Association of Village Council Presidents

Qanemcit

Information and stories from AVCP

June 2014

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The President's Report

By President Myron Naneng Sr., as presented to the Executive Board April 2014

Fisheries:

Concerns have been heightened by the fact that ADF&G has announced that salmon fishing will be closed from May 15 to possibly mid-July. This is due to concerns of low returns of Chinook salmon. We are working with both USFWS and ADF&G, that if this happens, an opportunity to fish for other salmon species be allowed on both rivers.

On the Yukon River, there is a proposal to implement a village imposed moratorium that villages collectively can agree to. This moratorium is on Chinook salmon only. We are working with the commercial interests and subsistence fishers to ensure that fishing for other species, such as chums, will be allowed with use of dip nets while this moratorium is in place. We met with TCC representatives on April 15 to discuss strategies that we can work together on to show the State of Alaska, ADF&G and USFWS that we are being proactive on the Yukon River to insure that there is adequate escapement. This moratorium can last as long as the need for escapement for Chinook salmon is needed. After the run of Chinook salmon is passed, usually by mid-July, regular nets will be used for both subsistence and commercial fisheries.

During this meeting, we also talked about the Fisheries Disaster funding. There is discussion that of the $21 million that was allocated to State of Alaska, 60% will be going to the Cook Inlet fisheries and 40% to Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

We know that permit holders on the Yukon River will get direct payments and the possible set aside is around $2.5 to $3 million. The rest of the funding which will be about $4 million will be set aside for grants and research. However, we are going to be asking that some of that money be set aside to purchase dip nets for Kuskokwim River subsistence fishers who may need them to fish for species other than the Chinook salmon. This is work still in progress, and we will know if the funds will become available to be released by August, 2014.

We are working with TCC to set up a meeting at St. Mary's to discuss the moratorium and to move the Intertribal Fish Commission. We need our own biology of the fisheries stocks, as it seems that the information from ADF&G is flawed based on the review of the reconstruction of

4/16/14—Springtime Rush — Surrounding villages trip to Bethel for supplies before the river breaks-up.

previous years runs of Chinook salmon that was done by ADF&G. It seems that both the Yukon River and Kuskokwim River have had this misinformation that ADF&G has been carrying out for years.

On the Kuskokwim River the ongoing concern is the "traffic citations" that were issued to fishers for food a year or so ago. We know that the USFWS did not close the river for fishing, while it was the State of Alaska which announced the closure. We are looking at options to refer these citations to Federal court, as the Federal managers, USFWS, did not close the river for fishing at the time the citations were issued, nor did they follow their own rules and regulations under ANILCA when the State of Alaska took action and the presence of USFWS enforcement officers was deemed Federal action that did not follow any of their own rules. We have consulted with lawyers who are involved in the case to look at this, along with support from AFN to find ways to overturn the citations.

To pursue the Intertribal Fish Commission on the Kuskokwim River, we would have to work with Tanana Chiefs Conference, as some of their villages are located in the upper reaches of the Kuskokwim River.

I also met with Southeast Alaska Native Brotherhood in Sitka in February, and they too would like to work with us in their efforts to help revive their traditional foods and remove the limitations of their subsistence harvest for salmon when State of Alaska allows the commercial interests to have no limits on the amounts of harvest. We hope to put together a working agreement on the matter that would benefit our region as well.

Funding from BIA:

There was reduced funding from BIA and the Office of Self-Governance in the funding for FY 14, under sequestration. It was not as bad as we had anticipated; however, it does have an impact on the funding levels of some of our programs. We hope that funds will be added at the next funding year to bring the funding back to the level of previous years and or more as the need is growing. Our Accounting department has been keeping up with their work and it is now more functional than before.

50 Year Anniversary:

Our staff has been meeting to prepare for the 50th year anniversary of AVCP. They have been having meetings to identify who potentially can be invited to be key note speakers and we even have sent an invitation to President Obama for the Convention. We will be recognizing all the past Presidents, Chairmen and Board members of AVCP during the convention. It well represents the region and the leadership that has brought AVCP to its present form throughout the years of its existence. There will be historical achievements, such as the recognition of Tribes through-out Alaska in the early 1990's that AVCP worked on that led to 229 tribes being recognized by then Assistant Secretary of BIA, Ada Deere.

