

Chefornak T.C. Environmental Department

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05/04/05 Nelson Island Special IGAP
Meeting Minutes

Talk to an Elder and ask about putting the trash away. The Elders inputs and information will help the department find new ideas.

We are to fix the way of our life. We are not going to hold on to it forever but we all have to come together as one and take notes and vote in meetings so that our voices will be heard. This is our way in business and in our field of work many people don't like us but we are a consortia and we have to come together as one.

Remembering the times when we were younger (kids), we use to hold hands and play a game of red rover let whoever not come over. This is an example of how we are supposed to be. Tied together as one. Understood by everyone.

After cleaning up the campsites we are going to have the army supervise and monitor the campsites through the GIS satellite so that we will know how well our campsites are being maintained by subsistence hunters and gatherers. We are supposed to keep our environment clean so that our children can utilize our subsistence way of life. Berries, food and etc are supposed to be taken care of. Our younger generation are mainly talking in English and we are losing our language. How fast is that?

TUNUNAK- CHARLIE POST (EPA Coordinator for Tununak)

Charlie called airlines if they could transport recycled batteries and got the deal. He called Napa and they said they would take the batteries. He filled out a haz map and if the snow melts they will collect batteries. It is very important to them in their village and they started because it is hazardous in their village.

Chefornak- OSCAR WASSILLIE (EPA Coordinator)

Oscar contacted Napa Auto Parts and they said they will keep the totes but we have to pay a fee. Air carriers under the environmental department would bring in trash w/their planes. Oscar was thinking about asking the carriers if he could make a deal w/them. If they were to take the trash into Bethel and say they helped Uncle Sam would applaud them. Think about them before you do anything. Send them a letter and say that they bring in trash and the least they could do is bring in the recycled batteries.

If anyone has any questions towards recycling batteries please contact Charlie Post @ 652-6527.

Margaret Nickerson (Newtok Village Coordinator for Special IGAP)

If Charlie finishes that letter please send the consortia villages a copy.

Charlie:

If the planes don't have any passengers, they could bring in the trash.

Cecilia James (EPA Assistant Tununak):

While I was at berry camp, I saw a lot of trash lying around the river near Cakcaaq. If berry campers could pick those trash up it would be good because they are hazardous and could contaminate the food. It would be good if they could pick them up.

Jennifer Tunuchuk (EPA Assistant for Chefornak):

Tell your community members to start picking up after themselves when they go berry picking or any subsistence gathering. If we keep on cleaning up after them, they are going to depend on us every year.

Oscar:

Our plans are to clean up the fish camp areas. We are going to take pictures w/the GIS satellite and observe which areas need to be cleaned up.

Margaret:

She asked where these two men from her village hunt and got the names of the areas where they hunt and asked if they saw any trash lying around. Margaret told them that it would be good if they could pick them up or put them to higher ground. Even if they gather small items it would still be a big help toward improving our land.

Oscar:

He let the D.C. people come and see with their own of the trash and dump to let them see how we live, and especially to let them know where our solid/human waste goes to. The D.C. people asked what we were talking about and got translated and the D.C. people should know how we live and we only travel with plane and they know now to treat us a lot better. We are going with our way of living and they respect us and they know we are strong. We are going on with our lives and that will be good.

Charlie:

The ocean is to be taken care of too. Let the hunters bring trash bags along so that they can put their trash in the bags instead of leaving them out in the ocean, where a lot of fisherman, and hunters go out for subsistence. They also see trash laying around or up on the sea floating and he doesn't like that. It would be best if they could start storing them and putting them in plastic bags.

Billy:

During the summer time we could write up a letter that says: "When the fisherman start fishing and bring in fish to the canaries, we could tell them not to dump their trash to the sea. They could use the trash bags to put their trash in." Even if they are small, they can be a big help.

Charlie:

Let CVRF write a letter stating that fisherman, and hunters that subside in the ocean, should bring along bags of some sort to keep their trash in.

