

Kawerak, Inc.
Transportation program
Community Services Division



Building on the inherent strength of our cultural values, we shall assist our tribes to control and create their future.

Serving Villages of the Bering Straits Region



Floods of 2003,2004, 2005

One role for us is to advocate for our communities that have flood and erosion issues as a result of the threatening and changing climate. We are working to protect our existing infrastructure and advocating for evacuation roads, and roads that would allow us to develop sites needed for migration and relocation efforts.



Without any floods from 1974 till 2003 we did not know where to turn for assistance, we went through a whole new learning curve. Fortunately for us, we had a proactive regional non-profit that provided resources and support.



Governor's Administrative Order #328

This section established the Alaska Climate Change Sub-Cabinet to advise the office of the Governor on the preparation and implementation of an Alaska climate change strategy.



From this order the State Administration has taken the lead and done a remarkable job getting federal and state officials, and stakeholders to the table. A huge benefit for us has been the opportunity to bring our dire situations to the attention of so many leaders and staff of agencies in positions to assist in identifying solutions.



Opportunities

Funding is available from state and federal agencies to develop emergency plans and training drills, plans for community relocation, training workshops, identify and develop a data strategy, and work to establish a fund to ensure there is adequate matches for projects.



Natural Resource Conservation Service

The NRCS designed and had this gabion wall constructed in 2000 at a cost of \$976k. We were told they stretched the interpretation of the guidelines to make this happen. Without this wall we would have had substantial damage done to homes, businesses, water and sewer infrastructure, power utilities and a lot of heartache. We viewed this as a temporary fix and were grateful for the much needed mitigation project which at that time was extremely hard to acquire.



Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers have completed the design for a rip rap rock wall that will be constructed over the gabion wall providing a long term solution. The construction of the wall is jointly funded by the State of Alaska and the Corps of Engineers. It has been a long process but thanks to Senator Stevens who brought much needed attention to our situations, the Governors Administrative Order and her staff, regional and community support from all including Kawerak, and a host of others including the Corps staff.



State DOT

The State DOT has constructed a rip rap wall along the beach adjacent to their properties near the airport that had erosion threatening the utility infrastructure, community water source line, and the road connecting the airport to the community.



Denali Transportation

This program assists in funding transportation infrastructure needs for our flood and erosion problems.



**Shaktoolik beach after storm;
fuel exposed pipe due to
storm**



**Unalakleet evacuation road
during storm**

GAO update

The General Accounting Office is updating their 2003 Flooding and Erosion Study conducted by the Natural Resources and Environment. These reports are useful in future funding requests and should be inclusive of all affected communities.



Vulnerable

We must continue to be proactive in dealing with the climate change and collaborate to prevent unnecessary loss of property and life. It is important to recognize the threats we could face with changing weather and ice patterns, and use that to avoid situations like what was experienced in New Orleans with Hurricane Katrina.



Involvement/Relations

- It is important to have active and close coordination with agencies including:
 - State Department of Transportation
 - Western Federal Lands
 - Denali Commission
 - Corp of Engineers
 - National Resource Conservation Service
 - State Division of Homeland Security
- It is also important to have a good relationship & coordination effort with your state administration and regional legislators; also our congressional delegation and staff