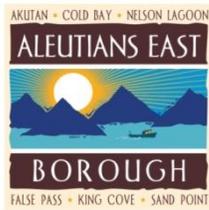


In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Nelson Lagoon Residents Weigh in on Possible Options to Combat Coastal Erosion

Nelson Lagoon residents recently took the first steps in selecting possible solutions to battle the community's relentless erosion problem. However, it's still unclear at this time what the total cost will be and where that funding will come from. On May 12th, the community participated in a coastal erosion information meeting, hosted by HDR, the engineering firm hired to address the problems that threaten



Last year, a fall storm knocked down portions of Nelson Lagoon's seawall.

homes and possibly infrastructure. The community, situated on a spit, is surrounded by the Bering Sea on one side and Nelson Lagoon on the other.

Just last fall, a storm pounded the community's shoreline, knocking down portions of a timber seawall (on the lagoon side) that has been in place for nearly 30 years.



HDR's Ronny McPherson and Laurie Cummings provided the community with several possible shoreline protection alternatives to choose from.

“Judging by how the shoreline is retreating, it looks like if they don't put up something soon, they may be in some serious trouble with losing some houses and other community buildings,” said Ronny McPherson, Coastal Engineer with HDR.

McPherson and HDR Planner Laurie Cummings presented a PowerPoint demonstration to show residents the methodology used to determine the rate and extent of the coastal erosion. McPherson said HDR geo-referenced six or so

historical aerial photos dating back to 1973. Next, they viewed the aerials on top of each other to examine the changes in the shorelines. Afterward, they digitized the shorelines off the vegetation line to see how the shoreline has moved over the years. The HDR team conducted a 55-year projection based on the historical aerials, both with and without the seawall.

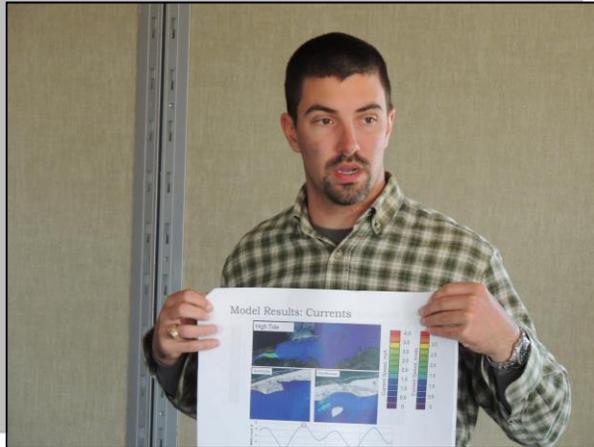
“The community indicated that the shoreline projection was concerning because it shows that multiple buildings and the airport could be affected by erosion. By having a protective seawall or other shoreline protection along this area, a lot of that can be avoided,” Cummings said.



HDR's 55-year shoreline projection based on historical aerials indicates multiple buildings and the community's airport could be affected by erosion.

The team also used another tool, computer modeling.

“So with this, we develop the lagoon as it now looks, and then we’ll run water through it in the computer,” McPherson explained. “As the tide goes in and out, we’ll also have wind go across the surface of the water to create waves, to calculate how big waves can actually be based on some sort of storm event. We can also calculate how big the current can be based on tides.”



HDR also developed a computer model to calculate the community’s current, waves and wind.

A couple years ago, McPherson and Mark McNeley, a Nelson Lagoon resident and the environmental director with the Tribal Village of Nelson Lagoon, placed instruments out in the lagoon to calculate waves and the current

to help tie everything together for the computer models.

“We adjust the computer to what actually happens so it becomes a better tool for us to use for predicting wave heights and currents,” McPherson said.

Last year, HDR sent a crew out to Nelson Lagoon to survey and measure elevations, starting on land and then walking out to the water. The crew also took a boat and traveled all the way across the lagoon to survey 24 different transects along the Nelson Lagoon shoreline, which created a data point for 2013.

A year later, on the same day as the informational meeting, McPherson, Cummings and McNeley, drove out to the same points



On May 12, 2014, the HDR crew surveyed transects to compare them with last year.

along the shoreline to do similar survey work for this year.



McPherson plots transects both on land and in water.

“What we can do with that is we can plot transects on top of older transects to see how much the shoreline has retreated or advanced in certain situations,” McPherson said. “I think in most cases, it’s going to be retreat here in Nelson Lagoon.

All of this work helps HDR and community residents determine which type of shoreline protection measures would be most effective as well as affordable.

