



Association of Village Council Presidents

Qanemcit Newsletter

March 2017



President's Message

Vivian Korthuis

Chief Executive Officer

Busy Spring Time

The days are getting longer on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. With the longer days, we are making time to do springtime activities. As people spend time at favorite fishing holes, or going out on the ice to hunt, or taking time to get wood, spring is a busy time of the year getting ready for summer. People are traveling between villages for festivals, potlaches and celebrations. Parents and extended family are also traveling to support and watch high school basketball games and students are making plans to graduate in May. All these activities center around our community and family ties,

and are important for our Tribal Members and AVCP staff around the region. The Camai Festival is also a good time to renew these ties not only in our region, but across the State of Alaska. Spring time is a busy time for AVCP as well with our programs in full-swing, trainings, and meetings. Be safe traveling on the river and ocean, and make sure you let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back home. Spring time is a busy time.

Tribal Compacting of Child Welfare Services

AVCP has joined the Tribal Caucus to prepare to negotiate with the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children's Services to compact child welfare services. The Alaska Federation of Natives is facilitating the organizing of the Tribes to prepare for negotiations. AVCP is preparing for negotiations by identifying a negotiating team and lead negotiators, gathering information and preparing to attend the first Tribal Caucus meetings scheduled for April 18 & 19, 2017 in Anchorage. Myra Munson, a former partner of Sonosky, Chambers, Sasche, Miller and Munson, has been selected as the facilitator and drafter to guide this process. The negotiations will continue this spring and summer to be completed by this Fall. Signing of the compact between the State of Alaska and the Tribal Caucus is scheduled for some time between October 18-21, 2017 during the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage.

Inuit Circumpolar Conference Education Think Tank

The Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska (ICC-Alaska) is sponsoring an 'Education Think Tank' in Bethel on April 11-12, 2017. This is a grant funded project with 23 invited participants from around the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. I have held a seat on the ICC Board for AVCP for the past several years. AVCP has been assisting with the preparations for this event. The meeting in Bethel is the last meeting of a series of 4 meetings held in Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome. The workshop will allow for discussions on Inuit education in six key areas: 1) Indigenization of education frameworks 2) Education policy influence 3) Culture based curriculum 4) Inuit language education 5) Educational leadership capacity 6) Traditional parenting skills. This work will be guided and translated into an action plan for self-determination in education in our region along with those workshops in the other 3 regions already completed.

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

The Lower Yukon Tribal Caucus will discuss the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (formed in 2014) on April 10 in St. Mary's. AVCP is partnering with YDFDA to coordinate this meeting. Both AVCP and YDFDA will be providing travel assistance and logistics for Tribal representatives as well as meeting location support in St. Mary's. Notices have been sent out to Tribes on the Lower Yukon to identify 2-3 representatives to attend the meeting. A draft agenda will include a presentation from Stephanie Quinn-Davidson with the Yukon Fish Commission and time for the Tribes to discuss issues related to the Lower Yukon Fish Commission.

Again, thank you for the opportunity you have given me and I look forward to working with everyone.

Quyana, *Vivian Korthuis*



AVCP Executive Board with AVCP Administrators, Employees at the most recent Executive Board meeting

Executive Board Corner

March 20th was the first day of Spring, but here in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, we are still enjoying the “good” weather keeping the rivers frozen and open for use. Even though warm weather will be slow to arrive, work at AVCP is moving ahead full-steam, and your Executive Board is happy for the opportunity to reach out to you about our work over the last three months.

First, we would like to welcome Peter Andrew (Unit 4), who joined the Executive Board on January 13th, and Wasillie Pleasant (Unit 6), who joined the Executive Board on March 21st. Peter brings years of experience from serving on Tribal Councils. Wasillie brings knowledge and expertise from his experiences of being a VPSO, Tribal Council President, and LKSD School Board Member. We are privileged to work with both Peter and Wasillie.

The Executive Board met in January of this year to begin strategic planning and continues to oversee critical quality improvement projects, which began in 2016. The E-board also focused on Natural Resources in our region, and scheduled a meeting with the Waterfowl Conservation Committee (WCC) that took place on March 20th in Bethel.

