



Association of Village Council Presidents

Qanemcit

Spring 2018



Vivian Korthuis
Chief Executive Officer

Waqaa. The year is flying by, with so many events and activities taking place across the Y-K Region. I hope that you've had the opportunity to enjoy time in the community over the last couple of months, from the Kuskokwim 300 to the Cama-i Dance Festival this past weekend.

Things are busy at AVCP as well. We are working to fulfill our commitment to connect with you more often – and provide more outlets for you to share your ideas, concerns and questions with us. There are multiple opportunities underway and others coming up soon, and we hope you will consider joining the conversations.

Building a prosperous and resilient regional economy is an important topic for us all. We would love to hear from you about the economic opportunities,

priorities and barriers you see, for your communities and the Y-K region as a whole. Sub-regional meetings are underway, but if you were not able to attend in your area, you can still provide valuable feedback by taking our economic survey, open through April 6.

In the area of child welfare, AVCP hosted the first sub-regional meeting in Emmonak. Collaboration was a major theme running through our discussions as participants introduced new ideas and recommendations. We will continue bringing people, organizations and services together to find new ways of serving you and making lives better in our communities.

We also announced at the meeting that AVCP signed its first support, services and funding agreement under the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact. More detail follows in the newsletter, but the goal of this agreement – and those to come – is to keep our children with their families and in their tribes whenever possible, connected to their communities and cultures.

Thank you to all who have taken the time to share your feedback with us. All of it helps us learn how to serve you better. We have many more initiatives and events coming up in 2018, and we look forward to meeting and hearing from you.

Quyana,

Child Welfare Support Services (SSFA) Funding Agreement



Sub-Regional Child Welfare Services Meeting in Emmonak, Alaska on March 1, 2018

AVCP signed its first support, services, and funding agreement under the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, on March 1, 2018. This first SSFA will be focused on searching for relatives willing to be adoptive or foster families for children in custody. Our goal is to keep children with relatives or tribal members and connected to their culture whenever possible. We will also expand efforts to recruit ICWA preference foster homes in our region. We are working now to create the framework to allow us to perform quality relative searches and recruitment for our ICWA compact Tribes. We hope that other Tribes will join our ICWA compact to take advantage of all the services we can offer. We can also provide non-compact tribes with the information on how to participate individually in the next SSFA cycle.

The purpose of AVCP's Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program is to act on behalf of and in the best interest of Alaska Native children by meeting the requirements of the ICWA with a focus on protecting the tribes' rights under ICWA by keeping children safe, keeping families as intact as possible and preserving children's connections to their tribes and Alaska Native culture. The AVCP ICWA Program works with compacted tribes to protect their interests in state court child protection cases.

The ICWA program protects and maintains the integrity and rights of Alaska Native children, their families and tribes. If removal of a child from the home becomes necessary, this program works to ensure that the tribe's best interest in child wellbeing is protected. This is accomplished by representing the tribe in child protection proceedings, providing case management services and providing services to children, parents and guardians when involuntary custody hearings will lead to placement of children into a new family environment. The ICWA Program provides case management services and direct services to compacted tribes.

Services include:

- Intervention and attending court hearings, case staffing and planning meetings
- Full legal representation through Alaska Legal Services Corporation contracted attorneys
- Direct family services, such as counseling
- Performing home studies
- Identifying potential relative placements
- Tribal jurisdiction transfer assessment and support
- Family preservation
- Assistance securing other needed services

The ICWA Program provides initial and ongoing training to ICWA workers to develop an appropriate skill-base to administer and maintain tribal involvement and participation in Office of Child Services cases.

Child Welfare Sub-Regional Meeting - Emmonak

AVCP held the first Sub-Regional Child Welfare Services Meeting in the Emmonak City Complex on March 1, 2018.

AVCP representative traveling from Bethel to Emmonak included: Vivian Korthuis, CEO, Laurinda Weston-O'Brien, Tiwahe Coordinator, Nicholas Hoover, Program Administrator, Melanie Fredericks, Director of Healthy Families, Valerie Andrew, Director of ICWA, Irma Goodwine, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation, Maria Utteryuk, Director of Tribal Justice, and Azara Mohammadi, Public Relations Coordinator.

Community leaders of the Tribes of Hamilton, Kotlik, Bill Moore's Slough, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk and Chuloonawick were invited to participate. Bill Moore's Slough and Alakanuk were able to attend thanks to favorable weather conditions. Hamilton, Kotlik, Nunam Iqua and Chuloonawick were unable to travel.

