

# *Kivalina Interagency Working Group-Meeting # 1*

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting Date: August 24, 2015**

**Project: DCCED Strategic Management Plan-Kivalina**

**HDR Project No.: 244932/003**

**Meeting Time: 9:30 to 11:30 am**

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

### ATTENDEE LIST:

|   |   |   |                         |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|
|   | Greg Smith, BIA                                       | T | Katherine Eldemar, DCRA |
|   | Mia Heavener, ANTHC                                   |   | Manjula Boyina, DCRA    |
|   | Erin Dougherty Lynch, NARF                            |   | Jeff Nelson, NANA       |
|   | Suzanne Taylor, WH Pacific                            |   | Rosie Barr, NANA        |
|   | Jackie Schaffer, WH Pacific                           |   | Liz Moore, NANA         |
|   | Dollie A. Hawley, Community Coordinator, Kivalina IRA |   |                         |
|   | Sally Russell Cox, SOA/DCCED/DCRA                     |   |                         |
|   | David P. Williams, USACE                              |   |                         |
|   | Adison Smith, DOWL/NAB                                |   |                         |
| T | Ruth A. Carter, DOT&PF                                |   |                         |
| T | Brad Blackstone, ANTHC                                |   |                         |
| T | Jackie Hill, Maniilaq Association                     |   |                         |

T – participated via teleconference

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

- Julie reviewed the agenda and introduced Sally, Dollie 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 Coordinator in carrying out his or her responsibilities, providing technical and other assistance.

## *Kivalina Interagency Working Group-Meeting # 1*

### MEETING SUMMARY

- 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 – Dollie Hawley, Kivalina Community Coordinator**

- Dollie shared her background and family history. She is one of 11 children – one of three still living. She learned much about the family's subsistence lifestyle from her grandmother. She continues with this lifestyle today. Dollie said that, according to her mother, Kivalina was three to four times as large as it is today.
- Dollie shared some of the community's concerns including: No space to build – Kivalina is "like an island unto itself"; inadequate airstrip; buildings are being built on top of the graveyard; ocean is not freezing and it is raining in the winter; polar bears are now breeding with grizzly bears; sea mammals are threatened by lack of sea ice; subsistence is also threatened by melting permafrost; with each earthquake there is heightened fear that Kivalina will sink and be completely wiped out. The community is concerned about relocation – they do not want to leave their ancestral home but understand that it is becoming increasingly urgent that they move to a safer location.
- The feeling within the community is that "it is not safe to live in Kivalina" but some community members are not open – "when you live there you don't talk about danger". Dollie said that the community surveys that have been conducted have been very helpful with allowing people to express the fears and issues that are important to them. She said that it is also very helpful to conduct the elder interviews. Dollie hopes that a bridge/causeway can be completed soon so that the village can get moving. Collaboration and safety are key and the community and agencies must work together.

#### **4. Work to Date – Laurie Cummings, HDR**

- 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 150 people attended the community gathering in Kivalina. The report from the meeting and information gathered over the last few months is in process. Once the three 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: Safety, resiliency, evacuation road, new school – in support of the community's long term desire to relocate; working together to

# *Kivalina Interagency Working Group-Meeting # 1*

## MEETING SUMMARY

protect residents, infrastructure, natural environment and subsistence resources; increasing resiliency while respecting traditional values; Kivalina will become a community where existing and future generations will want to live.

- Laurie summarized the community issues which are based on the work completed over the last few months: Lack of/inadequate community infrastructure; air quality; inadequate housing; changes to subsistence resources; lack of evacuation shelter/place of refuge; new school – location/access; community morale; funding; and other issues relating to employment, education, transportation; environmental contamination, and issues presented by Dollie Hawley.

### **5. Other Area Projects -- Group**

- AK Design Forum – “Relocate Kivalina”
- Bio CHAR – Waste to energy
- ANTHC – Drinking water and sanitation
- BIA – Construction garage/transit facilities
- AECOM – Hazard Mitigation Plan
- WH Pacific – Transportation Safety Plan
- NANA – Wind Feasibility study (Red Dog?)
- FEMA funds – Runway erosion – final decision
- USACE – Bank stabilization design; Section 117 Sea side complete; Lagoon side needs cost sharing agreement with City
- Geotech for road and school – need NANA lease for site
- Cultural resources survey

#### **Possible Projects:**

- Intertie with AVEC (John Baker, Kay Keith)
- Build bridge in 150' segments, dredging to current channel depths would allow for beneficial use of dredging material
- Barge landing/small boat harbor protection (no docks/floats – community responsibility)

### **6. Issues and Solutions – Group**

#### **Issues:**

- Need to prioritize people over projects – rural Alaskans need help and not just project funds. Must watch for “mission creep” to avoid chasing funding for lower priority projects that may not fit the community’s needs.
- Need to develop community capacity for change and resilience through education and training, and development of management skills.
- Need to determine “tripwire” for relocation timing, e.g. Kivalina loses 10% of its land. Examples include reviewing past events to help determine predictability – review storm surges for (approximately) the last 10 years; look at lessons learned from other communities, e.g. Nuiqsuit and Noatak.

