

MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT

Status Report for Steering Committee

Prepared by DOWL

August 22, 2016

- 1) DOWL retained by NVC to provide Project Management services in support of the village relocation project. DOWL to coordinate all funding, planning, design and construction activities associated with the move from Newtok to Mertarvik. The contract for services signed 19 July, 2016. A relocation project schedule and spending plan is under development. The project team is in the process of collecting schedules and budgets from sub-contractors.
- 2) Roads and Quarry Development:
 - a) Goldstream Engineering under contract with NVC on 7 June 2016. Scope of work shown in Attachment 1.
 - i) Currently working on equipment purchase plan for acceptance by NVC. Plan to include maintenance and storage components as required by BIA. Upon acceptance of the plan by NVC it will be submitted to BIA for approval and subsequent release of funds.
 - ii) Equipment procurement schedule is extremely tight. Goldstream put the RFQ on the street this week and is hoping for turnaround this week in order to hit barge schedules. Payment for purchases may be challenging, as NVC does not have a PO system, contracts required. Issue is under discussion with Tribe attorney and Goldstream at this time.
 - iii) Road design and quarry development plan will be developed this fall with deliverables by the end of 2016.
 - b) A roads / quarry work group consisting of representatives from NVC, BIA, AkDCCED, Denali Commission, Goldstream and DOWL met on 26 July, 2016. Key points of the meeting:
 - i) NVC is in good standing with FHWA and has an approved Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).
 - ii) NVC has access to approximately \$3.5M from BIA for design of roads and quarry, equipment purchase/lease, and construction of roads and quarry. BIA funds need to be segregated from other funds to expenditures can be tracked by grant.
 - iii) BIA requires NVC to have proper policies in place for release of funds. Policies required: Procurement (in place), Financial Management (in place; recommend rewrite of the policy to more closely follow BIA templates), and Property Management (in development by Goldstream).
 - iv) NVC to select primary road alignment between the Mertarvik town site (near demonstration home) and quarry to initiate the design process. Goldstream will provide NVC two alternate routes by 24 August for consideration. Survey work for the selected route scheduled for 15 September.
 - c) A pioneer airstrip needs to be considered in the roads design for worker safety and to provide emergency services for pioneer families.
 - d) The project team will work with BIA to consolidate contracts so funding assigned to maintenance and planning can be redirected to design and construction. This will take place once a project estimate is provided by Goldstream.

3) Housing

a) CCHRC

- i) Demonstration house completed this month and is ready for owner move-in. The 'all in' cost is estimated at \$320,000, **excluding** site development costs.
- ii) Working with AVCP Regional Housing Authority on a housing master plan for Mertarvik. CCHRC will complete an assessment of overall need, develop homes that are affordable and self-sufficient, evaluate the 12 home relocation project for energy retrofits and foundation systems. Report is due in November 2016.

b) FEMA/AkDVMA

- i) NVC, Denali Commission, AkDCCED, CRW Engineers and AkDHS/MA met on 5 August, 2016 to discuss the status of the 12 home relocation project funded by FEMA and AkDVMA. There has been no progress on the project since April 2016.
- ii) The State has requested NVC to provide clear direction, in writing, on the status of the application for the relocation of 12 homes by 31 August, 2016.
 - (1) If NVC is committed to the relocation plan, then the State / FEMA will resume the EA process for permits and CRW will develop bid documents for release in spring of 2017.
 - (2) If NVC not committed to the relocation plan, then State will withdraw funds for the grant and stop work on the relocation effort.
 - (3) If NVC wishes to pursue an acquisition plan, then a new application will be required. This will require FEMA review and approval; NVC will have to fund the costs to put together a new application.

c) HUD

- i) Imminent Threat Grant. HUD is waiting for additional environmental information from NVC to complete their work. DOWL contacting HUD to determine what assistance may be provided.

d) AVCP-Regional Housing Authority

- i) Title VI Program. Application process underway to release approx. \$974,000 that will be used to build new homes in Mertarvik. Romy believes the process will be complete by November.
- ii) AVCP-RHA is lead agency for a housing assessment for Mertarvik. Report from CCHRC due in November on their findings.

4) Mertarvik Evacuation Center (MEC)

- a) MEC Foundation Protection project attempting to get underway. CCHRC with force account crew will install new covering material over the foundation to protect it from weather degradation. Funds provided by AkDCCED grant and released to CCHRC.
- b) NVC, DOWL and AkDCCED will develop plan over the next two months for the final design of the shell of the building; key issue is obtaining design services. The goals are to have bid ready documents by end of 2016, bid the project in the first quarter of 2017, and construct the shell in the summer of 2017.
- c) Started coordinating with USACE to identify steps necessary for the release of Section 117 funding which will be assigned to the interior of the MEC. The USACE requires a 35% match which will be provided by the existing SOA and possibly DC funding.

5) Skiff Purchase

- a) NVC purchased a skiff for \$53,024. Shipping costs via AML was \$15,205. SOA and BIA split the cost of shipping with SOA paying \$6,976 and BIA 8,229.

6) Financial

- a) NVC is currently experiencing a cash flow problem that is affecting its ability to pay contractors. Of primary concern right now is payment to CCHRC for the demonstration house. Local Coordinator working to determine funding sources for the house and securing the funds so payment may be made.
- b) NVC currently has access to ~\$12,500,700 in funding for the MEC, Road Development, Housing, Maintenance Equipment, Housing and Technical Assistance Spending plan is underway. The MEC is the top priority. Road funding will be assigned once Goldstream provide cost estimates. DOWL is responsible for cash flow management, budget tracking, and developing a spending plan. The team needs to work directly with a grants administrator or someone at NVC that is managing the books.
- c) NVC attorney is preparing an RFP for procurement of Financial & Accounting Services to assist NVC with establishing appropriate grant account funds, payment of vendors and contractors, providing grant reporting, and general assistance to the community in the management of their finances. DOWL, BIA and Goldstream staff will be in Newtok the week of 9/6 to determine the level of assistance required and recommend best course of action.
- d) The SOA requests that all progress reports that are past due be provided and that timesheets include more detail on hours spent. Some of the reports have been duplicated and have very little information. DOWL to work with NVC on this issue.

7) Permits

- a) DOWL has identified this as an issue; work just getting started. We want to make sure the Committee agrees this is work DOWL should perform for the project.

8) General

- a) DOWL team traveled with Denali Commission on 8/22 to Newtok and Mertarvik for a rural outreach trip.
- b) BIA, DOWL and Goldstream staff will make site visit on 9/6 to assess financial capabilities, needs and to provide recommendations to NVC on possible assistance in managing grants.