Mcpherson and Cummings presented several possible shoreline protection options used throughout the



Gabion baskets.



Geotextile containers.

United States, including a sheetpile wall, an armor stone revetment, gabion baskets, articulating block mats, geotextile tubes, geotextile containers, a concrete bag revetment, a timber seawall and beach nourishment. They discussed the pros and cons to each, including which ones require high or low maintenance and which ones might be cost-prohibitive. They

also discussed the options that could be built with local labor, which would provide a cost savings. Community residents concluded that a combination of alternatives might work best such as a timber seawall with gabion baskets (steel wire mesh baskets filled with small stones). Another option residents are interested in is geotextile containers, which can be fabricated to any size.



Nelson Lagoon residents provided feedback on protection alternatives.

“Inside that, they can fill it with natural

materials in the area, such as sand and gravel from a location they mine appropriately,” McPherson said.



Residents told the HDR crew they're interested in a combination of alternatives such as the timber seawall, geotextile containers and the gabion baskets.

Other issues raised during the meeting were environmental concerns that may have to be addressed since the area is part of the Port Moller Critical Habitat Area.

“So there could be a lot of environmental concerns, not only from the Fish and Wildlife Service, but from the community,” said Cummings. “It’s important to make sure the shoreline protection measures respect the environment because it is that symbiotic relationship that we want to preserve.”

HDR and Aleutians East Borough officials plan to meet with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies soon to identify concerns so they can be addressed early in the alternative development process.

“There are definitely regulations in place, and we will have to discuss that with them to find out what they will allow us to build for community protection,” Cummings said.

HDR plans to take the feedback provided by the community to come up with design drawings and cost estimates for the protection alternatives by this fall. At this point, FEMA does not consider erosion to be a disaster. So the community would not qualify for disaster funds. However, based on the erosion, the community could be eligible for mitigation funds, which would come from both the State of Alaska and FEMA. The amount, in part, would depend on the cost of the protective measures



Other issues raised during the meeting include environmental concerns since the shoreline is part of the Port Moller Critical Habitat Area.

chosen. However, if a storm event caused actual damage to homes and infrastructure (such as the airport or the community's water line), the community could then qualify for disaster funds. That's a scenario residents want to prevent. With only portions of the existing timber seawall in place following last October's storm, that's certainly a concern, which is why community residents say time is of the essence.

Akutan's Cutting Edge Powerhouse is Fully Operational

The City's Power Systems Are Now Completely Integrated

For a small village, the City of Akutan is stepping up to a fairly big operation -- a new, ultra-modern powerhouse. The large system includes three generators -- two 150 kilowatt generators and one 100 kw generator.

"So you've got a total of a 400 kilowatt capacity," said Ray Mann of RMA Consulting Group, the City's Program Manager. "The new system is much more sophisticated and computerized. You can have all three generators



Akutan's state of the art powerhouse is now fully operational.

running at some level or we can shunt the power back and forth. It's really state of the art."

The new powerhouse, which cost the City about \$700,000, is the final piece to several major elements operating in the City of Akutan. One was the power distribution itself. Three years ago, that system was upgraded with new transformers, cabling and everything needed to complete the main distribution system. The transformers into each individual house



The City's power systems are now completely integrated.

were also upgraded with wiring and new boxes. At the same time, the City began upgrading the hydro plant system, which is powered by both hydro and diesel. The three impoundments above the village, which hold the water, were also upgraded. Each has gauges and valves that were replaced and modernized. That work was wrapped up last fall, thanks to grants from the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) and City matching funds, totaling \$1.5 million.

“The AEA had always wanted to have all of the systems integrated,” said Mann. “The systems are now hooked up to a computerized control system. You can actually control the integrated system remotely from a computer terminal. The contractor for this hybrid system upgrade routinely conducts checks from Juneau or Anchorage. So if there’s a problem or something needs to be done, they have full access to the system. They can turn it on, turn it off, get reports and readouts, troubleshoot and advise the City.”

City employees have received a significant amount of training to help with maintenance. Mann said with heavy investments in this power system, maintenance is the key. That includes



changing the oil periodically and monitoring the coolant levels in each of the new generators. Another benefit of the integrated systems is the City will have more precise numbers, including how many hours the hydro plant was running, how much electricity was generated and how much diesel was expended during that time period.

The systems are connected to a computerized control system that can be controlled remotely from a computer terminal.

