for a museum.</p>
		<p>13. A local entity and people help socialize teachers in the community</p>	
		<p>14. Incentives to keep teachers to stay in Savoonga.</p>	
		<p>15. Find grants for high school and adults to have updated computer and technology training.</p>	

Savoonga Development Goal 2: Implementing plans that were put forth by the community to improve living, health, and social well being.

Development Areas: Capital Projects and Infrastructure, Employment, Governance, and Housing

Objectives with associated prioritized projects:

A. To promote more jobs and job readiness to interested parties in the community for better wages.	B. To continue to pursue construction of locally owned buildings, road, and harbor projects for the community of Savoonga.	C. To continue to pursue funding from state and federal agencies for identified needs.
1. Job training at the local level.	1. Find funding for housing locally.	1. BIA housing continuation.
2. Create more jobs.	2. Start up St. Lawrence Island Housing authority.	2. New housing for Elders.
3. Create a job databank for facilitating local employment.	3. Elder housing – improve and new	3. Bigger school for our growing community.
4. Coordinate local job training workshops in Savoonga with Kawerak and others.	4. To build a new school.	4. Seek funding for VPSO to be hired from the outside.
5. Qualified people hired for daycare services.	5. Build a new school for all enrolled.	5. Seek funding for new teacher housing.
6. Fuel delivery service for the community.	6. Land space to build more houses.	6. Need more teachers’ quarters.
	7. Space for housing – move the airport elsewhere.	7. Remove old tank farms with available funding.
	8. Continue to work on the plan to get a sub-regional clinic.	8. Continue efforts for a bank.
	9. Continue pursuing the breakwater navigation port.	9. Seek funding and agencies to obtain a school bus.
	10. Reindeer processing plant.	10. Better use and management of public funds.
	11. To build a new store.	
	12. Small boat harbor.	
	13. To build a motor vehicle repair shop.	

A. To promote more jobs and job readiness to interested parties in the community for better wages.	B. To continue to pursue construction of locally owned buildings, road, and harbor projects for the community of Savoonga.	C. To continue to pursue funding from state and federal agencies for identified needs.
	14. Operate a community shop center.	
	15. Gravel for construction projects – housing, buildings, etc.	
	16. Continue to plan for a cultural building.	
	17. Continue efforts to build a bed and breakfast or lodging.	
	18. To build a restaurant.	
	19. To build a bakery.	
	20. Roller rink	

Savoonga Development Goal 3: Restoring, exploring, and learning how to attain better business management and cost efficiency of today

Development Areas: Natural Resources and Land, Environment, and Business Development

Objectives with associated prioritized projects:

A. To help people in Savoonga attain affordable merchandise for competition to lower the cost of living.	B. To better understand and utilize the natural resources for future references.	C. To better manage and market the sale of ivory and bone to increase economics in the community.	D. To help reduce the high cost of transportation.	E. To attract tourism in our community to increase employment and economy on the local level.	F. To re-open sports and trophy hunting, and commercial fishing to create more jobs.
1. Need another commercial store for competition to lower prices.	1. Develop and improve land use planning.	1. Local management of bones, old ivory, etc.	1. Appropriate agencies to help bring back by-pass mail directly from Anchorage.	1. Promote tourism – bed & breakfast (lodge)	1. Guiding permit for boat captains.
2. Support the development of local small businesses in Savoonga.	2. Erosion control.	2. To market bone, ivory and artifacts.	2. Continue road project to Gambell.	2. To promote Internet tourism – bird watching, remoteness of the Island.	2. Open up sport hunting and fishing.
3. Starting local own small business – e.g. grocery stores.	3. Energy source (solar and wind) at whaling campsite.	3. To market reindeer horns.	3. Continue road project to camps.	3. Work with tour ships and companies for cruise ships to stop at Savoonga.	3. Trophy hunting for walrus (tourism development).

