

Shaktoolik Interagency **Planning Committee**-Meeting # 1

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: August 24, 2015

Project: DCCED Strategic Management Plan-Shaktoolik

Meeting Time: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Location: Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Atwood Conference Center

ATTENDEE LIST:

	Michael Sookiayak, Sr., Community Coordinator-Shaktoolik		Jimmy Smith, DCRA
	Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik Native Corp.	T	Katherine Eldemar, DCRA
	Edgar Jackson, Sr., Mayor	T	Ruth A. Carter, DOT&PF
	Greg Magee, ADEC/VSW	T	Meera Kohler, AVEC
	George Wilson, ADEC/VSW	T	Jon Rosales, St. Lawrence College
	Mia Heavener, ANTHC	T	Jay Farmwald, Denali Commission
	Jackie Schaeffer, WH Pacific (CCHRC SNC)	T	Paul LaBolle, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Neal Foster
	Sally Russell Cox, SOA/DCCED/DCRA	T	Bill Zachares, HUD
	David P. Williams, USACE	T	Harvey Smith, DOT&PF-Ports and Harbours
	George Wilson, ADEC/VSW	T	Tami Fordham, EPA
	Sally Russell Cox, DCRA		Laurie Cummings, HDR
	Julie Jessen, HDR		Deanna Kilburn, HDR

T – participated via teleconference

1. **Safety Moment, Introduction and Agenda Review – Julie Jessen, HDR**

- Julie reviewed the agenda and introduced Sally, Michael and Laurie. She reviewed the ground rules: community's best interest comes first; share the air; address issues; look for the donut, not just the hole; every idea is a good idea.

2. **Meeting Purpose, Role of Agency Coordination, Timeline – Sally Russell Cox, DCCED**

- The Alaska Community Coastal Protection Project was funded through the federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) by a 2009 grant to the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). The project was inspired by the strategic management plan developed for Newtok. The objective of the project is to increase community sustainability and resilience to natural hazard impacts. Essential components of the project are strong community leadership, agency support and careful, effective planning.
- In order to build strong community leadership, a full-time Community Coordinator works to represent the community at these interagency working group meetings, works with project staff, the interagency group, and with the planning contractor to develop a resiliency plan, and advocates for funding to carry out the resiliency plan. DCRA supports the Community

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Coordinator in carrying out his or her responsibilities, providing technical and other assistance.

- The interagency working group, which consists of federal and state agencies, regional and local organizations, and community representatives, works to coordinate resources and provide technical assistance for implementation of the community resiliency plan.
- HDR was hired to work with the community and interagency working group to develop a strategic management plan for how the community and agencies will proceed over the next 10-20 years to accomplish the actions recommended by the community.
- The plan is community driven with technical support from agencies to sequence activities and projects, identify funding sources, critical funding cycles and resource leveraging opportunities. The interagency group also provides assistance in identification of construction windows. The Interagency Working Group provides coordinated assistance to the community to achieve resilience action. The benefits of the group include leveraging of resources, better work coordination, and reduced project timelines and construction schedule conflicts.

3. Community Welcome and Our Story/Our Values – Michael Sookiyak Sr., Community Coordinator

- Michael sent out a written statement prior to the meeting. He has been working as a grant writer for the tribe since 2003, during which time the tribe has focused on Local Economic Development Plan 2012-2017 projects. Michael has been active for several years as a community liaison relating to climate change issues.
- Because of the work and projects implemented to address the impacts of the November 2005 storm, Shaktoolik has often been the leader in implementing community action relating to natural hazard recovery and defense. As the result of the assessment of local resources after the 2005 storm, Shaktoolik worked with DCRA to develop their “suite of emergency plans”, completed in 2010. Additionally, Shaktoolik adopted their Climate Change Adaptation Plan and “Situation Assessment” which details information regarding natural hazards, evacuation and emergency planning, evacuation shelter and access options, and a coastal flooding analysis completed by USACE in 2011.
- Michael emphasized that they have been very active in addressing the issues and concerns over the last 10 years and that they continue to do so through working with DCCED/DCRA on the Strategic Management Plan
- Mayor Edgar Jackson, Sr. and Michael provided commentary on the slide show which depicts the before and after effects of the 2011 and 2013 storms, community involvement in the development of emergency plans, and the Shaktoolik Berm Project. The \$1.5 Million Berm Project was completed in 2014 and local resources were used to fund the project. Wood and debris deposited by the storm and locked in place by wave action were used for the berm. The tribe purchased dump trucks from a private company for a discounted rate and the Corporation donated the gravel.
- Mayor Jackson spoke about how the focus in Shaktoolik 30 years ago was on subsistence so there was little to no planning for protection of the community from natural hazards and the aftermath. He said that the village has moved three miles but the water is now deeper and the storm surges are more extreme. He noted that the ice movement is much stronger than the storm movement.

