

**Climate Change Immediate Action Workgroup
Detailed Meeting Summary
January 8, 2008 Anchorage, AK
Convened: 10:30 AM**

Communities and individuals participating by phone:

Fairbanks: Rod Combellick (DNR)
Donna Gardino (ADOT/PF)
Chris Maisch (DNR – Forestry)

Kotzebue: Bobby Schaefer, NW Arctic Borough

Kivalina: Enoch Adams
Colleen Swan
Janet Mitchell

St. Michaels: Frank Myomick

Newtok: Stanley Tom, Co-Chair Relocation Committee
Dave Albert, IGAP Coordinator

Shishmaref: Tony Weyionanna Sr.
Stanley Taktoo
Howard Weyionanna
Lucy Eningowuk
Johnson Eningowuk
Darleen Turner

Koyukuk: Cindy Pilot

Anchorage In-Person:

Mike Black Co-Chair (DCCED)
Trish Opheen Co-Chair (US Army Corps of Engineers)
Luke Hopkins (AML)
Bob Pawlowski (ADF&G)
John Madden (MVA)
Krag Johnson (Denali Commission)
Tom Chapple (DEC Air Quality Director)
Bruce Sexauer (US Army Corps of Engineers)
Christy Miller Tetra Tech (private consulting firm)
Tara Jollie (DCCED/DCRA)
Allison Butler (UAF)
Taunnie Boothby (DCCED/DCRA)
Sally Russell-Cox (DCCED/DCRA)
Judy Gottlieb (NPS)
Kolena Momberger (DEC)
Meg King – Facilitator (UAA)

Self-introductions were made.

Purpose and Charge of the Immediate Action Workgroup (IAW)

Discussion: Mike Black, Trish Opheen, Chris Maisch, and Bob Pawlowski

Governor Palin and Commissioner Hartig recruited and added the IAW committee to develop recommendations to the Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change.

The IAW is charged with developing a process to determine, prioritize and better understand what threats and challenges communities are facing, what the communities are doing, planning, and what their needs are. Proposed actions will be concentrated on those communities which will be in the most peril in the near future.

The IAW committee has the opportunity to take a new approach in finding alternatives and solutions on how to address climate change affecting communities, what it will take to assist, and what the specific needs are in those villages/communities. Then try to bring recommendations for organization, integration, support and funding for projects in the identified communities to address their needs.

Emphasis of the IAW will be on the communities most impacted by climate change. Examples are but not limited to: Sea Ice, Thawing Permafrost, Fires, Habitat Changes, Smoke Impacts, Changes to Navigable Waterways, Flooding, Flood Pattern Changes, Precipitation, Erosion, and Drying of Tundra. No one issue is isolated – they're connected.

It's very important that the State and Federal Governments work together and cohesively to come up with solutions with the communities' participation. If we don't work together, we might not get the end results we need.

This process maybe clumsy, slow going, but this is the first and we are trying to do something that is new. Identify and make recommendations to meet the critical needs both in the short-term and long-term.

Agenda Review: The facilitator reviewed the agenda and made a primary change to allow time for Koyukuk to participate in the community discussions.

Overview November 2007 - First Immediate Action Workgroup Meeting

IAW Co-chairs provided an overview of the meeting, recounting that the information received was remarkable, as presentations from all 6 communities the IAW's focus is on, plus Golovin were made. That the communities are facing amazing changes and in order to be effective at assisting them, we must prioritize efforts/projects, especially for funding. How are we going to decided where to provide those funds? Federal side recognizes Native Tribes, State doesn't - the approaches differ.

Other statements expressing appreciation for all the communities sharing their histories and information was very educational and it is obvious that many communities don't have the resources or information to possibly cope with the scope of impacts.

This workgroup is a piece of trying to address those needs. The climate change phenomena is and has become all encompassing. Only a portion of what the State will be undertaking. We are like the prow of the ship.

As economic viability is very important, what is left when we relocate a village, or take certain actions was also brought up as a consideration.

How Did Communities Get on the Immediate Action Workgroup List?

A question from a community participant was about how the IAW determined which communities it will be making recommendations on:

- Communities were formally identified in the U.S. GAO Report
- From that list, those that are imminently threatened due to:
 - Lack of Sea Ice – creating greater exposure/risk of losses due to storm surges
 - Melting Perma-Frost
 - Increased risk for Fires

IAW sees itself as establishing a process that other communities, and those beyond the ones on the initial IAW list will also benefit from this effort.

