

QANEMCIT

April 2019

Nunaput umyuallgutkut pinirluteng-llu, Tegganerput qigcikluk pirpakluki-llu, ayagyuaput-llu ciuliqagcimaut yuuyarakun.

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President's Letter



Waqaa.

First, I must congratulate our own Pete Kaiser, the first Yup'ik person from our region to win the Iditarod. I could not be happier for Pete and his family. It is so exciting to think that future generations of dog sled racers will have Pete Kaiser as their role model. It is important for our youth to see their own faces in roles they are reaching for, as they pursue their own dreams.

For our people to keep reaching for their goals, many fundamental needs have to be in place in our communities. The top regional priority of the tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwin Delta is public safety. As the voice of the region, AVCP has been asked in the past few weeks to share the efforts of our organization in addressing our public safety crisis. Our Public Safety Facilities Assessment, Public Safety Summit, and Statewide Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Strategic plan are becoming useful in leading the statewide conversation around rural public safety, especially in the face of the Governor's proposed budget cuts.

Before Governor Dunleavy announced his proposed budget for 2020, and before the statewide 2019 Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program was cut by \$3 million, our Public Safety Facilities Assessment made it clear that 88% of our communities do not have a Village Public Safety Officer presence. If 88% of Anchorage were unprotected, there would be an uproar. The Executive Board and I remain hopeful that this radical budget cut proposal will result in a conversation that highlights how we can move toward more equitable resource distribution in rural Alaska. At the very least, this question must remain central: what is the State's role in the lives of rural Alaskans?

If you think about public safety as a bus (and it is definitely a bus that is moving), I think we need to change our mindset from being the passenger on the bus to the driver of the bus. We need a complete model of public safety, made to fit our region. Martha Whitman-Kassock, Program Administrator, is leading the internal Public Safety Task Force of AVCP staff. This task force will build on the work she championed last summer that resulted in the Statewide VPSO Strategic Plan, Public Safety Facilities Assessment, and the Public Safety Summit in Bethel, all within 2018.

For my part, I have been engaging "drivers" at the state and federal level. A week ago, in Juneau, I provided testimony at a hearing of the new Alaska House Tribal Affairs Special Committee chaired by our own Representative Tiffany Zulkosky. My testimony was followed by our new Commissioner of Public Safety, Amanda Price, who is closely looking at structural changes within the VPSO Program.

Alarmingly, the Governor's proposed budget does not limit itself to reducing public safety funding. AVCP is devoting time to understand and communicate the impacts of all budget cuts to our region. Those things that are essential to all communities, like education and jobs, are being

President's Letter (cont.)

touched by the debate occurring around the state fiscal crisis. In this process, it's going to be critical to voice opinions about the role of the state in our lives.

The Governor, Senate and House of Representatives need to hear from all of us. They need insight into our daily lives and how their decisions will affect our lives, especially regarding: early childhood education, adult education, legal assistance, power costs and social services (such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program). Please utilize all forms of communication to give your voice the most impact and reach possible. If you need help spreading your voice, we would be happy to help. We will figure out a way to make your voice heard.

I look forward to speaking to you in greater detail on our next All Units Quarterly Teleconference.

Quyana,



Vivian Korthuis

CEO



Employee Spotlight



Monica Charles Guardian ad Litem

Monica Charles, yuugtun Naucetaaq cali-Illu Nayakaq, is the only Alaska Native Guardian ad Litem (GAL) in Alaska. She was born and raised in Bethel. Her parents are from Nunapitchuk and Nayak, but she has family “all over the Kuskokwim river.”

Monica started working as a GAL about four years ago, nearly one year being the only GAL working at AVCP. Monica patiently built the framework for the GALs’ within the Legal Department, starting with basically nothing; no processes and procedures and used office supplies. Working as a GAL, Monica spends a lot of time traveling throughout Alaska, but she wishes she had more time to visit the children she works with, where they live. 40% of the children in the State are in need of services GALs’ provide, so she is able to clearly see and feel the need for her time and knowledge.

Before working for AVCP, Monica worked in elementary education for the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) on and off since 1997, while starting her master’s degree in Special Education. She also served as the chairperson for the Alaska Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Partnership for 10 years. Aside from her duties as a GAL, Monica spends personal time raising awareness and educating people about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), as well as diagnosis. Monica was also proud to mention her upcoming trip to Australia to raise awareness about FASD. She will be traveling to four aboriginal communities throughout Australia in a team of five FASD advocates and specialists.