In February, our Chairman, Raymond Watson, and CEO, Vivian Korthuis, traveled to Juneau for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Leadership, meeting with the leadership of Calista Corporation, CVRF, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, AVCP RHA, and YKHC. The purpose of this meeting was to strengthen working relationships in our region and address the challenges facing the YK-Delta with a united front.

This March the E-board met for two days to begin strategic planning to keep AVCP aligned with its vision and purpose and keep the organization moving forward. Details of our plan to illicit feedback from members will be forthcoming shortly. As our Traditional Chief, Peter Moore, said on the first day of the retreat, “We must plan if we want AVCP to be here for the next 50 years.” Taking our Chief's words to heart, the Executive Board is dedicated to ensuring that AVCP will be here for the next 50 years and beyond.



Article and Photo courtesy of Alaska Business Monthly

Western Alaska Leaders Unite to Discuss Key Issues in Juneau

ANCHORAGE, AK – Representatives from leading organizations in Western Alaska assembled in Juneau last week for a working session to continue the process of fostering stronger working relationships for the benefit of the region. The trip, which took place in Juneau between February 13-14, also included meetings with legislators and state officials which gave the organizations an opportunity to speak with a unified voice on critical issues affecting the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

The organizations, consisting of Calista Corporation, Coastal Villages Region Fund, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, AVCP Regional Housing Authority, and Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, first met together as a working group in March 2016 in Bethel. The purpose of the regional working group is to build on the topics that bind the region together and develop cooperative efforts focused on high-level issues for the benefit of the region as whole.

“We are a diverse collection of organizations, all with varied issues that concern our individual entities,” said Andrew Guy, President and CEO of Calista Corporation. “While we understand that the challenges facing our region are too numerous for the group to address effectively, we are all working together to protect the fair treatment of Western Alaska and rural Alaska as a whole.”

“This cooperative effort is extremely important to the economic and social health of our region,” said Richard Jung, CVRF Chairman. “I look forward to future meetings of the group and like Andrew, I know we will continue to work together on common ground topics.”

The work session included discussions about the proposed limited-power energy borough concept and identifying fair and equitable solutions for the State’s fiscal concerns. These priorities were then shared by the working group in joint meetings with legislators as well as Governor Walker and members of his administration.

“The people of our region rely on us as leaders to get in front of issues,” said Vivian Korthuis, AVCP CEO. “We must not only work together within our region but also work as a cohesive unit across the State.”

The group plans to hold formal meetings again in September of 2017. In the interim, the group will continue to work together and communicate about key topics.



2017 Annual VPSO Regional Training

Every year the Yukon-Kuskokwim Village Public Safety Officers attend a Regional Training session for re-certification courses on essential safety skills such as defensive tactics, basic first-aid, taser training and water rescue. The 2017 Annual AVCP VPSO training was held at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Learning Center in Bethel from February 26th to March 4th, 2017. A new course was introduced at the YK Fitness Center swimming pool, the VPSOs learned water rescue and safety along with how to safely staying afloat and cold water survival techniques.



Do you want to be a VPSO? Apply online or call today!

The responsibilities of a VPSO include: Basic Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Response, Fire Protection Services, Coordination of Search and Rescue Operations, Emergency Response and Preparedness, Public Safety Education and Community Policing.

Learn more about VPSOs: <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/AST/VPSO>

VPSOs must adapt to rapidly changing situations; Deal with people in tense situations where relations may be strained and frequently interact with the public in a small, close-knit community.

VPSOs in the YK Delta are AVCP employees. Salary \$52,561.60+ DOE. Excellent benefits including 12 paid holidays and 18 days of personal leave in the first year; employer-paid health insurance and retirement plan with employer contribution after 90 days of service.

Apply online at www.avcp.org or contact AVCP's Human Resources at (800) 478-3521 for application materials or further questions.



