

**SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

P.O. BOX 72100

SHISHMAREF, ALASKA 99772

Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson

NEWSLETTER

Support to the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition and Shishmaref IRA
June 8, 2004

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition's newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed about our efforts regarding the community relocation and shoreline protection.

The Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition is comprised of 21 members of the Shishmaref IRA Council, Shishmaref City Council and Shishmaref Native Board of Directors. The members are as follows:

Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson
Kelly Eningowuk, Co-Chairperson

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF/IRA
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Reuben P Weyiouanna, President
Darlene Turner, Vice President
Luci Eningowuk, Secretary
Kelly Eningowuk, Treasurer
Edwin J Weyiouanna, Member
Tommy Obruk, Member
Stanley Tocktoo, Member

**CITY OF SHISHMAREF/CITY COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Curtis Nayokpuk, Mayor
Stanley Tocktoo, Vice Mayor
Melissa Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer
Edwin J Weyiouanna, Member
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member
Kelly Eningowuk, Member
Robin K Ningeulook, Member

**SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION
BOARD MEMBERS**

Percy Nayokpuk, President
Vice President – Vacant
Darlene Turner, Secretary
Johnson P Eningowuk, Treasurer
Reuben P Weyiouanna, Member
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member
Curtis Nayokpuk, Member
Tony A Weyiouanna Sr., Member

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEMBER

Davis Sockpick

YOUTH ADVISORY MEMBER

None selected at this time

COALITION SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Julianne Baltar, Kawerak Transportation Program (KTP) Director
Tony A Weyiouanna Sr., KTP Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner
Sophie Weyiouanna, KTP Project Administrative Assistant
Fred D Eningowuk, IRA/ Coalition Grant Writer

The Coalition was formed in April 2001 to provide a combined community effort to address Shishmarefs' continual beach erosion problem and the possible relocation of the community to a suitable site on the mainland.

Fred D Eningowuk was recently hired by the Shishmaref IRA as the grant writer to help the Coalition Research and acquire grants for the relocation of our community to a safe place on the mainland. Kawerak Inc. is providing funding for this position through the Village Planning program. A big **THANKS** to Kawerak and the Shishmaref IRA for this support.

COALITION ACTIVITY UPDATE:

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Public Meeting

A public meeting was held January 13, 2004 with NRCS to select a suitable relocation site for Shishmaref. Guest attending from out of town included: Albert Kowchee - Kawerak Transportation Engineer, Rob Sampson – USDA/NRCS, Heather Oleson – USDA/NRCS, Dave Williams – Army Corps of Engineers, Bruce Sexauer – Army Corps of Engineers. The meeting was well attended by the members of the community. The Tine Creek site was identified by the NRCS as the preferred location of those studied. There was overwhelming community support for the Tin Creek site for relocation. NRCS indicated that they will be coming back to Shishmaref this coming summer to complete the testing of the soils at Tin Creek for the layout of the new community. They will provide recommendations to the community on what areas are best suited for homes, community facilities, and business development areas. Also, the Coalition has requested wind studies for a new site to be done by Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.



Tribal Partnership Project

A public meeting was held April 13, 2004 with the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) regarding their Draft Study and Environmental Impact Statement for the relocation project. Their project is a specially funded (\$1,000,000 appropriated) under the Corps of Engineers Tribal Partnership program to study the continuing erosion problem on Sarichef Island. Both the Coalition and Kawerak worked with Senator Stevens to secure these funds. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the Corps of Engineers role in: the planning process and project development; overview of planning process; discuss the Tribal Partnership Study; and identify issues and concerns of the various stakeholders. Representatives from the Corps of Engineers included: Dave Williams – Project Management, Mary Wilson, Guy McConnel – Chief Environmental Resources Section, Josh Wisniewski – Anthropologist, and Bruce Sexauer – Plan Formulation. The Corps of Engineers is to review and develop costs for several alternatives including: moving Shishmaref to a new site on the mainland; moving Shishmaref in with an already established community such as Nome or Kotzebue, not moving the community but providing permanent protection if possible. The Corps of Engineers work product will be used to advise the U.S. Congress on the alternatives and their projected costs. If you have any questions/comments or other issues that the Corps of Engineers should study, please contact Guy R McConnel, Chief Environmental Resources Section or Lizette Boyer at (907) 753-2637; by email at lizette.p.boyer@poa02.usace.army.mil or by mail at: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, ATTN: CEPOA-EN-CW-ER (Boyer), P.O. Box 6898, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898.

Bering Straits School District Section 14 Project

A teleconference was held with the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) October 16, 2003 regarding the Emergency Shoreline Protection project proposed for the school property. In attendance: COE: David Williams, Zandra Smith, Ed Lilly, Bering Straits School District: Bob Dickens, Director of Facilities, Joe Braach, Shishmaref School Principal; Kawerak Transportation Program: Julianne Baltar, Tony Weyiouanna

Sr., Sophie Weyiouanna and representatives from the Coalition. The total amount of funding the Corps of Engineers have available is \$1 million, total amount of the local cost share \$450,000.00. The Bering Straits School District agreed to be the sponsor for the project, the Corps of Engineers will start the design for the seawall upon receipt of a letter from the School District. The project is to protect the school property, and will connect with the eastern end of the Kawerak seawall project.

