

**SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE
P.O. BOX 72100
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
Karen Sinnok, Chairperson**

**Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition
Public Meeting
Shishmaref Community Hall
July 10, 2002
12:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Vice Chair, Luci Eningowuk.

Roll Call: Shishmaref I.R.A. Village Council present:

Darlene Turner, President
Luci Eningowuk, Vice President
Tommy Obruk, Member
Kelly Eningowuk, Member
Edwin Weyiouanna, Member

Shishmaref I.R.A. Village Council absent:

Stella Havatone, Secretary – Travel
Howard Weyiouanna Sr.,- Work

Shishmaref City Council present:

Reuben Weyiouanna, Mayor
Curtis Nayokpuk, Vice Mayor
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member
Baker Ningealook, Member
Tommy Obruk, Member

Shishmaref City Council absent:

Stanley Tocktoo, Secretary/Treasurer
Leonard Kuzuguk, Member

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Shishmaref Native Corporation Board present:

Percy Nayokpuk, President
Darlene Turner, Secretary
Johnson P. Eningowuk, Treasurer – 1:10 p.m.
Curtis Nayokpuk, Member
Reuben Weyiouanna, Member
Johnny Weyiouanna Sr., Member

Shishmaref Native Corporation Board absent:

Karen Sinnok, Vice President - Travel

Quorum established.

Staff present: Tony Weyiouanna Sr., Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner
Luci Eningowuk, Project Administrative Assistant

Invocation by Pastor Tim Oslovich.

Agenda review. Reuben Weyiouanna made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Fred Goodhope Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest: National Film Board crew: Patricio Henriquez, Director;
Sylvestre Guidi, Cameraman, and Philippe Sculzety, Soundman. Making a documentary
on global weather changes and impact on people.

Michele Stickney, Deputy Commissioner, Military & Veterans Affairs, Ft. Richardson
Art High, BIA, Branch of Roads, Juneau.
Chris Allard, Summit Consulting, Anchorage
David A.Cramer, Summit Consulting, Anchorage
Emily Barret, KNOM, Nome
John Hall, KNOM, Nome
Dave Sanches, ADOT-PF
Julianne Baltar, Transportation Program Director, Kawerak, Nome
Judy Chapman, ADOT-PF
Representative Reggie Joule, Juneau
Jerry Trainer, Kawerak, Nome

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Nancy Green, Kawerak, Nome
Marie Becker, AVEC, Anchorage
Anne Milbrook, Nome Nugget, Nome

Floor turned over to Julianne Baltar, Transportation Program Director, Kawerak, Inc. Julie mentioned that Tony works hard for the community and that no decisions are made by staff in Shishmaref. The Shishmaref Transportation office is there to provide information and to solicit public comment for the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition and Kawerak Transportation Program.

Shoreline Protection – Gabion Project Summer 2002 discussion. Power Point presentation by Tony on the Seawall Project Sites, Relocation Documents, and Evacuation Plan.

David Cramer and Chris Allard explained the Shoreline Protection progress. In March 2002 the project was to utilize sandbag system. Currently, the shoreline will be protected with armor rock that is currently out to bid. The funding is still pending approval. Approximately 7,000 tons of armor rock will be needed this summer. The project will use 2 dump trucks, loader, and an excavator. This is still in a planning phase. The archeologist was in Shishmaref last week and a report will be available by the end of this week. The surveyors came to Shishmaref last week to check on the precise location of the project start. Local hire will include 8-10 operators.

Julianne explained armor rock vs. sand. The original sandbag project was comparable in price to the armor rock. Armor rock would be more stable in comparison to the sandbags.

Representative Joule asked if the price of the armor rock vs. the sand phase would be comparable.

Clifford Weyiouanna mentioned that he is happy that Tony and Luci work on our erosion conditions. Regardless of where the community of Shishmaref is moved, due to our subsistence activities, spring and fall time migration would still occur by our people to Shishmaref. He would like to see the agencies work together. .

Richard Kuzuguk mentioned that the high bluff area in Shishmaref needs to be secured.

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Delano Barr asked if there are funds to move the community. Julianne will explain the budget. He had recommended in the past that utilizing the military would be one way the community could be moved.

Julianne had made request for assistance from many different levels for the community of Shishmaref. There is a need to get Shishmaref representation out to the agencies. Senator Stevens will be in Shishmaref on the 1st or 2nd week of August.

Curtis asked if there was a comment period for reverting to rock from the sandbags. The community has many children that may be accidentally hurt from the rock.

Julianne said that if a massive storm hits Shishmaref, she don't know of any manmade structure installed as shoreline protection that will survive.

Bessi Sinnok commented that it was a little late to ask for public comment, since the sandbags were already changed to rock. It might be better if any failures of previous seawall projects were documented to use as support towards the rock project. At this point, no matter what you decide to build, we will accept anything different just as long as there is a chance for some kind of protection.

Richard Kuzuguk asked if there is place or places where the same erosion is occurring. Evacuation site questioned. The quality of the Shishmaref sand is unique. It goes into the water whenever we have high water or storm. The community needs an evacuation site.

Clifford Weyiouanna interpreted the discussion in Inupiaq.