Community Discussions About Their Immediate Needs

Kivalina IRA Top Priorities: Stabilization, Evacuation Road, Re-location

Input about a lack of sufficient community-level discussion to determine the community's priority immediate action was provided. There was concern expressed about spending money on shorter-term projects, if in the long run the village will be re-located. *Will this be seen as wasting money?* There are 3 projects that are interconnected, and Colleen Swan said that she couldn't go on record as saying any of these are the #1:

NW Arctic Borough – regarding Kivalina

A Borough representative talked about the original Corps plan, and if it could've been followed, Kivalina would already been re-located.

A personal statement that an evacuation road is at least 3 years away, and the stabilization rickrack won't be completed until 2009. Shoreline protection is very important and would be first from a practical point of view. Another Borough representative stated that funding for Stabilizing the Seawall is the Borough's priority, and reactivating the Relocation Committee, which is an advisory board to the various governments, by signing an MOA. The last report that the Relocation Committee provided to their respective governments was the June 2006 USACE report.

Would a resolution from the city council declaring Kivalina as a disaster area be effective to get funding?

John Madden, IAW member from Homeland Safety responded that the State needs to make the declaration for funds to then be available and that funds are only for damages for a particular event – to restore only to condition before the disaster – not for prevention such as when the shoreline seawall collapsed and threatened the fuel tanks that were re-located.

Kivalina's Request to IAW

Review and analyze/audit the past reports on Kivalina's identified place for relocation. Reports/documents state that the new site is in a flood plain, but the community (the governments) don't believe this is so.

Koyukuk

Cindy Pilot, Tribal Administrator provided input that the community received the Corps' report about possible issues and actions on December 12, 2007 (report is not yet public, but C. Pilot said she thought it would be o.k. for the Corps to share with members of the IAW). The community hasn't had a chance to review. The community is threatened by erosion, flooding and fire. They have experienced huge fires in the area, which is affecting air travel, air quality and health issues. The village would like to re-locate and has selected a site.

The site selected is owned by the Tribe, but access through Corporation and City land will be needed. There is no MOU among the three organizations about making decisions for relocating, therefore authority for making these decisions is unclear.

Would like to have an evacuation center at the relocation site

Short term immediate action #1 - Block the low areas from the flood zones

Koyukuk Request to Corps and IAW

Would like to have someone from the Corp and Immediate Action Workgroup come out and assist the community with reviewing and understanding the report.

Public Comments

Tony Weyionanna stated that after lunch he would like the discussion to focus on more of the problems specific to the communities and how to solve.

Community Discussions Continued

Shishmaref Top Priorities

Tony Weyionanna shared that the community of Shishmaref had recently done a prioritization of projects. The community has 4 groups of projects – noted below. Those under Group #1 are considered by the community as priority #1.

1. Re-locate

- a. Seawall protection - Need protection along the north shore.

\$25 million for the seawall for another 700 feet that will protect the washeteria and lagoon

IAW Member: *So for the next 12-18 month this 700 ft will be critical?* Tony: *Yes.*

- b. Beach front protection and stabilization

- c. Gravel road for the re-location site - this project has started and would like more assistance with this project (per DOT - D. Gardino: Rough estimate \$35 million for the road alone)

Beach front protection and stabilization: The Corps continues working on the seawall protection and other on-going projects and are about half through. The seawall price has increased and they are looking for congressional support for the increases.

2. Health and Sanitation

- a. Clinic

- b. Dental/health aide

- c. Sanitation

3. Fire/Safety

4. Community Support and Economic Development

Immediate Action Workgroup Focus: Co-chair provided a reminder that the focus is on preventing harm to life and property in the short-term - within the next 12 – 18 months. That we recognize that communities have many needs, but that this particular group's focus is limited.

DOT/PF (Donna Gardino)

Donna provided the IAW with some background information about DOT's efforts for Shishmaref and other communities. M. Black requested she summarize the efforts in writing and subsequently she did that and they are included in the attached document.

Shishmaref's Request:

Need capacity/capacity building for administrative support and mechanisms to actively start the planning process of re-locating the community and everything that is involved. They have been waiting 6 years. They would like to have Re-location planning for the community.

Based on Ted Steven's roundtable having at least one person in community and one person from the state level to help mitigate. The future of the communities need to be planned with the assistance from the outside since we don't always have the resources and tools needed.

I'm glad we get to talk with both state and federal at the same time

Co-Chair asked: *Could a consulting firm help?* Response: Yes, could be.

The community has to work with the organization – feel it has a good relationship with them.

