

Shishmaref Erosion And Relocation Coalition
Serving the Community For A Better Future
P.O. Box 72100
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

Coalition Newsletter August 2002



“Coalition Members hard at work, meeting with Alaska Division of Emergency Services at the Friendship Center about the bulk tank consolidation project”

Welcome to the second printing of the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition’s newsletter. We are planning to make this newsletter a regular addition to our program informing the public at large in Shishmaref, and to the State and Federal agencies concerned with the relocation and erosion protection of the community. The newsletter will focus on the current issues and accomplishments of the Coalition.

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

Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Chairpersons

- Karen Sinnok- Chairperson
- Luci Eningowuk- Co-Chairperson

NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF I.R.A. COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Darlene Turner, President
- Luci Eningowuk, Vice President
- Stella Havatone, Secretary
- Howard Weyiouanna Sr., Treasurer

- Tommy Obruk, Member
- Kelly Eningowuk, Member
- Edwin Weyiouanna, Member

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Reuben Weyiouanna, Mayor
- Curtis Nayokpuk, Vice Mayor
- Stanley Tocktoo, Secretary
- Fred Goodhope Jr., Member
- Leonard Kuzuguk, Member
- Baker Ningealook, Member
- Tommy Obruk, Member

NATIVE CORPORATION

- Percy Nayokpuk, President
- Karen Sinnok, Vice President
- Darlene Turner, Secretary
- Johnson Eningowuk, Treasurer
- Curtis Nayokpuk, Member
- Johnny Weyiouanna Sr., Member
- Reuben Weyiouanna, Member

Coalition Personnel

- Julianne Baltar- Kawerak Transportation Program Director.
- Tony A. Weyiouanna Sr.- Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner.
- Luci Eningowuk- Administrative Assistant- Shishmaref Village Transportation Office.

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

Coalition Activities

The Coalition along with assistance from the Kawerak Transportation Program has accomplished the following this past three months:

- **Met with key personnel** of the Army Corps of Engineers to identify important topics to be included in a requested EIS for relocation.
- **Held an Agency update meeting** in Anchorage on May 15, 2002 to provide updates on the Coalition's activities and to gather recommendations from the attending State and Federal Agencies for recommended funding acquisition for our cause.
- **Completed the Gabion Project**, installed 1,068' of single line gabions along the worst areas of the beachfront. This project was funded by the State of Alaska as a

result of the storm of October 5-7, 2001. Governor Knowles authorized an administrative order awarding Shishmaref \$110,000.00 to provide for temporary beach protection to prevent further erosion in the event of another storm.

- **The Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition** submitted a request to the Army Corps of Engineers to rescind a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 103 Shoreline Protection (for an experimental groin field) project and instead to apply for a Section 14, Emergency Stream bank and Shore Protection to install rip rap along the shoreline of Shishmaref. This Section 14 request would enable us to access Federal funds sooner than a Section 103 project, but at a smaller scale project. However, if successful in obtaining Section 14 funds, we would be eligible to apply for additional funds the following year once the initial project is completed. Although, this does not guarantee funding of our proposed project. Our decision was arrived at after attending numerous meetings and learning exactly what the Corps could offer and on what type of timeline. We came to the realization that the Corps requires a significant amount of local funds just to determine whether a project is in the best interest of the government. We just can't afford to provide several hundred thousand dollars of local match to learn after a 2-3 year process that our project is not feasible. We believe that we have a much greater opportunity through the Section 14, though that too has no guarantees.



“Public meeting July 10, 2002”

- **Held a public meeting** on July 10, 2002 in Shishmaref to provide updates of the Coalition's activities and gather support for the community vote to decide whether or not the community would like to relocate the community. The meeting was well attended by the community members and we thank everyone for showing up at the public meetings that are held concerning our communities concerns. Guests attending from out of town included:

- 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
- Judy Chapman, ADOT-PF
- Representative Reggie Joule, Juneau
- Jerry Trainer, Kawerak, Nome
- Nancy Green, Kawerak, Nome
- Marie Becker, AVEC, Anchorage
- Anne Milbrook, Nome Nugget, Nome



“Bill Nayokpuk casting his ballot”

- **Relocation vote.** A vote was held by the City of Shishmaref on whether or not the community would like to relocate. The ballot read “ Do you want to relocate (move the Community of Shishmaref?” The result was a deciding yes. 162 yes to move and 20 no. On Election Day, we had good media coverage with media representation from The Associated Press, KNOM radio station, Pixel Press, and Ready Made Magazine. Associated press and the rest of the news media provided good coverage of the election, which was featured in numerous front pages of newspapers across the State, on Statewide TV news and National radio broadcast.

- **Expedited EIS** funding for relocation. Senator Stevens has included in Appropriations Committee \$1,000,000.00 for an expedited Environmental Impact Study for the relocation of Shishmaref. We hope that this will be a positive step for us in obtaining additional funds for the successful relocation of Shishmaref.
- **Kawerak Transportation Program** is working with BIA-Roads Program in funding the first phase of installing approximately 5-600' of riprap on the beachfront of Shishmaref. Work is going to be done according to Summit Consultant's recommendations and design. Summit has been working on an expedited EIS for the installation of the riprap seawall. Funding from the BIA Roads Program is contingent upon the acceptance of the EIS by BIA Roads Program. Funding would come from Kawerak Transportation Programs pool of funds provided by BIA Roads for the whole region of Bering Straits.
- **Kawerak Transportation Program** is also working to set up a local Transportation Committee to assist the Kawerak Transportation staff develop a Long Range Transportation plan for the region. This Committee will provide guidance in deciding what the community's goal is for transportation in the future 20, 50, 100 years from now. The Committee will decide what is needed in transportation modes such as ground, water, and/or air transportation needs. Kawerak Transportation staff will document all suggestions made by the Transportation Committee for the Long Range Plan. The committee will meet once a month during the rest of the summer months.
- **Evacuation Plan.** We are continuing work on the evacuation plan we have developed with ADES (Alaska Division of Emergency Services). We have met with Shishmaref Emergency Services to assign tasks to different individuals within the local entities in order to have a more organized evacuation if needed. Hopefully, we will be able to polish it up within the next month in preparations for a mock evacuation.
- **Airport protection.** Alaska Department of Public Facilities gabion project is for 2000 feet of gabion protection at the end of the runway- west side by the dump. It will protect the landfill road and our runway. Cost estimate is \$4.3 million. Design/environmental is scheduled for 2005 and construction tentatively set for 2006/2007.
- **Comments and concerns.** Our Coalition staff here in Shishmaref and in Nome are always willing to listen to comments and concerns from the community. Our staff provides technical assistance to the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition, and Transportation Planning for the Native Village of Shishmaref. Our offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Contacts are as follows: Julianne Balter- Transportation Director-Nome office, 907-443-4337 or 1-877-219-2599 fax 443-4473, Tony A. Weyiouanna Sr.- Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner, phone 907-649-2289 fax 649-4461, Luci Eningowuk- Administrative Assistant, phone 907-649-2290.

We hope that the planning done by the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition will benefit our choice for the successful relocation of our community to a safe location on the mainland. Our choice of moving to the mainland is not our choice, but we must continue to work together cooperatively to ensure of the continued existence of our culture, lifestyle and community. We plan to have more public meetings in the very near future once we have developed more definite plan of action for our community's requests for assistance. Once again we would like to thank you for your patience and continued support of our planning and activities.