<p>A. To help people in Savoonga attain affordable merchandise for competition to lower the cost of living.</p>	<p>B. To better understand and utilize the natural resources for future references.</p>	<p>C. To better manage and market the sale of ivory and bone to increase economics in the community.</p>	<p>D. To help reduce the high cost of transportation.</p>	<p>E. To attract tourism in our community to increase employment and economy on the local level.</p>	<p>F. To re-open sports and trophy hunting, and commercial fishing to create more jobs.</p>
<p>4. Find ways to lower local (ANICA) grocery prices.</p>	<p>4. Develop and use alternative energy sources.</p>	<p>4. Our own people presenting our own art (dolls, carvings, figurines) and stopping non-Natives (protect cultural property rights).</p>	<p>4. Work with airlines for direct freight service from Anchorage to St. Lawrence Island.</p>	<p>4. Build web pages to attract tourism industry to come to Savoonga.</p>	<p>4. Develop local sport hunting regulations.</p>
		<p>5. Specialized marketing of “old way” of tools and drums – museum collections like dog harnesses, harpoons, intestine raincoats and clothing.</p>	<p>5. Facilitate more airlines to fly and service Savoonga – increase competition and reduce airfare costs.</p>	<p>5. Develop brochures for tourism business.</p>	<p>5. Harbor to support fuel, freight and transportation for hunting and fishing (both subsistence and commercial).</p>
			<p>6. Shore side improvements – loading dock</p>	<p>6. Feasibility study on mining – gold panning.</p>	<p>6. Continue commercial fishing of halibut.</p>

<p>A. To help people in Savoonga attain affordable merchandise for competition to lower the cost of living.</p>	<p>B. To better understand and utilize the natural resources for future references.</p>	<p>C. To better manage and market the sale of ivory and bone to increase economics in the community.</p>	<p>D. To help reduce the high cost of transportation.</p>	<p>E. To attract tourism in our community to increase employment and economy on the local level.</p>	<p>F. To re-open sports and trophy hunting, and commercial fishing to create more jobs.</p>
			<p>7. To get a school bus.</p>	<p>7. Send out brochures (for tourism)</p>	<p>7. St. Lawrence Island commercial seafood processing center (promote employment).</p>
				<p>8. Build traditional “nenglu” – both summer and winter styles – as a tourism attraction and local learning of old ways.</p>	<p>8. “Exotic food” canning to sell to tourists and export in balance with subsistence – e.g. walrus (Russian model)</p>

Community Values

Next, the community defined its core values for guiding local development. Values help understand the collective community beliefs and serve as a foundation to overall development. This was based upon the following focus question:

What are the core Savoonga values the community holds?

- *Traditional*
- *Modern*
- *Cultural*

The following was developed – note community core value statements are in bold with how the values are expressed in Savoonga bulleted underneath:

Subsistence

- Sharing of subsistence food catch
- Subsistence hunting
- Gathering of greens, berries, and roots, and storing
- Environment – respect
- Reindeer herding
- Gathering of seaweed, sea peaches and other foods that wash up

Value of Cultural Knowledge

- Skin boat making
- Walrus hide splitting
- Sinew making
- Arts and crafts
- Skin boat making including learning of different types of sewing and stitches
- Traditional skin clothing
- Storing/drying meat and fishing

Enjoy the Outdoors, Nature and Visiting

- Transportation – walking, Honda, snow-machine, outboard motor boats
- Keep dog sled practice alive



Figure 48: Pearl Mikulski, facilitator, working with participants.

Respect for Elders and Others

- Elder respect
- Marriage custom
- Birthday parties (recognize ages of youth to adulthood)
- Apapaaq – welcoming a newborn baby to the community

Community Well-Being

- Native games
- Annual festivities of certain holidays – like the 4th of July
- Eskimo singing and dancing
- Traditional games – aghuightaq, kalleghta, ang'qaatet, qellughqaq, aahaalekitiiq, etc.

Westernized Convenience

- Modern utilities
- Modern technology – computers, phones, TV and Internet
- Store brought quick foods

Learn Values of Both Worlds

- Education in general

Next, participants created recommendations in applying the community values in Savoonga’s economic development plan. This provided methods to apply the values and guide the implementation and achievement of the vision, development goals, and economic development projects.