In addition to ICWA and TANF attendees, participants from outside organizations included: Emmonak Women's Shelter, the State of Alaska, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF).

The purpose of this first meeting was to hear from the members of this sub-region, to gain input to direct future efforts. Vivian asked attendees to think about how they see child welfare services delivered now, and how AVCP can better provide services to create a greater impact on child welfare outcomes within the individual sub-region.

Annual Village Public Safety Officer Regional Training



AVCP CEO Vivian Korthuis and Program Administrator Martha Whitman-Kassock stand with Village Public Safety Officers during the Annual VPSO Regional Training. Owen Martin - Emmonak, Greg Larson - Napaskiak, Buford Kopanuk - Hooper Bay, Don Jones - Mekoryuk, John Pleasant - Bethel-based, Max Olick - Kwethluk, Edna Woods - VPSO Admin Assistant and Alvin Jimmie - VPSO Program Director.

On March 5, 2018, all Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) met in Bethel for their annual week-long training at Yuut Elitnaurviat. This is a rare, yearly opportunity to have all VPSOs in one location. They were greeted and briefed by AVCP CEO, Vivian Korthuis, and Program Administrator, Martha Whitman-Kassock.

During the week, AVCP Human Resources (HR) refreshed the VPSO on organization policies and procedures. Alaska State Troopers (AST) Personal also visited, with Cpt. Wilson and Sgt. Brent, who provided a status update and education on ARMS Information Management System report writing. Another update was provided by the District Attorney's Office.

Thursday, March 8, was day for the yearly physical testing. Mandatory statewide physical testing ensures that all VPSOs maintain the ability to meet the physical demands of their responsibilities.

Time was designated Tuesday morning to thoroughly review all criminal case reports still in progress. Wednesday morning was reserved for catching up on any cases or trainings for CC reports, followed by a discussion.

VPSOs adjourned Friday, March 9, after debriefing and a uniform and equipment status check.

Next year, VPSOs will attend a statewide training.

Employee Spotlight - Michael Wilcox, VPSO Pilot Station



AVCP has seen a recent increase in VPSO applicants, including Michael Wilcox, recently selected to become the Pilot Station VPSO. He is excited to attend the training academy for 15 weeks in Sitka. Originally, Michael is from Tok, or “outside of Tok.” His family owned a grocery store located between Tok and Glennallen, named Midway. He remembers that his mother, Christine Wilcox, and father, Thurman Wilcox (known as ‘Gene’) were very dedicated to their store. “They worked non-stop, super hard,” explains Michael. Michael attributes his unusual drive to the work ethic his parents modeled when he was young.

He also credits his daughter for inspiring his hard work. They even share a birthday – on Feb. 24, Michael will turn 26 years old, and Kynlie will turn three. “She’s a lot of the driving force behind my mindset, especially in the last few years,” he explains. In his early childhood, Michael was homeschooled by his family. Later, he attended Holy Rosary

Academy in Anchorage. At the age of 13, his parents divorced, and he moved with his mother, Christine, to her family’s farm in Mattoon, Illinois. Michael was familiar with the area because he had visited his grandmother several times.

In Illinois, Michael jumped into eighth grade in a new school. He always had “high hopes to go to college,” but said he “didn’t like the extras – prom and all that stuff,” that go along with high school. So, Michael went to summer school and graduated high school early to attend a local community college. He was disappointed. “It was kind of the same thing,” says Michael. His peers were partying and not taking things seriously. He thought “maybe this isn’t for me,” and since he was already working, he decided to put his “nose to the grindstone and make some money.” He was determined to save up and return to Alaska. “I wanted to come up here [Alaska]. It was just a money thing. It takes a lot,” he explained.

Michael started working at the age of 14, taking care of neighbors’ lawns. He earned enough to purchase his first car. Two years later, Michael got his first retail job at a farm and home store. He was 16 years old, but one job was not enough. As a second job, he started working for a lawncare company. Since he already had two years of experience, Michael was quickly promoted to the career foreman position. From there, he took another retail position as a sales associate, selling trailers and truck accessories. This was Michael’s last retail job. He received his commercial driver’s license (CDL) and began transporting grain. Later, with his CDL, he became an applicator. This work involved spreading fertilizer, and though he enjoyed the long hours during the busy season (working 90 to 100 hours a week), he did not have enough work to keep himself occupied during the off-season. Michael gets bored with busywork. So, he transitioned in to a different grain company, where he was happier, working a minimum of 12 hours a day, six days a week. There, he saved money. In 2017, he quit and said goodbye to his mother, who still lives in Mattoon, Illinois, still busyworking in a hospital emergency room.