## *Kivalina Interagency Working Group-Meeting # 1*

### MEETING SUMMARY

- Need to determine relocation authority and need for relocation – imminent and long term – and reach an official decision which forms cohesiveness with community and agencies. Need to develop a physical and community tripwire for relocation and work with agencies (such as USACE and Denali Commission) for comprehensive decision document which identifies a timeline and funding sources based on community decision.
- Need to develop a big picture concept for community review (draft Vision Statement came directly from the community and was based on six elder interviews, community surveys, and input from a community gathering)
- Need safe water source and sanitation
- Need interim housing
- No land/overcrowding – moving into more active flood areas
- Need to monitor funding expiration dates and prioritize projects based on need
- Since development will occur around the school, community process is needed to manage change
- Infrastructure: Individual agencies need separate environmental documents; need to develop a document that can be more easily adapted to each agency

#### **Solutions/Opportunities/Funding**

- Expand/build land on lagoon side – build land; NANA lands for relocation available?
- NW Arctic Borough – Funds or in-kind work at school site -- utilities? (AK Dept. of Education funds for school site only)
- FEMA – Hazard mitigation grant
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (w/tribe or city)
- BIA-HPP FHWA highway bill;
- Develop community driven project prioritization with community funds to commit
- Funding prioritization by imminent threat and by expiration date – use “new” federal funds for climate change
- Denali Commission
- Private fund sources
- “Innovative Readiness Training Program”
- Collaborative agency development of environmental document that can be more easily adapted to fit each agency’s requirements – Denali Commission
- In-kind work – agency matches based on cost (not value)
- Explore/use new technologies for buildings/foundations

#### **7. Next Steps – Julie Jessen**

- Community review of proposed solutions
- Homework Assignment: Agency options for technical and/or financial solutions

*Kivalina Interagency Working Group-Meeting # 1*

MEETING SUMMARY

- Next Meeting: Synergy – to be held during AFN, week of October 12<sup>th</sup> – location TBD but it was agreed that it needs to be somewhere with better audio for those participating by telephone

**Kivalina 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#**

**9:30—11:30 AM**

|    | <b>Name</b>                 | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>E-mail</b>                             | <b>Phone</b>    |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | <u>GREGG SMITH</u>          | <u>BIA</u>              | <u>GREGORY.SMITH@BIA.GOV</u>              | <u>271-4063</u> |
| 2. | <u>Mia Heavener</u>         | <u>ANTHC</u>            | <u>Mia.heavener@ANTHC.ORG</u>             | <u>729-3539</u> |
| 3. | <u>Erin DOUGHERTY LYNCH</u> | <u>NARF</u>             | <u>DOUGHERTY@NARF.ALB</u>                 | <u>276-0680</u> |
| 4. | <u>Suzanne Taylor</u>       | <u>WHPacific</u>        | <u>staylor@whpacific.com</u>              | <u>339-6570</u> |
| 5. | <u>Jackie Schaeffer</u>     | <u>"</u>                | <u>jschaeffer@whpacific.com</u>           | <u>339-5323</u> |
| 6. | <u>Dollie A. Hawley</u>     | <u>Kivalina<br/>IRA</u> | <u>Community.Coordinator@kivalinw.org</u> | <u>717-3268</u> |

|     | Name              | Organization               | E-mail                          | Phone        |
|-----|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 7.  | Sally Russell Cox | SOA/DCCED/DCEA             | Sally.Cox@alaska.gov            | 907-269-4588 |
| 8.  | David P. Williams | US Army Corps of Engineers | williams.david.p@usace.army.mil | 907-696-3685 |
| 9.  | Adison Smith      | DOWL/NAB                   | adsmith@dowl.com                | 907-382-4354 |
| 10. | Ruth Cater        | DOT                        |                                 |              |
| 11. | Kathy Christy     | School District            | christy.kj@gsi.net              | 907-223-2999 |
| 12. | Brad Smith        | NAB                        |                                 |              |
| 13. | Ruth              | DRN-lands                  |                                 |              |
| 14. | BRAD BLACKSTONE   | ANTHC                      |                                 |              |
| 15. | JACKIE HILL       | Manilaq Assoc              |                                 |              |
| 16. | Katherine Aldman  | DCRA                       |                                 |              |
| 17. | Manjula Boyina    | DCRA                       | manjula.boyina@alaska.gov       | 907.269.7959 |
| 18. | Jeff Nelson       | NANA                       | jeff.nelson@nana.com            | 265-4136     |
| 19. | Rosie Barr        | Nana                       | rosie.barr@nana.com             | 830-5420     |
|     | LIZ MOORE         | NANA                       |                                 |              |