

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

**P.O. BOX 72100
SHISHMAREF, ALASKA 99772
Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson**

NEWSLETTER

**Kawerak Transportation Program Support to the
Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition & Shishmaref IRA
August 2005**

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

Erosion and Relocation Coalition are comprised of 21 members from the

Shishmaref IRA Council, Shishmaref City Council and Shishmaref Native Board of Directors. The members are as follows:

- **Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson**
- **Stanley Tocktoo, Co-Chairperson**

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

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

CITY OF SHISHMAREF/CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Stanley Tocktoo, Mayor
- Fred Goodhope Jr., Vice Mayor
- Melissa Johnson, Secretary
- Edwin J Weyiouanna, Treasurer
- Johnny Weyiouanna Sr., Member
- Eleanor Taft, Member
- Edward S Olanna, Member

SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION BOARD MEMBERS

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

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Davis Sockpick

YOUTH ADVISORY MEMBER

- None selected at this time

COALITION SUPPORT PERSONNEL

- Joseph "Sean" McKnight, Kawerak Transportation Program (KTP) Director
- Tony A Weyiouanna Sr., KTP Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner

We hope that everyone had a successful hunting/subsistence gathering season this spring/summer, even though the gathering/hunting was a little earlier than usual this year.

The Coalition gratefully acknowledges the efforts put forth by our State representatives Reggie Joule and Senator Donny Olson, and federal Congressional delegation members- Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Congressman Don Young. They have been tireless advocates in pursuing assistance through legislation and in helping us have the vital opportunities to tell our story. We also thank Governor Murkowski and his staff for their efforts to aid the community. We also would like to extend our gratitude to the State and federal agencies providing assistance to our community.



COALITION AND KAWERAK TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ACTIVITY UPDATE:



Senator Stevens Visits Shishmaref



A short recap of our visit with Senator Stevens here in Shishmaref. We met him at the airport and started on a walking tour from the airport to town. First on the tour to see was the Kawerak seawall, the school beach front property, center of town in the area of the City project to be constructed then a walking tour all along the beach to the tannery and a tour of the Washeteria and the health clinic, the tour of the sanitation road was cancelled due to the shortage of time. Senator Ted Stevens main comments were:

- The community does not have 15 years on the island and maybe not 10 years to stay due to the extensive erosion we've had in the past few years.
- He mentioned that full funding of the relocation road will be a

priority for next years funding. He also mentioned that there was some funding in the Transportation bill to get started on the relocation road, but needs full funding to complete. He would like his staff to research the idea of developing the Ear Mountain site as a rock quarry supply for the community of Shishmaref and communities up north. Ear Mountain is owned by the Bering Strait Native Corporation and will be coordinated with them for the future use of the gravel.

- All major developments for the community infrastructure will be made at the new site of the community, essential services to continue as they are in the meantime.
- The community must develop a relocation plan to move forward. There are a few items in different bills to help move the relocation project forward this year, but a big effort must be made by the community to propose more relocation projects next year to expedite our relocation. He suggested a small delegation from Shishmaref to come to Washington D.C. at the start of the next session most preferably in January or February 2006. This trip is to be coordinated with his office, also if any hearings that come up that may be beneficial for Shishmaref to attend his office will notify us. Also, he mentioned he will be setting up a follow-up hearing to the GOA hearing in the future. Also we should make an effort to go down to Juneau to keep them

informed of our progress on our relocation efforts and needs.

- He would like to see some kind of discussion begin with the other 8 villages in Alaska regarding our similar problems we have with flooding and erosion to bring ideas to the table of how best to help us all.
- He was happy to see the community of Shishmaref forming the Relocation Coalition and the effectiveness of the Coalition to get things done for the erosion and relocation efforts of the community.

Coalition and Kawerak Transportation Activities

June 30, 2004 – Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson of the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition gave a testimony before the Committee on Appropriations of the United States Senate, hearing on Alaska Native Villages affected by flooding and erosion. She addressed four points that are important to the community of Shishmaref. They are:

- (1) Relocation of the existing community to the mainland;
- (2) Ongoing beach erosion and efforts to minimize its impact;
- (3) Lack of funding for immediate infrastructure needs; and
- (4) The need for state and federal multi-agency coordination.

For those of you interested in reading the full testimony, you can get a copy of it from the Shishmaref Kawerak Transportation Program Office. Luci also gave a presentation in Barrow to a group of scientists representing the National Science Foundation in June

2005. Earlier in the year, she also gave a presentation to a group of scientists with the National Oceanic and Administration program in Anchorage, this presentation was also based on our local experiences with climatic weather changes and effects. All presentations are developed with the input of the community and the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition's direction and focus of our erosion and relocation project. A federal issues packet has also been submitted to Congress by the Coalition for funding consideration in the 2006 Appropriations budget. As a result, Shishmaref has been awarded \$5,000,000.00 in the Transportation bill for the relocation road development, a step forward in our community's effort to relocate.