Michael moved to Alaska, back home to Tok, where he purchased three acres with a small generator-powered dry cabin. Since he enjoys flying and is always busy doing something, Michael put himself through pilot school and received his student certificate in November.

Michael’s father, Gene, is a retired state trooper who was based in Aniak in the 1980s, and currently lives in Tok. “I was always around law enforcement,” says Michael.

As soon as Michael returned to Alaska, he applied for law enforcement positions. Troopers gave him a list of places to apply, but he only applied to AVCP because he saw Aniak and St. Mary's at the top of the list. "Dad landed there [in Aniak]," he said. "I did some research on the communities that I was already kind of familiar with."

Michael knows he has a lot to learn from Yup'ik culture. Of course, he will need help from the community of Pilot Station. He says, "I look forward to being involved in the village and getting kids and the younger generation actively involved in meaningful and helpful programs, if possible."

Employee Spotlight - Irma Goodwine, Vocational Rehabilitation Director



Irma Goodwine has a long history with AVCP and has served the region in several capacities. Originally, Irma is from Tununak. Her grandmother is from Umkumiut, located between Tununak and Toksook Bay. Her great grandfather originated from Poland. When her grandfather was regularly traveling to Umkumiut to conduct business, he met Irma's grandmother's parents (her great grandparents on her mother's side), who arranged a wedding between Irma's grandparents. Her parents are the late Edward Hooper and Theresa (Dull) Hooper.

At the age of 18, Irma went to Fairbanks to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), studying social work. After college, in October of 1992, Irma moved back to Bethel to work the night shift as an advocate at the Tundra Women's Coalition while taking courses during the day. After a year, she moved on to become a social worker for the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD). As part of her job, she travelled to Nightmute, Newtok, Toksook Bay and Mekoryuk; areas she was already familiar with.

In October of 1994, Irma married her husband. After 24 years of marriage, Irma says their secret is respect for one another, talking issues out like adults and teasing each other. They now have two daughters. Their oldest is 21 years-old. She loves animals and currently works as a pet groomer in Anchorage. She also loves to scare Irma and capture her surprised reactions on video. Irma's youngest daughter is 14 years-old and "eats, drinks and sleeps, basketball." Irma also enjoys basketball. And skydiving!

Irma says skydiving was the highlight of her younger life. She has jumped out of a plane twice. The first time she was only 22 years-old. At the time, she had met a friend in Girdwood who really wanted to try skydiving and wanted Irma to go along. So she did, and when she was two thousand feet in the air, in a two-passenger plane, zigzagging in the sky with a guy connected to her back, she thought, "I can't believe I'm doing this." When she was gliding down, Irma was surrounded by mountains which were very peaceful, so Irma had a great time. The second time Irma went skydiving, she was in Arizona with some people from Australia and having so much fun. She was so excited that she forgot to pull the shoot! Luckily, someone had her back (the person literally strapped to her back). He pulled the shoot for her, and he and Irma landed safely.

When Irma became pregnant with her first daughter, she decided she could not continue to travel as much as her position with LKSD required. So, in 1996, Irma took a position with the formally known Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), now called Office of Child Services (OCS), training foster parents and inspecting foster homes. Irma remembers the calls coming in for neglect and abuse.

In 1997, back before cell phones were ubiquitous, Irma was contacted by Pat Sampson and eventually ended up working under Pat at the AVCP Receiving Home. The Receiving Home closed its doors ten years ago, but it used to serve as a 24-hour facility that took care of foster children in need of foster homes. The hours were difficult, but Irma took the chance and promised Pat two years. “I thought that would be a good opportunity to work my way up the ladder,” she explains. Of course, Irma fulfilled her promise. Reflecting back on that time, Irma jokes, “Oh I hated that phone!”

During that time, Zack Brink was Vice President of AVCP. He approached Irma for the Vocational Rehabilitation Director position. “I had no clue what vocational rehabilitation was,” she says. “They gave me a desk, a chair and a couple of numbers to call.” She knew she had gained research skills in college and she was confident in herself, so she started making calls. Irma developed the successful program known today by working closely with the State of Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Program Counselor, Vickie Keele. They shared a lot of the same cases and with Vickie’s permission, Irma was able to use their forms and process as a model.