Development Goal	Economic Development Areas with Recommendations to Apply Values			
<p>Preserving the knowledge passed on from our Elders and to learn different aspects of western society for a brighter tomorrow.</p>	<p><u>Education and Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should constantly promote our educational and training values traditionally and in modern culture, so we could help pass it on to our younger generation. - We should get a team of people to volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club & Youth Opportunity (YO) program - We should visit the kids in school and talk to them about the importance of education. - We should encourage our children to go to school – education is the way to a brighter future, and to be a good leader. 	<p><u>Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should do preventive activities with the community by doing life skills – even with kids as small as kindergarten. - We should hire someone out-of-town to be the VPSO who will enforce the laws. - Our children are our #1 priority – their well-being is very important. 	<p><u>Social</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue Eskimo dancing and singing. - Educate young people to preserve Native social activities with knowledge of our Elders. - Try and obtain a museum to display old traditional materials like skin boats, old hunting equipment, old artifacts, etc. - Profile of St. Lawrence Island history, location, and life style. - We should create a structured conference to educate youth about our traditional way of life – this would take team effort to do this. - We should also set a date to when village clean up would be and write letters to each household to invite them to join a team of people who will be doing village clean-up. 	<p><u>Culture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate use of modern technology by use of computers. - Technical trade schools on local level for young and adults to obtain better jobs. - Continue to support local youngsters in their efforts to go to college and obtain a degree. - We should invite youth to come to community meetings so they could learn about how to conduct meetings – they will be our leaders some day. - We should orientate new teachers every school year to teach them about our culture – in doing this, it would help them to get to know us and what organizations exist and do.

<p>Implementing plans that were put forth by the community to improve living, health and social well-being.</p>	<p><u>Capital Projects and Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start designing and planning projects with appropriate federal or state agencies. - Land use plan – decide where to locate projects. - Write out grants – estimate costs of the projects – e.g. gravel, materials, freight, labor. - Hold public hearings on the projects. 	<p><u>Employment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek out obtaining grants from federal and state agencies to provide local training to improve abilities to obtain better wages. - Recommend that before construction; advertise for job openings for local hire. - Hire those who have completed training. - We should offer more training to the community to prepare them for jobs. - We can also create more jobs by opening a new store, restaurant and daycare. - We can do a “career day” - We can offer customer service and management training – ask Kawerak to help. 	<p><u>Governance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should promote more jobs for the people so less people can depend on the government for assistance. - We can do job readiness activities once a month. 	<p><u>Housing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need more housing for young families and older persons. - We should build apartment complexes for housing is badly needed here – our organizations could do a bank loan and build at least two 4-plexes to rent at an affordable price. - Local organizations work together to seek funding to construct housing. - Build housing for teacher’s quarters, Elders and those families in need of new housing units. - IRA seek funding from BSRHA and BIA housing. - Work through housing designs and cost estimates within budgets. - Hold public hearings.
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<p>Restoring, exploring and learning how to attain better business management and cost efficiency of today.</p>	<p><u>Natural Resources and Land</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendation to keep on finding work or jobs for the membership and neighboring community on our Island without severely harming or deleting our land and the natural resources. - We should make the effort to really can and sell our own “exotic foods” to tourists – this might really attract tourists. - We should have a team of people to create regulations on sports hunting. - Try and get funding for a dock or small boat harbor - Continue commercial halibut fishing - Ask the federal government to start sport hunting for walrus and sport fishing based upon local regulation. 	<p><u>Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should meet and create long term planning to open tourism – e.g. housing, arts and crafts, presenting Native games, Atuq group (dressed really traditionally), food. - We should build a small hotel for tourists. 	<p><u>Business Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should do a research on finding cheaper groceries. - We can do a research on the website development. - We should build a new store – maybe ANICA will compete on pricing.
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Top Priority Community Development Projects

Participants then prioritized development projects. Priorities were based on the best utilization of time, best integration of values, and best anticipated community impact over the anticipated five-year period.

Top 10 Overall Community Development Projects for 2004-9

1. Find funding for housing locally
2. New school
3. Secure a place to exhibit and display our local Savoonga artifacts and present/share culture – Museum
4. Continue efforts to build a bed and breakfast or lodging
5. Cultural awareness club to preserve our traditions, lifestyle, language and dancing – adults and youth
6. Motivational activities to keep kids in school
7. Open sport hunting and fishing
8. Continue road project to camps
9. Reindeer processing plant
10. To build a new store

The community developed 2 additional lists: capital projects and projects.