When Monica has free time, she enjoys spending it with her family, and keeping up with her traditional hobbies like berry picking (her favorite berries are salmon berries and blackberries), sewing, fishing (prefers Silver and Red Salmon) and preparing moose meat!



Growing Our Own

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Department

Time Studies

Thanks to Amelia Rivera, Tribal Title IV-E Coordinator with the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, for coming to meet our new ICWA staff! She came to discuss leveraging funds, time studies, reporting and moving forward with our Office of Children's Services (OCS).



QIP Updates

Cultural & Environmental Sciences Department

Partnership with Delta Backhaul Company

At no cost to the communities, Delta Backhaul Company collected thousands of pounds of household hazardous waste in Kwethluk, Akiachak, Atmautluak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Napakiak, Oscarville and Bethel. Hazardous waste is being stored in Bethel, to be shipped out of the region in the spring, to be responsibly processed.



ICWA Department Subregionalization

As part of the organization-wide Quality Improvement (QI) Process, our Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Department has been in the process of reimagining their services delivery model, towards subregional systems that draw upon the unique strengths of each compacted tribe.

The Emmonak subregion is now up and running and more ICWA subregions are in the planning stages. Next steps include site visits to each community, to identify office spaces and build a resource guide of local, culturally relevant services.

Dalarie Peters, Community Family Service Specialist (CFSS) Subregional Manager, says her team is “rolling out the final work plan activities ... in order to develop a service system that includes the development of program guidance, capacity-building and strengthening community engagement activities in child welfare and prevention work. This includes developing infrastructure for tribal courts, so that we may address child welfare issues in our communities before families are involved in the State child welfare system.”

On April 26 and 27, Alakanuk CFSS staff are hosting a prevention workshop. The workshop will include trainings, storytelling, school interaction, Eskimo dancing, galuqaq, and a youth dance finale.

Regional CFSS staff have recently been hired in the following communities.

- Emmonak, Fall 2018
- Aniak, Summer 2019
- Hopper Bay, Winter 2019
- Toksook Bay, Winter 2019

The planning team has been busy implementing and evaluating this new system. “We’re very optimistic that as our tribal leaders learn about the subregionalization of child welfare services, that our team



increases to more people wanting to help us succeed,” says Dalarie.

The planning team is made up of staff from across several of our departments, including:

1. ICWA
2. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
3. Healthy Families
4. Tribal Workforce Development
5. Information Technology
6. Tribal Justice

“This is important to us because we feel that we have cultural strength and wisdom that has kept our culture alive for time immemorial and that once it’s incorporated into the child welfare system, that our families will be stronger, and we meet our mission and vision of the AVCP ICWA Department,” says Dalarie. “By utilizing the strength of our communities, we assume the responsibility of teaching our younger generations the meaning of yuuyaraq. Our culture is vital to our survival and we can continue to rely on each other to take care of each other.”

Natural Resources



Waterfowl Conservation Committee Meeting

Next meeting:

August 29, 2019 in Bethel, AK

Due to the recent federal government shutdown, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services was unable to publish the 2019 subsistence regulations, which included two changes that were passed in 2018.. As a result, last season's regulations are still in place. Therefore, the 30-day window to start the mandatory closures starts June 1 and the Cackling Goose closure will still be 45 days instead of 30.

Speckled Eider

Harvest is still closed because they are threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (closed in 1991) U.S. Fish & Wildlife will be tracking them to determine where they are wintering and trying to get world-wide winter population estimates. The tracking project is one year old, and will continue for 2 more years. In 2020, the fws will be evaluating their status and review the ESA listing.

Black Duck

U.S. Fish & Wildlife's populations survey concluded that their numbers have remained consistent over the last 10 years. A full update will be presented in the fall.

Motion passed to retain WCC Chair as the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) primary representative, and the AVCP Natural Resources Director as the alternate.

Helicopter Proposal

Helicopters will be used to assist with the capture of Cackling Geese, to band and track them in order to calculate harvest rates, survival rates, abundance and distribution of harvested birds.

Continued on next page...

March 14, 2019

Present:

Chief, Peter Moore

Second Chief, Edward Adams, Sr.

