



# Yukon Kuskokwim

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

### October 21-22, 2021 Virtual Work Session



Our current regional economic development goals for the Yukon Kuskokwim are:

- Goal A. Grow Our Own: Develop an educated and well-trained regional workforce and group of future leaders.
- Goal B. Address Critical Housing Needs.
- Goal C. Support and Grow Local Business Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Goal D. Expand and Improve Regional Communications, Energy and Transportation Infrastructure.
- Goal E. Improve the Health, Wellness and Safety of the Region's People and Communities.
- Goal F. Create Resilient and Prepared Communities.
- Goal G. Cultivate Regional Coordination and Planning
- Goal H. Protect Natural Resource Harvests and Subsistence.



- Bring together **Working Groups** representing key community, Tribal, regional, state, and federal partners and funders around YK CEDS focus area priority strategies and actions.
- Result in **detailed plans** with **clear 1- to 2-year actions** for YK CEDS priorities.

*The 2021 Yukon Kuskokwim Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Work Session is conducted for the Yukon Kuskokwim Region with funding from the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.*

**Questions? Need help connecting?**






**Contact Shelly Wade at 907-242-5326 or [shelly@agnewbeck.com](mailto:shelly@agnewbeck.com)**







## At-a-Glance Agenda

**PLEASE READ ME:** Each Working Group “BLOCK” includes two concurrent sessions. Interested in topics that are happening at the same time (i.e., during the same block)? You are welcome and encouraged to join as many sessions as you are interested, including jumping out of one session to join another that is happening at the same time!

### Thursday, October 21, 2021

<b>9am – 9:45am</b>	 <b>Opening Plenary</b>
9:45am – 10am	BREAK and transition to Working Group Breakouts
<b>10am – 12pm</b>	<b>Working Group Breakouts – BLOCK 1</b>
	 Subsistence and Food Security
	 Education and Workforce Development
12pm – 1:30pm	LUNCH BREAK
<b>1:30pm – 3:30pm</b>	<b>Working Group Breakouts – BLOCK 2</b>
	 Climate Adaptation
	 Energy

### Friday, October 22, 2021

<b>10am – 12pm</b>	<b>Working Group Breakouts – BLOCK 3</b>
	 Housing and Water-Sewer Infrastructure
	 Communications
12pm – 1:30pm	LUNCH BREAK
<b>1:30pm – 3:30pm</b>	<b>Working Group Breakouts – BLOCK 4</b>
	 Business Development and Entrepreneurship
	 Transportation

## Detailed Agenda (subject to change)

### Work Session Objectives

- Bring together **Working Groups** representing key community, Tribal, regional, state, and federal partners and funders around YK CEDS focus area priority strategies and actions.
- Result in **detailed plans** with **clear 1 to 2-year actions** for YK CEDS priorities.

## Thursday, October 21, 2021

9am – 9:45am



### Opening Plenary

*Facilitator & Land Acknowledgment:*  
Shelly Wade, Team Project Manager, Agnew::Beck Consulting

*Welcome:*  
Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)

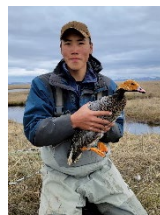
*Invocation:*  
John Charlie

*Keynote Speakers (left to right):*

Paul Larson  
Jaden Anaver  
Randall Friendly

Welcome to the 2021 YK CEDS Virtual Work Session! The Opening Plenary will kick off this year's virtual gathering with a prayer and land acknowledgement, an overview of the three-day session schedule, and a current update of the YK Region Story, where we are and where we want to be.

*This year's Keynote speakers are three members of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)'s 2021 all-local Yup'ik waterfowl technician crew. Paul Larson (from Napaskiak) is studying wildlife biology and conservation at UAF, with ambitions to get a Masters degree studying wildlife. This was Paul's first summer at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). He worked for the Kodiak NWR in 2019. Paul was a shining star in 2021, uplifting everyone's spirits and exceeding all expectations of field work and knowledge. Jaden Anaver (from Kipnuk) is attending UAF, where he is studying to be a math teacher. Jaden enjoys biology and working with the wildlife during the summers. He is an accomplished technician with phenomenal skills and attention to detail. This was Jaden's second year on the waterfowl crew. Randall Friendly (from Tuntutuliak) was hired into a Pathways position, which guarantees him a permanent biologist position at the Refuge upon completion of his Masters degree. Randall has worked for Yukon Delta NWR as a technician or field crew leader for five seasons. In 2021, he led a crew hired by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to collect the data for his Masters degree projects studying spectacled eider nest success on Kigigak Island and in Utqiagvik.*



*Hiring local technicians is a priority of the waterfowl program. Students are primarily hired via the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). The Refuge encourages those interested to join ANSEP or let the Refuge know you are interested in working on the field crews.*

### To Join:

By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/87633892346?pwd=QlJ2ejR4c1JwTElzVkthT29xdjJxZz09>

By **audio only:**

- Dial: **1-877-853-5257 (Toll-free)**
- At prompt, input **Meeting ID: 876 3389 2346#**
- At prompt, input **Password: 2222#**

Questions? Need help connecting? Contact Shelly Wade, 907-242-5326 or [shelly@agnewbeck.com](mailto:shelly@agnewbeck.com)



9:45am – 10am

**BREAK and transition to Working Group Breakouts – BLOCK 1**

10am – 12pm



**Subsistence Working Group Session** (NOTE: The Education and Workforce Development Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
Jackie Schaeffer,  
Community Development  
Manager Division of  
Environmental Health and  
Engineering, Alaska  
Native Tribal Health  
Consortium