Billy:

It is a good idea to put in batteries and plastic bags. Have a meeting about batteries layering them with plastic bags.

Cecilia:

Ask CVRF if they can purchase grinders for the halibut heads. So that when working on halibut, we wouldn't have to dump the heads in the river or to the dump. After grinding the heads, when dumped in the river, the birds, and animals could eat them up.

Margaret:

I had wrote a letter to LKSD about stopping the use of Styrofoam in LKSD villages. LKSD is the largest school district in Alaska. Banning the use of Styrofoam in schools, because the Styrofoam and the plastic utensils are mainly found in the dump. And not only that, the contaminants found in Styrofoam are hazardous. We didn't know that this sort of material can cause health problems, and now we know. And I have informed in the letter, that why did they keep quiet even though they know about what the after effects might be. Asking questions headquarters in Bethel, about why they are keeping silent. LKSD has a lot of money. They can hire dish washers to wash the silverware and utensils. I am one person who is writing to a big company. I know where my heart is. I am afraid. But I am only helping my community. I don't want other people to be involved with this because there are a lot of different people with different opinions about things like this.

Oscar:

For every consortia village make a Resolution to ban the use of Styrofoam, so that LKSD can abide by the rules of the village. LKSD has low budget now, but when in a meeting you can bring the expenses of Styrofoam spent each year.

Pauk:

Write an urgent letter to the company about not using Styrofoam. Hunting and camping grounds are always found filthy, trash everywhere.

Margaret:

Contact Kipnuk about the trash that they leave behind at the campsite. Ask them to clean up after themselves. Also ask them to bring this up at church.

Molly:

I had spoken with the elders about how they used to live long ago without trash laying around the village. They know more about respect for the land, they grew up with ancestors telling them how they should live. "What goes around, comes around." About keeping clean and not wasting game. Living like white-men, modern times, depending on machine operating vehicles and equipment.

Oscar:

Discuss work plan from Special IGAP, (reading through objectives)

Molly:

I have received a new computer last week and I did not have time to put the Elders inputs yet. She is going to visit two elders at the time and put their inputs into her computer. If you want a copy of their wise words she will be happy to send you a copy.

Oscar:

I looked over the Back Haul grant (solid waste) for the barge to pick up. Wanted to congratulate Nightmute for the success and says to keep it up.

Oscar:

I want to com over to each village with a person from my staff and go over some issues. We are going to monitor and not be like fish and game but the way of our living. The tags will let us identify who left their fish nets. If nets are left un-harvested we are going to take the net out, and give the fish to the people who need it. Unlike fish and game we are going to monitor the nets like that.

We included Billy Chagluak's drawings of our lagoon into our Quarterly Report and we have finished the Chefnak IGAP and now in progress to finish the Special IGAP. Let us not waste time and work when we are clocked in.

Dr. Lynn Zender:

Look for additional money from the state. In your villages so that it could cover the cost of garbage generated by the school. Use another kind of paper product. Will talk about it next time.

Margaret:

If they purchase metal trays, it will pay in the long run. The school did not want to convert to dish washers because it took too much water. It depends on the cost of the water. But they make alternatives that one that burns the non-toxic and they are made from renewable products from sugar canes, fiber sugar canes. We can bring examples in the next meeting. They break down into nothing but like regular plants.

Comment (Billy):

It just came into his mind "loose and ambitious." He was at school at lunch time and hot meal and go the paper plate soft.

Dr. Lynn:

They make (I think) a kind of paper plate and will bring a sample and test it out.

Don't know if they ordered Styrofoam products for next year. Oscar will check the school out and he recalled they ordered for the whole region. Tuntutuliak is smart and they are the only ones who dish wash their plates. (don't know the cost of water)

May 10-11th interested in signing up contact Nightmute.

Meet to contact Dr. Zender and Simone to amend the work plan before it hits Seattle and becomes finalized.

June 13-14th meeting @ Newtok.