Capital Project Priorities 2004-9

1. Find funding for housing locally
2. New school
3. Continue road project to camps
4. Small boat harbor
5. Secure a place to exhibit and display our local Savoonga artifacts and present/share culture – Museum
6. Continue road project to Gambell
7. New public safety building
8. Continue efforts to build a bed and breakfast or lodging
9. Reindeer processing plant
10. To build a new store



Figure 50: planning session



Figure 49: prioritizing process

Projects/Activities Priorities 2004-9

1. Job training at the local level
2. Organizations to continue supporting students seeking to obtain a degree and those going to college.
3. Cultural awareness club to preserve our traditions, lifestyle, language and dancing – adults and youth
4. Motivational activities to keep kids in school
5. Job databank for facilitating local employment
6. Local management of bone, old ivory, etc.
7. Open sport hunting and fishing
8. To preserve cultural and traditional lifestyles through classes and schools
9. To promote Internet tourism – e.g. bird watching, remoteness of the Island
10. Video and TV production of Savoonga culture, history, modern, stories and “how to” e.g. art, tools, nenglu construction.

Implementation Action Plans – 2004-2009 (5 years)

Priority 1: Find funding for housing locally

Background of Need: people need additional places to live, not enough room for families in existing homes – overcrowding with 2-3 families living in a single household, population growth.

Strategies for Solutions: finding funding from BSRHA, BIA and HUD, housing surveys to document the overcrowding and needs.

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Develop a housing plan – locate land and estimate costs	2003-4	IRA and BSRHA
Seek funding – assist families and individuals in completing housing applications with annual updates for BSRHA and BIA HIP housing programs	2004 and annually	IRA
Conduct housing surveys to document need and compile into a needs report	2004	IRA and BSRHA
Advertise, hire and complete engineering and design work – all work to be done in Alaska	2004	IRA
Construction	2004-7	IRA, Construction crew

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Community well-being
- Respecting Elders
- Modern utilities

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Less people paying high rent
- Number of new houses built
- Number of housing repairs and renovations

Other projects that relate

- Teacher housing
- Roads
- Water and sewer
- Gravel pads
- St. Lawrence Island housing authority (development)
- Move airport for space to build housing
- Elder housing

Potential Funding Sources and Community Investments

- Local workers – trained and available
- Land
- BSRHA – HUD funding
- BIA HIP (administered by the IRA)
- AHFC
- Rural CAP winterization program

Land Use Considerations: west of new housing tract

Priority 2: New school

Background of Need: population is growing – need more room for classes, building age (built during the late 1960’s)

Strategies for Solutions: gather comments from parents and students to demonstrate need and support, partnership with Bering Strait School District (BSSD), request school board members look into the project during their meetings, seek funding directly from the federal government.

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Document school space needs – square foot per child for educational space, comments from students, teachers and parents, research into building age, and other need data	2003-4	BSSD with school board representative
Get the parents support for the project and show need	2003	Savoonga School, parents and school board representative
Secure funding	2004-5	BSSD
Design and construction	2005-6	BSSD Construction crew (local hire)

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- o Education
- o Learn values of both worlds

Measures of overall project/activity success

- o More space for students (square footage addition to meet need)
- o Number of local people hire

Other projects that relate

- o Develop and improve land use planning
- o Comply with the No Child Left Behind Act
- o Motivational activities to keep kids in school
- o More Native teachers
- o To train youth to be leaders
- o Teacher housing
- o Get teachers to stay longer

Potential Funding Sources and Community Investments

- o State DOE
- o Federal DOE
- o Gaming funds
- o Land
- o Local workers – trained and available

Land Use Considerations: site 1) Area behind Army National Guard if old fuel tanks are cleaned-up, site 2) current airport terminal area if the runway is relocated, or site 3) west of the new housing.

Priority 3: Secure a place to exhibit and display our local Savoonga artifacts and present/share culture – Museum

Background of Need: get our artifacts back for preservation of culture for our community and developing a tourist attraction.