Migratory Bird Protocol Amendment of 1997:

AVCP took the lead and worked with other organizations including Rural Cap that recognized the spring and summer hunt of Migratory birds. Prior to that, the Hooper Bay Agreement, eventually, the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan, was the basis of this major accomplishment. Now we are working to have Duck Stamps Exemption legislation which is now scheduled for consideration in Congress in June.

Regional Organizations:

Many may not know, AVCP helped establish the Calista Corporation with the passage of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Prior to ANCSA, YKHC was established as a Health Corporation for the region, including Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross, better known as the GASH villages. Some member villages of AVCP (Platinum & Goodnews Bay) are with Bristol Bay Health Corp.

AVCP continues to grow and we have some Federal agencies that are asking if they can co-locate with us so that their services may be more available to our villages. We are going to be sitting down with USDA to consider co-locations so that some of our Economic Development plans and programs can be worked with their services.

Alaska Energy Authority and Tribal Indian Energy are both working to put energy funding to AVCP to work with villages on Energy programs, primarily from the village based that expands to the region.

We continue with our existing programs, but more opportunity is being pursued to create programs that benefit the region and the villages and more so our tribal membership.

Quyana, hope everyone has a good and safe harvest season.

Mike McIntyre - Program Outreach - Qanemcit Editor

Hello my name is Mike McIntyre, I am originally from Eek and live here in Bethel, Alaska. I am the new Program Outreach Coordinator! I have experience and background working in Technology with emphasis on Web & Graphic Design and will be responsible for updating and publishing the Qanemcit Newsletters and the Annual Report. I was also tasked with updating and modernizing the AVCP Website. I have a lot of visions of what AVCP can be through new technologies and I will work towards these goals. I am very excited with this job and what I can bring to the table!

Vivian Korthuis named the New Vice President of Community Services

Effective March 17, 2014,

The Association of Village Council Presidents is pleased to announce the promotion of Vivian Korthuis, a long-term member of the AVCP organization, to the position of Vice-President of Community Services. Vivian has worked primarily for AVCP as the Director for Kinguliamta Ciunerkaat and Project Development Departments. She brings extensive work experience including being the Sub Regional Clinic Director, Hospital Administrator, Self-Governance Coordinator and the Director of the Learning Center for YKHC. As the functions and services of AVCP have steadily grown to meet the increasing needs of the communities we serve, the need to expand the organization's Community Services has been essential. Vivian's training and expertise was an excellent fit into the needs of the growth of AVCP. Vivian continues to work on several major projects for AVCP and her work is highly valued working with both State and Federal funding. She oversees the Tribal Services, Realty, Natural Resources, Head Start, Public Safety, Education, Employment & Training, Child Care, Indian Child Welfare Act, Youth Services, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Vocational Rehabilitation, Housing Improvement Program, and Social Services Departments. Congratulations to Vivian and we look forward to the development of AVCP Community Services.

AVCP Board Members celebrating the first check received by AVCP in Ted Stevens' Washington D.C. office.

AVCP 50th Year Anniversary

From the President's Desk:

It is great to get back with our newsletter on activities of AVCP, an organization of tribal governments that was established in 1964. This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary as an organization that has worked on behalf of our tribal governments and their membership. There have been many accomplishments over the years and we all owe it to the leadership of those who established the organization to look out for the welfare of those who live in the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta, a region about the size of the State of Oregon.

We would like to recognize some of the original founders of AVCP, the past leadership and those who have passed on: Axel Johnson, Emmonak; Phillip Guy, Kwethluk; Paul Albert, Tununak; Edward Hoffman, Sr., Bethel; Joseph Lomack, Akiachak; Billy Beans, St. Mary's; Noel Polty, Pilot Station; Joseph Mike, Kotlik; Ulric Nayamin, Chevak; Louis Bunyan, Hooper Bay; Billy Morgan, Aniak; Glenn Fredericks, Georgetown; Wassillie Bavilla, Quinhagak and many others who are on this long list of leaders who helped move AVCP to what it is today.

We also have to thank those who are still with us today that have helped shaped AVCP. Raphael Murran, Hooper Bay; Moses Paukan, St. Mary's; Harold Napolean, Paimiut; Carl Jack, Kipnuk; Ivan M. Ivan, Akiak; Arthur Lake, Kwigillingok; Gene Peltola, Sr., Bethel. Past Chairmen, Eddie Hoffman, Sr., Harry Wilde, Paul Manumik, Willie Kasayulie, Ivan M. Ivan, Mike Williams, David O. David, Glenn Fredericks, Art Heckman and others that have had this position over the years, and presently, Raymond Watson of Bethel.