Indian Country Energy & Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG)

Photos courtesy of U.S. Dept of Energy, Office of Indian Energy

Quarterly meeting Oscarville site visit

The ICEIWG and the DOE Office of Indian Energy conducted a quarterly meeting in Anchorage, Alaska on March 2, 2017 and a site visit to Oscarville on March 3. ICEIWG is comprised of reservation leaders who provide advice and recommendations to the Director of the DOE Office of Indian Energy and the Secretary of Energy with respect to the strategic planning and implementation of OIE's Energy Resource, Energy Business and Energy Infrastructure Development policies and programs.

AVCP is an ICEIWG member and volunteered to coordinate & host a site visit to the community of Oscarville. It was a great visit! The Tribal Administrator, Tribal Council and community provided a warm welcome with a hot meal of moose soup, baked salmon, dry fish, and various types of Akutaq (Eskimo Ice Cream). The Tribal Administrator along with Holistic Approach partners (Cold Climate Housing Research, Alaska Native Tribal Health Center, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative) provided an eye opening tour of Rural Alaskan life where basic infrastructure is lacking.



The members of ICEIWG were grateful for the rural Alaska site visit to see firsthand the challenges our communities face. AVCP's goal with this visit was to educate ICEIWG members of rural Alaska conditions so that ICEIWG Representatives throughout the nation can provide informed advice and recommendations to the Director of the Office of Indian Energy and Secretary of Energy.





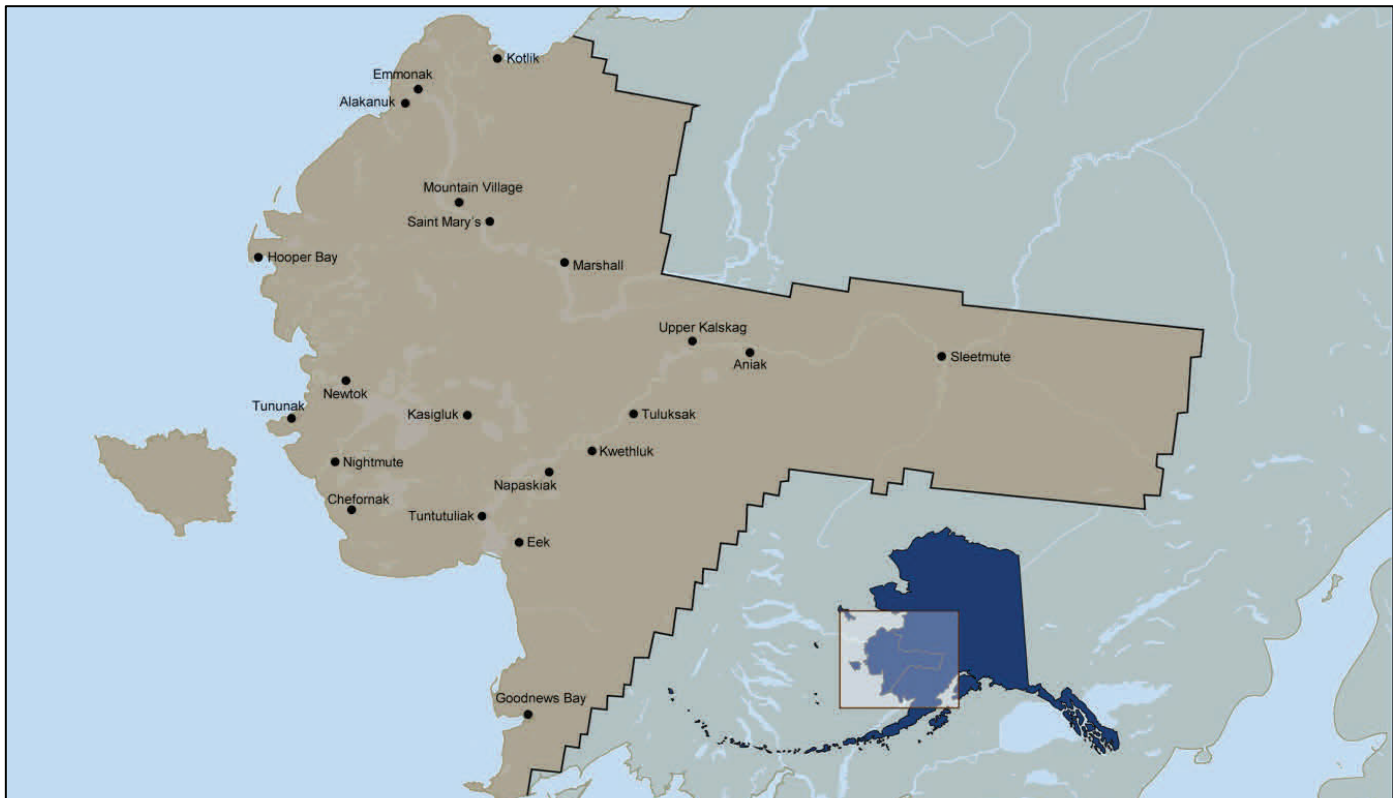
Tribal Workforce Development training for village-based TWD Specialists—March 21, 2017

