



YK CEDS: August 2020 Work Session

Climate Adaptation Working Group Breakout (as part of Economic Development & Planning focus area): Action Planning Results

Wednesday, August 12, 2020; 1pm – 3pm

Link to recording: [Click here](#) (note: first few minutes were inadvertently not recorded)

Facilitator: Diane Sam, Associate Grant Writer, Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Team Support: Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius, Agnew::Beck Consulting

Participants:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Clarence	Daniel	Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
Diane	Sam	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities (CETC)
Ellen	Napoleon	Paimiut Corporation, Native Village of Paimut
Gary	Evon	Kwigillingok
Jennifer	Hooper	Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
Katie	Lund	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities (CETC)
Kendra	Krenz	AVCP Community Development
Malinda	Chase	APIA/Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center
Molly	Mylius	Agnew::Beck Consulting
Nicholai	Joekay	Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition and Tundra Women's Coalition
Ray	Born	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raychelle Aluaq	Daniel	Pew Charitable Trusts, US Arctic Officer
Rebecca	Wilmarth	Donlin Gold
Sally	Russell Cox	Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Samantha	Angaiak	Donlin Gold
Serena	Fitka	Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
Shelly	Wade	Agnew::Beck Consulting
Tisha	Kuhns	Calista
William	Naneng	Sea Lion Corporation, Hooper Bay

Objective: Work as a team to develop a clear 1 to 2-year action plan for YK CEDS priority strategies and actions.

Agenda:

A. Welcome, Logistics, Roll Call, Breakout Purpose & Agenda Review

B. Strategy/Action Introduction & Knowledge Sharing

Q#1: What are we focusing on?				
<i>CEDS Strategy #3:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand local capacity to assess risks, develop, and carry out community-level plans and solutions to environmental threats (erosion, flooding, permafrost thaw) and other economic disruptions. 			
<i>CEDS Actions:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all YK communities have active hazard mitigation plans and climate adaptation plans. 			
Q#2: Why is this topic important? What is happening now that we should consider, want to support and/or change?				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arctic and northern regions are experiencing more rapid climate change, so this is a time-sensitive topic. Many potential actions are limited by seasons; we have a limited window for response. Current leadership is in support of addressing this issue. Communities are experiencing problems today and do not always have the resources to respond (e.g., lacking a tractor to help relocate a home on an eroding riverbank). Some of these adaptation and mitigation issues/needs don't fall within or qualify for traditional funding sources. Even small temperature fluctuations have big consequences for permafrost. Melting permafrost causes cascading impacts on fish populations, erosion, infrastructure, etc. throughout the region. 				
The YK region is one of the most heavily impacted regions in the state:				
ENVIRONMENTALLY THREATENED COMMUNITIES SUMMARY STATISTICS BY ALASKA REGION (2019)				
Region	Highest Risk Communities	Next Highest Risk Communities	Risk Assessment Cost (million)	Mitigation Cost (million)
Yukon Kuskokwim	28	19	12.6	1,718
Northwest	21	4	7.2	1,124
Arctic Slope	6	2	0.0	287
Interior	13	14	6.9	182
Bristol Bay	3	12	2.4	72
Aleutian Pribilof	1	4	0.8	69
South Central, Southeast, Kodiak	1	16	2.0	27
Total	73	71	31.8	3,478
<i>Table source: shared by ANTHC, based on data summarized from the 2019 Statewide Threat Assessment</i>				

- Mitigation cost in the table above = cost in addition to risk assessment cost. This is the estimated combined cost of response (including protection in place, managed retreat, or relocation) for all communities.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has funds available to help with hazard mitigation plans; communities can apply via the state, or apply directly to FEMA.
- Erosion threatens historic and culturally significant sites.

What is needed for success?

- Risk assessments and hazard mitigation plans must be focused and action oriented; given the immediate threats, it is important for communities to be able to immediately use assessments to take action.

Types of assessments and planning efforts:

- **Risk assessment** definition: this can include erosion, flood modeling, or permafrost risk assessment, depending on the known risks in the community.
 - The process includes both traditional knowledge and data collection.
 - FEMA can assist if data is available; if less data is available, FEMA can assist with a less data intensive **vulnerability assessment**.
 - Assessments are critical to inform planning efforts; need it as a baseline to inform the next step, **climate adaptation plans**. For imminent risks, an assessment may not be necessary.
 - **Risk mapping**: this is a different process and is more comprehensive. Requires extensive data.

C. Action Planning

Action Planning

Q#3: To make measurable progress on this strategy/action, what tasks must happen over the next 1 to 2 years? Who will lead that task? Who will partner with the lead to take action?

