MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT

Steering Committee #2

Meeting Notes

September 27, 2016

10-11:30am

Attendees

Paul Charles, NVC Tribal President
George Carl, NVC Vice President
Frieda Carl, NVC Secretary
Romy Cadiente, NVC Local Coordinator
Paulette Schuerch, State of Alaska Governor’s Office
Don Antrobus - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)/Denali Commission
Randy Romenesko - DOWL
Adison Smith - DOWL
Mike Walleri, Law Offices of Michael J Walleri
Glen Price, NNC Attorney

Status Reports

DOWL

1. **Funding** – Paymaster RFS will be developed by DOWL with support of Glen Price. Paymaster will include scope for a grants and accounting staff. The goal of the paymaster is to help the existing accounting staff with getting an audit completed, set up the Quickbooks account and grants management systems, implement the property, financial and procurement management systems, and most importantly, train existing staff. DOWL will check with NNC and RUBA staff to request assistance and ensure work is not duplicated.

   Mike noted that the GO Bonds (for road construction) cannot be re-appropriated. State grants may be reappropriated by the state.

2. **Roads** – The Committee reviewed Goldstream drawings of potential routes between quarry and town site. NVC’s preferred route is Alignment Option A. Option A was selected because of the straight alignment located near the water that could potential allow for an emergency airstrip. Discussion took place about the alternative being located outside of existing approved environmental documents. The Committee and BIA requested that DOWL’s environmental team research the environmental work completed that includes Option A to learn more about what additional environmental work may be needed. The Committee suggested that future environmental/survey work planned should include the entire footprint of the community (33.34 acres) so that there is no question about
future infrastructure’s impact regardless if an alignment or site moves slightly. DOWL and Goldstream will provide a memo to BIA and the Committee with findings so the NVC and funding agencies can make a decision on how to move forward. The options discussed are:

- **1 – May** have to complete additional NEPA work which will cost more $ and take more time. This will need to be evaluated by the NVC.
- **2 – Use existing alignment.**
- **3 – Look into using option A and tying it into the existing alignment.** The Committee discussed this to be an option that could cost less and utilize the existing roadway alignment.

3. **Housing** – CCHRC will not lead force account construction of houses. CCHRC wishes to remain a technical advisor to NVC on housing construction. AVCP-RHA does have force account construction crews that may be available. BIA wants to get AVCP housing into the program and use Newtok as an example on leveraging funds. DOWL suggested hiring a housing contractor that will be required to use CCHRC plans and local force account crews. The Committee discussed the need pool all of the funds available for housing construction into one account. Combining all funds will help with a more effective and cost effective procurement, contract and grant administration program. HIP program could do direct services for tribes – need to find out what the direct services mean. The Committee and the NVC agreed that the IRT buildings will not be used for crew camps. Contractors can build their crew camps and leave them for future housing.

4. **MEC** – NVC to meet with USACE Commander to discuss MEC project agreement on 9/28.

5. **Environmental** – USACE 404 permit for quarry and road extended to 2021. 404 permit will be required for town site roads. Future sewer lagoon and landfill located to avoid airport conflicts. Wind is north east and south west. Don said that there may be some rearrangements of the roads to make it more usable in the future.

**Newtok Village Council** – Provided an update on funding status of grants.

**State of Alaska** – Provided an update on the State of Alaska’s current efforts for Newtok. The Legislative Session is going to start in January, 2017. Paulette Schuerch stated that she wants to work with DOWL and NVC to develop a capital request for housing and other needs. DOWL will set up a meeting with NVC and Paulette to begin working on a capital request. Senator Hoffman should be part of the process in developing the request and getting it through to the legislators. NVC needs to write an email or letter to State of Alaska to request a clear definition on what “significant progress means”. By doing this, the team can understand what type of progress needs to be made in order for the state funds not to be swept for other projects.

**Denali Commission** – Recently completed a Financial Assistance Award with ANTHC to have staff work on grants for environmental threatened communities. The grant writers will be available to the all ETC communities. ANTHC will invite the communities to come and receive training. The Denali Commission discussed other funding being allocated to Newtok, including
an amendment to Newtok with an additional $120,000 for professional services and an allotment for transportation and for personal protection equipment. Denali Commission will be providing up to $900,000 for NEPA work needed for planned infrastructure. This award is pending until Denali Commission meets with CEQ. Denali Commission will award ANTHC funding for washeteria and landfill PER along with water and wastewater/utilities design. Lastly, the Denali Commission is providing AEA with funding to complete an energy plan that will look at the demolition of the energy system in Newtok, as well as how to build up the power supply in Mertarvik.

