

**Special IGAP meeting
Tununak
January 4 & 5, 2005**



Some of the elders who attended the meeting.

Village Participants:

Tununak IRA Council / Tununak Traditional Council
Nightmute Traditional Council / Umkumiut Traditional Council
Chefornak Traditional Council
Newtok Traditional Council
Nunakauyak Traditional Council

Day One

Cenaliulriit CRSA : John Oscar – Program Director

Explained what Cenaliulriit CRSA does and the history leading up to the Project Plan Amendment. Cenaliulriit reviews plans for consistency to development prior to the issuance of permits representing 38 villages. Reviews include oil & gas, mining, and local infrastructure development in their consistency to protecting subsistence resources using enforceable policies.

- Cenaliulriit received a grant from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program that could be used to work with existing organizations and grassroots groups to develop planning for policies that address solid waste, sewer lagoon, roads projects, housing sites, erosion control and working with local stakeholders to begin the implementation of policy-making to protect subsistence resources.
- Cenaliulriit wishes the village to begin forming policies or ordinances relating to environmental issues.
- Cenaliulriit does not want to duplicate other efforts already underway from a local level to addressing coastal issues of environmental concern, erosion, hazardous waste and resource protection.

- Cenaliulriit has been conducting subsistence resource mapping over the last 3 years and wishes the villages to begin more detailed mapping of traditional sites and directly related to policy making.
- John Oscar requested the participants to provide their leadership to make comment toward the program plan amendment and current existing policies. Handouts were provided.
- Cenaliulriit will also contract with the regional Association of Village Council Presidents, but the contract has not been negotiated.
- Cenaliulriit will concentrate efforts relating to its program plan and grant requirements.
- John Oscar was also participating in the meeting to understand what the Consortium was doing to report back to his board and make recommendations in how the funds could be best used under terms of compliance with the Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant requirements on a region wide level.



Facilitating the meeting.

Opening Prayer by Newtok Elder

Roll Call: Chefnak, Nightmute, Umkumiut, Toksook Bay, Newtok all present

Last meeting minutes by Henry Friday, Toksook Bay. These notes are available from Toksook Bay. We are sending out copies to everyone in their next packet.



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View video clip of meeting, with full room scan. Click icon.

Special IGAP Work Plan for Nelson Island Consortium: Lynn Zender – Zender Environmental

This is not covered by the current IGAP funds under tribes; this program is a separate program from the existing IGAP program. This is extra funding.

Primary Special Project Work plan is to protect subsistence. Local traditional and experiential knowledge is used to implement the program. Consortium is able to review the project goals, and identify issues of need and management, at each stage. The Consortium meetings and what the Consortium decides *is* the work plan. Zender Environmental will take care of the paperwork – the work plan does not match what is written at EPA—they will take the necessary paperwork steps.

Their job also is to document the Consortium procedures and meetings. Their job is also to provide technical assistance and help in grant writing and grant administration support. They also need to document the development of the Consortium plan for protect Nelson Island Area. They will write this in a formal document so that we can use it for funding and to show agencies that we do have a plan for this area. Documenting this is one of the ways to protect this area from Outsiders. There are many steps to do this, but this is one of them.

- Local Waste Management
- Assess impacts to subsistence resources and surrounding areas
- Develop management solutions
- Establish “demonstration project”, training and hiring
- Incorporate “Traditional and Experiential Knowledge”
- Identify grants and resources to implement the program in the long term
- Find Training in Water Monitoring and Solid Waste Management for Villages. Conduct one-on-one assistance in host Villages and over the phone.

Once the numbers are known, then there are different ways to address the situation. Identifying the fish nets left over is a step in this process. This same process could be used for other items that are out in the subsistence area.

Village Grant Tracking Responsibilities

Chefornak will turn in the quarterly reports for this grant. Each village needs to just send the description – a narrative of what they have done with any monies from this grant. Any activities that are for the consortium can be written down, and sent to Chefornak. Can everyone keep a daily log? This is easiest. There is an example in the Nelson Island binders passed out (1 to each village). The binders are for activities that done for nelson island grant. Then they can fax their log to Chefornak.