In the 1990's, we worked with many other regional tribal organizations to pursue the recognition of tribes in each of the villages. We were successful in this recognition, when Ada Deer, then the Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Indian Affairs, included a listing of 229 tribes in Alaska. We would like to thank Willie Kasayulie, who was the Chair of AVCP for helping us to pursue this recognition. Each tribe has been able to work within their own communities as a sovereign tribe working on their own tribal issues.

We also got our spring and summer migratory bird hunting recognized with the passage of the Migratory Bird Protocol Amendment in 1997. This was pushed by the concern for the large number of snow geese that were impacting the wintering and summer grounds in the United States and in Canada. This process took over eight years to accomplish. Now we are working on getting a Duck Stamp exemption for our indigenous harvesters of migratory birds.

Over the years, AVCP has been on the forefront in pursuing our subsistence and food security. We have been working with other States and in-state regional organizations to support our efforts and though at times it seems to take a long time, we have been successful on many fronts. We need to continue to work on this effort, especially on the salmon front, as we are impacted by the global economy, yet our people still rely on the land, sea, rivers and lakes for much of our food source. We need to continue to educate those that come from other cultures and background to learn of our culture, including the continuation of teaching our youth the values we have to survive in the world today.

There have been many programs that we have established within our region, including training programs with the support of our regional organizations. Yuut Yaqungviat, training facility for our youth to become pilots, Air Frame and Power School, soon to open, which will take the mechanical skills of our youth to become mechanics in Aviation field. Yuut Elitnaurvik, a school of various trades, law enforcement, CDL training for heavy equipment, home and office maintenance training and dental therepy. Opportunities are being pursued for our youth in many fields that can improve the quality of life for many both at home and abroad.

AVCP continues to look for opportunities to provide more services to the membership with scholarships, suicide prevention, family support services and even energy.

AVCP has relied for many years on Federal and State contracts. We are looking at business opportunities that will provide funding for many programs we provide. Federal and State funding are always uncertain, especially during the time of sequestration and lack of earmarks that sustained many programmatic services in the past. Now we are open to many potentials within the region and around our lands to create opportunities for our tribal members and membership.

To all, Happy 50th Anniversary!

AVCP Airframe and Powerplant (A & P) Technical school

Jeff Hoffman, Program Manager

The AVCP Airframe and Powerplant Technical School is a new facility that is in the development phase. A state-of-the-art facility was constructed in Bethel in 2009 with a $2.7 million fisheries disaster grant from the EDA. In 2010, the State of Alaska also granted funds in the amount of $1.5 million for development of the school curriculum and equipment procurement.

We are pleased to announce that on May 8, 2014, the US Department of Commerce and Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded an equipment grant of $697,991 to fully equip the school with the required shop supplies, teaching materials, tools and equipment necessary to meet FAA regulations on training systems and modules. The award of these funds will enable the A & P School to finalize the certification process with the FAA. It is our goal to complete this certification in partnership with the FAA as quickly as possible.

We will keep you posted on our certification progress with the FAA.

AVCP 4th of July Raffle

$5 a ticket

$20 for a book of 5 tickets

Drawing at the Fairground

July 4, 2014

1st: 18 ft. SeaArk, 60HP Evinrude E-TEC Tiller, & Trailer

2nd: 2 RT Tickets - Bethel to Anchorage via AK Airlines

3rd: 42" LG LCD TV

4th: Milwaukee M18 Cordless Lithium-Ion 6-tool Combo Kit

5th: $500 Cabela's Gift Card

6th: $500 Fuel Card

7th: Cabela's Alaskan Guide 6-person Dome Tent

8th: Two 5 ft. Dip Nets

9th: 16" Stihl Chainsaw

10th: One brick .22 LR Shells

Now accepting Credit & Debit Cards at the Lomack and Tugkar Buildings! Call toll-free at 1-800-478-3521!

VPSO Dean Michael, and William Kanuk, VPSO Coordinator, from the AVCP VPSO Program.

Arming VPSOs

Effective March 28, 2014, the State of Alaska adopted changes to existing Department of Public Safety (DPS) regulations. The new regulations allow Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO's) to receive firearms training and carry firearms in the performance of their duties. As the largest VPSO Program in Alaska, AVCP will continue to work with DPS and member communities to implement the regulations and improve the quality of life for residents.

