

**SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE  
P.O. BOX 72100  
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772  
Karen Sinnok, Chairperson**

**Public Meeting – Shishmaref  
Shishmaref Community Hall  
November 8, 2002  
12 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Karen Sinnok, at 12:23 p.m.

Invocation by Alex Weyiouanna, Shishmaref elder.

Roll Call: Shishmaref I.R.A. Village Council present:

Darlene Turner, President  
Luci Eningowuk, Vice President – 12:30 p.m.  
Stella Havatone, Secretary  
Howard Weyiouanna, Treasurer  
Edwin Weyiouanna, Member

Shishmaref I.R.A. Village Council absent:

Kelly Eningowuk, Member – Nome  
Tommy Obruk, Member – Out-of-Town

Shishmaref City Council present:

Reuben Weyiouanna, Mayor  
Curtis Nayokpuk, Vice Mayor  
Stanley Tocktoo, Secretary/Treasurer  
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member

Shishmaref City Council absent:

Leonard Kuzuguk, Member  
Baker Ningealook, Member  
Tommy Obruk, Member

Shishmaref Native Corporation Board of Directors present:

Percy Nayokpuk, President – 12:30 p.m.  
Karen Sinnok, Vice President  
Darlene Turner, Secretary  
Curtis Nayokpuk, Member

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Johnny Weyiouanna Sr., Member

Reuben Weyiouanna, Member

Shishmaref Native Corporation Board of Director absent:

Johnson P. Eningowuk, working

Staff present: Tony Weyiouanna Sr., Shishmaref Transportation Coordinator

Guest present: Julianne Baltar, Program Director, Kawerak Transportation Program

Dave Sanchez, DOT/PF

Steve Becker, NRCS

Fred Tocktoo, National Park Service

George Olanna Sr., Kawerak

John Schuerch, BSRHA

Julie Chatman, DOT/PF

Beth Marino, Nome Nugget

Clint Nashoanak, Kawerak Transportation Program

Agenda review: Darlene Turner made a motion to accept the agenda. Stella Havatone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest.

Shoreline Protection by Julianne Baltar. The Shishmaref Coalition members that were able to travel to Anchorage for AFN and other agency delegates attended the Multi-agency Meeting on October 23, 2002 in Anchorage. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. Film clip shown. Julianne mentioned that the sandbags that were installed last year has undergone damage from the storms and no longer against the bluff. During the October 8, 2002 storm, in a matter of two hours, Shishmaref lost 6 to 10 feet of ground.

Julie mentioned that the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) Roads monies channeled through Kawerak are delegated to assist Shishmaref on its erosion situation totaling to \$1 million. Some of the monies have been used towards Shishmaref emergency

A portion of the monies has been used towards emergency seawall protection. The latest being in July 2002.

Dave Sanchez, DOT/PF, mentioned that in the future DOT/PF would be protecting the shoreline to protect the airport and the landfill.

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Division of Emergency Services declares a disaster to only structures with a value and according to DES land does not have value.

According to Julianne Baltar, Representative Reggie Joule and Senator Donnie Olson are pushing for funding and seeking \$3 million for seawall from the legislature. Shoreline protection for the school property discussed. May be funded through section 14.

John Schuerch, Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority, mentioned that several endangered HUD homes would be moved to the Old Shishmaref Airport. This is process is pending freeze-up of ground when it is stable enough to move the homes which will be within the next two weeks.

Photos shown about seawall issues with gabions baskets filled with rocks and project cost was \$90,000.00. Film shows rock source, which the village of Shishmaref do not have access to.

Steve Becker, NRCS, discussed soil samples taken from several sites surrounding Shishmaref. Samples were taken from five different sites selected as emergency evacuation sites, which are East Nunataq, West Nunataq, Igloo, Tin Creek, and Arctic River. Steve Becker, Rob Sampson, Lori Richter, and Joe White were here in Shishmaref in September 2002. Preliminary studies were taken of those sites. If the community of Shishmaref determines the two top sites then NRCS can do further studies to determine whether or not they will be suitable for evacuation sites. Note that the evacuation site could probably become a relocation site for the community.