To get any monies from the Nelson Island Grant – each village must be responsible for making sure with Chefornak that it is an acceptable use of the money. It is not Chefornak that decides the acceptable use. But it is Chefornak who must explain the use to EPA. These monies must be used for the Nelson Island Consortium activities and goals. With the go-ahead of Chefornak, then the village can get a drawdown or reimbursement. They need to give Chefornak the receipts and dates and narrative of what they did with the money. That way Chefornak can show EPA that the grant monies are spent right.

HazWoper Training: Lynn Zender

The Nelson Island Grant pays for an in-Village Training with certification. This would be hosted by a Village. The other Villages send two participants to the host Village. The participants’ airfare is paid for, plus \$125 to contribute to food while they are in the host Village. Participants are selected by the tribe to send representative trainees. Umkumuit has funding to pay 6 people to go to Anchorage. Chefornak has funding to send two people to Anchorage. Why not combine these trainings to have a host Village. Training in a Village will provide better application to our situations. We can save money doing this and use it for something else.

Fire Department in Anchorage can provide free training, but does not provide any airfare, lodging, or meals. Bringing in training to Village is more cost effective than to send a person to Anchorage.

Fish Net Monitoring Plan: One of the steps in carrying out the plan we are developing is to identify the wastes in the area and in the Villages. Nick Tom had brought this idea up previously. Survey tape and markers were brought for each Village to color –code tape.

Stanley Anthony also explained the monitoring efforts that were conducted by the United Villages of Nelson Island at the traditional fishing sites and Wilderness Rivers used by Newtok, Chefornek, Nightmute, Toksook Bay and Tununak. He used to monitor so that he was able to offer his expertise.

He also said that campers' leave behind trash and waste, and awareness efforts keeping it clean are necessary. This might be part of the monitoring.

The efforts involved monitoring fishnets under the ice from freezing under or left there that catch fish inadvertently and causing waste. The net that wasn't well maintained, or if they were not watching out for the nets, then the monitor would go get that net and pass the fish out to families that can't provide enough for themselves.

The net monitors must have knowledge of the land so they do not get in trouble. And what they are supposed to be doing.

A resident could get a number from TC and tie it to his/her net. This was to help avoid confusion, and help them to see if the nets are well-maintained by owners from different villages. Each village had different colors to represent them.

This was an effort that was done before and it worked. We stopped doing this, and must start this again. This effort is important because it didn't waste any fish

The Consortium decided to start this again. Each village would have the monitor job for two weeks. Each village took different marking tape to tie to nets that they were monitoring.

It was brought up that clear plastic tags would be good to stick the notes in there. Chefornek will order these from the Nelson Island Monies.

Meetings to be Held with Eskimo Dances

It was decided to hold the future meetings at the same time as Eskimo dances and festivals in each village. This way we can get more community participation that way. We want to have as many people here.

Opportunities Discussed:

Water Quality Training by Native American Fish and Wildlife: It was noted that this is available each year. Water sampling is a way to get numbers to work with the elders' experience and their detailed observations. This training gives the village a water testing kit that will let each village test their water for contaminants, like lead. They pay the hotel, training, and lunch. Village must cover airfare and other expenses. Classes offered are Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced training until certification. Level 1 is in May. Please call ** to sign up.

RurAl-Cap Raven Americorps / Alaska Youth for Environmental Action:
Lynn Zender & Phillip Carl

Enables youth to participate in environmental protection, understanding how the natural resources could be protected by clean up, working with human resources that are involved in natural resource activities, and actively working with existing groups to better their understanding about the environment. Americorps positions are something that the Villages should decide about to have a funded position next year. The application is in October or November.

Policies that were discussed: Decisions are Not Made Yet on These:

IGAP Steering Committee: Rosalie Kalistook, AVCP – Bethel

The Nelson Island Consortium was initially started with concerns on Cak'caaq on a volunteer basis. This makes it special in that the communities are very involved, and we are listening to our elders and making traditional decisions together.

