



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

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August 11, 2015

Dear Shishmaref Agency Planning Committee participant

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) is working with the community of Shishmaref to identify and implement solutions to problems related to climate change and coastal erosion. This effort—the Alaska Community Coastal Protection Project—is based on the premise that careful planning, agency collaboration and strong community leadership are required to address the needs of imperiled communities. The project’s objective is to increase Shishmaref’s long-term sustainability and resilience to the impacts of natural hazards while protecting the natural coastal environment. Success requires all stakeholders, each with its own mission and resources, work together to implement the community’s chosen adaptation strategy.

DCRA is hosting a series of agency meetings to address community-identified solutions. DCRA would like you to participate in upcoming Shishmaref Agency Planning Committee meetings.

The purpose of the Shishmaref Agency Planning Committee is to provide input on specific aspects related to each community’s identified solutions, with emphasis on these areas of special interest:

- Existing projects and programs;
- Potential solutions;
- Agency role in implementation, including technical or financial assistance.

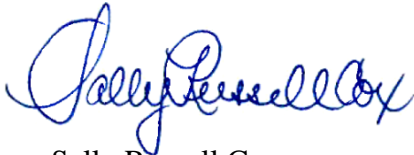
The group will assist the planning team through the completion of a strategic management plan. Decisions and implementation timelines will be documented in a strategic management plan—a “blueprint” for how the community and agencies will proceed over the next five years to accomplish Shishmaref’s recommended actions.

Approximately 30 individuals, representative of a wide diversity of agencies and interests have been invited to participate.

Shishmaref Agency Planning Committee representatives are asked to participate in up to six meetings over the next year. Each meeting will be approximately two hours in duration. All meetings will be in Anchorage at the Atwood Building (550 W. 7th Avenue), and teleconference arrangements will be available. The first meeting will be held August 25 from 9:30 – 11:30 am in the Ted Stevens Room (Room 102) of the Atwood Conference Center. If you are not able to attend one of the meetings, we request that an alternative representative attend in your place. Please note that travel expenses will not be reimbursed by the project.

The planning team consists of DCRA staff and contractors: HDR and RIM First People. If you have any questions about the strategic management planning process or participation on the Agency Committee, please contact Julie Jessen, HDR Alaska public involvement manger, at 907-644-2075 (Julie.Jessen@hdrinc.com) or me directly. Please respond to Julie by **August 14, 2015** to confirm your interest in participating in the Shishmaref Agency Planning Committee. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sally Russell Cox

Local Government Specialist

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<https://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/AlaskaCommunityCoastalProtectionProject.aspx>