

MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT
Status Report for Steering Committee

Prepared by DOWL

March 9, 2017

Steering Committee last met on February 9, 2017. Since then I want to report on the following:

- 1) The Design & Construction Team continues to meet on a regular basis for coordination of 2017 activities. The team consists of agencies who have agreements, or contractors that have contracts with NVC for services in 2017. Current members include AEA, ANTHC, AVCP-RHA, CCHRC, Denali Commission, DOWL, GEI, LCG Lantech, LKSD and NVC.
- 2) Community Site Plan:
 - a) ANTHC (Gavin Dixon) presented site plan alternatives to residents of Newtok and the Newtok Village Council (NVC) on 2/27/2017. A public meeting was held in the school gymnasium and over 60 residents participated in the event.
 - b) NVC is meeting this week to review comments obtained from residents on the preferred alternative. NVC to provide direction to ANTHC this week on the preferred alternative layout with recommendations on changes they would like to see incorporated into final site development layout.
 - c) All site development alternatives allow for construction of roads and houses within the HUD permitted phase 1 area for 2017 construction.
 - d) Team (NVC, ANTHC, DOWL and CCHRC) went to Mertarvik for a site visit to 'ground proof' the different site alternatives. It was a cold, windy trip (Of and winds at 20mph); all made it safely. It was a valuable experience to see the site and how it may develop over time.
- 3) Housing:
 - a) The MOA between NVC and AVCP RHA for the use of the HUD IT funds has been approved by NVC and awaiting signature by AVCP RHA. HUD has reviewed the MOA and requested minor changes to the document before final approval.
 - b) AVCP RHA has ordered shell material for 4 houses using Title VI and HUD IT funds. AVCP RHA has agreed to start construction on 8/1/2017, pending completion of house pads. Final completion for the houses is anticipated to be August 2018.
 - c) Goldstream Engineering (GEI) has committed to having house pads ready by 7/31/2017. GEI will assist AVCP RHA with necessary geo-tech work associated with the pads.
 - d) FEMA application submitted to the State on 2/1/2017. NVC has not heard back from the State on the application status.
 - e) NVC has qualified 4 residents for the BIA HIP Category D loan buy down program. There is potentially \$300,000 available for use in an integrated funding plan for additional houses. The logical lead agency for this AVCP RHA; talks are underway to see if this type of funding packaging is within the realm of work for AVCP RHA.
 - f) NVC submitted a request to the State of Alaska for ~\$1.5 million for housing. NVC has not heard back from the State on this request.
- 4) Mertarvik Evacuation Center (MEC)
 - a) NVC and ANTHC have executed a MOA to allow use of the term A/E. We have provided necessary documents to the State and requested an advance for design funds to transfer to

ANTHC to initiate the delivery order for the design work. The State has tentatively approved the use of grant funds for the design and we believe start of the design is imminent.

- b) DOWL is preparing of bid documents for MEC construction. Schedule is to put the project out for public bid within the next 2 – 3 months for the shell only, with an additive alternate for MEP work. Award will be contingent upon available funding, which currently is SOA grant 12-DC-550 (\$1.464M).
- c) LKSD is interested in providing a school program in the MEC shell in fall of 2018. LCG will work with LKSD on their program needs and incorporate them into the initial design effort.

5) Roads and Quarry Development:

- a) Procurement of heavy equipment is moving forward with purchase agreement in place between NVC and vendor.
- b) RFPs are currently out for bid for a crusher, mobile mechanics shop, small tools & equipment, and other support equipment needed for the project.
- c) GEI will convert existing IRT buildings into a kitchen/dining/recreation space (the large, 2000SF building) and a washeteria (small, 500SF building) as part of the workforce housing component. The remodeled IRT buildings will be available in late 2018 to residents who relocate to Mertarvik. Worker housing will be weatherport tents or similar temporary shelters. This mix of permanent and temporary structures provides the best value and lowest cost to the project.
- d) 60% design package will be provided to BIA the week of 3/13/2017 for review.
- e) GEI road / quarry superintendent and AVCP RHA project manager went to Newtok and Mertarvik in February. They obtained an inventory materials, tanks, fuel, etc. at the Mertarvik site and met with the community to start the recruitment process for local workforce on the road and housing projects.
- f) DOWL is assisting NVC and GEI with hiring process with the goal of having local labor hired for the road construction project by May 1st.

6) Financial

- a) DOWL continues to revise budgets for the relocation project as new information is provided.
- b) Quik Pro Accounting (QPA) is working on getting the NVC 'QuickBooks' in a condition to be used for project accounting and auditing. QPA is in Newtok this week working with the tribe finance staff.
- c) DOWL and QPA are updating the NVC financial procedures and will work over the next month to finalize them and begin training the NVC staff on implementing the procedures.
- d) QPA will develop a list of equipment and system needs after their site visit this week. DOWL and QPA will procure the needs and get NVC set up so they can start to operate and manage the financial systems and relocation project as expected.
- e) NVC continues to work towards a payment solution for work performed by CCHRC in 2016.
- f) DOWL is assisting NVC with applying for two funding opportunities:
 - i) Enterprise Grant – Due March 30th – Proposed project is to fund the integration of Yupik artwork into the design/construction of the MEC. Need a local artist to do the work.
 - ii) NOAA Resiliency Grant – Due March 15th – Proposed project is to fund the transition toolkit development and hire a local to implement the toolkit and lead the actual relocation.

7) Energy

- a) DOWL is working with AEA to develop the community energy plan that includes addressing the various phases of community development. (See attached.) AEA and its consultants will be in Newtok on 3/21/2017 to meet with the community on its draft plan.

- b) DOWL met with AEA requesting assistance on how to best provide a small power plant and grid for the 'pioneer' homes in 2018.

8) Gaps

- a) Housing funds to leverage BIA HIP program and FEMA buy-out program funds.
- b) Relocation of existing houses from Newtok to Mertarvik. There is significant potential to move existing house structures from Newtok to Mertarvik in the winter over the frozen tundra and ice. NVC will have equipment in Mertarvik in 2017 that can assist with this effort. A skid and other moving tools (air bags for jacking, large blocking, etc.) should be cached in Newtok this summer to offer the potential to move houses in a traditional Alaskan manner – skid them in winter. Several residents in Newtok expressed a desire to have their house relocated in this fashion as their house has many years of use in it.
- c) Funds for prime power plant and distribution system for pioneer phase of project. Power plant will be located next to the MEC and it is envisioned the plant will provide heating for the MEC. The community desire is for the electrical system to be functional by fall of 2018.
- d) Funds for MEC mechanical-electrical-plumbing (MEP) needed. NVC has state grant 12-DC-550 that should cover costs to erect the shell and some interior walls. We believe the grant is not sufficient to cover MEP costs needed to make the MEC functional for its intended use.
- e) Utility design: water storage, water source (new community well), sewage lagoon. Also need design and construction dollars for honey bucket / septage disposal pit and a trash disposal pit for pioneer homes in 2018.
- f) DOWL understands that there needs to be a transition plan in place. This plan needs to be an educational document that provides the pioneers with resources available and the "dos and don'ts" of relocating. Will need to identify funding and lead responsibility for this effort.