To keep this so that the communities are involved, should we make a steering committee? Enables the committee to monitor what each village is doing, progress reports, set work plans, requirements, offer advice, and assist the committee membership to accomplish task requirements. This would ensure that what gets done through this consortium is what is understood by everyone to be the decisions.

Stanley Anthony, Nightmute- This committee would enable the leadership to have common goals and objectives to implement and accomplish tasks.

Discussion of 501c3: Introduced the idea of forming a formal entity – similar to how AVCP operates, but focuses only on Nelson Island Subsistence Protection and Village Waste Management Problems. It was decided to discuss this further as we get more information about the advantages and disadvantages. We should decide by October or November, so that the paperwork can be done in time for grant cycles.

One Advantage: Can make it easier to manage grants for paperwork and money. Might help in getting some grants. Would be independent of a village's financial performance/situation.

One Disadvantage: There are regulations that must be followed about how the structure of our management and reporting would work. We would be a tribal non-profit business instead of tribes. This might give the State some more authority over what we do.

We are looking for good information and speakers who can give us the details of how this will affect us, so we can decide.

Nelson Island Entity: Phillip Carl - Newtok

Funding grant would be placed into one source. No specific discussion was explained, but that the current Consortium is already conducting the plan.

Watershed water quality sampling and monitoring

This is an idea for the future – do we want to develop a grant for this? To get funding for scientists to come and train Villages and to do sampling of the water in the places where we decide are important. Then we would test these places each year and have the numbers. We can have the numbers that show how our water is. So if a company comes in to say that they want to develop a business, we have numbers to show them. Under the United States laws then they would have a harder time to come here because they would have to do their business in a way that did not change the numbers. They would have to show that they would not impact our area.

HazWoper Training:

The Nelson Island Grant pays for an in-Village Training with certification. This would be hosted by a Village. The other Villages send two participants to the host Village. The participants' airfare is paid for, plus \$125 to contribute to food while they are in the host Village. Participants are selected by the tribe to send representative trainees. Umkumuit has funding to pay 6 people to go to Anchorage. Chefnak has funding to send two people to Anchorage. Why not combine these trainings to have a host Village. Training in a Village will provide better application to our situations. We can save money doing this and use it for something else?

Meeting participants seemed to want to have HAZWOPER training soon. But there was no agreement about when would be the best time, and if Villages would commit to this time and send their participants. WE need maybe a set of dates to choose from. Then Chefnak would need to coordinate whether we have good attendance. This is not something that elders need to decide – the training and dates. They want to cleanup the area and protect our old ways. To keep our workers safe when they clean up the dump, they need to have training with the hazardous wastes. So the HAZWOPER training is something that the elders approve. They did not voice any objections or have any modifications to this plan. They did say that all the Consortium plan and activities and decisions must be equal for all villages. We must make sure that we are not disfavoring a village or a people, or even our youth. We are all together and act as one people to protect this area.

So we must plan this HAZWOPER to be sure that all villages approve the dates and where the training will be.

FUTURE RESEARCH IDEAS TO BE REPORTED ON

Firelogs incineration – can this be done here? The consultants will review this technology and develop costs for feasibility here.

Day Two

Elders Speak

Other than the concerns to the environment the elders were able to share a portion of ancestral wisdom “Qaneryaraq” or “ways of living” with family and community members.

Andy Charlie, Sr., Tununak: Described the living standards while growing up in the wilderness, as his home in the Baird Inlet area. They utilized everything as much as possible while keeping their surrounding as clean as possible. The bones of the fish were even carefully discarded not on any tundra, but in a pond or river where they came from.

We were told not to throw our fish bones and discards on the tundra, that it would eventually reduce our resources and cause hardship later on. They did not leave their property on the tundra or leave nets in the wilderness, but cared for them. Today, everything has changed, where aluminum cans are being thrown on the tundra. They were careful in the care and handling of subsistence resources, and utilized everything useful of the animals they caught. One did not even see portions or paws of animals left on the tundra. Everyone helped each other without compensation. Our present day discards everything from plastic to aluminum, and end up out in the ocean, and causes harm to fish and wildlife resources.