“When the hydro system was restarted late last year, the City immediately started reaping the rewards for that system in reducing the amount of diesel and money

spent,” Mann said. “Of course, it depends on weather conditions, the volume of water available and so on. We would like to shoot for at least 50 to 75 percent power production from the hydro because every kilowatt we generate from the hydro system is a cost savings.”

During the winter when it’s frozen, less water flow is generated. However, at other times of the year, it could be producing 80 percent or higher. So if you average that across a year, it amounts to about 50 percent.

“Any village that would save 50 percent on their diesel bill is realizing a significant savings,” Mann said.

Sand Point Gears up to Finalize Small Boat Harbor Rehab Project

Sand Point's small boat harbor rehabilitation project is almost wrapped up. However, before the City gears up for a grand reopening, a few finishing touches are being added. One issue is ensuring that all the floats are level. A contractor is installing more flotation to level everything out.

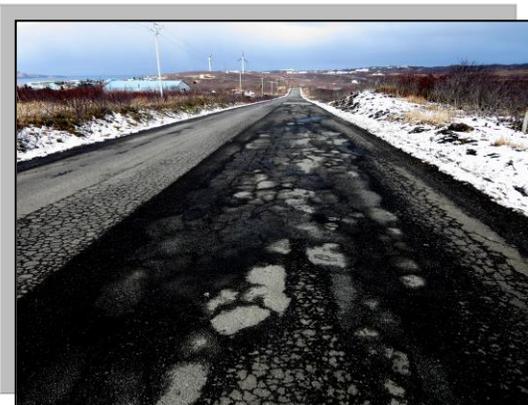
"Then it's just electrifying the uplands storage area to finish out the project," said Sand Point Administrator Andy Varner.

Instead of having one electric meter base and extension cords running in different directions, about fifty meters will be installed to help gauge and bill appropriately for individual meter use. There will be four different central (mini) power stations. Each one will have several meters.

"We had some money left over from the original harbor bid, so this was just a way we could enhance the harbor project," Varner said. "Once that's done, the entire project is complete."

Varner said the City is hoping to schedule a harbor grand reopening in mid-summer. He would like to stress that the City very much appreciates the Borough funding, which helped to provide the match for this very important regional project. The harbor is once again a real community asset and working resource for the fleet.

Sand Point Street Paving Project to Go Out to Bid



The main airport road will get paved this summer.

A smoother road is ahead in Sand Point, thanks to a street paving project slated to begin late this summer. The main airport road leading into town will soon get a much-needed facelift. The length of this section is a little more than two miles.

"It's been more than twenty years since this road was last paved," said Sand Point Administrator Andy Varner. "Some sections are still in good shape, but

some sections are starting to crack in spots.”

The street paving project is expected to go out to bid in early June. It will cost approximately \$2.5 million. The money will come from unused state general obligation bond funds from a couple of years ago.

“Our intent is to attempt to receive bids from any contractors doing work out in the southwest region so we can hopefully tack on to some of their workload because mobilizing crews and equipment is very expensive,” Varner said. “Up to forty percent of the estimated cost is mobilization.”

Another area in town will be paved, located near the Trident Plant and in front of the Shumagin Corporation offices. That section is one-quarter mile long. If more money becomes available or if bids come in low, it is possible other sections of road in Sand Point will also be paved, such as the half mile-long harbor access road.

“We have also talked to Trident and Peter Pan Seafoods, to find out whether they need any paving work done,” said Varner. “My understanding is, when you have asphalt

equipment arriving on a barge, it’s a good idea to take advantage of it.”



The street paving project is scheduled to go out to bid in early June.

Cold Bay DOT Employees Take Part in ARFF Training

If a fire were to break out at the Cold Bay Airport or somewhere else in town, Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) employees based there are more prepared than ever to handle it. Several Cold Bay Airport DOT employees headed to Kenai recently to beef up on their Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) skills during training April 7th – 12th.



Several Cold Bay DOT employees took part in ARFF training recently. Photo by Hap Kremer.

Those who participated included Harold “Hap” Kremer, Jorge Lopez, Paul Schaack and Shane Watson.

“I enjoy fighting the fires during the training,” said Harold “Hap” Kremer, Cold Bay’s Airport Manager.

“When you have a good team, nothing there is too challenging.”

The annual training included operational and response requirements such as emergency aircraft evacuation assistance and firefighting operations. In addition, participants polished their skills performing emergency medical services, such as CPR, dealing with shock, bleeding, burns and injuries to the skull,



From left to right, Jorge Lopez, Hap Kremer and Shane Watson.

spine, chest and extremities as well as moving patients and triage.

