

**NPR-A Working Group Teleconference Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 16, 2015 9 AM**

Participants

Stacie McIntosh, BLM Arctic Field Office Manager  
Roy Nageak, BLM Barrow Field Station  
Stacey Fritz, BLM Arctic Field Office Anthropologist/Subsistence  
Crawford Patkotak, ASRC (NPR-A Working Group Co-Chair)  
Sara Longan, State of Alaska DNR  
Tommy Olemaun, President, Native Village of Barrow  
Bob Harcharek, Mayor, City of Barrow  
Tom Lohman, NSB  
John Boyle, NSB  
Vincent Bodfish, Wainwright  
Lars Nelson, UIC  
Lois Epstein, The Wilderness Society  
Jan Rappaport, The Nature Conservancy  
Lindsey Hadjuk, Conservation Lands Foundation  
Rusty Brown, ConocoPhillips Alaska  
David Krause, The Wilderness Society  
Nicole Whittington-Evans, The Wilderness Society  
Jennifer Curtis, EPA

Minutes:

- Only 4 WG members on the line therefore not a quorum

Roy Nageak gives an invocation, praises Atqasuk for its excellent use of NPR-A Impact Funds to clean up the town and improve the community center

Stacie McIntosh gives an overview of today's meeting agenda:

- a summary of the RMS Meeting in Nuiqsut May 30,
- last WG meeting's discussion of role of NPR-A WG in the RMS – placed on today's agenda under RMS

John Boyle: discussed submitting letter on disposition of GMT1 Compensation Mitigation funds, has a draft that he is circulating to his leaders, he will then circulate to WG members for their approval

Crawford Patkotak: report on ASRC annual meeting in Nuiqsut and local concerns that were highlighted, asks what BLM heard there and what BLM responses were

Stacie M.: Nuiqsut RMS meeting was great opportunity for residents of Nuiqsut to speak to both the BLM and to each other, lots of people appreciated the opportunity to speak to

the Kuukpik Corporation, many ideas for things that would be beneficial, overarching theme of the community working together

- Will go over meeting details under RMS item on agenda.
- Given that GMT1 found major impacts to subsistence and sociocultural specifically to Nuiqsut, then it is clear that Compensatory Mitigation funds assist in minimizing impacts to Nuiqsut so Nuiqsut should decide how the funds should be used. BLM heard that and is moving forward with that.
- BLM update: July 28 – 30, Stacie and Nicole Hayes (New Legacy Wells coordinator and John Carhanan) will be traveling to Barrow to meet with NSB and UIC to discuss clean up – if anyone wants to meet with the BLM during Stacie’s trip to Barrow, call Roy at BLM Barrow office 852-2757
- August 9-10, Stacie, Native Village of Nuiqsut President Sam Kunaknana, Melody Debenham with DEC and Erik Kenning with ASRC will fly to Umiat then to Gubik wells and try to find possible source of drums into the Colville and Chandler, possibly due to erosion
- Winter activities: last year was NordAq’s Tulimaniq project in Smith Bay, NordAq still owns the leases but now Caelus Energy Alaska has taken over the activities on NordAq’s leases and will continue the work and drill two exploratory wells, Caelus is having meetings and getting various permits, plans to barge equipment to Point Lonely to stage it there until season opens to construct snow road to Lake 364 near bottom of Smith Bay
- Potential for Linc to continue exploratory activities at Umiat, doing summer work

Roy Nageak: Nuiqsut residents are very concerned about air quality, the health department did a report on it.

Crawford: ASRC heard same concerns at its annual meeting in Nuiqsut, getting air reports is very important, find out if air quality is truly affecting people’s health

Tommy Olemaun: tribes do not get NPR-A Impact Funds, only limited funds from federal gov. therefore any mitigation funds should go to all communities, NVB is trying to find unrestricted funds to help with housing and economic development, increasing numbers of scientists coming up harassing caribou

Stacie McIntosh:

- Basics of NPR-A Impact funds: started when NPR-A was opened to leasing in 1999 whereby 50% of the lease sales deposited with the State of AK and the state manages funds, BLM does not have influence, who does are Alaska’s congressional representatives. The NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program was a law passed by Congress thus only Congress can change it. When he was in Nuiqsut for the May 30 RMS meeting, BLM Director Neil Kornze asked whether residents had asked Congressional reps.
- Goes over the plan for the RMS Workshop

- 2 tier: one plan for these GMT1 compensatory funds and one plan to design a framework for future mitigation
- participants will come away with tasks
- agenda will be available soon

Bob Harcharek: requests additional information, has to leave call

John Boyle: the tier 1 plan will determine what happens with the Compensatory Mitigation – that will be in Nuiqsut - who is invited to that meeting in Nuiqsut?