There are 83 tribal vocational rehabilitation programs in the nation. Every five years, Irma resubmits her grant proposal. When the five-year cycle rolls around, she is grateful for her experiences writing research papers in college. Within those proposals she argues for culturally appropriate services for her own people. “They don’t really realize how hard it is out there. We are very resilient. We have survived without electricity and junk food. They don’t realize that,” says Irma.

Through her department, Irma is able to assist with access to supplies and equipment as long as the person has a disability and wants to work or become productive in subsistence lifestyle. “In the vocational rehabilitation world, subsistence activities are considered employment outcome. You’re working hard,” explains Irma.

Irma finds her job to be very rewarding. She likes knowing that the program is assisting “unique individuals become more productive, either by working or through subsistence.” Her favorite part of her job is when she sees clients bringing in income and no longer require the program’s services.

To this day, Irma’s adventurous spirit is still strong. She likes those parts of her job which require traveling and building relationships with other agencies to gain more knowledge and tools. She likes to take what has been proven to work in other areas and modify them to make them fit the needs of the AVCP region. Right now she is excited about the new Quality Improvement Process (QIP). Even though it is a lot of work, she has seen a lot of progress.

IT Update - Office 365 Phase II



The IT Department is now entering Phase II of the Microsoft Office 365 rollout. All administrative departments will soon have Office 365 installed on their computers, allowing them to collaborate with the departments already using Office 365 from Phase I. Department included in Phase I include Education Employment Training and Child Care (EET&CC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Tribal Workforce Development (TWD) and Communications.

TWD has been using Office 365 to hold Skype meetings with village-based staff and other organizations, including the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP), Calista Corporation and the State of Alaska. Today, March 19, 2018, TWD is holding an all-staff meeting which will include a quick demonstration and training on both Teams and Skype.

Yvonne Jackson, Director of TWD, is very excited about Office 365 because it improves communication. “It’s a good tracking tool for documents because you get to see who worked on something last,” she says. She also says the applications “work like magic” on her phone, and the notifications help her respond instantly.

TANF has found the file sharing abilities under the Teams applications very useful. Now, under Teams, case managers can go to find the tools they use regularly, including monthly report forms, client work activity sheets and support service requests. Joseph Hunter, Case Manager Supervisor, says it is easy to upload forms. He recently added TANF’s structured decision-making policies and procedure in Teams, along with some forms like referral forms for other AVCP services such as Healthy Families and Vocational Rehabilitation. When case managers call Joseph for a form, now he just points to their location in Office 365 Teams.

According to Joseph, the village-based staff are happy with Office 365, and he says it makes work a lot easier. “Some of the ladies have been chatting on there. They’re saying go over there, you can find the forms over here.” says Joseph, referring to Yammer, a Microsoft application that works like a chat board. Employees across locations can stay in touch easily and get answers quickly.

The IT Department stresses that all staff should copy all files that have been previously stored on the AVCP drives to OneDrive.

Quarterly Teleconference - Q2



On March 8, 2018, AVCP held its second all-units Quarterly Teleconference. Vivian Korthuis, CEO, provided a summary of AVCP’s 2018 goals and the Quality Improvement Process (QIP). Under the direction of the Executive Board, the ongoing QIP will help us increase the quality of services to the Yukon- Kuskokwim Delta. Our dedicated focus to improving the service delivery model includes “right-sizing the programmatic ship,” a restructuring process for AVCP and an effort to develop our administrative arm, increasing the stability of the organization as a whole. So far, the redesigning and refining of the administrative departments includes building up the Information Technology (IT) Department and creating the Grants and Compliance Department and the Communications Department. Further, new program divisions have been established to group departments that share similar services and eliminate unnecessary silos.

AVCP Program Administrators debriefed on the close of the first quarter and summarized plans for the second. Plans for Q2 include hosting summits to create space for input from Tribes, cities and other organizations and address key issues identified by the Executive Board, such as public safety and economic development. Through the summits, AVCP hopes to gain insights around barriers and possible solutions from within the communities to direct our efforts. AVCP also hopes that this process will help to identify and build partnerships to develop action plans.

Before AVCP began hosting quarterly teleconferences, Vivian traveled to provide these updates in person. The last two teleconferences have saved her and Program Administrators a total of 34 trips. With the rollout of Office 365, a collection of business applications designed for collaboration, AVCP hopes to have Skype (video) conferences in the future. For more information about the Office 365 rollout, please see the IT Update article.