Juneau Trip

February 25, 2004 Coalition Chair and Vice Chair, Luci Eningowuk and Kelly Eningowuk, along with staff support, Tony Weyiouanna Sr., were invited to meet in Juneau with Governor Murkowskis' staff. In addition, the Coalition representatives met with various Senators/Representatives. The Coalition representatives made two presentations, their presentation included numerous photos representing the urgency of Shishmarefs' situation. They also distributed a printed information packet of the presentation. The Coalition representatives discussed at length the need for the State to fund the Bering Straits School Districts' request for \$450,000.00 match request of the Section 14 Emergency Shoreline Protection project, and the need for additional funding for more seawall protection. The match funding for the School property Section 14 project had been tentatively approved by the State House and Senate and was awaiting the signature of Governor Murkowski for final passage. An additional \$2,000,000.00 has been approved along with this request for the beachfront protection of our community. **We would like to thank our delegation down in Juneau, Donny Olson and Reggie Joule, for their persistence in acquiring funding for our beachfront protection and for their assistance to the Coalition representatives during their visit.** Luci and Tony met with Richard Wroth of TelAlaska- Anchorage office. TelAlaska promised to donate a computer system for our grant writer position along with a limited number of months of paid Internet access. A big thanks to Richard Wroth and TelAlaska! As of press time, TelAlaska delivered the computer and here it is!



L to R, Roger Meeks- Operations Manager, center Nome Manager- Tim McKee, Fred Eningowuk, Grant Writer- Shishmaref IRA and Coalition.

Evacuation Plan

November 23, 2003 the evacuation plan "What To Do In The Event Of A Severe Storm" was mailed to the residents of Shishmaref. A draft evacuation plan from the Division of Emergency Services, State of Alaska is being worked on as of today.



HESCO Bastion USA

April 27, 2005 a Coalition meeting was held with HESCO Bastion USA personnel, out of town guest included: Stephanie J Szymanski – Alaska & Washington DC Lobbyist & Business Consultant, HESCO: Barbara N. Sonnier – Managing Partner, Brian Leger – Contract Specialist, Brian – observer, NRCS – Bret Nelson. HESCO Bastion USA is from Louisiana, they have been following the news on Shishmarefs' erosion problem and it sparked an interest from their company to use HESCO Concertainer for erosion control – HESCO Concertainer is made from a welded wire mesh with geo-textile insert, hot dipped "heavy" galvanized for erosion control. This type of

product is being used by the US Military. It could be filled with sand or whatever material is available (sand, soil, rock), water can penetrate the material but will not take the sediment out, they come in various sizes. The only concern they have now is whether or not it is designed for use on ice. They are willing to donate at least \$150,000.00 worth of material to be used towards the school project. They'll talk with the State Legislatures in Juneau about the design and also with the Army Corps of Engineers to find out what's out there and come up with a plan. A letter of intent to commit from HESCO with a dollar limit will be forthcoming.

RISA/NOAA Conference

Luci Eningowuk and Tony A Weyiouanna Sr., were invited as special guest to attend a conference held this past February in Anchorage. We gave a presentation on Shishmaref erosion and the relocation efforts of our community. Our PowerPoint presentation and some video clips were placed on their website: http://www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/spot_risa_ak.html. A brief description of our presentation was highlighted on the NOAA Research web page under the "In the Spotlight" series.

More information can be found at:

http://www.ogp.noaa.gov/mpe/csi/events/risa_021804/index.html

Thanks to Juniper Neill, who works for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington DC on climate change research and applications for policy for providing this information and opportunity to attend the conference. This conference was beneficial for us to attend in gathering information we can use for planning and getting more exposure for our erosion and relocation efforts.

Washington D.C. Trip

Luci Eningowuk, Kelly Eningowuk and Julianne Baltar requested and attended a meeting in Washington D.C. January 14, 2004. The meeting was attended by the Coalition representatives and staff support, and staff from Senators Stevens and Murkowski as well as a representative from the Governors' office in Washington D.C. The Coalition with Kaweraks' assistance developed and gave a PowerPoint

presentation on Shishmarefs' situation. Discussion centered on the NRCS process, endorsement of the Tin Creek site, the ongoing need for shoreline protection of the existing community, options for assistance, and problems encountered to date. Nathan Bergerbest of Senator Murkowskis' staff recommended a high-level multi-agency coordination meeting in Washington D.C. They see the village erosion and flooding problems as a significant concern in Alaska, and urge participation at the proposed meeting by the four to nine villages in Alaska most threatened by erosion and flooding. A follow up hearing is tentatively set in Anchorage on June 29, 2004 concerning this issue. Both Luci and Kelly have been identified to testify as well as Loretta Bullard, President of Kawerak.

This was the second trip to Washington, D.C. by Coalition representatives. The first was made in September 2003.

Media Coverage

Elizabeth Kolbert – the New Yorker Magazine Reporter came to Shishmaref to interview various people for a story on Shishmarefs' erosion problems. The news is likely to be printed sometime this summer. Another trip is being planned by Elizabeth to gather more information of Shishmaref for the article.

We are expecting more television documentary crews to come later this spring and summer documenting our situation.

Sidney Moore of the Weather Channel was here recently to get some footage of Shishmaref for a half hour story on Global Warming to be shown on the Weather Channel, the story is to be broadcasted on July 25, 2004 for those of you wishing to view the footage.

Also, APRN will be here October 2004 to work on a story on Shishmaref and the effects of Global Warming on our community.

Kawerak Seawall Project

The seawall project for Kawerak Transportation rip rap project from the school property west approximately 450 feet is underway. The project started back up March 2004 after being on hold this past fall due to the high tides and storms. The project is anticipated to be complete by the middle of June.



Kawerak Transportation project- Native store warehouse looking east.



Kawerak Transportation project in progress.