Stacie McIntosh: WG are primary invitees to the RMS meeting in Barrow, the RMS planning workshop will end and then there will be just a WG meeting, WG will likely have to organize itself into small groups to address parts of the RMS. The BLM policy for RMS requires broad stakeholder groups (so everyone who was invited to meeting in Fairbanks will be invited to meeting in Barrow – ENGOs, etc.

Lars Nelson with UIC Lands: filling in for Delbert Rexford– needs to be included on email list

Crawford: reiterates that RMS planning should be inclusive, everyone should have a seat at the table, if there is going to be a conversation about funds in the future it should be for everyone

Stacie McIntosh: Yes, will have major workshop on September 24-25. (BLM will pay travel costs for all the WG members outside of Barrow) and then BLM will be holding a series of meetings in the outlying villages to present what was discussed at the Barrow RMS meeting. BLM will not have actual workshops in all the villages, it will be a smaller group (Stacie M, Stacey Fritz, and the new RMS lead from the SO will go), will have smaller, shorter meetings like land mgmt. plans. BLM will be relying on the WG to funnel infoation and comments input from all communities.

Crawford: glad that Tommy Olemaun from NVB is on the call, WG charter supports

Stacie: One good thing is that on Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> we'll set aside time just for a WG meeting – will work on agenda with Crawford and John Hopson Jr.

Next WG call is for August 20 and then September 17<sup>th</sup> the week before the RMS meeting unless the WG decides not to hold a Sep. 17<sup>th</sup> call at that point given that there will be the RMS workshop with a WG face-to-face meeting the following week

Stacie McIntosh: The one thing those non-Barrow resident WG members can do to help out is fill out the travel paperwork to be entered into the BLM travel system. Last month it was recommended that an invitation be drafted for the RMS as soon as possible and, much like the first RMS meeting, the invitation will come from BLM Alaska State Director Bud Cribley and will be out soon, it will go out by email and by letter to all the original invitees and any new participants/stakeholders that have been identified.

We have reserved the IHLC large meeting room but have not blocked off rooms in hotels yet but will do that soon.

Lars Nelson: needs contact information and all material that has been sent out

#### Community Issues:

- Tommy Olemaun: over the years with the reality department, dealt with the issue with summer projects using choppers flying low, now increasing industry aircraft traffic is adding to that. It is often a matter of communication but they are violating heights (minimum flight altitudes) when flying, people lose money when they go harvest, we tell the POCs time after time that they can't fly low and harass animals but that is going to be an ongoing issue, wants it stressed to remind people
- Stacie McIntosh: Yes, aircraft is most major impact on the increase to subsistence users on the North Slope. ICAS is also working on this issue and presented a resolution at SAP and RAC meetings. BLM Arctic Field Office put together a response with a great deal of relevant information that we will share with other entities. BLM does have flight restrictions on its permittees.
- Crawford Patkotak: really encourage permittees to hire locals for ground transportation (Boats, ATVs, etc. ) instead of aircraft
- Stacie: NSSI is tasked with finding research needs across the Slope and NSB representatives on the NSSI asked for assistance with that given that they do have such a wide range of scientists etc. – making note to alert NSSI of this WG recommendation
- Stacie: Will send to WG list all the information sent to ICAS on aviation, it is a good history of the issue and what can be done to address it, good information to prepare for any actions
- Next WG meeting is Aug 20 – please email either Stacie or co-chairs Crawford or John Hopson if you have items you want on the agenda.
- Draft agenda for RMS and invitations will be sent out soon
- John Boyle draft letter will be distributed to WG members soon
- Crawford: Upcoming meetings are really important and he encourages everyone to attend and there should be inclusion at Nuiqsut meeting for 3 regional entities
- Stacie: will notify Nuiqsut of that, Nuiqsut can invite whoever they want
- Crawford: Yes, BLM's goal is to be inclusive so it can't just be one village but all the villages. If we cut off and limit the voice of other villages and they won't be voting in situations where they are impacted, we don't want to cut anyone off, it would be disheartening so we need to emphasize inclusivity.

Adjournment