Units 1,2 & 9 Meeting—On May 19 & 20, 2014 in St. Mary's

Joint Press Release: The Association of Village Council Presidents and Tanana Chiefs Conference

For Immediate Release

May 22nd, 2014

Alaskan Tribes hold historic meeting to address the management of King Salmon on the Yukon Rivers

On May 20th, thirty-two federally recognized tribes in Alaska held a historic meeting in the Yukon River Village of St. Mary's to initiate the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITC) and to develop an Inter-Tribal Management Plan for Yukon River Chinook Salmon for 2014. The meeting was sponsored by Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) and the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC).

"This historical meeting was coordinated by AVCP and TCC to discuss the King salmon fisheries management concerns with the tribal representatives that have been working with many conservation strategies for almost twenty years now, and the declines have yet to be reversed. The tribal representatives from Hooper Bay, located on the south side of the Yukon River, and villages on the Yukon River and tributaries to the Canadian border have come up with a resolution for the establishment of the Yukon Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and a strategy to conserve the King salmon that has been on the decline for quite some time. We commend the tribal representatives who are willing to work together to conserve with a unified position and strategy to change what has been happening and reverse the declining status of the King salmon stock," said Myron Naneng Sr., AVCP President.

"This meeting was a long overdue step to assert proper management of the King salmon stocks by the sovereign tribes on the Yukon River, those most dependent on the resource," said Victor Joseph, TCC President. "Over 40 years ago, Congress promised Alaska Natives subsistence needs would be protected yet under the current management regime this promise has gone unfulfilled. The steep and continued decline of the Yukon King Salmon stocks and the now annual restrictions and closures of commercial and subsistence fisheries demands a new model of management that includes the tribes as co-management partners."

A resolution brought forth by the Tribal Representatives calling for a moratorium on all directed Chinook fishing except for the minimum number needed for customary and traditional funerary potlatches was supported, by consensus, by the tribal representatives attending the meeting. The resolution also provides for a strategic plan to firmly establish the YRITFC and for development of a 2015 Chinook Management Plan. The resolution also sets out a strategy for continuing efforts to address Chinook by-catch in the Bering Sea fisheries, and the implementation and, where necessary, amendment of state and federal laws to ensure conservation, subsistence uses and recognition and empowerment of the YRITFC.

Former AVCP President Moses Paukan and AVCP President Myron Naneng Sr. in the Unit Meeting in St. Mary's

Orville Huntington (Tanana Chiefs Conference), Tim Andrew (AVCP) and Paul Shewfelt

Units 1, 2 & 9 Meeting in St. Mary's

Twelve Department Directors travelled to St. Mary's to deliver presentations on their departments and answer any questions that delegates had from Units 1, 2 and 9 on May 19th, 2014.

Also, there was a few projects that were presented including the AVCP Family Service Center Building being built and also the Yukon Kuskokwim Energy Corridor. A connection for freight and gas to travel between the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers to reduce costs on delivery of goods and energy to our region. Thank you Mike McKinnon for coming and giving the presentation.

On May 20, 2014 there was a fisheries disaster meeting and the Yukon Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission was established by AVCP and TCC due to low numbers of Chinook salmon meeting escapement goals to spawn in the Yukon River.

The Meeting was attended by Alakanuk, Algaaciq, Andreafski, Andreafski Corporation, AVCP, Bill Moore's Slough Tribe, Chevak, Chuloonawick, Emmonak, Huslia, Hooper Bay, Kotlik, Mountain Village, Mountain Village Corporation, Nulato, Nunam Iqua, Pilot Station, Pitka's Point, Scammon Bay, St. Mary's Corporation, St. Mary's

Thank you to all who attended and made this possible especially our host St. Mary's and Norbert Beans!

AVCP Unites to Caution Against Threats of Violence

Bethel, Alaska (June 19, 2014) - Myron Naneng, Sr, President of the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), joined by Dr. Paul John, elder and Traditional Chief of AVCP and widely respected Kuskokwim River elder Dr. Robert Nick, unite to caution against threats of violence related to the lack of King Salmon subsistence fishing opportunity.

"We understand the fear, loss and frustration that is being felt by subsistence users throughout the Kuskokwim Drainage. The Yup'ik, Cupik and Athabaskan tribes have depended on King Salmon for their customary and traditional nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs since time immemorial. For the past several generations, we have been placed on the banks while state and federal agencies have managed our salmon fisheries and our fishing way of life. We know that some of the Kuskokwim King stock is being taken as by-catch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery while many Kuskokwim Tribes and users have united around a moratorium on a subsistence-directed king salmon fishing this season in order to rebuild this vital resource for future generations. This by-catch, and being shut out from a meaningful management role, adds a bitter taste to the severe sacrifice we are making by not fishing, by keeping our families home while our fish camps sit empty, in knowing that we will not have this essential food put away for winter."

