

**Newtok Planning Group
Meeting summary for
Friday, June 9, 2006, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

I. Status of Action Items from May 25, 2006 meeting

A. Short-term barge landing facilities at Newtok and Takikchak

1. Brenda Kerr reported that a COE engineer walked the proposed landing site at Takikchak. In order to come up with a design, we need to be more specific about what the barge landing should do, regarding capacity; timing and whether the structure built would be the permanent facility.

Brenda shared the layout and details of the City of Nome's barge ramp (60' wide concrete ramp) as an example of what could be designed for Takikchak. The estimated cost of a barge ramp similar to Nome's may be \$400,000 without considering mobilization/demobilization costs. Mobilization/demobilization costs are critical. The barge ramp would lead up to the staging area. Bathymetry data would be required (an additional ~ \$60,000 cost) and the group would need to decide within 2 weeks if this is an item they would like the Corps to use Tribal Partnership funds to perform this summer. If the bathymetry could be done this summer funding/authority issues would be the only constraints to proceeding with design this winter and construction next

2. Stanley Tom reported that the Newtok community is planning to construct a barge landing at Takikchak in the very near future using 4' x 12' x 30' laminated wood beams and some of the old barge landing materials at Newtok. Newtok Traditional Council (NTC) is very anxious to deliver the three Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Housing Improvement Program (HIP) packages currently being stored in Tununak. NTC is planning to contract with Seattle Services to barge the housing packages from Tununak to Takikchak.

a. construction funding for barge landing facilities

Mike Black informed the group that the State was exploring possible funding options to come up with the \$300,000 that DOT/PF estimated for barge landing sites at Newtok and Takikchak this summer.

b. minimum equipment needed for developing barge landing at Takikchak

i. equipment available within proximity to Newtok/Takikchak

Rich Sewell (DOT/PF) reported that because Newtok was included in two disaster declarations, the community may be eligible to use FAA-owned equipment (including a bulldozer) currently available at the Newtok airport. Sewell will ask FAA about Newtok being able to use the airport equipment for disaster related projects. Moses Carl, the airport person, will be contacted about the equipment. It was also suggested that we inquire about equipment available in Tununak that

Newtok could use at Takikchak. It's possible that the equipment available on Nelson Island could be sufficient for Newtok's needs.

B. Emergency water source development at Takikchak

Bill Griffith stated that it wouldn't be realistic to pursue an interim water source if evacuation wasn't expected this summer. After some discussion by the group on the merits of assisting the community with a pioneering relocation effort, Bill suggested (under the pioneering relocation camp scenario) that it might be most cost-effective to deliver camp facilities and equipment by helicopter and to erect the facilities and sink a well at a temporary location. If needed, a modular water plant would be one of camp buildings. He suggested that a team should make a site visit to Takikchak.

(New Item) Design Charette for Water Facility

In response to the team's request to have the Corps prepare a preliminary design/cost for an interim water supply Brenda Kerr suggested that a group of engineers participate in a design charette for the water facility. Bill Griffith suggested that DEC would provide Brenda with a list of engineers. Greg Magee suggested that O & M costs should be included in the charette. The interim water supply may be used for emergency evacuation and construction.

1. COE: cost estimate for emergency water source

Brenda reported that the Corps is awaiting a proposal for the design charette from the COE's indefinite delivery type contractor. The interim water supply may be modeled after a system developed for a timber camp.

2. AEA: cost estimate/requirements for power to support small well

Chris Mello provided the following cost estimate prior to the meeting:

A couple of 50 KW generators should provide plenty of power for a water pump, heat for a water tank and power for a small treatment facility and a few homes. Two generators are important because one or the other will go down from time to time. We'll need at least one 10,000 gal double walled fuel tank. Figure fuel consumption at about 100 gal per day, gives them fuel for 100 days. If we need 200 days of fuel storage, figure two tanks. Also needed: a small module to house the generators and get them through the winter and a distribution system to get the power to the pumps, the treatment facility and the homes. No idea what the distances will be, but poles with line run about \$2,500 per and we'll need one every 200 ft. \$750,000 gets you temporary power, distribution and fuel storage designed to last at least 2 years.

C. Emergency/interim settlement at Takikchak

1. COE: cost estimate to develop basic facilities at new site to accommodate evacuation

The Corps was tasked at the first meeting with providing a concept plan for an evacuation shelter at the Takikchak site. Brenda reported that the "Design Analysis-Emergency Shelter-Shishmaref, Alaska" prepared by the Corps in October 2004 appeared to be an appropriate concept for such. The preliminary costs of this facility, a 5,000 square foot multi-use building that was designed to "...provide sleeping space for 100 individuals, for

a period of two weeks. This facility was based on the design of a school/church using the unique engineering techniques that are required in the arctic environment, addressing the water and wastewater needs. The approximate cost would be \$10 million.

2. Emergency Services: what basic infrastructure would need to be at Takikchak in order for it to be considered as evacuation location?

Gary Brown reported that the State would be very reluctant to evacuate Newtok residents to Takikchak without any infrastructure. However if the new site had 2-3 houses, a developed water source, a generator, and food supplies, the State would consider such an option. It is very rare for entire communities to be evacuated. During emergencies or disasters, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management provides assistance to communities, such as evacuation assistance and other types of disaster assistance, at the communities' request. The first preference, if feasible, in an evacuation scenario is to "evacuate in place." This involves moving at-risk residents to a safe, central location in the community, such as the school, community center, etc. Although the Governor has the authority to require an evacuation, it would be a rare event, indeed. A recent example of a partial community evacuation is the community of Koyukuk self-evacuating 42 of its residents to Galena, with some assistance from the State. Note: Newtok residents may evacuate to the new site without assistance from the State, on their own, at any time.

