

**Newtok Village Council Relocation Project**  
**Steering Committee Meeting #1 April 26, 2023 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Meeting Notes by CRW Engineering Group, Inc – 6/8/23**

**Invitees:** Newtok Village Council, Newtok Native Corporation, Denali Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and the State of Alaska

***Meeting Attendees:***

- ***Adison Spafford – CRW***
- ***Ray Daniel - CRW***
- ***Richard Camilleri – Attorney with Tribe***
- ***Jackie Schaeffer – ANTHC***
- ***Simeon Fairbanks - NVC***
- ***Francis Tom - NVC***
- ***Phillip Carl - NVC***
- ***Joseph John Jr. - NVC***
- ***Sandra Ayuluk - NVC***
- ***Della Carl - NVC***
- ***Bernice John - NNC***
- ***Lucinta Carl - NVC***
- ***Stefani Dalrymple– Yukon Accounting***
- ***Patrick LeMay– LeMay Engineering***
- ***Freida Carl – NVC***
- ***Caroline George – Community Rep***
- ***Seth - High Country News***
- ***Emily Schwing - High Country News - KYUK***
- ***Kim Sweet – LKSD Operation Manager***
- ***Sally Russell Cox – State of Alaska***
- ***Martha Whitman – AVCP***
- ***Liza Mack – Denali Commission***

1. Introductions
2. Steering Committee Meeting Notes (None for first meeting)
3. Newtok Updates
  - a. Newtok Village Council
  - b. Newtok Native Corporation

**Updates from NVC & Newtok Native Corp.**

- ***5 million a year for 5 years for a total of 25 million***
- ***14 homes finished this year including AVCP (2023)***
- ***Corporation: LKSD, YKHC land lease, Site control meeting with council and village (date tbd)***
- ***Boardwalk maintenance – will the tribal transportation be able to be used for boardwalk. Patrick to pose question to Donna.***
- ***Landfill in Newtok? Burn box to be used from old BIA Tank***
- ***NNC Fuel tanks to be moved higher to avoid flood***
- ***Leaning poles in Newtok, not able to fix since UUI can potentially sue NVC/NNC?***
- ***Add UUI to steering committee***

4. Critical Path Items
  - a. 2023 Construction Plan

Patrick Lemay 2023 Construction Plan:

- *Upper road to be graded*
- *E1 house pad*
- *Line builders*
- *2/6 of the 4-bedroom homes are connected to power*
- *Possible construction of upper road & d street pending BIA funding*
- *Any work on Newtok side of things? LKSD For school & working with Dillon with riverside.*

b. BIA Funding \$25m

BIA funding 25 million budget

- *Council to develop budget scope*
- *Discussed purchasing equipment for both Mertarvik & Newtok to clean up (sanitation). Need sanitation equipment for Mertarvik side since there isn't sanitation transportation for.*
- *Patrick: snow load prevented for bringing waste to landfill. So, the community dumped honey buckets & dumping in river since there's no sufficient equipment for waste*
- *Can't run equipment since there is no diesel*
- *Newtok side has a bunch of old snow mobile & 4 wheelers*
- *NNC: Mertarvik & Newtok: no & low fuel*

Who is working with NNC to work with \$25 million?

- *BIA – Jennifer*
- *Della & Phillip to be hired by NVC to help with planning and local coordination (BIA Relocation Coordinator Position's)*

c. Implementation Plan

Updated Construction plan (implementation plan)

- *Next 2 years: Jackie (ANTHC) to work with project team and community (LeMay Engineering & Yukon Accounting)*
- *Community engagement needed from contractors*
- *2023 & 2024 construction is critical*
- *49 more homes to be constructed in Mertarvik to relocate whole village of Newtok*
- *May need to expand and hire more resources*

d. Community Engagement

- *Community meeting (4/26 7-9 pm)*
- *To get feedback for how living in Mertarvik is*
- *Utilize FB pages for Newtok/Mertarvik for information to be relayed to community. What is the best way to engage IN PERSON for both sides.*
- *Who administers FB pages?*
- *Best way to communicate with community for Mertarvik /Newtok: Admin of Newtok & Mertarvik (Lisa Charles is possible admin of FB pages)*

e. Housing Plan/Policy & f. Legal Introduction

- *Priority for council & legal side: to make sure council is protected*

- *Adison to send document from Barrett Ristroph to legal and NVC*
- *Executive session to be held to go over home policy & payment & insurance*

## 5. Agency Reports

### a. State of Alaska

#### *Update from Sally Russell Cox*

- *Typhoon Merbok: FEMA coordinated recovery system for funding*

### b. Denali Commission

### c. Bureau of Indian Affairs

### d. Housing and Urban Development

### e. Association of Village Council Presidents

### f. Lower Kuskokwim School District

#### *Update on Newtok demolition & constructing Mertarvik school from Kim Sweet*

- *Phase 1 bid won by ASRC SKW Eskimos Inc.*
  - *To move Newtok school equipment stuff*
  - *Excavation & earthwork for Mertarvik side*
- *Phase 2 to start fall of 2024*
  - *Some planning complete (floor plans)*
- *Able to secure MOA from tribe*
- *Mertarvik side have not worked with ANTHC for water & wastewater*
- *Fuel in Newtok to be used for fall school year (2023) & when all students move, then leftover fuel will be moved to Mertarvik*
  - *If any surplus fuel from school, may sell to the NNC*
- *State & LKSD must follow certain rules for procurement, there hasn't been a bid since the recent funding was awarded*

### g. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

#### *Update from Jackie Schaeffer*

- *Contamination assessment*
- *LKSD To be main anchor for the IHS funding to continue*
- *Washeteria for Newtok to be fixed, Mertarvik side - needs parts & NVC has been in touch with ANTHC*
- *Tribal capacity & training program looks at relocation masterplan put together by CRW. Construction plan to match BIA time frame*
- *Comments from community about toilets & waste being dumped in river. PASS system works better – Bernice*

### h. Other

## 6. Financial & Funding Issues

#### *Update from Stefani Dalrymple*

- *Didn't get approval from NVC to give out financial spending. Audit / fixed asset was given*

- *How much has been invested in community through 9/30/22 including homes, roads, pads, electrical, communications, etc. But not meetings, legal, insurance, Yukon Accounting fees*
  - *\$44 million spent on assets since 2013*
  - *Adison – purpose of this financial information for the steering committee is for the committee and NVC to understand and recognize funding gaps and plan for each 2 year season.*
- a. 2023 Finances
  - b. Grant Applications
  - c. Funding Gaps

7. Closing Comments/Next Meeting