

**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
October 14, 2004

Welcome to the fifth 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**

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
Darlene Turner, Vice President
Curtis Nayokpuk, Secretary
Johnson P Eningowuk, Treasurer
Reuben P Weyiouanna, Member
Fred Goodhope Jr., 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 proposed relocation of the community to a suitable site on the mainland.



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 both Representative Reggie Joule and Senator Donny Olson. 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 our Congressional Delegation in Washington D.C. most notably Senator Ted Stevens and his staff for their tireless efforts in advising and providing assistance to our relocation efforts of our community.

**COALITION AND KAWERAK
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
ACTIVITY UPDATE:**

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 testimony, you can get a copy of it from the Shishmaref Kawerak Transportation Program Office.

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 is 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”. The Corp of Engineers is to review and develop cost for several options, including; moving Shishmaref to a new site on the mainland, or move the community of Shishmaref to Nome or Kotzebue. All the input gathered from Shishmaref, Nome and Kotzebue on the Cultural Impact Assessment on the way of life if we move to another city/village, this will be heard directly at the Congressional level. Main body of the report – what consequences of moving to another community would be. Studies of King Island people will be done and what their impact was on their relocation to Nome and will be compared to Shishmaref. Timeline for the report: August 19 – September 3, 2004, first round of interviews. January – February 2005, second round of interviews, June 10, 2005 draft report due to Corp of Engineers. Presentation of draft report to the community of Shishmaref July 2005 at a public meeting. Final draft report, August 19, 2005, final report September 23, 2005. 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.

\$2 million was appropriated by the State of Alaska for Erosion Control in Shishmaref, grant 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. It is anticipated that the State Grant funds shall be used to match or leverage federal program funds. The Section 14, for the seawall in front of the school property, will not start until

next year. However, the City of Shishmaref is planning to construct a temporary seawall in front of the school property using excess rock (provided by Kawerak and the IRA). Equipment for this project is being leased from Kawerak, Inc. and Bering Pacific.

Kawerak Transportation Program has 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. We are hopeful that the BIA will accept our submission. Once approved, this will provide additional funding to assist in constructing roads for a new community.



An agency update meeting is being held during AFN on October 29, 2004, the agenda as follows:

**Tribal-Federal-State
Informational Meeting
Friday – October 29, 2004
9:00am – 4:00pm**

**Hosted by: State of Alaska – Department of
Community & Economic Development
(DCED) and the Shishmaref Erosion and
Relocation Coalition
18th Fl. Conference Rm., Suite 1860, Atwood
Building
550 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska**

Meeting Purpose:

1. Morning Session – To discuss the possibility of forming a task force

regarding: flooding, erosion and relocation of communities at high risk. Comprised of State, Federal and local Tribal or Regional Representatives. Who and how can we develop this to make an effective task force?

2. Afternoon Session – Information Sharing, the specifics by village.

Tentative Agenda

9:00 Welcome and review of meeting format

9:15 Introductions

9:30 Agency Presentations:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- State of Alaska – Alaska Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (ADEM&HS)
- Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCED)

11:00 Federal – State – Tribal Erosion Task Force

Open Discussion:

- How would Tribes be represented?
- Suggestions for structuring a Task Force?
- How would most At-Risk communities be represented? How can we partner to make more progress in our efforts?
- Statewide Erosion Assessment – How can Tribes incorporate restrictions on development/building in Erosion prone areas?

Noon Break for Lunch

1:00 Village Specific Information Sharing (please bring photos, electronic that can be shared, and any pertinent documents) – Shishmaref – Newtok – Kivalina – Other villages: Koyukuk, Diomedea, and any others at high risk

3:00 Discussion – Where do we go from here?

We have invited a variety of agency representatives from both State and federal agencies and representatives from Shishmaref and other communities such as Newtok, Kivalina and several others who may have representatives in attendance. We expect to have a good showing

from our local representatives coming into AFN once again for this meeting. We have sponsored these meetings along with cooperation with DCED for the past three years and our thanks go out to the State of Alaska for their cooperation and insight of our erosion and relocation issues we have in our community

Media Coverage

We have a reporter Gabriel Spitzer from Alaska Public Radio Broadcasting (APRN) here till the 21st of October 2004. Many of you may have met him around town and hope everyone has had a chance to talk to him about our situation. He is working on a radio documentary on Shishmaref and hope his trip here is useful to his 30-minute show he is planning to air on APRN. We are also expecting a crew from France to come here once

again end of this month to work on a documentary film on global warming. They will be staying here approximately two weeks or so.

Time Magazine had a article on Shishmaref in the October 4, 2004 issue under the heading "Vanishing Alaska". The Weather Channel will be airing footage on Shishmaref November 14th 7pm Eastern, 3pm Alaska Time. There will be multiple re-airings of the show scheduled, Nov. 14 7pm ET/3pm AT, Nov. 16, 3pm ET/11am AT, Nov. 18, 12pm ET/8am AT, Nov. 19, 7pm ET/3pm AT, Nov. 20, 1pm ET/9am AT, Nov. 21, 12pm ET/8am AT, Nov. 21, 5pm ET/1pm AT. More airings are scheduled for 2005. As, always, the caveat is that coverage of extreme weather could affect any of these dates (the times/dates are provided by Sidney D. Moore, Executive Producer, The Weather Channel).