Natural Resources - Bering Sea

AVCP continues to stay involved with conversations related to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)'s Proposed National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024. Activities intensified when the current presidential administration moved to reopen territories in the Arctic Ocean and other U.S. waters to drilling by oil companies, a five-year proposed program for federal offshore waters called for 19 to 47 lease sales to be offered off Alaska coasts over five years. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told Alaska Dispatch News reporters that the five-year draft proposed the largest number of lease sales ever for U.S. waters.

In 2017, AVCP met with officials at BOEM and the Department of Interior, and at that time requested that the Bering Sea be excluded from the upcoming five-year lease program. AVCP also requested that, should BOEM elect not to withdraw the Bering Sea, that the agency fulfill its legal obligation to undertake meaningful consultations with the Tribes concerning the proposed lease sales. To ensure the consultations are meaningful, they must be held in the communities of this region to enable local participation. AVCP promised that through consultation, BOEM will gain vital local knowledge to consider when deciding whether to lease within the Bering Sea.

The Proposed National OCS Oil and Gas Program was released on Jan. 4. On Jan. 26, U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan and Rep. Don Young collectively sent a letter to Zinke, providing comment on the Alaska-specific offshore areas in the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing for 2019-2024 to be included in the Final Proposed Program. Governor Bill Walker joined governors of several other coast states in asking for the proposed lease sales to be dropped. Walker requested all offshore planning areas in Alaska be removed except Beaufort, Chukchi and Cook Inlet, also requesting that the DOI consult with local communities. "Such a program will maximize agency resources and reflect the areas with the broadest support for development among Alaskans," Sens. Murkowski and Sullivan and Rep. Young said in the letter.

In late February, AVCP submitted our comments on the Program. AVCP stated that BOEM should immediately withdraw the Bering Sea from the draft Program, specifically the St. Matthew-Hall, Norton, Navarin, Aleutian, and St. George Basin areas. AVCP cited the preservation of millennia-old subsistence practices vital to the culture and economy of the region, alongside commercial fishing. Oil and gas activities will jeopardize local people's ability to secure subsistence food and commercial harvests. It also would add ecological stressors on the Bering Sea alongside those brought by climate change.

Recently, Zinke – who represented Montana in the U.S. Senate before joining the Trump administration – decided to withdraw 26 out of 109 parcels in Montana from consideration after local and national environmental groups filed formal protests. As part of a press release on March 6, 2018, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced six new initiatives to strengthen the federal offshore oil and gas inspection program, which will be implemented before mid-2018. Zinke told Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) conference attendees that, "As part of the Trump administration's push for safety in energy development, we are working hard to do our job smarter and ensure industry is exploring and producing safely."

Vessel Traffic in the Bering Sea:

Under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (PWSA), the Coast Guard is responsible for designation of fairways and traffic separation schemes to provide safe access routes for vessels proceeding to and from ports. On Jan. 25, the U.S. Coast Guard released a bulletin announcing that the U.S. and the Russian Federation jointly developed and submitted a proposal to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). IMO requires evaluations of navigational hazards, traffic patterns, environmental concerns, aids to navigation and hydrographic surveys.

The Coast Guard proposed the establishment of six two-way route systems for vessels to follow in the Bering Strait and Bering Sea. Spurred by an observed increase in shipping activity by co-sponsoring States, routes are recommended to "help ships avoid the numerous shoals, reefs and islands outside the routes and reduce the potential for marine casualties and environmental disasters," according to the U.S. Coast Guard press release.

The six two-way routes and six precautionary areas in the Bering Sea and Bering Strait only apply to ships with 400 gross tonnage and above. The proposed routes are voluntary for all domestic and international ships and do not limit commercial fishing or subsistence activities. Insurance liabilities motivate vessels stay within the proposed voluntary routes, but the voluntary status also allows for the ability to maneuver outside of routes to avoid unsafe situations.

Prior to submitting route recommendations, both the U.S. and Russia conducted several consultations and research, including the analysis of historical shipping statistics in the area and analysis of risks to safety of navigation and marine environment related to the increase in traffic. The Port Access Route Study (PARS) of the Chukchi Sea, Bering Strait and Bering Sea also was included in that study.