Current disaster related Public Assistance Projects for Newtok:

Newtok was awarded \$89,078 for a Public Assistance (PA) project to repair or replace a boardwalk and three docks, which were damaged or destroyed during the federally declared 2004 Fall Sea Storm disaster, DR-1571. Newtok was advanced 25% of the project costs, which have been expended and validated. They have been approved for the next 25% advance, which they will receive soon.

During the federally declared 2005 Bering Sea Storm (DR-1618), Newtok apprised the State and FEMA of a debris removal requirement. FEMA drafted a Project Worksheet for debris removal, but assigned a zero dollar amount to it because the Newtok did not provide an estimated cost to remove the debris, or any specific information to validate there was any debris. The DHS&EM Public Assistance Officer is currently engaged in a dialog with Newtok to determine a course of action on this issue.

Note that Public Assistance monies associated with federally declared disasters are only to repair or replace damaged infrastructure, through FEMA-approved projects, to their original condition.

a. Can Disaster Policy Cabinet (DPC) declare an emergency to free up resources?

Gary clarified that the DPC does not declare emergencies or disasters. The DPC reviews information presented to them regarding the emergency or disaster and then makes recommendations to the Governor (who then may declare an emergency or disaster). When the question was asked about whether contaminated water and sanitation facilities could be used as a catalyst for a disaster declaration, Gary cited AS 26.23.9 (e), which provided one definition of a disaster as "an outbreak of disease or a credible

threat of an imminent outbreak of disease . . .” It could be difficult to provide hard data to meet these criteria

b. (New Item) 24-Hour Emergency Response Plan for Newtok

Gary Brown reported that DHS&EM has a template for an Emergency Response Plan and the Division would share it with Newtok at the community’s convenience and help them adapt it for their community. Mr. Terry Smith (428-7035) will contact Stanley Tom during the week of June 12-16, 2006 on this issue.

c. (New Item) Storm-Spotting Team

Brenda Kerr suggested that it might be worth putting together a team of storm-spotters in the community to enable them to be proactive about getting to higher ground and/or other emergency efforts. This is a topic discussed by another multi-agency group (NWS, NOAA, Corps, CVRF). CVRF had considered having their community liaisons perform some of the functions and NWS was interested in training the liaisons. Not clear what the status is of this.

3. (New Item) Pioneer Airstrip

Rich Sewell reported that DOT/PF is looking at the possibility of a pioneering airstrip at Takikchak.

4. NEPA Requirement: The Newtok Traditional Council is currently issuing a request for a NEPA waiver. (*Update: NTC sent a letter to the congressional delegation June 14, 2006 requesting a waiver of NEPA requirements for the village relocation.*) It was suggested that environmental specialists convene to ascertain what studies have already been prepared that might fulfill some aspects of NEPA.

5. (New Item) Pioneer Relocation Camp

It was agreed that an interim planning effort for a Pioneer Relocation Camp, including barge landing, watering site and airstrip would best meet Newtok’s short-term needs at Takikchak.

D. Comprehensive Community Planning at Takikchak

1. VSW: draft Statement of Services for a Sanitation Master Plan

Greg Magee discussed the draft scope of work that he prepared for a Community Relocation Plan for Newtok. The scope of work comprises five phases: 1) development of a master planning execution project plan, 2) preparation of a conceptual relocation plan; 3) preparation of a feasibility study, 4) preparation of an interim systems operation plan for the existing village, and 5) a public involvement program.

The Community has about \$220,000 from VSW for planning purposes. Greg estimated that the Community Relocation Plan will cost between \$250,000 and \$350,000. VSW’s funding only covers planning for water, sewer and solid waste needs. Additional funding is needed to cover plans the non-sanitation components of the plan. Therefore, it was suggested that the initial scope of work consist of planning activities that are VSW grant

eligible. This work would allow other agencies time to identify and secure funding so subsequent phases will be funded by multi-agency sources. A draft Statement of Qualifications will be prepared for the next meeting and a revised Statement of Services.

2. VSW: RFP for Sanitation Master Plan

The RFP will be developed based on the draft Statement of Services, above. The RFP will identify the first couple of phases of the multi-year Statement of Services. Subsequent phases will be funded by multi-agency sources.

3. AEA: Power for permanent community with possibility of Toksook-Nightmute tie line

Chris Mello reported the following: For the permanent community we figure \$4,000,000 for the tank farm. \$2,000,000 for the power plant. That region generally has terrific wind potential so another \$1,000,000 for wind power. \$1,000,000 for distribution. There you have it: \$8,000,000 to put fuel storage and power generation/distribution in the new site.

Ted Wittenburger (CVRS) spoke with Brent Petrie of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC), who indicated that the distance from Takikchak to the other Nelson Island villages may be too far for a tie line, but that Newtok may want to consider joining AVEC anyway.

4. Community Plan

As addressed in D.1., (above) the community plan will be funded through alternative funding sources and directed by the village of Newtok.

II. Next steps

A. Developing a schedule

The master project planning execution plan is included as part of VSW's draft Statement of Services. Development of a schedule for the Pioneer Relocation Camp has yet to be addressed.

B. (New item) Newtok Planning Group Webpage

Bob Walsh suggested that we find a way to coordinate literature and other materials (photos, maps) electronically on the web. The Division of Community Advocacy is exploring possible web locations.