West Nunataq was considered for barge access but has wet permafrost.

Tin Creek shows elevation above sea level. Various high grounds here and there that would have the community all spread out. Ear Mountain is close by which would provide a gravel source. It would have barge access and fuel storage space.

Steve Becker explained rating procedure in soil studies. At a preliminary look at the soil studies, West Nunataq and Tin Creek are probably the best sites for evacuation. Note that West Nunataq flats was rated poorly due to massive ice. Shishmaref will benefit by contacting the military toward their assistance to move the community.

Albert Ningeulook translated the discussions in Inupiaq.

Relocation discussed. Airstrip discussed. According to Judy Chapman, relocation of the airstrip to the new site would take approximately two years of wind studies and other necessary documentation. It would probably take seven to eight years to relocate the

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airstrip. Question on speeding up the process to have the airstrip earlier in an emergency situation. Environmental process will take up to two to three years.

Julianne Baltar showed a letter of accomplishments that Senator Stevens did for the State of Alaska.

Road from Ear Mountain to the new site discussed.

Fred Tocktoo, NPS, mentioned that NPS would be able to work with Shishmaref on the relocation endeavor. Land access of native allotments and Bering Land Bridge mentioned. Need for more research address by Frederick Tocktoo.

Julianne Baltar asked Luci Eningowuk to elaborate on Washington, D.C. meeting with Senator Stevens. Senator Stevens mentioned that since several villages in Alaska are experiencing erosion such as Point Hope, Kivalina, Unalakleet, and Shishmaref, Consolidation of the villages would be something to be considered. After viewing the map of Alaska and seeing the vast distances of the villages, he did not pursue the consolidation discussion. Senator Stevens mentioned that he has \$1 million in appropriations slated for Shishmaref. Also, he is willing to install temporary shelter buildings for Shishmaref once the evacuation/relocation site is selected.

Discussion on Denali Commission's question on type of roads to be considered for construction. The deadline to submit the road request is December 2, 2002. Chairperson Karen asked the community if they want a road from Tin Creek to Ear Mountain or Kougarok to Nome. Discussion. Steve Becker mentioned that we would need a harbor.

Door prizes before the break.

Break at 1:54 p.m. Meeting called back to order at 2:23 p.m. Herbert Nayokpuk, elder, mentioned that the map has West Nunataq on the wrong location. Karen Sinnok, Chairperson, asked the public if they are comfortable with West Nunataq and Tin Creek to be considered for more studies or West Nunataq Hills. Note that during low tides, that area gets extremely low. Steve Becker, NRCS, reiterated that a harbor would need to be developed.

Tony Weyiouanna, Shishmaref Transportation Coordinator, clarified how the site selections were made at previous public meetings. Back in the 1970's and 1980's, research was done but permafrost was present in a chosen site and did not want to consider moving. In comparison to the lower Kuskokwim area, the worst sites are better in Shishmaref area than the sites on the Kuskokwim. Temporarily, we can select West Tin Creek. NRCS will be willing to do further site studies.

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Motion. Rich Stasenکو made a motion to look into putting a road to Ear Mountain. Ruby Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried. The tentative relocation site is West Tin Creek.

Other recommendations or comments on relocation site. Can Singeak be considered as a possible relocation site? Discussion. Site may be within the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Discussion. Chairperson Karen Sinnok directed any further questions, comments, and concerns be directed to Tony Weyiouanna Sr., Shishmaref Transportation Coordinator.

Follow-up Public meeting to be possibly in April 2002.

IRT Program discussion by Tony Weyiouanna Sr. It will take approximately 18 months to start the IRT Program.

Julianne Baltar suggests that the students of Shishmaref should participate at the next public meeting, as it was good to see students present during this meeting. The youth should be aware of their future.

Community Wellness Planning Meeting scheduled for November 14, 2002.

Door prizes. Shishmaref Emergency Services donated two \$50.00 door prizes. Alex Weyiouanna and Rachel Stasenکو won the door prizes. Shishmaref I.R.A. Village Council donated \$100.00 and Harry Kokeok won the door prize.

Adjournment. Reuben Weyiouanna made a motion to adjourn. Howard Weyiouanna seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.