

# **MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT**

## **Status Report for Steering Committee**

Prepared by DOWL

October 4, 2017

The Steering Committee last met on June 19, 2017. A Steering Committee Status Report was provided on August 9, 2017 in lieu of the August meeting (cancelled due to conflict with Mertarvik Ribbon Cutting Ceremony). Since then we want to report on the following:

- 1) Community Site Plan:
  - a) Survey of community layout for platting is complete. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) working on final documents for recording.
  - b) Site geotechnical work is complete and final report is being prepared by ANTHC and its consultants. Work included geo-tech needed for the airport design.
  - c) Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) for water, wastewater and landfill infrastructure are being prepared by ANTHC. The landfill PER is at 65% with 100% expected by November; full design documents expected by the end of January 2017. Water and wastewater PER is at the 35% stage.
- 2) Housing:
  - a) Status Update on the Association of Village Council Presidents – Regional Housing Authority (AVCP-RHA) construction attached. AVCP RHA crews shut down for the winter on 9/30/2017. It was a successful construction season for their crews.
  - b) Barracks Study – Phase II Concept Design & Cost Estimate completed by Bettisworth North (BNAP) and reviewed with NVC and Denali Commission. A draft Executive Summary is attached for discussion. We request you limit distribution at this time as the Community is working through its options.
  - c) Denali Commission has appropriated \$1.5M in their FY18 work plan for house funding. A Mertarvik Housing meeting has been called by the Denali Commission to be held on 10/11/2017. The meeting is intended to be a brainstorming session to develop funding and construction strategies for calendar years 2018 through 2019. We would like to explore opportunities to leverage additional funding to develop a more substantial housing development effort.
  - d) NVC is engaging the support of a grant writer to assist with an application to AHFC under the teacher housing program. LKSD has indicated they would lease the unit(s) from NVC to support the start of the educational programs in Mertarvik.
- 3) Mertarvik Evacuation Center (MEC):
  - a) LCG Lantech is nearing final design and specifications on the MEC shell. There is a ‘pioneer school’ buildout in the plans as an additive alternate.
  - b) Request for Proposals (RFP) packet is under review by NVC attorney before releasing for advertisement.
  - c) NVC has been informed that it will receive a HUD IT grant for the MEC. The grant will be used to fund mechanical / electrical / plumbing for the MEC building in support of educational programs.
  - d) USACE Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) is at USACE HQ in Washington awaiting signature. We have enlisted the aid of the Federal Delegation to move the final agreement

forward. We've been told by local USACE staff there is ~\$800,000 currently available at the Corps for the MEC project under the Alaska Coastal Erosion Program, but these cannot be obligated until the PPA is signed.

4) Roads and Quarry Development:

- a) Presentation by Mark Sherman, Goldstream Engineering.
- b) A 2<sup>nd</sup> fuel delivery was made last week to ensure adequate fuel on-hand for start of next summer's construction season.
- c) NVC will be producing E-1 for Ridge Construction to be used at the Newtok airport in 2018. The quantity is small, 3500 cy, but can be made in conjunction with shut down of the road project.
- d) DOWL is helping NVC update their Long Range Transportation Plan and Tribal Transportation Safety Plan.
- e) NVC and DOWL will begin working with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Center for Safety Equity in Transportation (CSET) Program to help facilitate an appropriate and safe design of their community roads. A proposal has been reviewed and UAF/NVC are working on an agreement.

5) Energy:

- a) The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has completed the Concept Design Report for Bulk Fuel and Rural Power Systems in Mertarvik. They have also advanced the power plant module design to the 65% level.
- b) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) / Rural Utility Service (RUS) declined to provide additional funding for the power plant. It appears they are not ready to provide any support until there are people living in Mertarvik.
- c) AEA is moving forward with the development of a small power plant and distribution grid that can be built with available Denali Commission funding, this is "Plan B". The power plant will be sized to run the MEC and 10-20 houses as an interim measure. AEA needs direction on how the construction camp may fit into the power grid; year round occupancy or not?
- d) Newtok currently has only one (1) functioning generator. AEA is assisting with finding a 2<sup>nd</sup> unit that can provide backup generation to the community. Funding for the generator has not been secured.

6) Financial & Funding:

- a) IRT application was submitted to the military last week. The application include horizontal (earthwork) and vertical (MEC, Barracks renovation) construction projects. The timeframe for the IRT program is October 2018 forward; the earliest an IRT program would begin in Mertarvik is the summer of 2019.
- b) Newtok has appealed the AkDVMA & FEMA denial of the "Buy-Out" application. The appeal is currently being reviewed by the Governor's office.
- c) NVC is applying for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) funding for teacher and health care housing. The application is due in December.
- d) NVC is applying for the Tribal Transportation Safety Funds (TTSP) to help support funding for the community road construction efforts next summer. Other projects may be included. The application is due in December.

- 7) Gaps
  - a) A long term strategic implementation plan is starting to be developed with the community based upon the Master Development plan (attached).
  - b) Design and construction dollars for honey bucket / septage disposal pit and a trash disposal pit for pioneer homes in 2018.
  - c) A relocation plan for the 2018 residents who will be moving to Mertarvik needs to be developed.
- 8) NVC has meet with the full Congressional delegation (Sens. Murkowski, Sullivan and Rep. Young) on a variety of issues over the past month.