“I have attended this kind of training for 10-plus years now”, Kremer added, “and each time, I learn something new.”



The annual training included operational and response requirements, such as emergency aircraft evacuation assistance and firefighting operations. Photo by Hap Kremer.

Cold Bay Residents Clean Up their Town



Kerry Burkhart helps clean up Cold Bay.



Matthew Lopez gets busy picking up trash.

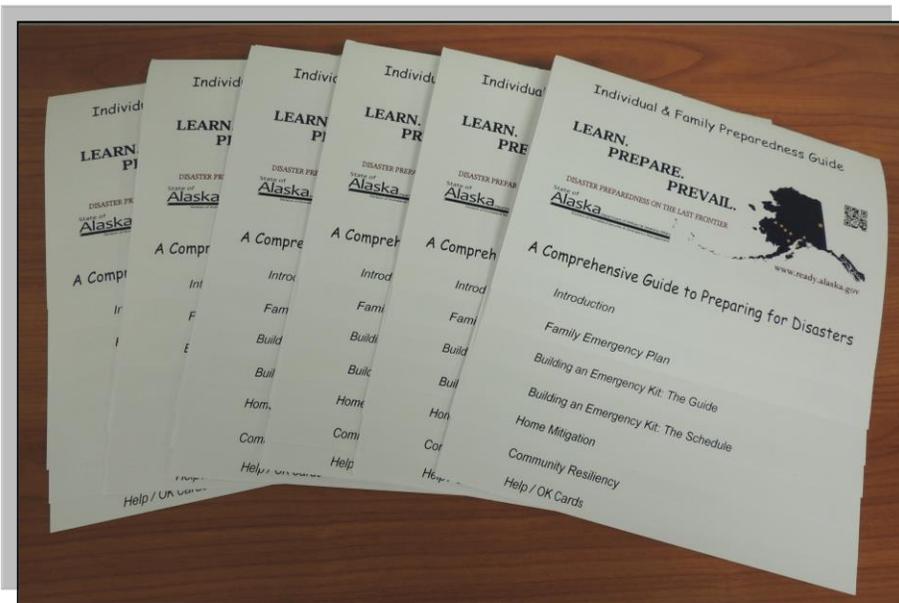
Cold Bay residents turns out in force for the City's Town Cleanup Day on May 9th. As a result of their hard work, the community looks fantastic.

Photos by Donna Lyons.



Devin Lyons discovers interesting finds while cleaning up the town.

Preparing for Disasters Can Make a Huge Difference



Earthquakes and tsunamis are just a few of the natural disasters that can happen in Alaska. After all, Alaska is the most seismically active state in the nation. In fact, approximately 32 earthquakes are measured in Alaska every day. The 1964 earthquake measured at 9.2 magnitude, the second largest ever recorded. It produced a tsunami that reached up to 70 feet in Valdez.

Fortunately, disasters like these don't happen often. But if one does occur, are you and your family prepared for such an emergency? Having an individual/family plan in place before a disaster strikes can make a big difference. For example:

- Know who to call and where to meet in the event of a major disaster so you and your family can be reunited.
- Have a family emergency kit ready in case you have to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having supplies for at least seven days.
- Create a neighborhood map showing the locations of natural gas meters and propane tanks.

If you're a bit overwhelmed on getting started, don't worry. The State's Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management has taken all of the guess work out of it. All you have to do is follow the Individual & Family Preparedness Guide, which is being mailed out to all of the Borough communities. Once you have it in your hands, you'll know exactly what to keep in your

emergency kit, how to prepare your pets for emergencies, ways to prevent or reduce damage in your home and how to shut off utilities. Remember: knowing what to do in the first few hours of a disaster may help you save a life and reduce the amount of damage.

Update from Eastern Aleutian Tribes

By EAT Executive Director Jennifer Harrison



People

- Welcome our New Hires:
 - Shaelyn Walker, Clinical Information Clerk (front desk), King Cove (first day May 8th)
- Open Positions:
 - Community Health Aides – Akutan and Nelson Lagoon
 - Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant – All Sites (Traveling)
 - Behavioral Health Clinician – Sand Point
 - Human Resource Assistant – Anchorage
 - Dental Health Aide Therapist – Sand Point
- Promotions:
 - **Jani Gundersen**, Clinical Information Clerk (front desk) – Sand Point
 - **Sarah Curwen**, PCT/Case Manager – King Cove



Service

- I have the following trips planned, so that I can visit with community members in person and find out what they think about EAT's service.
 - False Pass/Nelson Lagoon on June 2 – 7th

- King Cove on June 23-27th
- I am looking into scheduling trips to Adak and Akutan in July/August.