Clarification on Corps 2008 Field Season Funding:

There will be \$5 million for all of Alaska and another \$1 million for all Native lands nationwide.

Newtok

Stanley Tom took a different approach stating that the community didn't have any funding and therefore there were no immediate priorities it could offer, but that the following is needed

1. Barge landing and Evacuation Center
2. New Road to Evacuation Center

Sally Cox with DCEED has been working with Newtok and provided input that to move the Barge landing forward need:

- MOA between DOT and DCEED
 - Evacuation Center—Need agreement between Corp and community and then can pursue funding
- Funding Estimates: \$14 million for evacuation center plus road; Barge landing -- DCEED and DOT are working on this; also need funds to buy heavy equipment

In order to get funding, need funding:

- To develop a coastal assessment plan
- To develop clean-up strategies

Newtok has submitted and is on Tier 1 list for funding for:

- Alaska Coastal Management Program – Coastal Impact Assessment Plan to develop a strategic water front management plan \$75,000 for 2 years
- Environmental Assessment for \$100,000 for 2 years

Other data useful/collecting is wind collection data and hydro data

Data Needs Discussion

Co-Chairs, communities and other technical agency people present discussed the need for data.

Suggested to identify type of data needed and what has been done, what's needed and who either has data or should be tasked to provide data. (elevation, geology, fresh water, mapping, etc)

In the case of Shishmaref, according to Bruce Sexauer (Corps), 11 sites have been looked at, but there are more things (characteristics) that should be looked at

Rod Combellick (State DGGs) Hazardous Area maps are needed – basic good geologic mapping, which could resolve issues, for example about Kivalina's selected site. Systematic mapping is not occurring, but if useful the IAW could suggest prioritizing mapping needs based on those communities most threatened/likely to be relocated.

Prioritizing Immediate Actions - Discussion

- Unit of analysis must be defined. What is the range and scope? One per village if they aren't all on the same scale, that won't make sense. If there's one big project that eats up the budget, but not address the needs – then we'll miss the opportunity. To do 5 -6 smaller projects might be more effective and possibly do several depending on what the needs. It's important to identify what are the most vulnerable issues?
- Identify what we see we can do in 12-18 months.
- One big project that focuses on several communities could be going on such as mapping, while still doing some of the smaller. We could have a mix.
- Timing of funding is relevant. If not in the budget, how to get it in will be the challenge.
- Would we add something to our list even if it is 2-3 years out?
Yes. We still can. Also, the budget is still an issue.

- Federal side – for this coming field season – likely have missed the current appropriations. The state we still have an opportunity.
- Need proper documentation, data sources so we can go to the governor and federal agencies/delegation for supplemental or appropriations.
The Corps has a meeting with Senator Stevens – end of the month, we can use the information from the IAW and the communities for this meeting if we receive by 1/18/08 IAW meeting.
- Use information at other meetings and events. Such as the state emergency management conference on March 12, in Washington D.C. We can increase national attention, but should all be looking for opportunities.
- Look at the physical changes to communities: How are these changes affecting the communities?
What needs to be mitigated?
- The IAW members bring a wider look at potential impacts both short/long term – and potential mechanisms to address.
Can provide opportunities for communities to be involved and aware of existing programs and funding, for example – the Fire Truck Shishmaref listed as a need, funding is possible through existing programs, e.g. Alaska Fire Management Plan
- May have to leap frog normal procedures in special projects
Start means: Steps that need to occur for the actions and recommendations.
- Need background information:
 - what the existing mitigation programs are and how to use,
 - history or summary of the disasters in the last 30 years.
 - Corps background on projects they are working on
- Overall plan: need to understand the steps in the plan, timing, etc
The state maybe able to provide funding for some of these communities or have the governor or legislators to assist

When to have village matrix completed? In draft form from the communities by the January 31, 2008 meeting.

Public Comment

Colleen at Kivalina: Expressed a need for heavy equipment. Best time for heavy equipments is best in the winter. Especially for gravel hauling.

IAW Member: Kivalina –both need rocks/gravel and how to bring it to the community
Local equipment and people to run the equipment

Tony at Shishmaref: Seawall project need very important 3-4 years - #1 is comprehensive planning.

IAW Committee member: Timeline protection: What is the immediate need is the seawall or the comprehensive plan. Tony: Talk with the Corps, but in the short-term is the comprehensive plan.

IAW Member: Shoreline protection technology/type?

Response from IAW Member Trish (Corps) Federal laws make it a quick answer.

If have to change type may make the timeline longer.