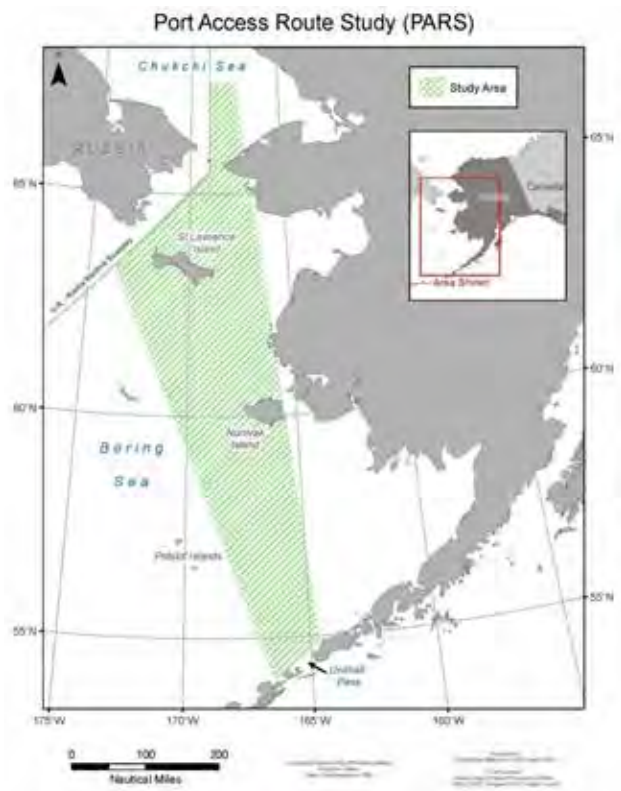
About the PARS:

In November of 2010, the Coast Guard opened a PARS study. At the time the Coast Guard had not proposed a specific routing system. The study was found in the Federal Register to solicit public comments on whether a vessel routing system was necessary and could increase safety in the area. The goal was to collect factual and relevant information to aid the Coast Guard in reducing the risk of marine casualties and increasing the efficiency of vessel traffic in the area. After reviewing the comments submitted, the Coast Guard determined that the study should include a larger geographic area and a specific vessel route should be proposed so more specific information could be gathered from the public, before evaluating the benefits of a routing system.

In December of 2014, the Coast Guard re-announced the PARS study by expanding the area to include most of the Bering Sea, proposing a two-way vessel routing system and requesting additional public comments. This public comment period closed in June of 2015.

Historic traffic PG 17/17:
https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/IMO/NCSR_5_3_7.pdf

PARS Expanded Study Area



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https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/membership/EcosystemCommittee/EcoPage/USCG_PARSPresentation315.pdf

Transportation - Y-K Freight and Energy Corridor Project



On Monday, March 12, 2018, AVCP hosted a Yukon-Kuskokwim (Y-K) Freight and Energy Corridor (Portage Mountain Corridor) Project Update at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center. The goal of this project is to develop a practical link between the Yukon and Kuskokwim River system that will enhance connectivity among communities in the region, facilitating travel, trade and access to public facilities and modes of transportation.

This project began in 2009, when the community of Kalskag requested the Denali Commission's Transportation Program provide a reconnaissance study on the possibility of connecting the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Systems. The Denali Commission suggested AVCP provide Kalskag with transportation

planning support. Stage I was completed in late 2011, which included the reconnaissance study demonstrating the practicality of constructing a transport corridor. During this stage multiple corridor options were identified in the Portage mountains between the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. A Corridor Plan was completed as part of Stage II in September of 2015. It documented the best route between the rivers, including a 30% road design. The plan prepared a concept design of the route and documented the long-term economic viability. It also outlined important additional tasks for the preservation of the corridor, to be completed in Stage III.

Stage III is currently underway. AVCP is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff, developing a Resource Management Plan to identify the Portage Mountains Corridor as a future transportation route in the BLM plan. We are also working with the The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) and Calista Corporation surface and subsurface landowners in the project area to identify the Corridor in their respective business plans through mapping, land use designations, memorandum of understanding and other tools. Corridor reservation neither commits AVCP or the corporations to route development nor does it preclude other transportation solutions. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) staff work to ensure their update of the Y-K Transportation Plan identifies the Corridor as a future transportation route. This includes work with the DOT&PF staff to determine if the current Long Range Transportation Policy Plan development is another opportunity to identify the Corridor as a long-term transportation route within statewide planning efforts.