Tribal Workforce Development Department Update

AVCP is pleased to announce that our Tribal Workforce Development Department has opened 16 of the planned 21 regional Tribal Job Centers so far this year! The goal of these job centers is to assist the people of the region to find employment and training opportunities (*see welding workshop on page 7*) and improve the workforce readiness of our region’s young people. In addition to assisting people in finding employment and training opportunities, the 21 village-based Tribal Job Centers will provide professional development workshops, introductory computer skills training, vocational training, higher education application and scholarship assistance, internship opportunities, and access to GED programs.

A job skills bank is also being created that will be a resource for the region’s employers and residents looking for employment. The skillsets of job seekers will be added to a resource center where employers can seek qualified candidates for open positions.

The planned location of the 21 Tribal Job Centers:





Welding workshops

AVCP and Yuut Elitnaurviat are working together to teach 12 tribal members from Hooper Bay, Hamilton, Tuntutuliak, Oscarville, Kotlik and Nunam Iqua to become certified welders and carpenter's apprentices. Offering WELD 101-103 at the Yuut Elitnaurviat Learning Center in Bethel from February to May 2017, which will guarantee work with AVCP Transportation projects in the future.



Small Mask-Making workshop with Mike McIntyre

A group of local community members and artists attended a small-mask making workshop instructed by Mike McIntyre, a Yup'ik carver from the Yukon-Kuskokwim region, at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center in Bethel, Alaska on January 27th through the 29th, 2017. The participants had three days to learn the basics of mask-making, where they learned the processes to design and carve their own masks. The workshop was such a success that many of them asked and urged us to have more classes and workshops on mask-making in the future. The event was sponsored by AVCP Artist Workshop through a grant by the CIRI Foundation. We thank you for making this opportunity possible and the culture and traditions of Yup'ik mask-making to be passed onto other people.

Natural Resources Department Update



Since returning in September 2016, Jennifer Hooper, AVCP's Natural Resources Department Director has been busy working on a host of issues – from fish commission support to a forestry project on the Yukon.

Following is a list of specific meetings attended and projects worked on to date: IPCoMM (statewide marine mammal co-management council), Hazardous Fuels Project in Pilot Station – Phase II, Alaska Beluga Whale Commission (ABWC), AFN Subsistence Committee, State Fish & Game Advisory Committee's, Yukon River Panel, Alaska Board of Game, Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Committee Native Caucus, Yukon Salmon Regional Planning Team (RPT), AVCP's Waterfowl Conservation Committee (WCC)

The HFR project in Pilot Station hired 9 crew members in late October/November. They were able to increase the existing fuel break around the community by another 100 feet in roughly 3 weeks' time during November. Plans for 2017 include returning to Pilot Station in early fall to burn the 170+ piles of cut brush and grass.

The Waterfowl Conservation Committee held its first meeting in over a year on March 20, 2017 at AVCP. The meeting included presentations and discussion on everything from harvest assessment programs statewide, seasonal work opportunities for rural youth, population estimates to updates on the new emperor goose hunts approved by the federal and state agencies. AVCP plans to get the WCC back on schedule with a regular spring and fall meeting cycle.

