

SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

P.O. Box 72100
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
Karen Sinnok, Chairperson

Coalition Newsletter May 2002



“Coalition Members hard at work, meeting with Alaska Division of Emergency Services at the Friendship Center about the bulk tank consolidation project”

Welcome to the first printing of the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition’s newsletter. We are planning to make this newsletter a regular addition to our program informing the public at large in Shishmaref, and to the State and Federal agencies concerned with the potential relocation and erosion protection of the community. The newsletter will focus on the current issues and accomplishments of the Coalition.

The Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition is comprised of 21 members of the Native Village of

Shishmaref, Shishmaref City Council, and Shishmaref Native Corporation Board of Directors. The Members are as follows:

Karen Sinnok- Chairperson,
Luci Eningowuk- Co-Chairperson

NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Darlene Turner, President
Luci Eningowuk, Vice President
Stella Havatone, Secretary
Howard Weyiouanna Sr., Treasurer
Tommy Obruk, Member
Kelly Eningowuk, Member
Edwin Weyiouanna, Member

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Reuben Weyiouanna, Mayor
Curtis Nayokpuk, Vice Mayor
Stanley Tocktoo, Secretary
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member
Leonard Kuzuguk, Member
Baker Ningealook, Member
Tommy Obruk, Member

SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION BOARD MEMBERS

Percy Nayokpuk, President

Karen Sinnok, Vice President
Darlene Turner, Secretary
Johnson Eningowuk, Treasurer
Curtis Nayokpuk, Member
Johnny Weyiouanna Sr., Member
Reuben Weyiouanna, Member

COALITION FORMATION

The Coalition was formed in April 2001 to provide a combined community effort to address Shishmaref’s continual beach erosion problem and the possible relocation of the community to a suitable site on the mainland.



“ Harry Kokeok’s home in danger of falling into the ocean”

In June 2001, Kawerak Inc. hired Tony Weyiouanna Sr. as the Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner. One of his job duties is to work directly with the Coalition

SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

P.O. Box 72100
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
Karen Sinnok, Chairperson

providing technical assistance in order to achieve success of the Coalition. In March 2002, Kawerak Transportation Program also hired Luci Eningowuk as an administrative assistant to assist Tony in providing much needed staff support to the Coalition.

With assistance from Julianne Baltar, Kawerak Transportation Director, the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition on May 30, 2001 established protocols that the members would be able to follow when developing a solution to Shishmaref's beach erosion and possible relocation of the village. On March 26, 2002, Modification to the Coalition Protocols and membership was modified to include representatives in an advisory capacity of one youth member and one elder representative from the Shishmaref Elder's and Youth committees. Both representatives will serve in an advisory capacity to the Coalition.



**“Concerned Citizen-
Howard Weyiouanna Sr.”**

STRATEGIC PLAN

The current situation in Shishmaref is the loss of land through the erosion caused by wave action as a result of high winds and high tides. The increasing risk to property loss and lives has caused a dangerous situation for the community of Shishmaref that the community must no longer ignore. The community has determined that staying on the island and facing the ever-present threat of ocean-based storms is unacceptable. The only viable solution is to consider the relocation of the community off the island to a nearby mainland location that is accessible to the sea, suitable for our subsistence lifestyle and preserves the culture and integrity of our community.

The Coalition staff along with assistance from Julianne Baltar developed the Shishmaref Relocation Strategic Plan that was completed in January 2002. The plan is a guideline to assist the community as well as State, Federal, and other agencies in assisting Shishmaref with an orderly relocation plan and solutions to the beach erosion problems.

The Strategic Plan also includes an Action Plan and Scope of Work with each action item.

1. Identification of High Potential Relocation Sites
2. Identification of Required Evaluations and Studies
3. Infrastructure Development
4. Identification of Community Needs and Wants
5. Development of Agreements and Time Targeted actions
6. Identification of Salvageable and Moveable

SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

P.O. Box 72100
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
Karen Sinnok, Chairperson

- Infrastructure Facilities
- 7. Timeline
- Infrastructure Development
- 8. Development of Comprehensive Community Plan
- 9. Development of Funding Commitment
- 10. Construction Timeline
- 11. Implementation Plan
- 12. Old Site Clean-up Plan
- 13. Identification of Funding Sources and Technical Assistance Resources

EVACUATION SITES- SOILS STUDIES

The Coalition is currently working with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate potential evacuation sites in the event there is a need for the community to evacuate during a major storm. We also have developed an emergency evacuation plan that is still in draft form and has not been finalized yet. Hopefully, within the next

couple of months we will be able to come up with a plan that will be a useable plan we can use if necessary.



“Nayokpuk General Store’s Bulk Fuel Farm”

BULK FUEL TANK CONSOLIDATION

The Coalition has also been working with Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) and Kawerak Transportation Program in funding a bulk tank consolidation project for Shishmaref. The Denali Commission will be funding this project starting with the replacement of Nayokpuk General Store’s bulk fuel farm with three new tanks for temporary fuel storage, and the dismantling of the old tanks currently in danger of falling into the ocean creating a disaster if a spill occurs. The following summer of 2003 AVEC will be completing the consolidation of the

community’s bulk tanks into one tank farm. This past summer Kawerak Transportation Program took the initiative to install temporary gabion protection on the beachfront by the Nayokpuk General Store’s bulk tank farm. With the tank farm being 49’ from the ocean, this was a very worthy cause considering that during the weekend storm of October 5-7, 2001 we lost anywhere from 5’ - 50’ of ground in areas in front of the community.



“Summer 2001 gabion construction crew”

2002 SHISHMAREF EROSION CONTROL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

While a permanent solution is being developed, Kawerak Transportation Program has contracted with Summit Consulting Services to install 600 linear feet of sand bags

SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

P.O. Box 72100
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772
Karen Sinnok, Chairperson

in Shishmaref. This project will utilize 2 cubic yard sand bags each weighing 6,000 lbs. when filled. Each bag covers an area as big as a sheet of plywood. The first phase of this project totals \$930,000.00. Approximately \$3.1million will be needed to construct the remaining 2,400 linear feet of the rest of the project. The Coalition has requested this amount from the State of Alaska. Hopefully funds will be available after this Legislative session. The Coalition would like to request anyone willing to send a public opinion message to our Legislative delegation in Juneau do so as soon as possible for the support of the Coalition's request for funding of the gabion project.

SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Coalition held it's first public meeting on March 30, 2002 at Shishmaref. As a result of the public meeting, the Coalition has asked the City of Shishmaref to hold a vote whether or not the community wants to relocate.

Having this vote will enable the Coalition to plan projects addressing the erosion and relocation issues. The next public meeting is being scheduled for the first week in June 2002. An agenda will be posted once a final date has been finalized.

The Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition will be holding several public meetings in Shishmaref to keep the community updated on its progress of addressing erosion issues. We also are planning to have an agency update meeting in Anchorage scheduled for May 15, 2002. This meeting will focus on providing updates to State and Federal Agencies where the Coalition and Shishmaref are in the planning and the progress of acquiring funding for it's projects relating to the erosion and relocation projects.

We will provide information about the update meeting, June public meeting and the City of Shishmaref vote on relocation on our next newsletter.