In this stage, DOWL supports AVCP in finalizing the planning process, focusing on completing the subsistence and cultural resources studies as well as public outreach. The timeline for this task will likely require two to three years and must be developed prior to NEPA and final design. The written history component of this task needs to be conducted in an open and congenial atmosphere where time constraints of NEPA processing are absent. DOWL will implement the Calista Elders Council Model, which includes a gathering of locals and affected communities to share information. Ann Fienup-Riordan, who has worked with Calista Elders Council since 1999, will be a key advisor. Upcoming gatherings include:

- March 12, 2018, Tribal Gathering in Bethel, Alaska
- March – May 2018, Topic-specific gatherings in Holy Cross, Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk, Chuathbaluk, Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Russian Mission, Atmautluak and Aniak.

Stage III tasks will help AVCP move forward with the design and secure funding for future work. The preliminary planning estimate to complete the design and construction of this project is \$150 million.

As Stage III progresses, project partners will report to and learn from AVCP management, Executive Board and potentially, a Transportation Advisory Committee. They will also maintain other presentation opportunities at the AVCP Annual Conference and sub-regional meetings.

Realty Transaction Timeline - How long does a realty transaction take and why?

Realty transactions for federally restricted land require several steps, each with their own timeline constraints, outlined below.

Step 1 Landowner(s) interested in selling or leasing restricted land submit a letter to the AVCP Realty Department, notifying them of their intent.

Step 2 AVCP Realty submits a request for bids from appraisal vendors.

Step 3 The appraiser conducts an appraisal of the property, which requires a field visit and can only be done within a short season (June – October).

Step 4 AVCP Realty sends the appraisal to the Office of Special Trustee, Division of Appraisal Services for review. Reviews are returned within 3-8 months.

Step 5 AVCP Realty requests a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Sec. 106 review from the AVCP Cultural and Environmental Sciences Department (CES). NHPA, Sec. 106 requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their actions on significant historic properties. These reviews often require a field visit by a professional archaeologist who meets very specific qualifications outlined by the Secretary of the Interior. The BIA does have an archeology department, Regional Archeology, but AVCP already employs archeologists with experience and expertise specific to this region, housed within the Cultural and Environmental Sciences (CES) Department. Unlike an appraisal, which can in some cases be completed remotely, AVCP CES archeologists must conduct a field visit to complete a NHPA, Sec. 106 review. Their timeline depends completely on the location of the site, and must be completed during a short field season.

Step 6 The Environmental Program Manager completes a Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CATEX) to determine if further review is necessary under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In many cases, a more thorough Environmental Assessment (EA) or even an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be necessary.

Both steps 5 and 6 are significant responsibilities and functions of federal agencies' realty requirements. If something is found, the timeline of this step is extended due to the necessary completion of, for example, a mitigation plan or even excavation.

The location of the site dictates how long this step takes to complete. For example, Steve Street, AVCP Director/Archeologist, recalls one "difficult" site that was only accessible by boat. His team could not use a helicopter or floatplane. It took a week to cover the 1,100 miles necessary to reach this particular site roundtrip from Bethel by boat. The crew was able to perform several other field surveys along the way. Some realty cases require the use of a helicopter. "Other methods could take several field seasons," says Steve Street. Helicopters are expensive, so CES waits until there are enough field visits that need to be made, to make the trip cost effective.

After the federal compliance preplanning steps, if there are multiple landowners, the completion of the transaction is often prolonged. The more landowners, the more signatures need to be collected, and the more communication is required between multiple entities.

For these reasons, if you are selling or leasing restricted land, the AVCP Realty Department recommends completing the first steps as soon as possible, with the expectation that the entire process will take about two years to complete.



AVCP Employees on a windy Qaspeq Friday - March 16, 2018

How can we create strong economies in our communities and our region?

Join us for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region Economic Summit

| Grow and support businesses | Develop and support workers | Improve quality of life in the Y-K region |

Participate in the Y-K Region Economic Summit: March 22 and 23, 2018 Yupit Piciryarait Cultural Center, Bethel, Alaska

The Y-K Economic Summit will bring together regional, state and federal representatives and businesses to identify priority economic development strategies, build partnerships and develop action plans to support a prosperous and resilient regional economy in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

Learn More

- **View preliminary agenda here:**
www.avcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Y-K-RegionCEDS_RegionalEconSummit-Agenda_DRAFT.pdf
- **Visit the project website:**
www.avcp.org/services/economic-development
- **Take the survey:**
www.surveymonkey.com/r/ykceds

RSVP by March 16th, 2018:

Attendance is free; RSVP to: shelly@agnewbeck.com

Comments or questions? Contact us:

Shelly Wade, CEDS Project Manager 907-242-5326 | shelly@agnewbeck.com

Summit outcomes will help guide development of the 2018-2023 Update to the Y-K Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

What is a CEDS?