Task	Lead & Partners
<p>a. Complete risk assessments (est. cost \$450k/community) for high risk communities that lack an assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calista may be able to help some communities do this with potential CARES Act funding. • ANTHC's Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities (CETC) is creating a tracking tool to map the gaps/status assessment of current assessments in the YK. • Is there a role for academic institutions, to assist with funding and help conduct the assessments? • Encourage the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and other institutions to better collaborate and share relevant 	<p>Lead: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)</p> <p>Partners: Calista, CETC, possibly academic institutions</p>

<p>data with communities who are conducting assessments and encourage them to build tools that are relevant and accessible to communities.</p> <p><i>Funding: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Resilience, FEMA, Alaska Village Erosion Technical Assistance Program, U.S. Economic Development Administration</i></p> <p><i>Funding to explore: academic institutions (e.g., UAA), Transportation Research Board, National Science Foundation</i></p>	
<p>b. Provide technical assistance and training to high risk communities to conduct assessments and manage ongoing communications around climate change response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage communities to partner to complete assessments collaboratively and spread funding across years. • Educate communities and leadership on the anticipated timing of funding opportunities and position them to respond before funding is released; funding often comes out during busy subsistence seasons. • Encourage communities to build in local employment opportunities and/or internships into BIA Tribal Resilience applications. • Convene representatives who have successfully built climate change response capacity in their own communities to act as an advisory body and share recommendations and act as technical advisors for other communities in the region. 	<p>Lead: AVCP Community Development Division and Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center/Bureau for Indian Affairs Tribal Resiliency Program</p> <p>Partners: CETC to help ID funding for AVCP; Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) to help with technical assistance</p> <p>Raychelle (Pew) may be able to assist with identifying funding for the convening component Tribal liaisons</p>
<p>c. Strengthen linkages between traditional knowledge, technical models and data collected throughout the region and better tie to state and global bodies of knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate with LEO network. • Ensure community, traditional knowledge, local monitoring are incorporated into community profiles, threat assessments and other planning efforts such as the statewide threat assessment. • Track outcomes and recommendations from the Sustaining Arctic Observation Network. 	<p>Lead: Varies; Western Alaska Partnership to help with state/global linkages, Raychelle/Pew can help refine focus of this overall action</p>
<p>d. Advocate for more flexible FEMA regulations to meet immediate needs of communities and make programs more accessible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, reducing cost sharing requirements, creating less cumbersome application and reporting 	<p>Lead: AVCP</p> <p>Partners: ANTHC, Climate Adaptation Science Center, CETC</p>

<p>requirements and eliminate or increase caps for BIA assessment funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVCP already has a draft resolution in place; if it passes at the AVCP Annual Convention in September, it will be forwarded to the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN). 	
<p>e. Develop map-based climate adaptation community profiles that describe threat assessment status, relevant plans and linkages to other agency/organization data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This should include an interactive map, an identification of threat assessment status (continuously updated as information changes), links to available data, status of planning efforts and integration with other agency/organizational data collection efforts (e.g., CETC). 	<p>Lead: DCCED Partners: CETC, Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys</p>
<p>Q#4: How will we measure our success? What data will tell us we're making a difference? A year or two from now, what SPECIFIC positive change do we want to make?</p>	
<p>Indicator of Success/Positive Change</p>	<p>2-Year Target</p>
<p>Risk assessments are needed for high risk communities. There are 28 YK communities in the highest risk category per the Statewide Threat Assessment. At least 3 likely already have completed needs assessments, with 25 still needed. CETC is currently identifying assessment status across communities.</p> <p><i>BIA has an online map that show the number of awards and gives a synopsis of the project but it may or may not list if an assessment has taken place.</i></p>	<p>In 2 years, complete 6 additional risk assessments for high risk communities.</p>
<p>Jobs or internships created or retained (e.g., in community planning, research, hazard mitigation activities or environmental remediation).</p>	<p>In 2 years, hire 6 new community coordinators; these positions can be built into funding opportunities like the BIA Tribal Resilience Program.</p>
<p>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Agencies are currently assessing estimated costs of mitigation planning and implementation.</p>	<p>In # years, \$# in private funding invested in YK climate adaptation projects (e.g., foundation grants awarded, investments in a local/regional environmental remediation business).</p>

Q#5: What funding opportunities and/or other resources can support our action plan? (see below for “Potential Funding Sources”)