A public meeting was held August 19, 2004 with personnel from University of Alaska Fairbanks, Guests: Peter Schweitzer – Professor Department of Anthropology, Elizabeth Marino – Graduate Student, Department of Anthropology and Stacy Stasenko – Anthropology Research Assistant 2. Purpose of this meeting was to give the first presentation of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – Alaska District Project: “Collocation Cultural Impact Assessment Coastal Erosion Protection and Community Relocation Shishmaref, Alaska”, which is a part of the Cost of Alternatives for Relocation of our community study being done by the Corps. The Corp of Engineers is to review and develop cost estimates for several options, including; moving Shishmaref to a new site on the mainland, moving the community of Shishmaref to Nome or Kotzebue, staying in place or collocating to nearby communities. All the input gathered from Shishmaref, Nome, Kotzebue and

surrounding communities on the Cultural Impact Assessment on the way of life is being put into this study; this will be heard directly at the Congressional level once the study is completed. The report will contain three main parts:

- (1) A historical discussion of relocation in the circumpolar North;
- (2) Contemporary views of Shishmaref, Nome, and Kotzebue residents; and
- (3) A synthesis of information gathered, and an assessment and prediction of the effects of such an action. A draft copy of the report is available in our office and can be emailed to anyone wishing an electronic copy. This report is a part of the Tribal Partnership Program funding through the Army Corps of Engineers. We expect a delegation of the Coalition to go down to Washington D.C. in January or February 2006 to present this report to Congress or to a group of Congressional leaders.

\$2 million was appropriated by the State of Alaska for Erosion Control in Shishmaref; the grant was awarded to the City of Shishmaref and another \$450,000 for the Bering Straits School District's U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Section 14 request. The Section 14 project funded by The Army Corps of Engineers for the seawall in front of the school property is anticipated to be constructed this fall.



The City of Shishmaref is currently finishing up the Environmental Impact Assessment for the HESCO basket project to be constructed next summer. This is a \$496,000.00 project funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's EDI program, which was obtained through the Appropriations requests by our Congressional delegation. Kawerak will also be repairing the west end of the seawall constructed last year by extending the wrap around of the project.

Kawerak Transportation Program has also identified and submitted additional roads to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads Official Inventory. The data provided is used to identify need and funding of transportation projects. We are hopeful that the BIA will accept our submission. If approved, this will provide additional funding to assist in constructing roads for a new community.

United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has provided the Coalition with the research of a suitable site of our relocation for the past four years. NRCS is back once again and is looking at the Tin Creek site to give us an idea how much gravel fill we will need for our roads, homes and infrastructure development, also to give us a recommendation of the best possible site for developing a barge landing. Their report should be done later on towards the end of the year and will be presented to the community at a public meeting as we have in the past. Once this is complete our community can make final recommendations for the selection of our relocation site. Once the site is selected the Coalition will pursue

funding for a comprehensive relocation plan and be able to request specific funding requests to move forward with our relocation. NRCS has been instrumental in providing sound advice to our community and thus helping in assisting other State and federal agencies to provide assistance to our community.



The Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) has in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) funding for the new airport at the new site for relocation of our community. This is a two year wind study to figure out the dominate wind direction for the construction of the airport. Once the community has made a decision of the relocation site and have notified ADOT of the site then they can move forward with this study.

Media Coverage

This year as the past couple of years past, we have had a good number of media coming and going to Shishmaref to document the impacts of climate change to our community. Some of the media folks who have come to Shishmaref this past year are:

- Time magazine
- National Geographic magazine
- Alaska Public Radio Network
- Nome Nugget

- KNOM radio
- HD Net TV
- Alaska Journal of Commerce
- Current TV
- National Radio of Switzerland
- ZDF German Television
- Svenska Dagbladet- Swedish newspaper
- Gilles Mingasson- Photo documentary
- New Yorker magazine
- **France 2 Washington- TV**
- Miroir Film-French

There are some others planning to come to Shishmaref in September and October 2005. HBO is planning to come the week of September 7-10, 2005 and another Japanese crew is planning to be here October 10-16th, 2005. We have had a lot of coverage by the media and expect to have more in the future as we move a long with our relocation project. The media has benefited our community in our efforts to receive assistance towards our relocation of our community.

Kawerak Transportation Staff changes

Kawerak Transportation has a new program director who is Joseph "Sean" McKnight. Sophie Weyiouanna has left the Shishmaref office as the project administrative assistant and Melanie McNally has left the Nome office as the administrative assistant. Welcome to Sean and good luck to Sophie and Melanie.