The Subsistence Working Group will meet to discuss the status of progress toward identified indicators and planned actions to increase opportunities and supports for youth and adults in pursuing careers in natural resource management, as well as guidance for participation in resource-management meetings and councils, developing an exchange between Yukon and Kuskokwim River programs and establishing a Collective Impact Initiative. The group will update their action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
- Implementation resources
- Measures or indicators of progress that we will use to monitor the success of our implementation efforts

**To Join:**

By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/88904496999?pwd=MWl0dGtleVFvVXNUNmQrN3plQnoxZz09>

By **audio only:**

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10am – 12pm



**Education and Workforce Development Working Group Session** (NOTE: The Subsistence Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
Yvonne Jackson  
President/CEO, Alaska  
Rural Professional  
Development LLC

The Education and Workforce Development Working Group will meet to discuss the status of planned actions to develop and implement a regional workforce development plan, conduct meetings with major employers and workforce development agencies, and make progress toward identified indicators. The group will update their action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
- Implementation resources
- Measures or indicators of progress that we will use to monitor the success of our implementation efforts

**To Join:**

By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/85491179420?pwd=UmxLMFIOS9POE5SL0tGWIZDMUYydz09>

By **audio only:**

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12pm – 1pm

**LUNCH BREAK and transition to Breakout Groups – BLOCK 2**



**1:30pm – 3:30pm**



**Climate Adaptation Working Group Session** (NOTE: The Energy Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
Joel Niemeyer, Neimeyer Consulting

The Climate Adaptation Working Group will meet to discuss the status of planned actions to conduct risk assessments and develop map-based community climate adaptation profiles, technical assistance and training for climate adaptation, advocating for more flexible FEMA regulations, strengthening linkages between traditional knowledge, technical models/data and worldwide bodies of knowledge. The group will update their action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
- Implementation resources
- Measures or indicators of progress that we will use to monitor the success of our implementation efforts

**To Join:**

By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/86591840480?pwd=M2lVV0MxTk0VGxLQmQyaXIKTEhIZz09>

By **audio only:**

- Dial: **1-877-853-5257 (Toll-free)**
- At prompt, input **Meeting ID: 865 9184 0480#**
- At prompt, input **Password: 2222#**

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**1:30pm – 3:30pm**



**Energy Working Group Session** (NOTE: The Climate Adaptation Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
Natalie Hanson, Executive Director, Nuvista Light and Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The Energy Working Group will meet to discuss the status of progress toward identified indicators and planned actions to update the YK Regional Energy Plan's inventory of potential renewable energy projects, identify and bundle non-actioned projects from community energy audits, develop a renewable energy readiness checklist for community utilities, inventory existing and needed feasibility studies for renewable energy projects, and increase energy literacy education. The group will update their action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
- Implementation resources
- Measures or indicators of progress that we will use to monitor the success of our implementation efforts

**To Join:**

By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/85322243949?pwd=UXhTSVNORWxIS3pCV0xtZjJBWnlwUT09>

By **audio only:**

- Dial: **1-877-853-5257 (Toll-free)**
- At prompt, input **Meeting ID: 853 2224 3949#**
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## Friday, October 22, 2021

10am – 12pm



### Housing and Water-Sewer Working Group Session (NOTE: The Communications Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
Michael Black, Director of Community Infrastructure Development for the Division of Environmental Health and Engineering, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

The Housing and Water-Sewer Working Group will meet to discuss the status of progress toward identified indicators and planned actions to expand toilet implementation projects, create a partnership funding model that better leverages funds for home and water-sewer construction, increase home ownership financial education, and increase support for leveling homes. The group will update their action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
- Implementation resources
- Measures or indicators of progress that we will use to monitor the success of our implementation efforts

**To Join:**

By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/84818106592?pwd=VIBIYTk2R2FaU0dySmtYUDFneDRNZz09>

By **audio only:**

- Dial: **1-877-853-5257 (Toll-free)**
- At prompt, input **Meeting ID: 848 1810 6592#**
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10am – 12pm



### Communications Working Group Session (NOTE: The Housing and Water-Sewer Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
Mark Springer, City Council Member, City of Bethel

The Communications Working Group will meet to discuss regional communications projects. Discussions will focus on a regional fiber optic telecommunications project and developing Tribal broadband. The group will map out an action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
- Implementation resources
- Measures or indicators of progress that we will use to monitor the success of our implementation efforts

**To Join:**

By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/89336608485?pwd=SVBLUXUzU3NpSkdsekpBZyttUnVUQT09>

By **audio only:**

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12pm – 1pm

**LUNCH BREAK and transition into Breakout – BLOCK 3**





**1:30pm – 3:30pm**



**Business Development and Entrepreneurship Working Group Session** (NOTE: The Transportation Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
*Clarence Daniel,*  
*Community Development Director,*  
*Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)*

The Business Development and Entrepreneurship Working Group will meet to discuss opportunities to increase the number and success of businesses in the region. Discussions will focus on the “Best in the West” competitions, lending programs, training and other business development supports. The group will map out an action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
- Implementation resources
- Measures or indicators of progress that we will use to monitor the success of our implementation efforts

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By **video, screenshare and audio:**

- Click: <https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/84995103621?pwd=YVIFS3duT3ITVEh5TlFESjElcWcNZz09>

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**1:30pm – 3:30pm**



**Transportation Working Group Session** (NOTE: The Business Development and Entrepreneurship Working Group is happening at same time!)

*Facilitator:*  
*Eric Evon, Transportation Program/Community Development Coordinator,*  
*Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)*

The Transportation Working Group will meet to discuss the status of progress toward identified indicators and planned actions for regional ice roads, winter trails, ports and harbors, as well as improving emergency support infrastructure and response services, and developing a regional freight corridor. The group will update their action plan for the next two years, including:

- Lead and key partner(s)
- A general scope of work and timeline for implementation
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