At-Large, Raymond Watson

Unit 1, Mary Ann Mike

Unit 2, Ruth Riley

Unit 3, Julia Dorris

Unit 4, Peter J. Andrew

Unit 5, James Paul

Unit 6, Wassillie Pleasant

Unit 7, Joseph Joseph

Unit 8, Marcella White

Unit 9, Roy J. Atchak

Unit 10, Joshua Cleveland

Unit 11, Robert Hoffman

Unit 13, Michael J. James

Natural Resources

Emperor Goose

In order to get a better idea of where they winter, population linkages to Russia, to generate population estimates and determine summer locations of juveniles, Emperor Geese will be monitored using transmitters that have up to a 4-year battery life (juveniles are 1-2 years).

Please report bird bands if you shoot them.

It is not illegal to harvest banded birds. U.S. Fish & Wildlife asks for their capture to be reported because the data is highly important.

Lead Shot Compliance

Although they are legally sold in stores, it is illegal to use lead shot when hunting waterfowl, in both Alaska and the Lower 48. In the Yukon Delta, hunting with lead shots is prohibited on federal lands for hunting of all birds.

Community Subsistence Harvest Surveys

Please respond to requests sent by U.S. Fish & Wildlife at the beginning of the year, asking tribal councils to either accept or deny the ability to hire a community member to help collect information on the amount of birds our region harvest. This information helps to more accurately represent the importance of the subsistence harvest of migratory birds in communities across Alaska.

For more information, please contact Chris Tulik, Refuge Information Technician Supervisor, at 907-543-1037.



Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) in Bethel, AK

ICC Alaska kicked off with the Youth, Elder, Active Hunter & Gatherer Workshop for Food Sovereignty and Self Governance in Bethel, Alaska, this February.

The project was co-developed with the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Fisheries Joint Management Council (Inuvialuit Settlement Region) and the Eskimo Walrus Commission (Alaska), the Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska (ICC Alaska) and Environmental Law Institute (ELI). Since the development of the project, the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission (Alaska).



Event Recap

Setting Priorities for Health, Social and Economic Disruptions from Spills in Alaska: Learning from the Past and Preparing for the Future

Jan. 20-21, 2019

Organized by SeaGrant Alaska

John Orr, Natural Resources Specialist, was an influential participant in the two-day workshops.

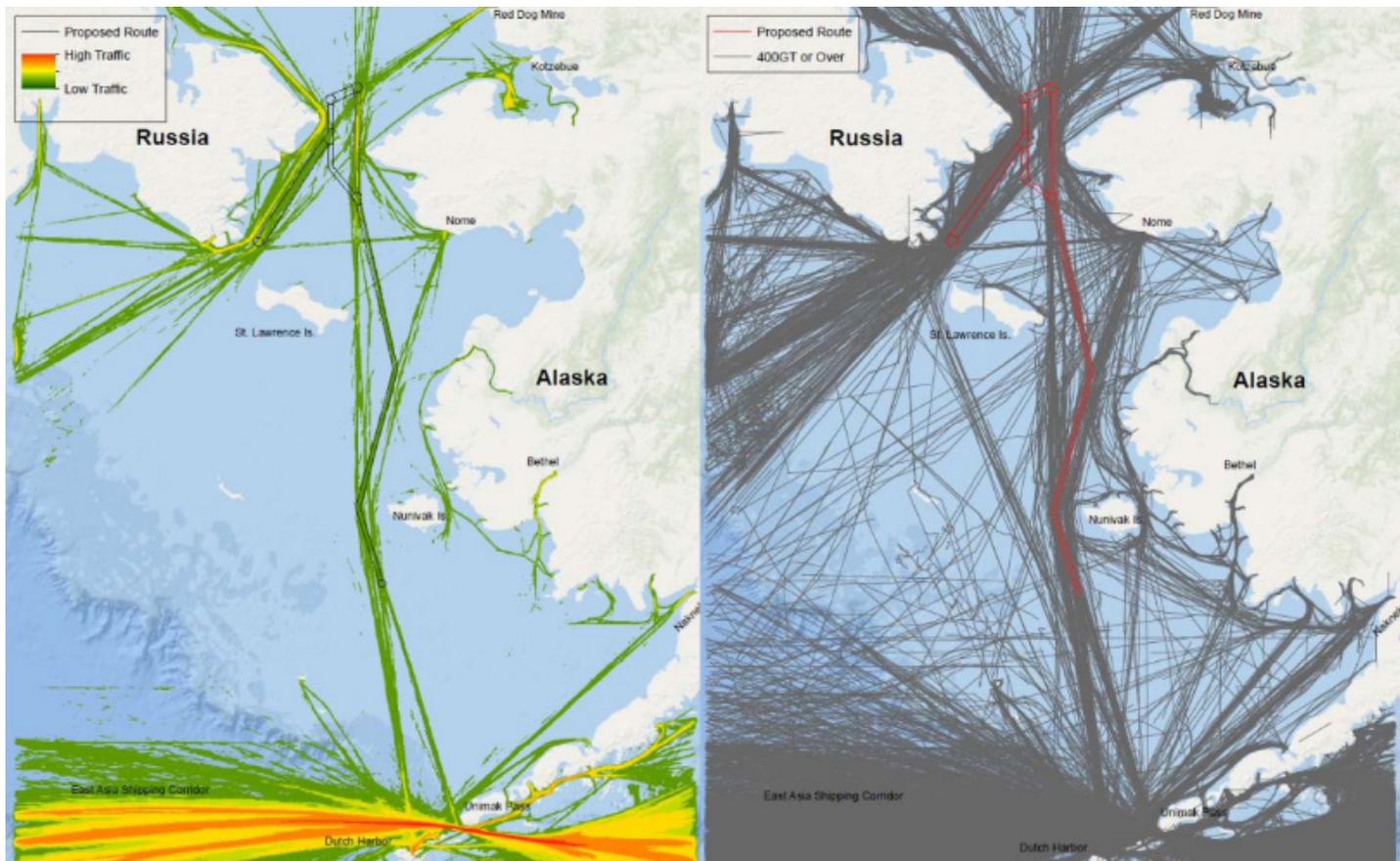
Recently, the Coast Guard voiced concerns of expected increase in vessel traffic in the Bering Sea. The shipping route gets nearly 50 miles from Nunivak Island.

“Hey we are here, and we want to be prepared for a possible oil spill even larger than that of Exxon Valdez,” says John.

A large portion of attendees were firstresponders

on the ground at the time of Exxon Valdez. They shared some lessons they learned and best practices to prepare for another spill if it were to occur in the Bering Strait.

John hopes to attend the 1st meeting in Fairbanks with the Alaska Regional Response Team.



Event Recap

Careers in the Intelligence Community

March 28, 2019

Organized in Partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigations & Tribal Workforce Development

The Tribal Workforce Development team invited students attending the Kuskokwim University Campus (KUC), and Kuskokwim Learning Academy (KLA), to learn about careers in the intelligence community, presented by Andrew F. Vail, III.

Most recently, Andy Vail was the Deputy Director for Operations Support at NCTC. The Director of Operations Support (DOS) provides around-the-clock support to NCTC and the broader counterterrorism community. DOS develops and rapidly disseminates terrorism situational awareness

intelligence, facilitates information sharing, enables NCTC operations through crisis management and response planning, manages NCTC exercise and special event support, and coordinates Intelligence Community support to international special events on behalf of the Director of National Intelligence. The Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team, in close collaboration with and through the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, provides intelligence support to state, local, and tribal law enforcement, fire safety, health, and private sector organizations nationwide.

Career & Resource Fairs

Napaskiak March 22, 2019

Kwethluk March 18, 2019





TRIBAL COURT

Master Series Training

Part I: Tribal Court Set-Up

The training is open for AVCP Member Tribal Court Judges, Clerks, Court Administrators and Tribal Council Members that act as Tribal Courts. Part 1 of this 4-Part Master Series Training will focus on the entirety of a Tribal Court set-up.

Travel Assistance

Travel, lodging and Per diem is provided for up to 60 of people from the AVCP tribes if necessary. AVCP will provide assistance for up to 2 people from each community with precedence given to tribal court staff.

If AVCP is not able to offer travel assistance, the tribe or individual will be responsible for paying travel, lodging and per diem. Space is limited.

Registration is due April, 1st, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

Trainings are open for whomever would like to join.

April 16-17, 2019
Bethel, AK



907.543.8550



tribal-justice@avcp.org

Attention TANF Clients!

Call or visit an AVCP Job Center to apply to be a Census Taker!

Your Census wages will not affect your TANF benefits, thanks to a partnership between the Tribal Workforce Development Department and the U.S. Census Bureau!

If you pass the background check you'll be paid \$25.00/hour for training and \$28.00/hour for work. The Census Bureau will also pay for gas while you work!