"We are fully committed, along with the majority of Tribes on the Kuskokwim Drainages to effectively address these vast inequities without delay. We are fully committed to reforms that will provide the Villages and users a central role in co-managing our salmon resources and significantly reducing by-catch in the Pollock fishery. We will continue to work to unify the voice and strengths of the Kuskokwim tribes to take the actions that are necessary to rebuild our Kuskokwim king salmon while protecting our fishing way of life."

"Violence, or threats of violence is not the way to accomplish these goals. We need unity, strength, and a clear vision of who we are as Yup'ik, Cupik and Athabascan people to get through these times. Acts or threats of violence will only lead to more harm for us and our salmon. We urge our leaders and our people to be strong in their vision and peaceful in their acts."

Tribal Court Conference

The Association of Village Council Presidents held its Tribal Court Conference on April 3-4, 2014, at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center in Bethel, Alaska. With its attendance at its highest since its inception, over 50 tribal judges, tribal court personnel, tribal council members, State court officials, state and local law enforcement officers, ICWA specialists, and others traveled to Bethel for the two day conference.

The theme of this year's conference was "Strengthening Tribal Safety and Justice through Partnerships." The keynote speaker was Troy Eid, the Chairman of the Indian Law & Order Commission, who spoke, via video about the importance of Alaska's Tribes to assert their own jurisdiction and manage their own affairs locally. Other presenters and panelists included Senators Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski, Representative Bob Herron, and representatives from the Alaska Native Justice Center, University of Alaska- Fairbanks, Native American Rights Fund, Alaska Legal Services, Alaska State Troopers and the AVCP Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Department. There was heavy emphasis on village safety and on strengthening compliance with the ICWA. Finally, the conference hosted, for the first time, a Community Café, addressing the ways in which child welfare processes can improve.

Each participant received the special program book which included the Indian Law & Order Commission Report—Alaska Chapter; Tribal Court Bench Cards from Judge David Avraham Voluck (Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Tribal Court), and the AVCP Tribal Court Directory.

The conference was planned by the AVCP Tribal Justice Department and was supported by several sponsors, including Calista Corporation and Bethel Native Corporation.

Natalie Landreth presenting at the Tribal Court Conference

Mike Williams Sr. (Akiak), John Phillip Sr. (Kongiganak) and Jimmy Larson (Oscarville) during the Community Café discussion at the Tribal Court Conference.

BRHS Dancers performing during the convention.

Yupiit Piciryarait Museum Recent and Upcoming Exhibitions

Upcoming exhibit:

Katie Baldwin—Kwethluk Children's Home

Katrina Baldwin Basile will exhibit "Kwethluk Children's Home" from June 12, 2014 through the end of August, 2014. Ms. Basile has spent over 6 years researching the long-abandoned Kwethluk Children's Home, which served as an orphanage and temporary shelter for many children from the mid-1920's until it closed in the 1970's. A community reception for the exhibit opening is planned for Wednesday, June 11 at 6 pm at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center in Bethel. A community potluck will be scheduled, and Katie will have a special gift for those former residents who have helped Ms. Basile in her 6 years of research.

Recent Exhibit:

Aggravated Organizms

With Artists Drew Michael & Elizabeth Ellis

Aggravated Organizms is a collaborative art project by Alaska Native artists Drew Michael and Elizabeth Ellis, which confronts the most prevalent and sensitive diseases in Alaska, asking the viewer to engage in a conversation about a subject often seen as sensitive or taboo. The show consists of five 4-foot masks mounted on metal frames that represent cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, depression.

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http://www.facebook.com/yupikmuseum

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Association of Village Council Presidents

Mission Statement

Yuut aturyukngaitnek paivciluni ikayurluki yuungnaqlerkaitnek cali allat yuut aturyukngait ellmegnek piyugngarillerkaitnek makut yuut atuqekngait. Yuuyarait piciryarait-llu pingiinallerkaakun ellmegnek, ukut nunat ilakluki.

Provides human development, social services, and other culturally relevant programs for the people, to promote self-determination, protection and enhancement of our culture and traditions through a working partnership with member villages of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.