Julianne showed photographs of the shoreline erosion. The erosion is impacted by the weather changes. Shishmaref experienced a sudden spring thaw. The houses that were supposed to be moved were not moved due to the spring thaw. The houses will have to be moved when the ground is frozen. Tony has used the phone and e-mail to seek assistance for Shishmaref's erosion situation.

Funding for the Shoreline Protection discussed by Julianne. Kawerak, Inc contracts the Bureau of Indian Affairs IRR Road monies. The villages of the Bering Straits Region except for Savoonga have declared Shishmaref's erosion as the priority to be funded. \$930,000.00 is total amount allocated towards Shishmaref's erosion from that funding. Matching funds need to be secured.

Julianne mentioned that the village relocation project still needs to be funded. Three potential sites needs to be determined. The community may have to consider relocating

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to another village. Community Transportation Committee consisting of 7-9 members from the community is be organized. It will consist of 2-3 youth, 2-3 elders, and 2-3 other general members. A monthly meeting averaging 2-3 hours will be held to discuss decisions of the Community.

A reminder that if federal funds are used then the community must be informed of the “do nothing action” as required by the federal government.

Emergency evacuation plan discussed. It is critical that the people work together to protect the people of Shishmaref. Tony mentioned that the evacuation plan would be discussed with the Shishmaref Emergency Services sometimes after this public meeting to go over the Evacuation Plan.

Shishmaref Emergency Services will be in charge of the Evacuation Plan. There is scheduled to have a mock run of the plan this summer. In 1997, DES started the preliminary Evacuation Plan. The 2001 Coalition Committee worked on the Evacuation Plan. The next step is to work with SES.

Darlene Turner would like to exercise the mock evacuation plan.

Representative Joule explained that it was good that Shishmaref sent Tony, Darlene, and Luci to Juneau to solicit funding for the shoreline protection from the legislatures. The House of Representatives supported Shishmaref’s request but had no support from the Senate. Joule recommended that the Regional entities of Bering Straits get together and have a unified priority list.

Tony Weyiouanna Sr. will work with SES to finalize the plan for the community. Joint Resolutions have worked to seek funding from agencies. Emergency vs. non-emergency Status discussed. FEMA and DES would come into the picture is the erosion situation was declared an emergency.

Representative Joule mentioned that the Kokoyuk flood changed the criteria to be an emergency status. He is currently waiting for information on the request for assistance. The same procedure could help Shishmaref.

Jerry Trainer, Kawerak, asked if Fannie Barr was in this meeting. He mentioned that he still have his mukluks made by her about 10 years ago. His program at Kawerak, Inc. has provided Carpentry and Heavy Equipment training in Shishmaref.

Minutes of March 30, 2002 mentioned that they have the opportunity to read them for the past 2-½ hours now. Any discussions or questions on the minutes of March 30, 2002.

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Edward Olanna mentioned that he do not mind the relocations sites as posted but he will not be moving to those proposed sites as he already have a place to move to. Discussion.

Edward Olanna made a motion to accept the minutes of March 30, 2002. Darlene Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Luci mentioned that the Shishmaref Erosion and relocation Coalition have included an elder and youth representative at an advisory status for the coalition. Vincent Tocktoo Sr. is the elder representative and Joanne Pootoogooluk is the youth representative.

July 19, 2002 Relocation Vote discussed. Delano asked is the elders would be able to understand the language of the ballot and if they will be given the opportunity to know how to vote. Clifford asked if the absentee ballot would be used. Luci stated that it would be up to the City Ordinances. Mayor Weyiouanna stated that absentee ballots would be available. Richard would like the media coverage of the of the vote results.

Tony mentioned that the soil studies would be done September 2002 by NARCS. The posted maps with the areas in blocks are not relocation sites. They are sites that will be soil tested for evacuation sites. Clifford translated in Inupiaq.

Frank Ongtowasruk said that the erosion people come to Shishmaref when it is calm. They don't get to see the danger we are in when there is a storm or the damage done by the wave actions. They should see the water level and the strong winds that cause danger. There is a need for more action.

Edward Olanna mentioned that he is comfortable with the evacuation sites but that he have another site to move to.

Bessi Sinnok stated that she is aware of a newsletter, would it be too much to have updates published regarding all of the other projects in the community? Since, any changes or delay with different projects can change what happens with another.

The follow-up Public Meeting will be in the Fall 2002 after the results of the July 19, 2002 Relocation Vote.

Door Prizes donated by Kawerak, Inc., Shishmaref Emergency Services, Shishmaref I.R.A. Native Store, and Shishmaref I.R.A. Bingo, and Kawerak Transportation Program.

Darlene Turner, President, Shishmaref I.R.A. Village Council presented a hat/cup to Michele Stickney, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Representative Joule, a hat with ivory carving, Julianne Baltar a hat with ivory carving,

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and Marie Becker, AVEC, a hat with ivory carving. Shishmaref logo cup to Art High, BIA, Branch of Roads, Jerry Trainer, Kawerak, and Nancy Green, Kawerak.

ADJOURNMENT

Clifford Weyiouanna made a motion to adjourn. Johnny Weyiouanna Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.