**Action Items**

1. DOWL/NVC State of Alaska to request a clear definition on what “significant progress means” for grant awards.
2. DOWL/NVC will set up a meeting with Paulette to begin working on a capital request.
3. Modify language in contracts for the crew camps that they are left over other housing needs in the future.
4. DOWL & Goldstream environmental team will research the environmental work completed that includes alignment option A to learn more about what additional environmental work is needed.
5. DOWL will check with NNC and RUBA staff to request assistance and ensure work on the paymaster is not duplicated, and identify ways NVC can use existing resources.
6. DOWL will draft a letter from NVC to the agencies regarding the request for consolidating housing funds into one account to help with efficiencies in procurement, contracting and administration.
MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT

Status Report for Steering Committee

Prepared by DOWL

September 27, 2016

1) Primary focus has been on developing a spending plan, budget and grant management system for the relocation project; developing a schedule for the overall project; assisting NVC and agencies with securing funding for housing, MEC, travel and equipment; getting the MEC purchased helping NVC and HUD with the completion of the HUD EA; completing a gap analysis for the environmental work completed to date; identifying planning needs; and overseeing Goldstream Engineering’s work on the roads portion of the project.

2) Roads and Quarry Development:
   a) Route selected by NVC for road from town site to quarry.
   b) The USACE Section 404 permit has been extended.
   c) Funding is available for this portion of the project. DOWL proposes to use the entire SOA GO Bond for this project first. The SOA GO Bond is $4.1 million and can be used for the MEC and Quarry Access Road. The Community Streets portion of the project and any other roads will need to be funding by the BIA Transportation $.
   d) The following preliminary schedule has been developed:
      - January 27, 2017  Road Design Complete
      - December 1, 2016 – April 1, 2017 Equipment, Freight and Material Procurement
      - April 28, 2017 Barge Departs Seattle
      - May 15, 2016 Barge Departs Anchorage
      - June 1, 2017 First Barge Landing in Mertarvik

3) Housing
   a) Housing meeting on 9/2/2016. Meeting notes are attached.
   b) Assisted BIA with preparing for the NVC/BIA Housing Meeting 9/26/16. DOWL assisted NVC with securing money for travel, and helped BIA with the agenda and communications to State and Federal partners.
   c) Assisted NVC with completing required contract paperwork for the AVCP and BIA funding.

4) Mertarvik Evacuation Center (MEC)
   a) Secured funding to cover the foundation for the MEC. CCHRC will be covering the foundation this fall.
   b) Met with USACE Project Manager Dave Williams to discuss restarting the project; prepared credit request for the section 116 agreement per Dave Williams’s request; set up meeting with the USACE Commander Randy Bowker to discuss NVC’s request and the overall
schedule/urgency of the project. The meeting is set for Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 2pm at the Districts office.

5) Environmental

a) HUD issued the EA for the town site. This is a major win that will allow funding and work to occur for the housing scope of the project.

b) USACE 404 Wetlands permit reauthorized until 2021. Existing permit lapsed but through efforts by Goldstream and DOWL a renewal was issued with minor effort.

c) Gap analysis prepared (see attached).

6) Planning

a) DOWL’s Planning Department has identified key steps needed to update the community plan and complete any planning work needed to make sure construction can begin FY17. DOWL understands that there are several agencies working on planning activities and suggest that a small focused planning group be assembled with key people that are working on planning activities for FY17.

b) Key agencies working on planning activities that need to meet include SOA, ANTHC, Goldstream Engineering, Denali Commission and DOWL.

7) Skiff Purchase

a) Assisted NVC/BIA/SOA with funding for the skiff purchase and shipping costs. The skiff was shipped to NVC. NVC is working to close the grant for this project.

8) 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 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.

c) DOWL and BIA visited Newtok the week of 9/6 to determine the level of assistance required and recommend best course of action. A recommendation memo is attached.

9) General