Everyone that goes out to the wilderness needs to bring back trash and practice that all the time. Our dumpsites also require good management. Children are being sent out by their parents, and dump trash without proper disposal. Mr. Charlie also burns trash when he has the time, and finds that the trash is expanding in a much greater area. The dumpsites can be better managed to reduce the dump radius.

Our young people do not attend these meetings. We need to involve our young people to these meetings, because they are part of the community for they will be the end result of these gatherings.

Aviuk'kaq'saraq - Giving to our ancestors and thanking nature by leaving a small portion of our catch by placing them into the ground. Our people lived with nature and animals by show their respect to them. Such as leaving a portion of your food supply into the water for the Killer Whales, because they will give you back a portion of their catch later. The Killer Whales are like people.

Rita Angaiak, Tununak: I recognize all the stories that my uncle, Andy Charlie, Sr. has explained. I saw my forbearers being very careful about their use of resources. Our first people were extra careful about their respect to land and waters around them. Today, when I go to surrounding tundra, I find trash in the tundra, and they are very visible. My uncle explained much of the concerns I have. They collected the paws and heads of seal and gathered them for later consumption. They placed them in seal pokes. They even kept the area around their houses clean.

John Walter, Sr., Tununak: I find trash in plastic bags being thrown into the ocean, which is a wrong practice. Batteries need to be collected from the dumpsite, and require a collection place and better management.

George Hooper, Sr., Tununak: Oil waste is also another concern that is being used in steam houses, where it has hazardous byproduct when it is burned. We do not have proper disposal places to manage this type of waste. It causes harm to the environment and the fish that surrounds the village. Pine Sol and other chemicals bought from stores also cause harm to the rivers and ocean, and our subsistence resources. Initially Tununak residents did not dump trash haphazardly, but that has changed today. We need to have information and policies they will address careful oil change on Hondas and requirements that prevents pollution.

Paul Sonny, Tununak: When we go to the tundra and wilderness. When we leave the trash in the tundra, it blows in the wind and also dug up by animals, it needs to be brought back to the village. Maybe a fence could be placed near hunting and fishing sites in the tundra. "Cak'caaq, Qinaaruug Cevv'taq, and Akuluraq. We see trash all over the place in those areas. We should bring our trash back or build trash bins in those places.

William Andy, Newtok: What Andy Charlie, Sr. explained is very important and I know them. Today, the knowledge that is held by our Elders is dwindling. They are also being very careful not to sound harsh, due to the sensitive nature of young people today. We were taught to respect others, and treat others as if they did not do anything wrong, as they will become useful members of the community. We were taught to teach our children the good way, and let them grow up knowing right from wrong. We see alcohol and drugs causing harm to our communities, and request everyone to stop using them and will find oneself in a better nature. [This thought must be used to teach our children the proper environmental education and information]. Everything in the environment has awareness. Those that do not respect the land and waters will begin to be unlucky when hunting or fishing.

Stanley Anthony, Nightmute: I was told by my elders to respect the wilderness. We did not have compasses to give direction, but keeping an awareness of nature and using landmarks and knowing where the snow berms are formed by the north wind. To be aware and careful about

nature and land marks, so we will know where our directions and bearings are. Even the melting of the ice will give you direction when you are in the ocean. Even placing a post in the wilderness, a person will know where it was placed. We were taught by my elders to leave those posts. Today, young people break those posts, and go on their merry way. We should be asking our elders about certain names for lakes and rivers. It will enable direction if you have a radio by someone who knows that place. We must give direction to everyone while at meetings. People don't go to meetings, when they could gain insight and knowledge. Everyone helped each other. Today, we don't even help others, when women are preparing fish to hang, other women just show up tell a story then leave. When she could be helping her neighbor to prevent spoilage of fish. We must respect other's property too, and must leave them alone. We were taught that if we take others property, we are only causing my catch to be reduced, because I have become a thief by taking other peoples property. Aviuk'kaq'saraq – leaving a portion of your catch into the ground, to thank nature.

