

Meeting of the Northwest Arctic Subarea GRS Workgroup

April 28, 2011

Web-based Teleconference

Attendees:

Joy Baker-Nome Harbormaster

Larry Iwamoto-ADEC

Catherine Berg-USFWS

Native Village of Savoonga

Ronnie Toolie,

Thor Noongwook,

Peggy Akeya,

Mitchell Kiyuklook,

Merton Miklahook Sr.

Verna Immingan

Kenneth Kingeekuk

Morris Toolie Sr.

City of Savoonga –

Myron Kingeekuk

Elvin Noongwook

Samuel Mokiyuk

Raymond Toolie

Clarence Waghiyi

Kukulget, Inc.

Morris Toolie Jr.

Perry Pungowiyi,

Bryan Rookok, Jr.,

Jeanette "Muffy" Iya,

Mylon Kingeekuk,

Fritz Waghiyi

Bryan Rookok Sr.

Native Village of Gambell

Iver Campbell

Bruce Boolowan

Sheena Aningayou

Mark Nowpowutuk

Anders Apassingok

Vera Metcalf – Eskimo Walrus

Commission

Gay Sheffield-Marine Advisory Program

Winton Weyapuk - Wales

Matt Ganley – Bering Straits Native Corporation

Peter Neitlich – National Park Service

Frank Hays – National Park Service

Bud Rice- National Parks Service

Mark Janes-Nuka Research

Doug Mutter- DOI

Amy Gilson- Nuka Research

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian-Kawerak

Denise Michaels – Kawerak, City of Nome

Mark Janes of Nuka Research and Planning Group introduced meeting attendees and gave a brief statement regarding the goals of the meeting.

Larry Iwamoto of ADEC thanked the participants and reviewed the NWA GRS project timeline touching on the concurrent PPOR project, both ending June 30.

Mark Janes provided a review of the previous GRS workgroup meetings and their outcomes. Based on a workgroup request in January, Mr. Iwamoto was able to secure additional funding to add more GRS sites to the NWA Subarea. Today the workgroup would be prioritizing 30 Subarea sites and although other sites are sensitive; they are unable to be protected with current oil spill response equipment and therefore are not selected as high priority.

Mark Janes present the Site Selection Matrix (SSM) for the NWA Southern Zone, Cowpack Inlet to just past St. Michel Bay/Kobuk River, and asked the group if there

were additional high priority sites to consider or need to reprioritize any GRS locations listed.

Mr. Janes discussed Jones Point Area and Port Clarence Beach as selected GRS sites that could be reconsidered based on the implementation difficulty at each site. Based on cultural resources, subsistence fishing, and ease of GRS implementation Matt Ganley (Bering Straits Native Corporation) nominated Golsovia River to be considered a high priority site. Mr. Janes suggested replacing the Port Clarence Beach site with Golsovia River site. The workgroup considered the Port Clarence area and proposed GRS sites and agreed that changing the Spencer Point GRS to Golsovia River would probably not affect the outcome of an event in the Port Clarence area. The workgroup agreed to remove Point Spencer and add Port Clarence.

Mark Janes reminded the workgroup that GRS are near-shore tactics and in the event of a response there would be off-shore oil collection focused on collecting oil before it reached the near-shore environment. Larry Iwamoto (ADEC) added to this comment by reviewing the GRS process, reminding the workgroup that the GRS is an on going process and additional sites will be developed as funding is available.

Mark Janes then moved the meeting on to the St. Lawrence Island zone and selected GRS sites. He gave a brief overview of what criteria were used to select locations and the meaning of each color designation on the index map.

There was immediate concern for the lack of coverage in the area and need to protect the entire island. The St. Lawrence Island representatives wished to have all proposed sites developed as high priority due to the location of the island and its proximity to potential vessel traffic from the North and South. They had questions regarding the selection process, the limited number of sites, and the lack of representation from Gambell. Mr. Janes highlighted the budgetary considerations for site development and reiterated that all sites are sensitive but that for this phase, the workgroup needs to focus on developing the GRS with the most important resources. He also reviewed the outreach he had made with Gambell and was hopeful for their input and participation. Savoonga representatives were also concerned for tactical practicality regarding currents, winds, etc., which Mr. Janes said would be a part of the tactical considerations process and include agency studies and projects. The area representatives suggested an additional teleconference meeting with Gambell representation in order to clarify the sites.

The discussion then moved to the cost per GRS, which Larry Iwamoto estimated at \$2000 per site if no aerial photography was needed. Doug Mutter (DOI) stated the current budget for the St. Lawrence area will cover 5 sites or roughly \$10,000 and an effort to categorize these five sites was the goal of the meeting today.

St. Lawrence representatives listed resource areas that are not included on the SMM and should be added along with areas that Gambell representatives would want to include. Mr. Janes agreed and asked for the information to be sent to him directly. The St. Lawrence Island representatives wished to have a face-to-face meeting with the

facilitation team in order to prioritize sites. Mark Janes agreed this would be a helpful discussion; however, due to project timeline and prohibitive cost of travel, the project team is leaning on the workgroup members and village leadership to give input into this process through these meetings. A participant suggested adding the fall walrus haul-out area to the St. Lawrence GRS.

Eddie Aposingok and others from Gambell joined the teleconference and discussed holding an additional teleconference to solidify the priority sites the following week. The workgroup agreed and Mark Janes will contact a representative in each village for date and time.

Mark Janes outlined his outreach to villages and communities in the NWA Southern Zone and their input on the final prioritization. Then he touched on the tactics group phase of the GRS process and solicited attendees for participation in the next step in the project. Besides the industry professionals, local input on the tactics phase is crucial to making the GRS final and usable. Denise Michels (Kawerak-City of Nome) offered to help with personnel for the tactics meetings and draft documents.

Winton Weyapuk (Wales) joined the teleconference and had information to add to the Norton Sound SSM regarding the area around Wales. Mark Janes will get in touch with Mr. Weyapuk and update the SSM with his input.

A question was posed regarding the equipment located at Tin City and Mark Janes said this was an additional task he was working on in for the tactical phase.

St. Lawrence Island representatives closing remarks were of the concern for their resources and sensitive areas, and they questioned the availability for future funding to cover any sites not developed during the first round. Mr. Iwamoto addressed this concern outlining the need for planning in the Bering Sea and based on increase traffic and potential oil development, this area will continue to be of interest for funding.

Action Items:

- A meeting summary will be developed and circulated for review
- In the NWA Southern Zone Point Spencer will be replaced with Golsovia River
- A new SSM and Index Maps will be developed reflecting the updated sites selected, including information from Savoonga and Gambell
- An additional teleconference meeting with St. Lawrence Island representatives will be scheduled for the following week.
- Additional outreach will be made to communities in the subarea to gain input regarding the selected sites through Kawerak and Walrus Commission.
- Add information to the SSM from Wales.
- Maps will be drafted that will show the selected sites and will display the resources that need protection at each site

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- A Tactics Committee will be convened consisting of local individuals, response professionals, ADEC, Nuka Research and the USCG. This group will draft response plans for the selected sites.
- The plans will be put in the GRS format and put forth for public review. Edits and comments will be collected from the workgroup and incorporated in the plans.
- The workgroup may choose to meet again for a final review and approval of the plans.