Strategies for Solutions: find funding, work/partnership with the Smithsonian and local artists, public donations campaign (funds, art, carvings, etc), gain support of contractors and engineers, estimate building costs (materials, freight, etc.), cooperation with Gambell

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Locate funding	2004	IRA, City and Native Corporation
Contact museums like the Smithsonian and UAF	2004	IRA, City and Native Corporation
Locate artifacts to repatriate back to the community – museums and foreign countries	2004-5	IRA, City and Native Corporation with Bering Strait Foundation
Land – selection location and gravel	2005	Native Corporation
Construction	2006-9	IRA, City and Native Corporation with local hire and contractors

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Value of cultural knowledge
- Arts and crafts
- Sinew making
- Skin boat making
- Traditional skin clothing
- Walrus hire splitting

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Number of artifacts returned to Savoonga where they belong
- Square feet available in building
- Number of exhibits and displays

Other projects that relate

- Management of bone and old ivory
- Preserving culture and traditional lifestyles through classes and school
- Culture club
- Elders and youth conferences

Potential Funding Sources

- Tourist fees
- Land
- Donations – e.g. funds and art
- Denali Commission
- Smithsonian
- UAF Museum (assistance)
- State funds – Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska Humanities Forum
- Federal funds – National Endowment of the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Local workers – trained and available

Land Use Considerations: Are behind the Army National Guard if the old fuel tanks are cleaned up.

Priority 4: Continue efforts to build a bed and breakfast or lodging

Background of Need: place for tourists, hunters and visitors to stay

Strategies for Solutions: seek funding, feasibility studies, land contribution

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Complete a feasibility study	2004-5	Native Corporation
Seek funding and financing	2004-5	Native Corporation
Business plan development	2005	Native Corporation with assistance from Kawerak CED Business Development
Land selection, gravel and materials	2005-7	Native Corporation
Construction	2006-8	Native Corporation with contractor and local hire

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Westernized conveniences
- Modern utilities
- Modern technology

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Number of tourists, hunters and visitors that utilized the facility
- Revenue generated from the operations
- 4 wheelers rented to visitors

Other projects that relate

- Using the Internet to promote tourism
- Open up sport hunting and fishing
- Bird watchers
- Work with cruise ships and tour companies for a stop in Savoonga
- Develop brochures for tourism business

Potential Funding Sources

- Business owners financing and loans
- Land
- Kawerak CED Business Development (assistance – George Olanna)

Land Use Considerations: Nest to the United Utilities building (middle of town)

Priority 5: Cultural awareness club to preserve our traditions, lifestyle, language and dancing – adults and youth

Background of Need: keep culture alive for the younger generations, share with visitors

Strategies for Solutions: get Elders involved, place to meet, by-laws of the club, contact people who did cultural workshops in the past to get involved, funding

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Contact Elders	2003	IRA
Contact previous cultural workshop presenters in the community to become involved	2003	IRA
Develop purpose and by laws of the club	2004	Club members
Regular meetings and activities	2004 and ongoing	Club members
Funding for activities	2004 and ongoing	Club members with support through donations

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Value of cultural knowledge
- Community well-being
- Dancing
- Native games
- Respect for Elders
- Customs

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Number of people involved and coming
- Passing on of the culture to young generation

Other projects that relate

- Enhance spiritual beliefs whether western or Native – revivals
- Build a cultural building and museum
- Video and TV production of Savoonga culture

Potential Funding Sources

- Community donations
- Participation – volunteers
- AFN Wellness funds
- NSHC diabetes prevention-wellness funds
- Alaska State Council on the Arts
- Meeting space – donation of place

Priority 6: Motivational activities to keep kids in school

Background of Need: job preparation of youth for their future, address dropout rates

Strategies for Solutions: parental involvement, tutors, incentive program for youth with rewards, scholarship program “Husky Bucks,” training in the computer lab

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Work with existing youth programs to coordinate efforts	2003	YO program, parents, teachers and school board members
Develop new ideas for motivation to stay in school	2004	YO program, parents, teachers and school board members
Implement activities	2004 and ongoing	YO program, parents, teachers and school board members

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Learn values of both worlds
- Value of education
- Birthday parties – recognize age of younger generation attaining maturity
- Apapaaq – welcoming a newborn baby to the community

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Number of kids finishing school
- Motivation level of youth for education

Other projects that relate

- Comply with the No Child Left Behind Act
- More activities and events for youth
- Build a new school
- Get a school bus
- Teacher housing