Maria Kairaiuak, Chefornak: We were taught to respect knowledge and information, relating to land, rivers, lakes, ponds and oceans. The ocean will not become like white man, and will not be tamed. She told a story when they were traveling and the ocean ice began to break up, and used methods that enabled them to travel to safety to shore. She also told of how they lived by keeping their household clean and all discards of humans and animals out of view. We were told not to speak loudly to our children, as they themselves will become like that. They taught us repetitively. [Our community and young people must be taught repetitively, and implement the environmental concerns.]

Ignatius Mathias, Nightmute: I'm not an elder, but I heard from my elders some of the information and teachings. I have been hearing the same information that was just heard, and they are all true.

Open Dump

Phillip Carl, Newtok: We need to educate our children not to discard trash to our environment, and IGAP should be conducting this. Tununak should educate all the community, stores, high schools, businesses, and enable people to recycle the cans. This was an open discussion in how the villages could begin the process of addressing the literal open dumping of all material and hazards to the dumpsites.

Recycling Used Oil and other Materials

Oil burners: Used oil burning for heating and recycling.

AVEC burns used oil in the open drums, which could be used for heating. Chevak has an oil burner that heats up a warehouse.

Recycling used oil mixed with new fuel oil could be used for any purpose that new oil is used for. This technology is called a Waste Oil to Energy Converter (“WOTEC”). The machine connects right into your fuel line from the tanks. It cleans the used oil and blends it with the new oil. For Village-sized machines, you add about 2 parts used oil to 100 parts of new oil. You can recycle many types of oil here – like cooking oil- to become new fuel oil.

The villages buy “Fire logs” to burn for about \$10-12 per log. Rose Kalistook mentioned that for about \$150,000+ a fire log-recycling program could be developed to recycle burnable material.

Replace plastic bags with handbags for villages. Some communities have banned plastic and Styrofoam from their stores, and including their use in the school in another community. The schools are found to be the biggest contributor to Styrofoam and plastics to the dumpsites, by as much as 40%. IGAP programs in villages are being requested to work with schools and businesses to reduce the use of plastics and Styrofoam.

Incineration

A “Burn Box” is used by Togiak, and many villages. But smoke from burn boxes is hazardous, which has to be done properly. Metal is separated from burnable material, which includes shipping out recycling of metals. Plastic when burned gives out dioxin, which is hazardous to humans. There are federal and state air quality standards that do not allow “burn boxes” due to these hazards. But the federal and state solid waste regulations do allow this as they recognize that some villages do not have a choice. Burning can be the best method, but the smoke needs to stay away from people.

Shipment

Is this a possibility? To ship out hazardous wastes or other wastes?

Ignatius Mathias, Umkumiut: The consortium could develop an environmental control ordinance that restricts plastics and Styrofoam, and work to have businesses and local groups to comply.

Phillip Carl, Newtok: Used washers, empty 55-gallon drums and other metal sheeting could be barged out or even flown. The community of Newtok will be working to develop a resolution that will address this concern on plastics and Styrofoam. IGAP folks need to work with local groups (high school, tribal leadership, and businesses)

Charlie Post, Tununak: The recycling of plastics can be done to reduce harm to the environment. The communities need to have separate bins to take plastics, aluminum, versus burnable material. Education and information to the community members must be implemented.

Other suggestions: Ocean dumping and subsistence area

Stanley Anthony, Nightmute: We need to educate our local communities repetitively about bringing back our trash back to our communities.

Andy Charlie, Sr., Tununak: We need to address other community users of our concerns to keeping our wilderness areas clean of trash.

Peter Pitka, Tununak: Ocean dumping in the Bering Sea must be addressed, and how it will be done should be considered. Wants to know who is responsible and how it will be addressed.

Charlie Post, Tununak: We need to work with the barge companies and fisheries to address that issue.

Oscar Wassillie, Chefornek: CVRF and other existing groups must be approached to address that problem. While fishing he brought up discarded rope in his anchor that is used by foreign and large fishing fleets in the Bering Sea.

Billie Chagluak, Toksook Bay: Posters and information should be given to fishermen this coming summer and posting them at stores, and request them to bring back trash.