

Immediate Action Workgroup



Ben Chugotuk moves a house to Taksook Bay

1990 Jim Dull, 87

Mission

To close a planning and execution gap identified by Governor Palin and the Congressional delegation by creating a unifying mechanism to assist the communities of Newtok, Shishmaref, Kivalina, Koyukuk, Unalakleet, and Shaktoolik . These communities face imminent threats of loss of life, loss of infrastructure, loss of public and private property, or health epidemics caused by coastal erosion, thawing permafrost and flooding.

Membership

- State Co-Chair Mike Black, AK. Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
- Federal Co-Chair Trish Opheen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Members:

- George Cannelos, Denali Commission
- Mike Coffey, AK. Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Amy Holman, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Luke Hopkins, Alaska Municipal League
- John Madden, AK. Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- Chris Maisch, AK. Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry
- Bob Pawlowski, Legislative Budget & Audit Committee

Accomplishments

Newtok



Photo: Stanley Tom

Kivalina



Photo: Colleen Swan

Shishmaref



Photo: Brice Eningowuk

Koyukuk



Unalakleet



Photo: Steve Ivanoff

Shaktoolik



Photo: Steve Ivanoff

Suite of Emergency Plans and Training/Drills (\$500,000 State leveraged \$100,000 Federal)

State resources provided to Alaska DHS&EM to work jointly with each community and prepare suite of emergency plans including Emergency Operations, Community Evacuation and Hazard Mitigation, along with training, and conducting community drills to provide readiness in case of disaster, most likely flooding and/or erosion. All community efforts are underway.

Community Mitigation and Relocation Plans

DCCED/DCRA staff is working with each community to develop proposals for community planning grants that address both the IAWG's recommended immediate actions for the communities, while striving to incorporate each of their specific needs.

Reduce State Capital Budget Expenditures by Leveraging State Funding

State provided 35% of costs for federal projects in Kivalina and Unalakleet. USACE-Alaska received at least \$40 million in a supplemental for Alaskan projects from a \$60 million fund for projects nationwide.

- Kivalina: \$3.3 million from State to NWAB leveraged \$12.5 million from USACE for revetments and another \$500,000 from USACE for design of Phase I-Oceanside revetment.
- Koyukuk: USACE is conducting feasibility study for Community. ACCIMP Community Planning Grant will help to coordinate this study with the community's future plans.
- Newtok: Relationship with DOD's Innovative Readiness Team Program (IRTP) has been established. Program offers military assets for community projects used as training opportunities for military units. State FY10 recommended funding of \$2 million for materials leverages IRT \$5 million to construct evacuation shelter, temporary access road, and materials site for roads and an airstrip. FY09: DOT/PF received \$1.7 million for constructing the evacuation road.
- Shaktoolik: Kawerak and Denali Commission have completed road reconnaissance study, which if funding from state is forth-coming would be leveraged 5-fold.
- Shishmaref: USACE is designing and constructing revetment. FY 2010: \$3 million recommended by IAWG to construct revetment. USACE has provided \$11 million for revetment construction/design.
- Unalakleet: \$5 million from State in FY 2009 to leverage an additional \$18.5 million from USACE to build revetment structures. By coordinating with DOT/PF, mob/demob costs were saved.

Policy Recommendations

POLICY 1: Establish a statewide system to document, assess, and analyze current and planned public infrastructure in order to protect existing and future investments and prevent threats to life in an uncertain environment.

POLICY 2: Sunset the immediate action workgroup and direct the relevant state agencies to establish an interagency collaborative with each other, along with relevant federal agencies and communities. This collaboration requires regularly scheduled meetings to coordinate information, planning, evaluation and decisions on public infrastructure for those communities impacted by climate change phenomena.

POLICY 3: Assistance to communities in peril must utilize comprehensive integrated planning and viable, future-oriented solutions with funding that allows for sustainability whether the community remains in place, uses a migration strategy or needs to relocate.

POLICY 4: The state of Alaska will lead a coordinating effort to develop a comprehensive statewide data collection and evaluation system that provides foundational information for community and business decisions and solutions leading to effective responses and adaptation strategies to address climate change impacts.

POLICY I:

- ❖ Recommendations for public infrastructure
- ❖ Establish a statewide system to document, assess, and analyze
- ❖ Protect existing and future investments; prevent threats to life

POLICY 2:

- ❖ Establish an interagency collaborative to coordinate information, planning, evaluation
- ❖ Collaborative to make decisions on public infrastructure for imperiled communities

POLICY 3:

Assistance to communities must utilize comprehensive integrated planning and viable, future-oriented solutions that allow for sustainability whether the community.

POLICY 4:

The State of Alaska will lead a coordinated effort to develop a Comprehensive Statewide Data Collection and Evaluation System