Potential Funding Sources

- Federal funding – DOE, JOM, After School Activities funding
- Time and community participation and volunteering
- BSSD

Priority 7: Open sport hunting and fishing

Background of Need: boost the local economy utilizing our natural resources

Strategies for Solutions: local marine mammal control, letters to fish and wildlife (state and federal), estimate safe amounts to harvest by sport hunting and fishing annually

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Write letters to State and Federal agencies	2003-4	Eskimo Walrus Commissioner, IRA
Involvement of a lawyer for sport regulations	2004	EWC
Joint meeting of boat captains and hunters	2004	EWC
Estimate safe number to harvest by sport hunting and fishing	2004	EWC and local hunters
Implementation of sport hunting regulations and guidelines	2004-9	EWC

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Westernized conveniences
- Subsistence hunting
- Storing and drying meat
- Share knowledge
- Enjoying the outdoors

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Success in partnerships to open sport hunting and fishing
- Number of sport tourists
- Amount of revenue to the community from sport hunting and fishing

Other projects that relate

- Bed and breakfast facility
- Build a restaurant
- Trophy hunting for walrus
- Local sport hunting regulations development

Potential Funding Sources

- EWC
- NSEDC
- Future fees paid by sport tourists

Priority 8: Continue road project to camps

Background of Need: need safe access to resources on east side, tourist access to guided fishing and hunting.

Strategies for Solutions: planning, permits, funding, and utilization of local labor and materials.

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Planning – add to the BIA roads inventory and State STIP	2004	IRA and DOT
Permits – land, environmental, water	2004-5	IRA
Funding	2005-6	IRA, State, NSEDC
Engineering consultants	2004-6	IRA
Materials and equipment	2005-6	IRA
Construction	2006-8	IRA with local hire
Maintenance	2006 and ongoing	IRA with local hire

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Subsistence
- Respecting the environment
- Storing and drying of meat
- Transportation – enjoying the outdoors
- Gathering greens, berries and seafood

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Number of miles of road built
- Economy facilitated by road for sport fishing, bird watchers and other tourists

Other projects that relate

- Open up sport hunting and fishing
- To attract tourism
- Subsistence hunting

Potential Funding Sources

- BIA – Indian Reservation Roads
- State DOT
- Federal Highways Administration
- Local work force – trained and available
- Land
- IRA heavy equipment available

Land Use Considerations: extending the current east road (road to solid waste area) 30-40 miles.

Priority 9: Reindeer processing plant

Background of Need: Better processing and handling of meat, boost the local economy based upon available natural resources.

Strategies for Solutions: Contact Teller Fish and Meats and Kawerak Reindeers Herder’s Association for their past efforts and information regarding the Teller plant, conduct a feasibility study, seek funding, utilize local workers and reindeer herders.

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Feasibility study of the processing plant	2004	Herders
Contact Teller and Kawerak to ask questions for a processing plant development and build on their past efforts	2004	Herders
Funding	2004-5	IRA
Land and gravel	2005	Corporation
Contractor selection and building materials	2005	IRA
Building and operate processing plant	2006 and ongoing	IRA with local hire

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Reindeer herding
- Dry and store meat
- Modern utilities
- Subsistence

Measures of overall project/activity success

- Plant is built
- Number of pounds of meat processed and sold
-
- Number of local jobs in construction and operation of plant

Other projects that relate

- Market reindeer horns
- Re-open seafood plant
- Back-up generator for stable electricity
- “Exotic food” canning

Potential Funding Sources

- DCED – mini-grant, capital matching and community development block grant (CDBG)
- NSEDC
- USDA – Rural Development
- Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association (assistance)
- Land
- Local work force – skills and availability

Land Use Considerations: addition to the old cold storage facility (seafood processing plant)

Priority 10: To build a new store

Background of Need: Decrease prices of merchandise and groceries, increase competition with ANICA, better service.

Strategies for Solutions: Contact AC for a potential partnership or interest in building a store in Savoonga, study to show the need and economic activity in Savoonga, land use plan (potential long term lease to a new store), work with ANICA to improve the existing store.