- Ramona (Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA) encourages Tribes to apply for FEMA’s upcoming Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities. This grant funding can be used for writing hazard mitigation plans and project scoping. There is a \$20 M tribal set aside plus \$100 M competitive. It will be a four--month application window, opening in late September. The opportunity will be announced on FEMA.gov and grants.gov.
- The rest of FEMA’s mitigation grants are listed here: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation>
- National Science Foundation (NSF) funding information available here: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505594
 - Summary of recent NSF awards: <https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearchResult?ProgEleCode=I04Y&BooleanElement=Any&BooleanRef=Any&ActiveAwards=true&#result>

D. Summarize, Closing Comments & Adjourn

Q#6: (After summary of key tasks, leads & partners by facilitator) – What final comments, questions or concerns do we have as individuals/as a group?

Other climate adaptation topics, not discussed in detail:

- FEMA does recognize/consider tribal government disaster declarations:
 - <https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/tribes#:~:text=Disaster%20Declarations,-On%20January%2029&text=The%20Act%20included%20a%20provision,declaration%20independent%20of%20a%20state.>
- Calista can assist with match funding, and in some cases, can provide material sources
- How can we mitigate risks to cultural sites?
- How is land loss, land accretion taken into account due to erosion? BLM does not currently have a plan for addressing this.
- Hooper Bay (City, Tribe and Village Corp.) have started a steering group along with UAA and the State to develop an Arctic Coastal Hazard Response Plan.

Full Group Work Session Discussion Notes from Friday, August 14th

- Community retreat and land issues span multiple focus areas: housing, workforce development, climate adaptation, transportation.
- Villages are facing risks and are forced to plan in response; how can we be sure agency, program and support staff fully comprehend the challenges and rapid rate of change in the YK region?
- Climate change can impact community water systems, can cause contamination through things like erosion. Can further complicate maintenance, sustainability of systems and should be considered in the assessments; not a lot of information studying these impacts (yet). This might require a state sanitary survey.
- There is an effort underway to quantify estimated mitigation impacts to infrastructure.
- Risk to cultural sites should also be considered.

Other Potential Funding Sources – Research Conducted by Agnew::Beck Consulting Prior to Work Session

Opportunity Name	Description	Eligibility and Typical Release Date
Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Resilience Program	https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/tribal-resilience-program#currentkit Supports tribal resilience, ocean and coastal management and planning. Supports Tribes preparing for extreme events and harmful environmental trends that impact tribal treaty and trust resources, economies, infrastructure, and human health and safety. The Program will provide funding for projects that support tribal resilience and ocean and coastal management planning as Tribes incorporate science (including Traditional Knowledge) and technical information to prepare for the impacts of extreme events and harmful environmental trends.	Federally recognized Tribes and tribal organizations Due annually in spring
Administration for Native Americans Social and Economic Development Strategies Grants	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=298008 Provides targeted support for community-based, Village-specific projects to improve and strengthen the administrative and management capacity of Alaska Native Village governments, governments that are central to social and economic self-sufficiency in Alaska. This announcement promotes economic and social self-sufficiency for Alaska Natives and is intended to respond to the unique governmental structures in Alaska.	Recurring funding opportunity, most recently due June 1, 2020
Surdna Foundation Sustainable Environments Grants	https://surdna.org/programs/sustainable-environments/ support communities of color and low-wealth communities to direct infrastructure and land use investment dollars, drive decision-making processes and design policy solutions because those who are disproportionately impacted by environmental and climate inequity have the most powerful solutions to resolve these inequities. Funding investments seek to support communities in achieving the following outcomes: 1) Increased community control and stewardship of land and infrastructure; 2) Increased organizing and advocacy practices, 3) Increased Community-led planning and community designed alternatives; 4) Increased democratic participation.	LOIs accepted beginning July 1, 2020. Annual grants cycle July 1 – June 30.
FEMA HGMP Grants	https://www.fema.gov/grants FEMA provides funding opportunities that may be appropriate for community-level hazard mitigation plans and response activities.	
Alaska Department of Military and Veteran Affairs Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management	https://ready.alaska.gov/Grants The State of Alaska provides grant opportunities that may be appropriate for community-level hazard mitigation plans and response activities.	
University of Oregon Tribal Climate Change Guide	https://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu/ Lists current funding opportunities, programs and plans that may assist Tribes in addressing climate change through a broad range of sectors.	University of Oregon Tribal Climate Change Guide

Opportunity Name	Description	Eligibility and Typical Release Date
U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit Funding Opportunities database	https://toolkit.climate.gov/content/funding-opportunities Lists current funding opportunities to advance local adaptation and mitigation efforts.	