4. Work to Date – Laurie Cummings, HDR

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- Laurie summarized the work that has been accomplished to date. The work began with a literature review, community and value surveys, elder interviews and a community gathering. She noted that approximately 105 people attended the community gathering in Shaktoolik. The report from the meeting and information gathered over the last few months is in process. Once the Interagency Working Group meetings have been held and community input has been received, another community gathering will be held. The Strategic Management Plan will be completed in June 2016.
- Laurie discussed the Draft Vision Statement that was developed subsequent to the surveys and community gathering. She noted that it is a work in progress and that it can and should be modified as the process continues. The draft statement summarizes community identified issues and expresses the hope/desire for the future: Shaktoolik is a safe and resilient community. We want to stay and defend our community from erosion and reduce our risk from hazards. We will work together and with partners to develop projects and policies to protect our residents, infrastructure, natural environment, and subsistence resources. We will increase resiliency while respecting our traditional values. We will preserve and enhance our community for us and future generations.
- Laurie summarized the community issues which are based on the work completed over the last few months: lack of capital funds; lack of community infrastructure; community morale – frustrated and “tired of being studied”; lack of housing/overcrowding-repairs needed and lack of land for expansion; long-term objective of defending in place may not be long-term solution and divestment that may occur if relocation is planned; lack of refuge; need VPSO, alcohol/drug free community; employment opportunities; and resident emergency preparation and training.
- Michael commented that the community has considered relocation (they have looked at six sites) but the preference is to stay in place. He said that the community understands that they will likely have to move but prefer to work on resiliency development. They are currently working on a retreat plan and have three buildings under consideration.
- Laurie reviewed the community’s draft guiding principles: protect lives during catastrophic flooding event; prioritizing low cost approaches to projects that involve local resources and labor – use funds wisely; encourage partnerships with agencies and organization and continue collaboration between City and IRA Councils and the Corporation Board; develop so that the community is strengthened and traditional values are respected.

5. Other Area Projects – Group

- AVEC & ANTHC – Wind to heat project (water plant)
- AVEC & Renewable Energy Grant – Tank farm upgrade
- Norton Bay Water Policy Council – Long-range climate change plan
- EPA drinking water standards – New insulation on water tanks (2015); upgrade water plant and equipment (design December, work 2016)
- Community-wide water/wastewater PER; sewer lines – relocate leach fields; redundancy at pump house (more than one sewer line/water loop)
- New housing and VPSO housing (approximately 5)

Possible Projects:

- USACE – Potential study 2017 – mapping driftwood/storm surge study

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6. Issues and Solutions – Group

Issues:

- Local match is difficult. Need broader “local” definition and explore in-kind services that could be provided by the community, e.g. building the berm; purchase of dump trucks
- Balance/prioritize short-term, stay in place projects with potential relocation so that funding will not be lost; consideration of the lifecycle of infrastructure and plan for replacements that could be relocated, e.g. use of triodetic foundations in recent construction; modular facilities including community center/evacuation buildings
- Long term stability of the berm – need armoring, more concave structure to bounce waves
- Defending houses and foundations against wave action, e.g. school
- Locate nearby place to build defensible structures – tsunami mound; multi-purpose building
- Transportation projects – new federal funding opening up
- Energy funding is now mostly for renewable energy. Shaktoolik is currently in “pretty good shape” energy-wise

Solutions/Opportunities/Funding

- Explore research needs/academic studies, e.g. St. Lawrence College; National Park Service
- Community capacity – other community lead projects in economic development plan for essential needs
- Regional entities – North Slope Health Corporation; Bering Sea Native Corp./Development Co.; Kawerak; NSEDC-Energy – large infrastructure program
- FEMA – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (Tribe and City of Shaktoolik may be eligible to apply)

7. Next Steps – Julie Jessen

- Community review of proposed solutions
- Homework Assignment: Agency options for technical and/or financial solutions
- Next Meeting: Synergy; October 13-14, 2015 – Location TBD

Shaktoolik Interagency Working Group Meeting
August 24, 2015

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of
Community and Regional Affairs
Atwood Conference Center
550 W. 7th Avenue

1-800-315-6338; access code 45881#

1:30—3:30 PM

	Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
1.	<u>Karlene Sagoonick</u>	<u>Native Village of Shaktoolik</u>	<u>KSagoonick@kawerak.org</u>	<u>955-3701</u>
2.	<u>Fred Sagoonick</u>	<u>Stk Native Corp</u>	<u>fsusago@yahoo.com</u>	<u>955-3241</u>
3.	<u>Egan Jones</u>	<u>SICK CITY</u>		
4.	<u>GREG MAGEE</u>	<u>ADEC/USW</u>	<u>GREG.MAGEE@ALASKA.GOV</u>	<u>269-7613</u>
5.	<u>GEORGE WILSON</u>	<u>ADEC/USW</u>	<u>GEORGE.WILSON@ALASKA.GOV</u>	<u>269-7616</u>
6.	<u>Mia Heavener</u>	<u>ANTHC</u>	<u>MIA.HEAVENER@ANTHC.ORG</u>	<u>721-7229 3539</u>

	Name	Organization	E-mail	Phone
7.	JACKIE SCHAEFFER	WHPACIFIC (CHRL SNC)	jschaeffer@whpacific.com	339-5323
8.	Jimmy Smith	DCRA	jsmith@AKASKA.GOV	269 4132
9.	Michael Sookingol	SKKIRA	ms5404@yahoo.com	956-1070
10.	David Williams	AK Corps of Engineer	david.p.williams@ usace.army.mil	907-696-3685
11.	Laurie Cummings	HDR		
12.	Meera KOLLER	AVFC		
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