- A tool for economic planning, with strategies and actions for creating stronger and more resilient communities and regional economies.
- An important part of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs, often required for federal funding.
- The EDA requires a full, comprehensive CEDS update every five years; the last full update occurred in 2012.



The Y-K Economic Summit is co-hosted by the partners listed above.

The CEDS project is possible through an U.S. Economic Development Administration grant to the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

Cultural & Environmental Sciences Update - Solid Waste Training



Heather Kanuk, AVCP Environmental Planner, recently attended the Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE), participating in a group discussion about the allocation of costs for solid waste management and a brainstorming session to find solutions.

Next, Heather will take her insights from AFE to the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), where she will participate in the Development and Implementation of Tribal Solid Waste Codes and Ordinances training, March 13-15, and Tribal Solid Waste Codes and Ordinance Workshop, July 17-19. These training opportunities are funded through the Indian Health Service (IHS), in an effort to improve community health.

For the March training, Heather and five other students from Alaska will travel to Tempe, Arizona. ITEP at Northern Arizona University develops and delivers environmental trainings for tribes throughout Alaska and the lower 48.

Jennifer Williams from ITEP, says she is really glad Heather applied. The two course instructors are only able to make recommendations based on their experience working with other tribes, while acknowledging that those solutions may not fit other communities. Jennifer explains, "That is why it's important to have other Alaskans there," and why the first course stresses community participation.

"One of the important reasons for Heather to come to this training is that writing codes is not just a writing process, it's more of a community involvement process. Each community has their own priorities, and Heather will work with her community to address the priorities specific to their needs," explains Jennifer. This process could take six months or more because it includes input from tribal and city councils, community members, tribal boards, business owners, utilities and other tribal departments.

After her first course, while Heather is home, she will develop codes and ordinances with a community here in the Yukon- Kuskokwim Delta and continue the conversation with her instructors and classmates. In July, when she attends the second part of this training (Tribal Solid Waste Codes and Ordinance Workshop), the codes and ordinances she has developed will be reviewed by the entire class. They will discuss how understandable the draft ordinance is as well as identifying strategies for implementation and enforcement.

For more information:

http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste



The week of Feb. 5, AVCP ICWA Director, Valerie Andrew, in partnership with OCS WRO ICWA Specialist, Joseph "Trim" Nick, hosted a 2-day intensive ICWA 2 training. The focus of the training was to provide an overview of applying the Indian Child Welfare Act in all State Child of Need Cases. AVCP sent ICWA CFSS Workers from Hooper Bay, Crooked Creek, Toksook Bay, Pitka's Point, Napaskiak, Chuathbaluk and the Bethel ICWA offices to the training. Participants learned about the history of the Act, OCS's practice model as well as understanding the roles of each legal party to the case. Other non-compact tribes from ONC and Atmauthuak were present as well as an OCS WRO Family Services Specialist.



Qaspeq Friday - January 19, 2018

Calendar of Events

- March 19** Y-K Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Sub-Regional meeting in Hooper Bay School Commons 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- March 19-23** Tribal Workforce Development All Staff Training Summit
- March 22-23** Y-K Region Economic Summit at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
- March 26** Holiday: Seward's Day
- March 26-30** End of Quarter 1
- March 26 - May 4** Course: CDL Training
- March 27-30** Healthy Families Workshop
- April 9-13** Course: Boiler/Toyo
- April 10-20** Healthy Families Workshop
- April 17-26** Course: Rural Facilities Maintenance Technician Electrical Maintenance Fundamentals
- April 18 - May 7** Course: Marine Aluminum Weld & Fabrication Techniques
- April 25-27** Transition Camp for LKSD For more information contact AVCP Vocational Rehabilitation
- April 27 - May 1** Course: Rural Facilities Maintenance Technician, Low Voltage Electrical Fundamentals
- May 1-4** Healthy Families Workshop
- May 8-10** Course: Quick Books
- May 14 - June 22** Course: CDL Training
- May 28** Holiday: Memorial Day
- June 19-22** Healthy Families Plant Symposium
- July 4** Holiday: Independence Day