Include in the recipe project management.

IAW Meeting and Task Schedule

IAW Meeting Schedule and Proposed Agenda Items

January 18 IAW Meeting

- Update on Next Steps from Jan 8th Meeting (Co-Chairs)
- Briefing on Existing Mitigation Programs and How to Use Them
(John Madden, Director Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management)
Summary of State Disasters Over Past 30 Years
(John Madden, Director Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management)
- Current and Proposed Projects Status Overview on Communities Reviewed in the GAO report and for Kivalina, Shishmaref, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, Newtok, and Koyukuk (Patricia Opheen, Chief, Engineering Division, Alaska - US Army Corps of Engineers)
- Relocating Communities in a Sustainable Way (Allison Butler, UAF PhD Candidate)
 - Identify other communities around the world, Characteristics of relocating sustainably - making communities more self sufficient, etc.
- Discussion on type of information needed for each of the Immediate Action projects:
 - What are the key “ingredients” to detail recommendations (recipe) on what will make the projects successful,
 - What needs to be done for each project,
 - What should be done in the near term (now – 18months),
 - What resources are needed,
 - How and where to get resources

January 31 IAW Meeting

- Review Proposed Immediate Action Projects from each Community
- IAW Members Agree/Determine which proposed Immediate Action Projects will be advanced for recommendation
- Identify specifics about each Immediate Action Project
 - What’s needed for each project/create “recipe”
 - Identify approach for each immediate action project
 - Identify critical path for each
- Identify tasks and leads to create “recipes”

February 12 IAW Meeting

- Reviews with Each Community on Immediate Action Projects/Matrix (~30 minutes with each community)

February 19 IAW Meeting

- Brief Commissioner Hartig
 - Draft Matrix of Immediate Action Projects
 - Draft Recipes for Success
 - Feedback/Questions from Commissioner Hartig
- Determine refinements to drafts
- Begin reviewing policy recommendations/changes

March 4 IAW Meeting

- Refine/Approve Immediate Action Projects Matrixes and Recipes
- Review and refine draft Policy Recommendations

- Report Out from Alaska Legislative Special Committee on Climate Change
(Robert Pawlowski, Committee Member – note if report available)

March 20 IAW Meeting

- Final Approval of IAW Recommendations to Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change

Discussion about “Recipe” concept

Would like to go through one village and their recipes on 1/18

What is the critical path?

We are not doing a service if can't take it down to unit of action

DGGS (Rod) might be able to provide information on potential renewable energy at future sites

We have to look at what is compatible with what the community wants - Solution to the need. May need to wait until we have the community input.

Examine Risk vs Certainty

Re-location issue, what do we need to do before that happens?

What are the different approaches? What are the ramifications? Lots of research questions.

Take the data we have and come up with a solution to meet the need.

Probably need to address what we know the Alaska Legislature will be asking: Should we be investing in a community if it stays or relocates?

At what costs? Holding has costs, readiness for when threats occur, long term plan which has hidden costs.

Are you getting more from the investment? (How can we get more?)

We may be able to highlight/identify the needs from other departments – outside of our groups such as schools, clinics, airports, postal services, etc.

Final Public Comment

Tetra Tech - Christie Miller

Immediate action need is to stage structures. Stabilize and move infrastructure that is in imminent danger. Can get funds for new construction but not rehab. What is the secondary/preventative protection? Need to work with the community to identify - they will know.

Recipe for the individual structures. How many at risk, how to move, where to move. RurAL CAP funds may be an option. Elevate or Re-locate? Need to pull everyone into this to determine.

Kivalina: Colleen

Things are accelerated. Question for Bob P. on the re-location site and the criteria why it was selected. What did the coastal studies find?

Bob's response: Need to share information with NOAA. Should Ask NOAA directly if you have questions. They are expanding their programs. Vertical data is in place to measure storm surges. 75% of Northern Alaska Coastal regions have not been mapped since early 70's. Bob offered to assist communities in asking the questions to NOAA.

Concerned that this group has a tremendous amount of influence. Want to have actual documentation vs. what someone has said. She reiterated earlier request for a review/analysis/audit of previous reports regarding Kivalina relocation (site).

Koyukuk: Cindy

-We need to identify the data for the Matrix

-We have gravesites that are threatened and would like to have re-located

-Use ground radar to identify the grave sites. Need to happen ASAP!!!

-Interested in having a Fire Break for the Community

DGGS: Rod

Offered that DGGS also has a renewable energy atlas and will provide additional information to IAW.

Meeting Closed at 4:30 pm