With assistance from AVCP's Legal Department, Natural Resources has been focusing efforts on providing the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission continued financial and legal support and determining what capacity building should look like from within. With several staff and offices not as familiar with the Natural Resources "arena" there has been emphasis on educating and introducing key topics that need or will need attention in the future.

Finally, there is way too much work for one person to handle in this department. AVCP is currently advertising for additional staff in Natural Resources to allow us to focus more attention on issues of critical importance to our region. If you or anyone you know is interested you can view the job posting on the AVCP website, or contact Jennifer Hooper at 543-7341.

Upcoming NR-related events, issues and meetings:

- ✦ Lower Yukon Tribal Fisheries gathering – April 10 in St. Mary's
 - ✦ AFN Subsistence Committee Workshops – tentatively scheduled for April 20th and May 18th
 - ✦ Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission – scheduled for March 28-29
 - ✦ AMBCC Statewide Spring Meeting – April 3-6
 - ✦ AYK-SSI Proposal Approvals – April 14
 - ✦ YRDFA Annual Meeting, Yukon Pre-season Planning and RPT Public Outreach Meeting – April 18-21
- Coast Guard Port Access Route Study (PARS) for Chukchi and Bering Seas and Bering Strait (comments are due May 30, 2017)



Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting on March 20, 2017

Education Employment & Training Department - Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program

AVCP EET/CC Department now has a Johnson O'Malley program to serve those AVCP JOM Compacted villages. Below is a brief description of the program and how it operates.

Johnson O'Malley programs offered to American Indian and Alaska Native students vary and may include such programs as culture, language, academics and dropout prevention. JOM funds may be used to provide supplementary financial assistance to meet the unique and specialized educational needs of Indian children. Johnson-O'Malley funds are not to take the place of federal, state or local funds.

Eligible applicants are Tribal organizations, Indian Corporations, School Districts or States with eligible American Indian and Alaska Native children attending their schools or public school districts that have established Indian Education Committees to approve supplementary support programs that benefit American Indian and Alaska Native students. The Local Indian Education Committee (LIEC) is an elected governing body comprised of parents of eligible Indian students. The local Alaska Native/American Indian parents who serve on the local school board in your village would be considered the "committee". Persons acting in "loco parentis" (assuming the "place of the parents", such as legal guardians or parents of adopted children) may also serve except school officials or school administrators.

Eligible American Indian and Alaska Native students are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe or at least one-fourth or more degree of Indian blood descendant of a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribal government eligible for services from the Bureau. In addition, eligibility requires these children be between the age of 3 through grades 12, with priority given to children residing on or near an Indian Reservation.

Program Services and Activities

The supplemental JOM programs and activities include academic support, teacher support and educational support items. Funds may be used for academic remediation, tutoring, preschool programs, gifted programs, summer school classes, cultural enrichment, field trips, transportation, and school supplies. Academic remediation is usually carried out during the school year, in or out of the school setting.

Once proposals are approved by their local school board (committee) interested organizations/schools may submit proposals to AVCP Employment, Training and Child Care Department, ATTN: Evelyn Pensgard, Director (epensgard@avcp.org). For more information you may call 543-7481



Beverly Turner. EET Case Manager instructing Tribal Workforce Development Specialists

Upcoming Events:

Holiday—Seward's Day March 27, 2017

Edward J. Curtis Photography Exhibition—March—May 2017

Camai Dance Festival—March 31st—April 2, 2017

Tribal Administrator Training—April 4—7, 2017

Healthy Families Workshop—April 4—7, 2017

Inuit Circumpolar Conference Decolonization Summit – April 11—12, 2017

Healthy Families Workshop—May 2—5, 2017

Tribal Judge Workshop—May 9—11, 2017

Tribal Justice Clerk of Court Training—May 17—19, 2017

Healthy Families Workshop—May 23—26, 2017

Holiday—Memorial Day—May 29, 2017



AVCP Yupit Piciryarit Museum presents
Edward J Curtis Photographs

From the John Bradbury collection

March—May 2017 Tuesday to Thursday from 12PM—4PM