

## MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT

### Steering Committee #1

#### Meeting Notes

25 August 2016

#### Attendees

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Romy Cadiente, Tom John, George Carl, Louie Andy - Newtok Village Council (NVC), via phone

Sally Russell Cox - State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA), Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED)

Don Antrobus - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)/Denali Commission

Julie Stoneking - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Randy Romenesko - DOWL

Kendall Gee - DOWL

Adison Smith - DOWL

Eric Voorhees - DOWL

Mark Sherman - Goldstream Engineering, via phone

Mike Walleri, Law Offices of Michael J Walleri, via phone

#### Introductions

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The NVC opened the meeting by stating that they want to refocus on current action items and slow the aggressive schedules, specifically the procurement and shipping of equipment to Newtok. NVC wants to make sure that the project moves ahead methodically to prevent any mistakes from happening. The Committee agreed with this refocusing and is in consensus to delay the equipment purchase and shipping until spring of 2017.

The State of Alaska asked about the role of the Newtok Planning Group (NPG). The Steering Committee discussed setting up regular Steering Committee meetings and then reporting to the NPG quarterly to keep them engaged and gather their input and feedback on funding, environmental work and pre-construction/coordinating activities. The Steering Committee will finalize notes and materials from each meeting, and then the State of Alaska will distribute these to the NPG.

#### Status Reports

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**DOWL:** Randy briefly went over the DOWL status report that is included in the agenda packet, including brief updates regarding:

1. Road and quarry development;
2. Cold Climate Housing Research Center; and
3. Mertarvik Evacuation Center (MEC) protection.

DOWL needs to correct the mention of meeting with FEMA in the housing section of the report. The meeting was with the State of Alaska, not FEMA.

**Goldstream:** Goldstream discussed the recent trip to Newtok and Mertarvik where they met with the NVC to discuss project details. Goldstream presented two routes for the road from the quarry to the townsite. The community selected the lower route as the preferred site. Goldstream will obtain survey information in September for the required road design.

Goldstream presented the draft equipment acquisition, Operations and Maintenance (O&M), and storage plan to the community. NVC understands they will be the owner of the equipment and has responsibilities and obligations under the plan. Plan needs further revision to meet BIA and other granting agency requirements.

Another Goldstream staff member went to Mertarvik to review the condition of the existing Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) buildings. Based on cursory review of the building analysis Goldstream thought that the buildings may not be adequate for temporary housing for construction workers, even with renovations. DOWL will follow-up with Mark to learn more details of the building analysis.

Goldstream stated that the Environmental Assessment (EA) has been accepted but Goldstream (and their sub-contractor) have not been able to get in touch in the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the Section 404 Permit. They will need DOWL's assistance with contacting USACE.

Goldstream then discussed training and workforce development, stating that training Newtok residents for all aspects of this project will be very important. DOWL is working on identifying training plans currently in progress and will be coordinating with BIA, NVC, and Denali Commission to make an assessment and recommendation to ensure that training is taking place this year.

DOWL and Goldstream will meet weekly to keep the project moving along.

**NVC:** NVC stated that the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) demonstration home was built in 6-8 weeks by Newtok residents. This schedule was great for the first house and should only improve for future homes.

NVC discussed recent and up-and-coming improvements to Newtok, including new boardwalks and back-up generator from a loan with Alaska Energy Authority.

### **Community Priorities**

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The Steering Committee discussed the infrastructure Rough-Order-of-Magnitude (ROM) estimates DOWL prepared. DOWL stated that there are still "holes" in the estimates and many items are not completely fleshed out yet. Denali Commission/ANTHC requested that DOWL provide a total cost amount so that the Denali Commission knows the estimate and that a range of cost for the ROMs is sufficient at this point. Kendall mentioned that he thinks the entire steering committee group needs to stand behind the estimate and that the estimate should be submitted by the project and not only DOWL.

### **Critical Decisions / Direction**

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**Equipment Purchase:** Per the discussion in the notes above, the equipment purchase will be postponed until later this winter. All used equipment will be inspected by Goldstream and a qualified mechanic. DOWL and Goldstream will work on finalizing the procurement/maintenance/equipment plan and getting the road and quarry design to an approximately 35% level so that the equipment list can be finalized. Don suggested the equipment needed include all required for the entire relocation effort.

**FEMA 12-Home Relocation Grant:** There was extensive discussion on this topic. There is not consensus or a common understanding of the group with this topic yet. More discussion is needed.

**Denali Commission Request for Funding:** DOWL presented the budget/cash flow sheet and the DRAFT spending plan. DOWL stated that specific costs such as planning, environmental, roads, and housing need to be prepared for the spending plan to be fully developed. The spending plan included projects with funding assigned, but without specific cost estimates, it is challenging to identify where additional funding is needed for each project and which grant will pay for which activities. A large part of the spending plan is the roads and quarry development. Goldstream is working on completing the design so that the State and BIA funding can be assigned and budget justifications and schedules can be prepared and provided to funding agencies so that the funding is released for the project.

### **Closing Comments**

DOWL and BIA will travel to Newtok on 9/6/2016 to assess existing financial management systems in place and make appropriate recommendations to NVC. NVC is requesting assistance with the grant management capacity. The goal is to have an RFP on the street for grant management assistance by end of September.

Final design of the MEC is a priority. DOWL will explore ways to accomplish the design and construction efforts with NVC and funding agencies.

Town site plan needs to be complete by spring of 2017 to allow for orderly construction activities to occur.

A housing workgroup should be convened (HUD, AVCP-RHA, CRW Engineering, AkDMVA, CCHRC, others?) to identify existing grants, work that is currently on-going and other issues that can be coordinated and reported to the Community.