

Draft - Notes for the meeting held 5/25/06

Mike Black, Division of Community Advocacy – State Co-chair (presiding)

In attendance: Berney Richert, Shirley Kelly – EDA; Christy Miller, Sally Cox, Keith Jost, Ruth St. Amour – Division of Community Advocacy; Gene Kane, Bill Allen – USDA Rural Development; Gail West, Deb Alston – HUD; Rayna Swanson – RurAL CAP/Denali Commission; Mitzi Barker – RurAL CAP; Christi Bell – UA Center for Economic Development; Lenny Corin – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Cindy Roberts – DCCED/Denali Commission; Ed Ward – Maniilaq; Roy Agloinga – Municipality of Anchorage; Katie Morris – Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation; Noel Rea, Tim Bundy – Department of Health & Social Services; Chris Mello – Alaska Energy Authority; Erica Mensch, Annette Stepetin, Mara Machulsky – Denali Commission interns; Marv Smith – Lake & Peninsula Borough (teleconference); Stanley Tom – Newtok Traditional Council; Gary Brown – Division of Homeland Security; Trish Opheen, Dennis Hardy, Andrea Elconin, Brenda Kerr – Corps of Engineers; Daina Zarins – Governor’s Office; Eileen Bechtol – B P & D; Nicole McCullogh – ASCG, Inc.; Alex DeMarban – Anchorage Daily News; Ronni Sullivan – So. Region EMS; Ted Wittenberger – Coastal Villages Region Fund; Greg Magee, Jim Patterson – Village Safe Water; Rich Sewell – DOT/PF

Report/Discussion– Newtok: Elevated Health and Safety Risks, Coordinated Planning and Infrastructure Development Needs, New Community Development as it relates to Sustainability

- Erosion at Newtok has averaged 90 feet per year, and the community had major floods in September 2005 and February 2006 (the first winter high water).
- Newtok has had no treated water since January 2006.
- The community has selected a new site, Takikchak, which is eight miles from Newtok. Land transfer to the Village Corporation has been accomplished with USFW exchanging land on Nelson Island for mainland wetlands habitat.
- DEC has money for planning at the new site and some money left over in an appropriation for the existing site. However, they have not been officially notified by the Traditional Council of the intent to move, and have not begun planning the new site for sanitation improvements.
- Division of Homeland Security is aware of the potential for an emergency in Newtok if flooding again occurs as it did last year and earlier this year. They will declare an emergency at that time and evacuate the community probably to Anchorage and Fairbanks.
- The Corps of Engineers’ work to date includes cultural resource reconnaissance, wetlands delineation, and fish/bird surveys. U.S.G.S. is in the third year of studying the water source.
- Stanley Tom is applying for all permits potentially needed.

- Both Newtok and Takikchak need barge landing sites. Rich Sewell of DOT/PF estimates the construction cost at approximately \$300,000.
- The Corps will draft a recommendation to relocate, for federal approval (no timeframe given).
- A community master plan (layout) is needed for a unified environmental review process.
- The Corps has funds available, awaiting the identification of priorities, and would benefit from an expression of urgency from other parties.

Break (the Newtok discussion group moved to another conference room)

Presentation – Overview of ANCSA 14(c) Status, presented by Keith Jost.

- There is a need to resolve land ownership issues as a component of community planning.
- Potential approaches include:
 - Agencies may give funding preference to communities that have completed 14(c).
 - Sanitation planning efforts might include 14(c) land planning.
 - A grant program could be made available to support land planning and technical assistance for completion of 14(c).
- DEC has pledged to provide resources to 25 communities that are interested in completing 14(c) and that have sanitation projects.

Roy Agloinga, the Municipality of Anchorage’s Rural Affairs Coordinator, was introduced to the Work Group.

Discussion – Merits of conducting a Building Our Communities conference in 2007.

- Gail West reported that planning for a 2007 BOC has stopped, and that there is interest in conducting a survey.
- Survey questions could be included in the evaluation questionnaires of other events.
- RurAL CAP is interested in offering hands-on training in the use of the new community plan template.
- There is a need to identify a “lowest common denominator” plan.
- **Mike and Mitzi will report at the next meeting on results of conversations with those who have participated in prior BOC’s and the audiences they are intended to serve.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14 at 9 a.m., to be chaired by Berney Richert.