- UAA Dental Hygienist
 - King Cove: Rhonda Sheehan on August 4-15th
- Upcoming Emergency Management Services Classes (Call **Susan Shoemaker** in Sand Point at 907-903-0255 for more information)
 - ETT: False Pass: Fall
 - ETT – EMT1 Bridge – Sand Point: Winter



Growth/Innovation

- Webpage is under construction and should be completed within the next 1-2 months.
- We are working on creating a video on the Founders' Story for Eastern Aleutian Tribes. The next team meeting is on June 30, 2014 at 2:00pm. Please contact me if you would like to be part of this exciting project.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- EAT Board Meeting (July 2, 2014)
 - This meeting will be via teleconference.
- Wellness Event in Sand Point (August 7-10, 2014)
- Health Carnival in King Cove (Aug 9, 2014)



William Dushkin, Vice President, and Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director, at I.H.S. Final Negotiations. Photo by Mark Hoover.



The list of Sand Point School graduates includes Matthew Bravo, Keomi Chrim, Rosalie Holmberg, Alaina Kuchenoff, Maynard Maglaya, Brett Stokes and Keith Wilson.

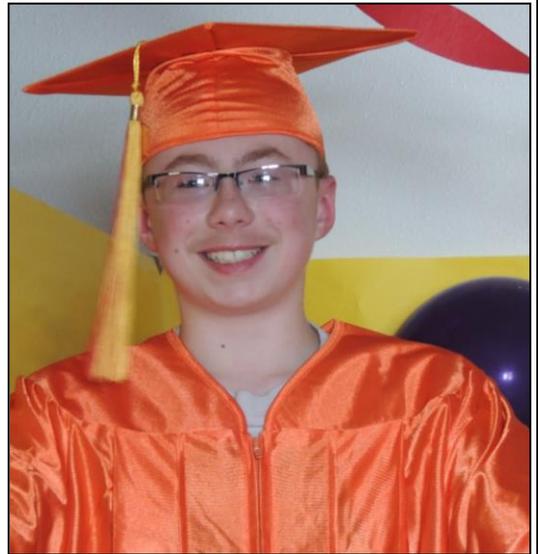


Nathan Nelson graduated from 12th grade at Nelson Lagoon's correspondence school.



Felicia Johnson graduated from 8th grade at Nelson Lagoon's correspondence school.

Jolene Borenin graduated from the Akutan School.



Sherman McNeley graduated from 8th grade at Nelson Lagoon's correspondence school.

The following students graduated from the King Cove School:

- Rachael Yatchmeneff - Valedictorian
- Jaimen Newman – Salutatorian
- Paul "PJ" Hamilton
- Mitchell Dushkin
- Carl Newman
- Micah Nason

Congratulations to all AEBSD's graduates!



Job Openings with APICDA:



Bookkeeper

Immediate opening for full-time, permanent position, located in Juneau. Must be proficient with MS Excel; familiarity with Sage/MAS is a plus. Experience in a multi-company environment desired. Must be willing to travel on occasion. Competitive wage depends on experience. Excellent benefit package includes Paid Time Off; holidays; medical, dental, vision, life insurance; 401(k). EOE.

To apply please submit cover letter and resume/employment application to:
hr@apicda.com

Fuel Farm Manager

False Pass Fuel Company, an APICDA owned company. Position will be based in False Pass. Responsibilities include day-to-day management of bulk fuel operations at a remote rural Alaska location. Qualifications include: At least one year experience which includes knowledge of fuel farm systems; knowledge and skill in receiving, storing, transferring, issuing, and testing of fuels; knowledge of safety regulations and use of safety equipment; experience and ability to perform operator maintenance of equipment; accounting and inventory techniques. APICDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

Skills include:

- Licenses/certifications as required for some operations.
- Basic computer knowledge.
- Valid driver's license.
- Gauging of fuel tanks.

Salary: Salary depends on experience (DOE)

CLOSES: Open until filled.

To apply please submit cover letter and resume to: hr@apicda.com

Got News?

If you have news you'd like to share, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call AEB Communications Manager Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



Thank you for reading In the Loop. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to ltanis@aeboro.org. For more information about our communities, our people, and our fisheries, please visit us at www.aleutianseast.org and www.aebfish.org, and check out our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/AleutiansEastBorough>.