<i>Action steps</i>	<i>Time line</i>	<i>Community organization/person responsible</i>
Study written to show the need and economic activity in Savoonga	2004	IRA and City with assistance by Kawerak CED
Write letters to AC and others for potential partnership to open a new store and share profits	2004	IRA and City
Work with ANICA to improve the existing store	2004	IRA
Identify land use for a new store building	2005	IRA, City and Corporation
New store building construction	2005-9	IRA, City and Corporation

Community values associated with achievement of project/activity

- Westernized conveniences
- Store bought quick foods
- Modern utilities

Measures of overall project/activity success

- New store for competition locally
- Renovated or new ANICA store with more products
- Better and lower prices for goods and groceries

Other projects that relate

- Support development of small businesses
- Find ways to lower grocery prices
- By-pass mail and harbor – freight cost reduction
- Exotic food canning

Potential Funding Sources

- USDA loans
- Alaska Growth Capital loans (Denali Commission lender)
- EDA
- DCED
- AC
- Land lease

Land Use Considerations: Area behind the Army National Guard if the old fuel tanks are cleaned up.

Participants and Session Take Aways

The following individuals participated in the community planning sessions:

October 14, 2003

1. Verna Immingan – City council
2. Sylvia Toolie – City
3. Fritz Waghiyi – IRA
4. Hogarth Kingeekuk, Jr. – Community member
5. Milton Noongwook – IRA
6. Jerry Wongittilin – Community member (retired mayor)
7. Preston Rookok – Community member
8. Charlotte Kava – City
9. Jotilda Noongwook – IRA
10. George Noongwook – Savoonga Whaling Captains / AEWC
11. Melvin Seppilu – IRA
12. Sally Okoomealingok – City
13. Muffy Iya – Savoonga Native Corporation
14. Valerie Noongwook – IRA, Tribal Coordinator
15. Tom Okleasik – NW Planning (consultant)
16. George Olanna – Business Development Specialist, Kawerak CSD

October 15, 2003

1. Milton Noongwook – IRA
2. Fritz Waghiyi – IRA
3. Melvin Seppilu – IRA
4. Sally Okoomealingok – City
5. Preston Rookok – Community member
6. Muffy Iya – Savoonga Native Corporation
7. Colleen Kingeekuk – Kawerak EET, Savoonga YOG
8. Jerry Wongittilin – Community member (retired mayor)
9. George Noongwook – Savoonga Whaling Captains / AEWC
10. Edythe Tungiyon – Kawerak CSD, Village Planning (Gambell)
11. Jotilda Noongwook – IRA

October 15, 2003 – Public Meeting (7:00 pm – 8:15 pm)

1. Jerry Wongittilin – Community member (retired mayor)
2. Bryan Rookok, Sr., SNC Elders Advisor
3. Irving Kava, Community member
4. Edythe Tungiyon – Kawerak CSD, Village Planning (Gambell)
5. Jeanie Noongwook, Community member
6. Janet Noongwook, Community member
7. Jotilda Noongwook – IRA
8. Alma Toolie, Community member

October 16, 2003

1. Jerry Wongittilin – Community member (retired mayor)
2. Fritz Waghiyi – IRA
3. Melvin Seppilu – IRA
4. Colleen Kingeekuk – Kawerak EET, Savoonga YOG
5. Edythe Tungiyon – Kawerak CSD, Village Planning (Gambell)
6. Jotilda Noongwook – IRA
7. Byran Rookok, Jr., Community member
8. Tom Akeya, Community member
9. Agatha Mokiyuk, Community member

October 17, 2003

1. Jerry Wongittilin – Community member (retired mayor)
2. Melvin Seppilu – IRA
3. Jotilda Noongwook – IRA
4. Tom Akeya, Community member



Figure 51: Facilitator-Pearl Mikulski

What was the most important break through to you from the planning?

- All the resources the community has and the ideas expressed for our leaders to pursue for further development, funding and grants
- Everything about the planning
- Hopes for getting at least one of the many projects funded and completed

What is one way you can help implement the community plan?

- Volunteer – get involved to get things going
- Try to get more people interested and tell them what we have done
- Get more people interested in coming to future planning and meetings
- More advertising – radio, posting, and CB



Figure 52: Jerry Wongittilin, Muffy Iya, Jotilda Noongwook, and Fritz Waghiyi

Plan Sources

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