

Managed Retreat in Napakiak, Alaska



Photo from fall 2018

Problem Statement

The City of Napakiak has for decades and decades have been facing aggressive erosion along our riverbank (Kuskokwim River) and dynamic changes in our community.

- 3rd new subdivision site (currently planned out)
- 3rd Airport (proposed new site)
- 2nd School (3rd new subdivision site)
- 2nd Cemetery (3rd proposed site)
- 2nd Well Watering Point (3rd proposed site)
- 2nd Sewer Lagoon (3rd proposed site)
- 3rd Clinic (In operation)





Napakiak's Vision

“The citizens of Napakiak envision our community as a modern, culturally-rooted, sustainable environment. We seek to manage and strengthen our village’s long-range benefits for present and future generations. Our community aspires to be a safe environment for its members, to have quality housing, education, a reliable and efficient health care system, opportunities for training and a healthy economy.”

HOW WE WORK

DECISION-MAKING

Tribal Council
City Council
Village Corporation

COMMUNITY PLANNING, PROJECT PLANNING & MANAGEMENT, GRANT MANAGEMENT

Resilience Coordinator

FUNDING

Center for
Environmentally
Threatened Communities

PROJECT CONSULTANTS

Relocation planning,
river morphology,
housing master plan,
etc.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Engineering Services
Contractor

History

May 2016: The Denali Commission's Village Infrastructures Protection Program awarded funding to Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to create the Center or Environmentally Threatened Communities. ANTHC has worked collaboratively for the past 18 months with the City of Napakiak to provide technical guidance regarding the project. In May 2018, ANTHC representative Max Neale, visited Napakiak's erosion threats and to discuss strategies for next steps, as part of the 2018 Community Plan.

December 2018: The City of Napakiak and Native Village of Napakiak (Tribe) work collaboratively to respond to the erosion threat and other community projects. The City and Tribe participated in a weeklong competitive solicitation process to (1) choose an engineering services firm to support us in replacing infrastructure damaged by erosion: (2) implement all relevant future projects throughout the duration of the two to five year contract period. Though the City of Napakiak was not specifically named in the request for proposal solicitation, representatives from both the City and Tribe traveled to Anchorage to jointly select one firm, Summit Consulting, to work with both entities.

March 6, 2019: The City received a FY18 CDBG grant for the Land Use Planning for Managed Retreat project to inform the selection of a safe site and long-retreat strategy.

April 20, 2019: The Tribal Administrator and a City Council Member received BIA Tribal Resilience funding to travel to the National Adaption Forum to present on the erosion threat in front of a national audience and bring best practices and new connections back to Napakiak.

September 16, 2019: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X staff met with WN City Council member and DA Tribal Administrator and ANTHC to discuss the Napakiak Managed Retreat, FEMA indicated the road construction, subdivision utility construction, and response measures to maintain school service while the primary school is being deconstructed are not eligible for any type of FEMA funding. If another catastrophic land collapse event were to occur (losing, for example, 100 feet of land in a day or a week) FEMA would not provide any support for response/recovery/reconstruction

because the dollar value of the disaster would not warrant a Presidential disaster declaration.

November 13, 2109: Approximately 12 Napakiak leaders from the City, Corporation and the Tribe participated in a second annual Napakiak Interagency Planning Meeting to update agencies on progress made since the 2018 meeting and request support for next steps. This meeting further reinforced the immediate need for the new subdivision road proposed here.

Other Managed Retreat Partners

The Army Corps concluded that erosion in Napakiak warrants immediate and substantial Federal, State, or other intervention. Due to the severity of the threat, this is beginning to occur. Other organizations supporting our community with the managed retreat include the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Association of Village Council Presidents, State of Alaska Community Resilience and Adaptation Program, State of Alaska Coastal Hazards Program, State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs Department of Housing and Urban Development, Indian Health Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Though these entities are not core partners for the proposed project, we share this list to illustrate the complexity of implementing the managed retreat and the importance of continued coordination and collaboration to avoid disaster.

Future Actions

The City of Napakiak and the Tribe and Napakiak Corporation will continue work together with other agencies in and out of our region to implement our visions and priority goals for our community. Our next steps for our Managed Retreat planning will be to continuously collaborate with our partnerships in developing strategies for the retreat.

Challenges

Over the years:

- Rural Alaska -High costs
- Required State and Federal Plans
- Finding & Securing Funding Sources
- No Heavy Equipment's

Currently Facing:

- Not being able to complete priorities
- State/Federal Funds -Cut
- Climate Change

QUYANA CAKNEQ KELEGLUNUK

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING US