

# Native Village of Council Local Economic Development Plan 2010-2015

## Top 10 Local Economic Development Priority Projects 2010-2015

1. Land Planning
2. Environmental Protection
3. Education, business training, and economic development
4. Energy programs
5. Elders, youth, and cultural activities
6. Dumpsite improvements
7. Road improvements
8. Fire safety and training/creating firebreaks
9. Community cooperation
10. Cemetery renovations
11. Equipment storage building



### Prepared for:

The Native Village of Council  
and  
The Bering Straits Development Council

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June 17, 2010

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**Native Village of Council  
Resolution No. 10-06-02**

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF COUNCIL ADOPTING THE 2010 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LEDP) PRIORITIES APPLICABLE FROM July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2015.

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Council is the federally recognized governing body of the tribal members of Council, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a purpose of the Native Village of Council is to serve the people, community, and businesses of the tribe by promoting economic opportunities that improve the economic, social and environmental quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Council is responsible for the planning and implementation of economic development activities for the tribe in Council; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Council is responsible for the development and implementation of a community economic development strategy to guide the economic growth of the village in order to help increase local employment opportunities, foster a more stable and diversified economy, and improve the quality of life for residents, while maintaining the cultural heritage and subsistence priority of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Local Economic Development Plan provides the factual data support necessary to qualify for assistance in funding local projects; and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Council with assistance from Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program staff, has updated its five-year Strategic Economic Development Plan that states the community's values, goals, objectives, and strategy necessary for guiding future growth and economic development of the village; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 economic development priorities (11) listed in this Local Economic Development Plan were developed, reviewed, and approved by the community during a public meeting held on April 3, 2010; and

WHEREAS, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Council approves and adopts the 2010 Local Economic Development Plan and priorities for the tribe in Council, applicable between July 1, 2010 and December 31, 2015.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 11 economic development priorities listed below for the Native Village of Council as reviewed, updated, and re-prioritized, and approved on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, are:

1. Land Planning
2. Environmental Protection
3. Education, business training, and economic development
4. Energy programs
5. Elders, youth, and cultural activities
6. Dumpsite improvements
7. Road improvements
8. Fire safety and training/creating firebreaks
9. Community cooperation
10. Cemetery renovations
11. Equipment storage building

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a convened meeting of the Native Village of Council at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 6 for 0 against, and 1 absent.

Chase Gray

April 3, 2010

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chase Gray, Acting Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Katherine Lee

April 3, 2010

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Lee, Acting Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 1.0 Introduction

The community of Council is located at the terminus of the Nome/Council road, 72 miles northeast of Nome. It lies on north side of the Niukluk River.

Historically, this was a fish camp for the Fish River Tribe, who originally lived 12 miles downriver. Council's history is synonymous with the gold rush period, but now the community is primarily a summer fish campsite for the membership residents who live in Nome and other places and only has a few permanent residents. Tribal enrollment is 142.



### 1.1 Purpose of the 2010-2015 Local Economic Development Plan

The Native Village of Council as a federally recognized federally recognized tribe has assumed diverse powers under federal and state laws. These include the protection of life, property, and the environment threatened by natural or technological disasters. The Council Traditional Council contracts with various federal, state, and other organizations to administer governance, infrastructure, public services, education, economic programs, and social or cultural programs. The LEDP is a critical step in the on-going development of the tribe and its efforts to improve community conditions and the well being of its members. The LEDP is structured to:

- Provide the tribe with a complete inventory of existing demographics, races, social conditions and services, economic conditions and activities, public services provided, and public and private facilities;
- Equip the tribe with the basic informational tools of local planning that accurately show land status and ownership as well as traditional resources and subsistence areas;
- Provide implementation strategies for development priorities; including land use, public facilities and services, capital improvements, economic development and community governance;
- Place emphasis on the crucial development issues; economic and resource development, land use planning and needs of the community with regards to infrastructure, and priority capital improvement projects;
- Involve key decision makers to assist in the identification of common goals and direction to achieve those goals.

## **2.0 Planning Process and Public Involvement**

### **2.1 Planning History and Accomplishments**

The Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program (CPD) worked with the tribe of Council in developing and updating its Local Economic Development Plan (LEPD). LEPD's analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop goals, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future development. Council's first LEPD was in 1998 and the second was in 2003. The Council Traditional Council regularly updates their priorities.

#### **Major accomplishments in the tribe and the community of Council since 2003**

1. Business Development & Tourism
  - New tribal community building in Nome completed with the plan to rent the facility for meetings, events, and office space.
  - The council is currently developing policies and procedures for rental of facilities and equipment.
  - The tribe participated and hosted cultural events when the Maori came to visit Nome.
  - Partnered with Kawerak and other villages to form a construction company called Tumet, Inc.
2. Communications
  - Kawerak grant to install the "Wireless Walrus" computer work station at the IRA office for public use by tribal members.
  - Tribal bulletin board, newsletter, scanner ads, and board member email to share information.
3. Culture
  - Community meetings held in Council
  - Tribal pot lucks
  - Four-tribes of Nome pot luck
  - Tribal photo collection is growing
  - Funeral assistance program for tribal members
  - Participated in a regional language revitalization project
4. Education & Job Training
  - The tribe held youth activities to pick greens and learn about edible plants.
  - Job training opportunities are posted on the bulletin board at the tribal office.

- Tribe sent council and staff to various trainings for grant writing, wellness, ICWA, etc.
  - Utilizes Kawerak and Northwest campus for various local training opportunities.
5. Electrical Power & Bulk Fuel
    - Helped some tribal members apply for the Citgo Fuel Program.
    - Installed energy efficient light bulbs in the community hall.
  6. Environment
    - Recycle bins were installed in Council for cans and plastic.
  7. Health
    - The tribal office provides transportation to the clinic for tribal members that need it.
    - Participated in the Avian Flu bird studies.
    - Diabetes camp for members was held in summer 2008.
    - Dental/vision financial assistance is provided to eligible members.
  8. Housing
    - Corporation camp site program
    - Corporation share holder home site program
    - Bering Strait Regional Housing Authority awarded two new homes to the tribe. These have not been conveyed to date.
  9. Jobs & Employment Opportunities
    - Hired two tribal members to work at youth activities.
    - The tribe will hire staff for the summer roads project in 2009.
    - The tribal office is available to help tribal members with job applications and resumes using the Wireless Walrus equipment.
    - Local job opportunities are posted on the bulletin board at the tribal office.
  10. Law
    - Tribal members participated in the Nome Safety Patrol during dividend days, holidays, and Iditarod.
  11. Natural Resources
    - Corporation agreements made for future exploration of minerals in Council.
    - Fish studies conducted by Kawerak, NSEDC, and the State of Alaska.
    - Tribal members participated in the harvest studies to protect subsistence rights.
  12. Public Facilities & Buildings
    - Kawerak completed an aerial mapping project in 2004 that has proven useful for all construction projects in the region.

- Old community building in Council is maintained by the tribe and used for community meetings.
- New tribal building was built in Nome in 2002, moved into the building in 2003.
- Addition was added to the building in 2005 for a conference room.
- Surplus furniture was obtained to furnish the new tribal office.
- A freezer was purchased for the tribal office.
- Two vehicles were obtained for the tribe.
- Tribal activity night held to gather beach logs and build a fence at the tribal property in Nome.

### 13. Public Safety

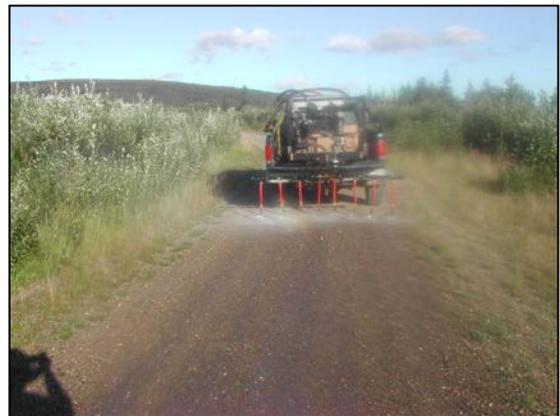
- Portable fire-fighting equipment was obtained and placed in three strategic locations in Council.
- Emergency equipment storage van was moved to a better location in Council.
- Some Council residents have ham radios, VHF, or satellite phones for emergency use.
- Some Council residents have firefighting and crisis training.

### 14. Sewer & Water Source

- Some Council residents have wells, septic systems, or use honey buckets.

### 15. Social

- Activity Nights are held at the tribal conference hall.
- New 2008 and 2009 Tribal budget approved setting more funds aside for Tribal Activities and Events.
- Annual meeting held in Council as a community event.



**Dust Control Project on Council Streets in 2007.**

### 16. Transportation

- Some culverts and drainage ditches were built in Council to help maintain the roads better.
- Dust control project completed in Council in 2007.
- Brush cutting and road maintenance project scheduled for summer 2009.

### 17. Tribal Governance

- Tribal constitution and ordinances were revised to avoid conflicts and confusion.
- New balloting system approved for council elections.

- Long Range Transportation Plan completed through Kawerak
- Organizational Strategic Plan completed in July 2004.
- New policies and procedures being developed for rental of tribal facilities, equipment, and office space.
- Tribal calendar developed to guide the efforts of the tribal programs and services.
- Ongoing tribal enrollment, issuance of ID cards, and help getting BIA cards.
- Tribal planning of a Land Conference to determine areas of responsibility, ownership, rights of way, and trespass issues in Council.
- Regular and annual meetings held.
- Incentives for youth participation in tribal government.
- Tribe is now managing the ICWA program.

#### 18. Waste Management

- Backhauled large items from the dump and removed old barrels.
- Segregated the dumpsite in Council into sections for combustibles and other types of waste.

## **2.2 Planning Committee & Staff Description**

Realizing that changes within the community and some current public service facilities is not adequate to achieve program parity, the Native Village of Council began holding meetings with Kawerak's Community Planning and Development Planner in January 2009 to discuss and analyze how current infrastructure and programs affect the community of Council and the tribal membership. The conclusion was to update the top priorities and update the Strategic Economic Development Plan for the community. With assistance from Kawerak's Community Planning and Development Program staff, planning workshops were held and a draft was written and presented to the councils and public for review in April 2010. After some edits the plan with the approved priorities was adopted and approved on April 3, 2010.

## **2.3 Method for Plan Development and Components**

The Native Village of Council sought a strategic planning process based upon:

- Technology of Participation methods developed by the Institute of Culture Affairs
- Denali Commission, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Alaska Humanities Forum Community Strategic Plan Guide and Form

These methods are proven effective in encouraging full participation from diverse groups and are best applied within community-based settings. This process was implemented among the participant's by first brainstorming ideas individually, then sharing ideas through small group discussions, and finishing with review among all participants confirming new resolves and decisions. The following foundational values or ground rules were applied during planning sessions:

- Participation: each person bringing a different insight, perspective and knowledge that formulates the larger picture
- Respect: respecting and honoring each person's views and ideas, empowering each other
- Teamwork: each person working with everyone else in their role to accomplish the goals of the community
- Creativity: giving permission for the dialogue between the rational mind and intuitive heart perspectives, keeping our eyes open to new ways of thinking
- Action: moving economic development towards local responsibility and accountability

The planning process was made up of three parts. Each component helped provide a comprehensive planning approach.

- LEPD Vision, Values and Goals - Developed the direction for the tribe's social and economic development with an overall vision, guiding community values, and development goals
- Implementation Strategies - Created strategic action plans that the tribe can take in the coming five years to begin the actions and movement toward the vision and development goals
- Funding and Land Use - Identified potential funding and community investments to implement development goals. Identified potential sites for selection of projects requiring land.
- Recommended application of community values during implementation of development activities

It is expected that the Local Economic Development Planning document should include:

- Community profile and assessment data
- Community vision, value statement and goals
- Updated community priorities for community and economic development
- Top priority implementation strategies for guidance in community development projects

## **2.4 Comprehensive Development Status**

As the federally recognized governing body of the tribal members Council, the Native Village of Council has optional powers under the state law for planning, platting, and land use regulation within municipal boundaries. The Native Village of Council has assumed some of these powers.

A Community and Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a regional economic development plan, was updated for the Bering Strait Region communities in 2006 by the Bering Straits Development Council. The next full update is scheduled for 2009. This document can be found at:

<http://www.kawerak.org/service/divisions/csd/cpd/index.html>

The Native Village of Council regularly updates its Local Economic Development Plan's Top Priority List. Many LEDP Priority Projects turn into successfully completed development projects. The new priorities for the Council Strategic Economic Development Plan were updated by the Council Traditional Council on April 3, 2010.

#### **Approved 2010-2015 Priority List for the Native Village of Council**

1. Land Planning
2. Environmental Protection
3. Education, business training, and economic development
4. Energy programs
5. Elders, youth, and cultural activities
6. Dumpsite improvements
7. Road improvements
8. Fire safety and training/creating firebreaks
9. Community cooperation
10. Cemetery renovations
11. Equipment storage building

## 3.0 Community Descriptions

### 3.1 Location

Council is located at the terminus of the Nome/Council road, 60 miles northeast of Nome. It lies on north side of the Niukluk River. It lies at approximately 64.890706 North Latitude and -163.673088 West Longitude. (Sec. 11, T007S, R025W, Kateel River Meridian.) Council is located in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 21.8 sq. miles of land and 0.3 sq. miles of water. Council has a continental climate with maritime influences when Norton Sound is ice-free. Its inland location gives greater daily variation in temperatures than nearby coastal communities. Temperatures range from -50 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.



### 3.2 History and Culture

Historically, this was a fish camp for the Fish River Tribe, who originally lived 12 miles downriver. Council's history is synonymous with the gold rush period. Gold was first discovered in the area by Daniel B. Libby and party in 1897. By 1898, there were 50 log houses. The gold found at Ophir Creek was the second richest claim in the world. During the summers of 1897-99, the population of "Council City" was estimated at 15,000. It had a school, hotel, wooden boardwalks, a 20-bed hospital, a post office and numerous bars. The discovery of more gold at Nome in 1900 caused many of the boomers to leave Council. However, the population during 1910 was 686. The depletion of gold, the flu epidemic of 1918, the depression, and World War II all contributed to the decline of the population. By 1950, only nine people remained. Postal service continued until 1978. But some families remained year-round for many more years. Mail runs were made well into the 1980's, also there was a health aide, a school, and the runway was maintained. Today, the community has only a few year-round residents. The community is used in the summer by tribal and nontribal members who live in Nome and other places.

Several Nome residents have homes in Council, used for summer subsistence food-gathering activities. Households must haul water from other locations. Sewage is deposited in septic tanks or outhouses. Only a few homes have plumbing. There is no central electric system, but there are generators in place that have not been used for over ten years. Council is connected by road to Nome. There is a State-owned 3,000 foot gravel airstrip, but it is not maintained in the winter. Air charter services are available from Nome. Dogsleds and

snowmachines are the main means of transportation during the winter.

### **3.3 Government, Corporations, and Service Providers**

#### **3.3.1 Council Traditional Council**

The federally recognized Native Village of Council conducts tribal government affairs for the Native Village of Council members. The Council owns the Council Community Hall in Nome. They operate various programs for the tribe and work closely with Kawerak, Inc., the regional non-profit Native organization.

##### **Native Village of Council – 2010**

Acting Chairman	Chase Gray
Member	Maureen Pederson
Member	Flora Simon
Member	Steven Longley
Member	Kat Lee
Member	Nora Brown-Douglas
Member	Barb Vial

#### **3.3.2 City Government**

The community of Council has no city government to govern or provide services to the Council residents.

#### **3.3.3 Council Native Corporation**

The village corporation established under ANSCA is the Council Native Corporation. The for-profit corporation conducts business in land.

##### **Council Native Corporation Board-2010**

President	Maureen Pederson
Chairman	Tom Gray
Secretary	Nora Brown-Douglas
Treasurer	Luisa Machuca
Member	Edward Schubert
Member	Kat Lee
Member	William Gray
Member	June Kugelmann
Member	Carolyn Schubert

**3.3.4 Regional Corporations** – Council is served by several regional corporations, which are located in Nome or Anchorage.

## Local and Regional Contacts

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<p>Council Native Corporation Maureen Pederson, President P.O. Box 1183, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-</p>	<p>Bering Straits Native Corp. P.O. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5252, Fax: 443-2985 Web: <a href="http://www.beringstraits.com/">http://www.beringstraits.com/</a></p>
<p>Bering Straits Regional Housing Auth. P.O. Box 995 Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5256, Fax: 907-443-8652</p>	<p>Norton Sound Health Corporation P.O. Box 966, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-3311, Fax: 443-3139 Web: <a href="http://nortonsoundhealth.org/">http://nortonsoundhealth.org/</a></p>
<p>Norton Sound Economic Dev. Corp. 601 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 415 Anchorage, AK 99503 1-800-650-2248 Web: <a href="http://www.nsedc.com">http://www.nsedc.com</a></p>	<p>Alaska State Troopers P.O. Box 1050, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-443-2835 <a href="http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/">http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/</a></p>
<p>Arctic Transportation Services P.O. Box 790, Nome, AK 99762 907-443-5482 <a href="http://ats.texrus.com/index.jsp">http://ats.texrus.com/index.jsp</a></p>	<p>Bering Air P.O. Box 1650, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-478-5422 <a href="http://www.beringair.com/">http://www.beringair.com/</a></p>
<p>Frontier Alaska 5245 Airport Industrial Rd. Fairbanks, AK. 99709 P.O. Box 1856, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-478-5125 <a href="http://www.frontierflying.com/">http://www.frontierflying.com/</a></p>	

### 3.4 Community of Council Infrastructure

**3.4.1 Housing** – There are approximately 30 privately owned houses in Council.

**3.4.2 Schools** – the local school closed in the early 1970’s.

**3.4.3 Water and Sewer** – Households must haul water from other locations. There is a well that could be restored for public use. Sewage is deposited in septic tanks or outhouses. Only a few homes have indoor plumbing.

**3.4.4 Landfill** – The old landfill site is sometimes used. It is maintained by volunteer residents or tribal members.

**3.4.5 Electricity** – There is no central electric system. Local residents use generators or other energy sources. There are remnants of the old electrical system that could be restored to provide services to the community.

**3.4.6 Fuel** – residents haul their own fuel from Nome and store it in private tanks.

**3.4.7 Transportation Systems** – Council is connected by road to Nome. There is a State-owned 3,000 foot gravel airstrip, but it is not maintained in the winter. Air charter services are available from Nome. Snowmachines are the main means of transportation during the winter. Residents also travel via the river and local summer and winter trail.

**3.4.8 Communications** – Telephone and Cell phone access in Council is currently not available, but some residents are ham radio operators.

**3.4.9 Public Safety and Health Care** – There are no local health care facilities, but a few residents have medical supply kits and medical training. Some local residents have fire fighting training.

**3.4.10 Public Buildings** – There is one community hall that is sometimes used for public events in the summer.

**3.4.11 Cemeteries and Graves** – There is one cemetery and some isolated gravesites in and around Council. There is a need to improve and expand the cemetery and to record names and re-mark graves. A local group is working on expansion and maintenance issues.

## **4.0 Population and Growth Trends**

### **4.1 Census Data**

The 2000 U.S. Census recorded a population of 0 people living in the community of Council. The State of Alaska DCCED certifies the 2007 population of the community at 7.

### **4.2 Employment and the Economy**

The local tribal members and residents supplement wage earnings by participating in subsistence hunting and fishing. Fish, seal, and moose are the primary subsistence meat sources. An increase in the predator population has had a negative effect on the moose populations. Beluga whale, caribou, Brandt ducks, geese, ptarmigan, spruce hens, grouse, and brown bear are also utilized. Seafood harvests include: crab, salmon, trout, grayling, tom-cod, white fish, pike, herring, herring eggs, and ling fish. The decline of fishing in 2003 imposed stricter regulations on silver salmon. Several kinds of bird eggs, roots, greens and berries are gathered.

Unemployment is high in Nome and the region. These figures are estimates based on a sample, and are subject to sampling variability. The percent of all households sampled in Nome was 26.6%. Note: Current socio-economic measures could differ significantly. Nome is located in the Nome Census Area.

**Income and Poverty Levels:**

Per Capita Income:	\$23,402
Median Household Income:	\$59,402
Median Family Income:	\$68,804
Persons in Poverty:	212
Percent Below Poverty:	6.3%

**Employment:**

Total Potential Work Force (Age 16+):	2,547
Total Employment:	1,544
Civilian Employment:	1,535
Military Employment:	9
Civilian Unemployed (And Seeking Work):	189
Percent Unemployed:	11.0%
Adults Not in Labor Force (Not Seeking Work):	814
Percent of All 16+ Not Working (Unemployed + Not Seeking):	39.4%
Private Wage & Salary Workers:	971
Self-Employed Workers (in own not incorporated business):	94
Government Workers (City, Borough, State, Federal):	456
Unpaid Family Workers:	14

**Employment by Occupation:**

Management, Professional & Related:	530
Service:	310
Sales & Office:	403
Farming, Fishing & Forestry:	2
Construction, Extraction & Maintenance:	137
Production, Transportation & Material Moving:	153

**Employment by Industry:**

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Mining:	36
Construction:	55
Manufacturing:	9
Wholesale Trade:	3
Retail Trade:	156
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities:	183
Information:	53
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental & Leasing:	40
Professional, Scientific, Management, Admin. & Waste Mgmt:	
Education, Health & Social Services:	474
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Serv.	170
Other Services (Except Public Admin):	109
Public Administration:	223

## 5.0 Environmental Scan

### 5.1 Soils and Topography

Council is located on a bluff above the Niukluk River, upriver from its confluence with Melsing Creek. The topography is rolling, except along the river to the southeast, which is a flat marshland with several lakes and thaw ponds.

Soils in the area vary with elevation. The higher, sloping lands have fair to moderately well-drained loamy and gravelly soils that, although highly erodible, are good for livestock grazing. Soils in lower areas and along stream banks are poorly drained with a peaty surface layer. Permafrost exists throughout the area, typically at shallow depths, necessitating appropriate foundation designs.

The Council town site is situated on both mine tailings and unmined areas. The unmined areas near the airport have a typical cross-section of a one-foot organic mat covering 4 to 5 feet of ice-rich organic silt and sandy silt overlying sandy gravel. The sandy gravel is alluvial, 6 to 16 feet thick, and overlies weathered schist bedrock. The water table is found at depths ranging from 2 to 14 feet below ground. The tailing piles are the coarse-grained residual materials placed over the natural soil.

## **5.2 Vegetation**

Vegetation on the Seward Peninsula is principally tundra, with alpine dryas-lichen tundra and barrens at high elevations and moist sedge-tussock tundra at lower elevations. Patches of low-growing ericaceous and willow-birch shrubs occur on better-drained areas. Vegetation in Council is generally limited to evergreen trees, alder, cottonwood and willow trees, berry bushes, wild flowers, lichens, shrubs, mosses, low bush berries, and various grasses. Local residents harvest a variety of berries, roots, mushrooms, and greens from the land. There is local concern over the increasing problem with birch-bark beetles destroying the trees. The dead wood has been a growing fire-hazard concern since 2005.

## **5.3 Climate**

Council has a continental climate with maritime influences when Norton Sound is ice-free. Its inland location gives greater daily variation in temperatures than nearby coastal communities. Temperatures range from -50 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds from the northwest and northeast predominate at Council, with an average velocity of 12 knots.

## **5.4 Wildlife**

A wide variety of fish and wildlife are present around Council. Moose, caribou, wolf, lynx, wolverine, beavers, porcupines, duck, geese, and other waterfowl are present. All species of salmon, whitefish, lingcod, grayling, pike, and trout are present in the area waters of Council. No critical habitat areas, refuges, or sanctuaries are listed in the area surrounding the community. No known endangered species habitats are located within the planning area. There is a problem occasionally with beavers damming the rivers.

## **5.5 Historic Preservation**

There are some historical campsites on the island which should be respected when selecting areas for future development.

## **5.6 Seismic, Flood, Erosion, and Wetland Information**

Council lies in seismic risk zone three, subject to earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater. There is no record of damage in Council from earthquakes or tsunamis. Council is subject to ice-jam and stream-overflow flooding from the Fish River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reported a low frequency of flooding at Council and has found Council to be in a low flood hazard area. Residents report that some low areas along the river are subject to river flooding.

Alaska's wetlands occupy 43.3 % of its 403,247,700 acres. This contrasts to the contiguous US where they occupy only 5.2 % of the land surface. Wetlands in Alaska include: bogs, fens, wet and moist tundra, ponds, forests, mud flats, fresh and salt marshes. Most regions in Alaska have a land surface with extensive areas

of wetlands. Expanses of moist and wet tundra underlain by permafrost occur in the northern and western regions. Some of the Nation's most extensive complexes of salt marshes and mud flats occur along the coasts of the Bering Sea.

## **5.7 Land Status**

### **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Land Status**

#### **ANCSA Land Entitlement:**

Village Corporation:	Council Native Corporation
12(a) Land Entitlement*:	69,120 acres
12(b) Land Entitlement**:	15,258 acres
Other Land Entitlements:	
14(c)(3) Land Status:	
14(c)(3) Status***:	Completed
14(c)(3) Agreement Signed:	Yes
14(c)(3) Acres:	234.0 (is recorded on the deed)
Map of Boundaries done:	Yes
Date Plat Filed:	3/31/1999
Plat Number:	99-3
Recording District:	Nome
Municipal Land Trust:	Yes
Authorized Village Entity Type:	Traditional

\* ANCSA 12(a) land entitlement to village corp. from federal government

\*\* ANCSA 12(b) land reallocated to village corp. from Reg. Native Corp.

\*\*\* Under ANCSA 14(c)(3), villages must reconvey surface estates to the local city government to provide for community use and expansion.

## **5.8 Designated Land Status and Management Issues**

There are no National Wildlife Refuges near Council, according to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers near Council, according to the U.S. National Park Service. State land includes the airport. There are a few Native Allotments that exist within the town site limits. There are some local right of way and easements issues to consider before developing certain projects. There is a local concern over trespassers on the land.

## **5.9 Land Use Potential**

Within Council there are some possible land areas for future development projects if care is taken not to build on existing gravesites or wetlands. There are no known sites within city limits which should not be used due to contamination or other issues.

## **6.0 Opportunities and Barriers to Development**

### **6.1 Development Opportunities, Trends, and Strengths**

What are our development opportunities, current trends, or strengths and assets that will help us as we plan and complete projects for the tribe and our community?

- **People and Organizations** – We strive to embrace diversity of opinion and encourage open communication, We are becoming more organized and focused, Council Traditional Council has advisory control over their town-site, we have an active tribal government, we are in the beginning stages of land management of the town site, outside agencies assist us with planning for development of infrastructure and programs.
- **Health and Safety** – Some residents are ham radio operators, the town site has access to the road system, airport, and river and trail access, the tribe operates some health and safety programs that benefit the community and its members, some residents have health or firefighting training, a few residents have emergency medical supplies.
- **Economy** – We have a large number of annual visitors who could bring money into our community, we would benefit from the Fairbanks to Nome road plans in the future, excellent mining opportunities, many other commercial development opportunities available to us.
- **Education and Training** High education level per capita, many education and training programs operated in Nome by Kawerak, the Northwest Campus, NACTEC and others.
- **Culture** – historic sites, landmarks, potential for community cultural events and activities.
- **Environmental** – Our people want to protect the environment and develop it responsibly, we have a clean and beautiful landscape, natural resources.
- **Infrastructure** – Air, river, road and trail access, our wells, bulk fuel, and electrical and communication systems could be restored, local home sites and campsites, community hall for public meetings.

**6.2 Development Barriers, Hazards, and Areas of Concern-**What are development barriers, hazards, or areas of concern that we need to consider as we begin development projects?

- People and Organizations – limited member involvement, need for more open communication, need for more planning to accommodate future populations, need for census recognition, need for more permanent local residents.
- Health and Safety – bears and beavers are a threat, loose dogs, substance abuse, accidents and fire.
- Economy – poor economy, some residents live on fixed incomes.
- Education and Training – need for more education and training opportunities and incentives.
- Culture – need to share cultural knowledge and have more cultural activities and events.
- Environmental – need for responsible mining that will protect the environment, climate change, declining number of fish and game, trespassers on the land, damage done by ATV's and trash to natural beauty, caribou are a threat to the local reindeer population, spruce bark beetles, danger of forest fires.
- Infrastructure – lack of active local infrastructure, need to revise policies for better roads program, dump maintenance problems continue, no easy access to goods and services.



## **7.0 Native Village of Council Vision, Goals, and Values**

### **7.1 Native Village of Council Vision and Mission:**

#### **Vision**

By the year 2015 we envision the Native Village of Council to:

- Have sufficient health care where the safety of the public is important.
- Have roads, sewer and water, electricity, and basic services that will support jobs.
- Have a subsistence lifestyle that is carefully balanced with the modern changing world and be culturally relevant.
- Be economically viable.

#### **Mission**

As tribal leaders of the Native Village of Council, we will promote and protect the best interests of our membership through informed decisions.

### **7.2 Native Village of Council Development Goals and Objectives:**

#### **Goals:**

1. Working together to improve the quality of life for the future.
2. Expanding our human capacity and building material assets for a stronger community.
3. Developing resources for an economic base to sustain our membership/community that is environmentally responsible.

#### **Objectives:**

1. To protect our membership and our environment so we will always have a healthy place to live.
2. To promote a safe and healthy lifestyle for our membership and generations to come.
3. To establish basic public services and facilities for the health and well being of our membership.
4. To provide education and training for our membership so they will be economically and socially viable.
5. To preserve and enhance our resources for future generations

### 7.3 Native Village of Council Values

- Unity
  - Historic preservation
  - Trust and respect
  - Cleanliness
  - Economic Opportunity-Jobs-Employment
  - Attracting people to come back
- to Council
  - Peace, quiet, and privacy.
  - Protecting our environment.
  - Protecting subsistence rights
  - Preservation of culture and traditional values



Vehicles crossing the river to get to Council.

## 8.0 Development Priorities and Implementation

There were 11 priorities identified and approved by the Native Village Council in order to improve the economic development for the tribe and the community. In order to provide a thorough understanding of each project, the following information is given:

### Project Description

Background

Project Needs and Benefits

Potential Constraints to Project Development

### Project Implementation

Plan of Action

Organizations Responsible and Contact Information

Funding Possibilities

## **Top Priorities for the Native Village of Council 2010-2015**

1. Land Planning
  2. Environmental Protection
  3. Education, business training, and economic development
  4. Energy programs
  5. Elders, youth, and cultural activities
  6. Dumpsite improvements
  7. Road improvements
  8. Fire safety and training/creating firebreaks
  9. Community cooperation
  10. Cemetery renovations
  11. Equipment storage building
- 

### **8.1 PRIORITY # 1 Land Planning**

#### **8.1.1 Project Description**

##### **Background**

Since the tribe relocated to Nome over 40 years ago, there has been no city government to provide programs or services to the community of Council. No agency is taking a lead in dealing with some of the important local issues. The Council Native Corporation owns the surface of some of the land while the Bering Straits Native Corporation owns the sub-surface. Then there is state land and land management. There is the Native Village of Council which acts as the tribal government for the tribe. Not all of the private land owners in the community of Council are Alaska Native. It is not clear who owns or is responsible for former lands or facilities that belonged to the former City of Council. Furthermore, it is not clear which agencies are responsible for planning the needs of the community.

##### **Project needs and benefits**

It will take massive interagency cooperation to begin land planning for the community of Council. Private landowners, the state government, the tribe, and the Native corporations will need to communicate on important issues like energy, water, sanitation, transportation, environmental protection, tourism development, and public safety. Cooperative land planning will develop unified goals for the community and identify how each agency can help meet those goals.

##### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The community of Council is a small community that is affected by some complex land issues that are difficult to address. All planning efforts in rural Alaska take extra time due to travel expenses for the participants and scheduling conflicts.

## 8.1.2 Project Implementation

### Plan of Action

- The Native Village of Council will be a lead agency in trying to get interagency cooperation in land planning for the community of Council. The Native Village of Council has a meeting hall in Nome which would be an ideal place for land planning meetings.
- Read land planning documents of other small tribes to get ideas.
- Use the technical assistance of the Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program to develop a land plan.
- Use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources for planning projects, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.

### Organizations Responsible and Contact Information

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Council Native Corporation, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Bering Straits Native Corporation, P.O. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762
- State of Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development- Division of Community and Regional Affairs, <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/>
- State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/>
- State of Alaska Dept. of Transportation, <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

### Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information

- Denali Commission - 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-271-1414, Fax: 271-1415, Toll Free - 1-888-480-4321, <http://www.denali.gov>
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Service-Administration for Native Americans (ANA), <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>
- Private foundations and local donations

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## 8.2 PRIORITY # 2 Environmental Protection

### 8.2.1 Project Description

#### Background

The State of Alaska manages the fish and wildlife as well as the road in and around the community of Council. The Native corporations manage the land they own in and around Council. Private property owners tend to the land that they own in the community. Kawerak and the State of Alaska have done some studies on the fish and wildlife.

## **Project needs and benefits**

The tribal members and residents depend on the land for subsistence uses. They also want to protect the land from pollution and natural threats like birch bark beetles and flooding. They want a safe and healthy environment to preserve the land for future generations.

Areas of concern include:

- Protection of the fish and wildlife
- Protection of the river and the land, clean water supply
- Protection of the trees and plants (pests and pollution)
- Fire safety equipment and training
- Trespassers (over hunting, litter)
- Responsible mineral development
- Proper drainage of roads/culverts
- Sanitation issues - dump maintenance, proper sewage and septic systems

## **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Without a city government to deal with the complex issues, it will take group efforts from all other agencies involved. The tribe is beginning to be more proactive in the process of community planning and cooperative efforts are starting among the other agencies.

## **8.2.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Continue to work on existing planning guidelines and environmental projects that have been published in this Strategic Economic Development Plan.
- Hold more joint meetings with the corporations and other agencies to share environmental goals and needs. The Native Village of Council will compile a list of environmental project goals for the community of Council that come out of the joint sessions.
- Apply for the upcoming Environmental Protection Agency's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant.

### **Organizations Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Council Native Corporation, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game - <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/>
- Environmental Protection Agency - Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (EPA-IGA) - <http://www.epa.gov/>

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - 500 C Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20472, Phone: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
  - Kawerak Transportation Program - PO Box 948, Nome, AK 99762, 907-443-4251
  - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) - <http://www.anthc.org/>
  - Rasmuson Foundation - [rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org](mailto:rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org), 301 West Northern Lights Blvd. Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99503, (907) 297-2700, (877) 366-2700 (toll-free within Alaska), (907) 297-2770 FAX, [www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
  - Denali Commission - 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-271-1414, Fax: 271-1415, Toll Free - 1-888-480-4321, <http://www.denali.gov>
  - Americorps/Vista - <http://www.ruralcap.com>
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### **8.3 PRIORITY # 3 Education, business training, and economic development**

#### **8.3.1 Project Description**

##### **Background**

Nome offers various education and training opportunities through the public school, Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical (NACTEC), University of Alaska Fairbanks – Northwest Campus (UAF-NWC), Co-operative Extension, Kawerak Community Education, Kawerak Village Based Training, Norton Sound Health Corporation and others. The economy is struggling and unemployment in Nome is currently 12.7%. Many of the higher paying local jobs go to outside residents due to lack of a skilled local workforce.

##### **Project needs and benefits**

Keeping students in school, increasing graduation and G.E.D. rates, and improving the number of people that go on to obtain higher education or job training are important to the tribe and the community of Council. It will provide the skills that individuals need to find work and support the community. It will help nurture the skills needed for small business development in the community of Council which will encourage more year round use of the land.

##### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The major constraints would be determining what kinds of training residents or tribal members are interested in and then working with partner agencies to plan and schedule the training. Education is costly and some may need tuition assistance funding.

## 8.3.2 Project Implementation

### Plan of Action

- Develop a survey to determine which kinds of training or education needs people in the community and tribe are interested in obtaining.
- Work with existing agencies to encourage program development in the areas identified.
- Determine if the tribe should host any training that is not available in the region.
- Use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources for education of training projects, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.

### Organizations Responsible and Contact Information

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Council Native Corporation, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

### Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information

- NACTEC - <http://nactec.bssd.org>
- Nome Public School – <http://www.nomeschools.com/>
- UAF - NWC - <http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/>
- Cooperative Extension -[http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=category&sectionid=5&id=53&Itemid=33](http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=category&sectionid=5&id=53&Itemid=33)
- Kawerak Community Education Program, Village Based Training, and Community Planning and Development Program – <http://www.kawerak.org>
- Norton Sound Health Corporation – <http://www.nshcorp.org>

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## 8.4 PRIORITY # 4 Energy programs

### 8.4.1 Project Description

#### Background

All residents of Council must haul their own fuel or wood and provide their own energy needs in the community. Some homes have generators. Some individual home and business owners in Nome are installing wind or solar systems to help reduce energy costs, but none have been done in the community of Council.

#### Project needs and benefits

Residents would stay in the community longer if the energy issues were solve. It would be of benefit if bulk fuel was stored in Council and available for sale. Alternative energy assistance would help more residents to install wind and solar systems. The data

from the Nome projects would help residents choose systems that are proven to work in an arctic environment. A long range goal would be to have a community generator that provides power to the community, even if on a seasonal basis to start out. Resident and tribal members, regardless of where they live, need to find ways to be more energy efficient. More efficient appliances, lights, and insulation could cut energy costs considerably. Cleaner energy solutions would also protect the environment and conserve the fossil fuels.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The absence of a city government makes energy planning for the community more difficult. The seasonal nature of the residents also makes it harder to plan for affordable public energy needs in Council, but solving the energy needs will be one of the first steps to lead to more people residing permanently in the community year around.

## **8.4.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Develop a local survey to determine energy use, energy needs, and energy concerns in the tribe and the community. Do a cost comparison of the cost of the fuel transported to Council plus the fuel used to travel to Nome to get it versus the cost to buy fuel in a rural village to see if there would be a cost saving.
- Come up with short term energy solutions like a bulk delivery to Council in a fuel truck with the agreement that all local residents will be available that day to purchase fuel from the truck.
- Determine the condition of the bulk fuel tanks and the facilities that housed the old community generator. Explore land and environmental issues regarding these land areas. Work with the tribe and the corporation to come up with some long term energy goals.
- Use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources for energy projects, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.

### **Organizations Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Council Native Corporation, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- Bonanza Fuel in Nome, 443-2561
- Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC) - 4831 Eagle St. Anchorage, Alaska, 99503, Marie Becker, Phone: 907-561-7972, <http://www.avec.org/>

- Denali Commission - 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-271-1414, Fax: 907-271-1415, Toll Free: 1-888-480-4321, <http://www.denali.gov>
- Private donations and local fundraising

## **8.5 PRIORITY # 5 Elders, youth, and cultural activities**

### **8.5.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

Current community recreational activities occur in Nome at the school, pool, recreation center, Nome Community Center, local churches or through the tribal offices of the four tribes located in Nome (Council, Solomon, Nome Eskimo, or King Island). The school is closed all summer and not available in evenings unless there is a sporting event going on. Public buildings are used for other purposes and not always available or suitable for some activities like ball games. There are several small baseball fields and playgrounds in Nome, but none located in the community of Council. There are few places in Nome for tribal members to have group activities or play. However, the Native Village of Council's tribal office in Nome has a conference hall that would be ideal for small regular group activities. An annual meeting is held in Council each summer.

For thousands of years the tribe has maintained a unique and separate identity and culture. This task has not always been easy. Some tribal members have left the region to go live in other areas of the state and country to have access to other opportunities. As our elders pass on, the traditions, cultural practices, and depth of the language is declining. The tribe has noticed a need for more organized recreational and cultural activities. Health issues are also affecting our community and we see the need for healthier activities. Today, much of the focus is on making a living and surviving in this modern world. Each year fewer tribal members go out to camp or participate in subsistence hunting and gathering of berries and greens. Fewer people are learning to dance, play drums, or sing. Fewer tribal members are learning to fish, hunt, butcher and store food, cook traditional foods, carve, bead, sew, and make sleds or boats.

#### **Project Needs and Benefits**

The community of Council and the tribal membership need more recreational, social and cultural activities. There is a need for supervised healthy activities both in Nome and in the community of Council. People would be able to interact in a positive manner, learn, and strengthen their cultural identity and pride. The tribal building in Nome can provide adequate storage for supplies for games, crafts, and other activities. A variety of programs could be held in Nome at various times. Summertime activities in the community would give people things to do, and encourage people to spend more time in Council. Having organized cultural activities will show our residents and tribal membership how important they are to the health and well being of our community. Our community members will be happier and active doing fun things.

It has always been important to the tribe to include elders, adults, and youth in cultural activities so that traditions, cultural skills, and language are not lost. Interacting and organizing activities on a regular basis will give the tribe more opportunities to share and learn from each other. The young people will be able to interact with role models in the tribe. Our elders will be able to pass valuable knowledge on to the next generation. It will strengthen the tribe's identity and unique culture and provide healthy activities for all members of the tribe. The skills gained will help the tribe to grow stronger and share with others. It will help preserve our language and the cultural knowledge of weather, hunting, food storage, food preparation, hunting and fishing skills, boat safety, boat and sled building, arts and crafts skills, skin preparation, and sewing methods. It will provide opportunities to collect and document the music, songs, stories, and oral histories of the tribe. It will improve the cultural, social and recreational conditions for the entire community. Also, one of our greatest strengths lies in our culture, traditions, and history. Regularly scheduled recreational and cultural activities will instill pride in our heritage.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Care would need to be taken to organize activities for all age groups. Other constraints would be obtaining funding for maintenance, programs, and staff. The best approach will be a creative approach that utilizes a variety of volunteers and agencies. The rural aspect of Nome and Council offers many challenges for all members of the community in regards to cultural, social, and recreational programs. Funding sources are limited, competitive, or only focus on certain demographic groups or themes. Few funding sources will finance cultural activities for extended periods of time. The cultural programs of any tribe must constantly seek funding from a variety of sources and develop creative programs.

## **8.5.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Form a local recreational center planning group with representatives from elders, adults and youth.
- Outline the goals of the project. Develop an official purpose or mission statement. Develop policies that will guide the staff and volunteers.
- Develop a community survey, hold public brainstorming sessions, or develop committee brainstormed lists of possible activities to develop.
- Prioritize a list of all activities which will require outside funding.
- Design the programs and activities
- Use current local resources to plan recreational and cultural activities for the community. Develop a work plan and schedule for recreational and cultural activities that do not require much funding using donated space, supplies, and volunteers. Work with other tribes and organizations to have joint cultural activities, festivals, or conferences.
- Identify possible funding sources and partners. Use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek

matching funds from the community, and apply for funds for the various cultural activities selected in the priorities.

- Research the various types of program supplies and games. Purchase supplies and secure a storage area for any needed activity supplies.
- Advertise and hold activities.
- Do regular evaluation of events.

### **Organization Responsible and Contact Information:**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

### **Funding Possibilities**

- CDBG - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy, 211 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701-4639, Website: <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>, Jo E. Grove, Block Grants-Program Manager, [Jo.Grove@alaska.gov](mailto:Jo.Grove@alaska.gov), Phone: 907-451-2716; Fax: 451-2742, Jill Davis, Grants Administrator, [Jill.Davis@alaska.gov](mailto:Jill.Davis@alaska.gov) Phone: 907-451-2717; Fax: 451-2742
- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDG)- P.O. Box 906, Nome, AK 99762, Phone: 907-443-2304 or 1-800-650-2248 (Anchorage), <http://www.nsedc.com>
- Rasmuson Foundation- 301 West Northern Lights Blvd. Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99503, Phone: 907-297-2700 or 1-877-366-2700 (toll-free within Alaska), <http://www.rasmuson.org/>
- National Park Service Historic Preservation - Phone: 202-354-2020, [preservation\\_grants\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:preservation_grants_info@nps.gov) , <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal>
- Norton Sound Health Corporation - P.O. Box 966, Nome, AK 99762, <http://nortonsoundhealth.org/>
- US Dept. of Health and Human Services - Administration for Native Americans (ANA), Language/Cultural Preservation, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>
- Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority - funds community youth activities , P.O. Box 995, Nome, AK 99762, Phone: 907-443-5256
- M. J. Murdock Trust - <http://www.murdock-trust.org/>, P.O. Box 1618, Vancouver, WA 98668, Phone: 360-694-8415 or 503-285-4086
- Americorps/BIRCH - <http://www.ruralcap.com/cod/BIRCH/index.cfm>
- Boys and Girls Club - <http://www.bgcalaska.org/>
- UAF- Northwest Campus - Cooperative Extension Program, Pouch 400, Nome, AK 99762, Phone: 907-443-2320, [http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=category&sectionid=5&id=53&Itemid=33](http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=category&sectionid=5&id=53&Itemid=33)
- Denali Commission - 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-271-1414, Fax: 271-1415, Toll Free - 1-888-480-4321, <http://www.denali.gov>
- AHFC - <http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/home/index.cfm>
- Other private foundations

## **8.6 PRIORITY # 6 Dumpsite improvements**

### **8.6.1 Background**

The Council landfill is maintained by tribal members and local volunteers. Residents individually dispose of waste at the landfill on a best practice compliance system. The landfill is not very deep and the fences are not tall enough to contain the waste, and so debris from the landfill tends to blow over the surrounding tundra. The community attempts to reduce the amount of waste placed in the landfill by burning combustibles. Kawerak, the regional non-profit that serves the tribes of the Bering Strait, is currently researching ways to begin a regional backhaul project. The backhaul project is designed to remove these larger items and other hazardous materials to prolong the useful life of each rural landfill, remove large metal objects from around the community, and protect the environment.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

Safer ways to dispose of hazardous materials are needed to protect the environment and the water supply in Council. Plans need to begin for expanding and renovating the landfill to accommodate the needs of the community. Council would like to obtain a burnbox like other communities in the region to reduce the amount of waste placed in the landfill. It reduces the amount of loose items that blow over the landfill fences. A burn box is used to burn combustible solid waste such as cardboard, paper, putrescible (waste that contains organic matter capable of being decomposed) solid waste and small quantities of wood waste. This waste minimization technique can reduce a community's solid waste that is required for burial by 25 percent.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The Council landfill has no staff to manage the landfill or plan and carry out upgrade projects. Regional technical engineers are limited to assist with new project designs. Funding sources for landfill development projects are limited and not usually oriented toward new construction projects. The shipping and delivery costs are very high on all construction materials. Construction seasons in the region are short. Land issues may need to be resolved and permits obtained to expand the existing landfill. Funding sources for development projects are limited and very competitive. The shipping or delivery costs to obtain large items of equipment are very high.

### **8.6.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Contact or visit other communities like Elim or Koyuk that are currently renovating landfills to get information and ideas and see the issues that they are facing and the solutions that they have identified.
- Write plans identifying the purpose, type of items needed, material and shipping costs, and construction costs for needed landfill improvements.
- Investigate easement or environmental issues. Obtain permits.

- Use Kawerak’s grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds from the community, and apply for funds. Find funding opportunities to train and hire workers to manage the renovations or construction in compliance with policies.
- Write policies identifying the purpose, type of item needed, costs, plan and cost of installation, usage plan and maintenance plan.
- Find funding to train residents to use the burn box in compliance with policies.

### **Organization Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

### **Funding Possibilities**

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Indian General Assistance Program, <http://www.epa.gov/indian/programs.htm>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project, [www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#EPA-OSWER-OSW-08-03](http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#EPA-OSWER-OSW-08-03)
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) - <http://www.anthc.org/>
- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation - 420 L Street, Suite 310, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone 1-800-650-2248, Fax 1-907-274-2249, <http://www.nsedc.com>
- Rasmuson Foundation - [rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org](mailto:rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org), 301 West Northern Lights Blvd. Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99503, (907) 297-2700, (877) 366-2700 (toll-free within Alaska), (907) 297-2770 FAX, [www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- Denali Commission - 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-271-1414, Fax: 271-1415, Toll Free - 1-888-480-4321, <http://www.denali.gov>
- Private Foundations and Local donations

### **Other Contact Information**

- Solid Waste Alaska Network (SWAN), Cathy Villa, Tribal Coordinator, 907-271-1270, Arctic and NW Arctic Regions, Anchorage, <http://www.ccthita-swan.org/funding/IGAP.cfm>
- Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council Report, [www.yritwc.com/Presentations/contamination\\_awareness.pdf](http://www.yritwc.com/Presentations/contamination_awareness.pdf)
- Summit Consulting Services, Inc., 4500 Business Park Blvd, Suite C-10, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, 907-563-5675, <http://www.scsalaska.com/burnbox/sizes.asp>
- Tok Welding and Fabrication- HC 63 Box 1313A, Tok, Alaska 99780, 907-590-7363, <http://www.alaskanstoves.com/Aboutus.html> (about burn boxes)

## **8.7 PRIORITY # 7 Road improvements**

### **8.7.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

The tribe has developed a long range transportation plan through Kawerak and approved the top priorities. Kawerak completed an aerial mapping project that developed new area maps in 2004. The mapping project was necessary for almost all new construction projects in the region. Some dust control projects have been completed in Council and the region. The dust control efforts were effective in reducing the dust on the community of Council streets. Some culverts and drainage ditches have improved the road conditions and more brush cutting and road maintenance work is scheduled in the summer of 2009. There is no road maintenance in the winter time.

#### **Project Need and Benefit**

Dust palliative on the roads will reduce loss of surfacing materials and improve safety and air quality in the community and would improve safety and extend the life of the roads. Erosion from spring runoff needs attention before it becomes a major problem. The roads are a critical connection to Nome and need to be maintained. There is also a need for improved road and trail maintenance within the townsite limits. Dust control would extend the life of the roads and trails and protect the health of all members of the community.

#### **Potential Constraints to Project**

Project costs have risen and funding has been reduced to transportation programs. Construction seasons are very short. The Alaska Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads Program are also understaffed and must serve the all the tribes in the United States.

### **8.7.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- The Native Village of Council will supporting and planning road maintenance and dust control projects with pass-through IRR funds.
- Explore land options, material source donations, and other funding sources to help raise the criteria scores to get the projects funded sooner.
- Keep communication lines open with the Kawerak Transportation Program. It may be possible to get information or rent equipment from them for dust control projects.
- Keep communication lines open with the BIA Roads Program and inform the tribal members of all planned road improvement projects.
- Determine who owns all of the land for the potential road projects and resolve the land issues for the future projects.
- Work with agencies to prioritize future road project ideas to be written into the planning documents, so they can be recommended and approved.

- Use Kawerak’s grant writer assistance program to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Enlist local and regional volunteers and donations for dust control and trail staking projects. Research methods of reducing erosion and dust on trails like geo-matting, geo-web matting, and trail hardening products.

### **Organization Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- State of Alaska Department of Transportation, Christine Klein, Deputy Commissioner of Aviation, Phone: 907-269-0730, <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>
- Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office, 6881 Elmore Road, Anchorage, AK 99507, Phone: 907-267-1246 or 1-800-478-1263, Nome Field Office, P.O. Box 925, Nome, AK 99762, Phone: 907-443-2177, <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/afo.html>
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Roads Program, P.O. Box 25520 Juneau, AK 99802-5520, Phone: 1-800-645-8397 + Ext 1 or 907-586-7177, Art High - Highway Engineer, [ArtHigh@bia.gov](mailto:ArtHigh@bia.gov)

### **Other Funding Possibilities**

- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation - (Trails), 420 L Street, Suite 310, Anchorage, AK 9950, <http://www.nsedc.com>
- Rasmuson Foundation - [rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org](mailto:rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org), 301 West Northern Lights Blvd. Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99503, Phone: 907-297-2700, or 1-877-366-2700 (toll-free within Alaska), Fax: 907-297-2770, [www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- Denali Commission - 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-271-1414, Fax: 271-1415, or toll free: 1-888-480-4321
- Kawerak Transportation Program - PO Box 948, Nome, AK 99762, 907-443-4251

## **8.8 PRIORITY # 8 Fire safety and training**

### **8.4.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

The community has obtained some emergency firefighting equipment. Access to firefighting equipment in Nome over the road system would take too long for assistance to arrive. Some residents have first aid and fire fighting training.

#### **Project Needs and Benefits**

Improved firefighting equipment and an organized volunteer firefighting group with proper training would improve public safety of the community. It will ensure that volunteers have the skills and access to equipment during an emergency. Better

equipment like night fire safe boots, clothes, fire safe coats, vision goggles, and other equipment will insure workers are safe and have all the things needed to do the job right. Better locations and enlarging the outdoor storage sheds will improve accessibility to equipment and provide storage for other emergency supplies like fuel, inflatable shelters, generators, extra food and water, and medical kits.

### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Planning, funding, solving land issues for storage needs, and high freight costs are the main project constraints.

## **8.4.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Assess current status. Be sure to include all outdoor storage containers and sheds. Begin some initial planning of fire safety needs.
- Select a few potential storage sites and address land issues so a decision can be made. See what local resources are available to count as a match.
- Develop a list and research all of the new equipment needs. Develop a resource list and prices including freight.
- Review policies and procedures that exist or need to be developed for the use of firefighting equipment by trained volunteers. Decide how or if other residents will use the equipment or share expenses.
- Use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Once funding is secured, hire a grant manager and project manager to implement the program. Develop temporary storage plan for equipment and materials in Nome.
- Write up a plan and schedule for moving equipment to Council.

### **Organizations Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

### **Funding Possibilities**

- CDBG - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy, 211 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701-4639, Website: <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/grt/blockgrants.htm>, Jo E. Grove, Block Grants-Program Manager, [Jo.Grove@alaska.gov](mailto:Jo.Grove@alaska.gov), Phone: 907-451-2716; Fax: 451-2742, Jill Davis, Grants Administrator, [Jill.Davis@alaska.gov](mailto:Jill.Davis@alaska.gov) Phone: 907-451-2717; Fax: 451-2742
- Rasmuson Foundation - [rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org](mailto:rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org), 301 West Northern Lights Blvd. Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99503, Phone: 907-297-2700, or 1-877-366-2700 (toll-free within Alaska), Fax: 907-297-2770, [www.rasmuson.org](http://www.rasmuson.org)
- Denali Commission - 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone: 907-271-1414, Fax: 271-1415, or toll free: 1-888-480-4321, Mark Allred,

Program Manager, [mallred@denali.gov](mailto:mallred@denali.gov) , Automme Circosta, Program Assistant, [acircosta@denali.gov](mailto:acircosta@denali.gov), <http://www.denali.gov>

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - 500 C Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20472, Phone: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
- State of Alaska Legislature - Appropriations, Senate: <http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/>, Senator Donny Olson: <http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/ols.php>
- State of Alaska House of Representatives - <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/> , Rep. Richard Foster: <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/fos.php>
- United States Legislature- Appropriations, Senators: <http://house.legis.state.ak.us/fos.php> , Mark Begish: <http://begish.senate.gov/public/>, Lisa Murkowski: <http://murkowski.senate.gov/public/>
- United States House of Representatives - <http://www.house.gov/> , Don Young: <http://donyoung.house.gov/>

#### **Other Information Sources**

- REVL Communications – 650 West 58<sup>th</sup> Suite J. Anchorage, AK 99518, Seth Burris, [revlsale@revlinc.net](mailto:revlsale@revlinc.net), Phone: 907-563-8302
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) License - <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

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## **8.9 PRIORITY # 9 Community cooperation**

### **8.9.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

Since the city government was dissolved over 40 years ago there has not been any one agency that is strongly leading the community development. Lack of communication, misunderstandings, and frustration with lack of services has hindered development. As the Native corporation and tribal government have made strides in the area of planning and begun various programs, projects, and agreements it has encouraged the tribal members and residents that efforts are being made to improve the community.

#### **Project needs and benefits**

Improved community cooperation, communication, and planning will assure that the needs of all tribal members and residents are addressed. Barriers to development will begin to be solved and real progress will be possible that will protect the environment, provide goods and services, and help build a safe and healthy community.

#### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

The main constraint to the project was lack of a lead agency to address community needs. Now that the tribal government and the corporation agree that group cooperation

is the best approach for success it is hoped that including other agencies and the tribal members and residents of Council will move all efforts in a positive direction.

## **8.9.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Form an annual meeting planning committee. Since this is the one time the tribe and the community has to meet each year it is a good opportunity for positive planning for community needs. Use this meeting to present the draft of the Strategic plan and get more local ideas from the public.
- Send out surveys to the residents on important issues when developing programs.
- Develop a community newsletter to send out quarterly or biannually.
- Develop some local community awards to recognize residents for various things. Ideas are local graduates, elders, volunteers, environmental efforts.
- Develop summer activities in Council to encourage the participation of all residents.

### **Organizations Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Council Native Corporation, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation - 420 L Street, Suite 310, Anchorage, AK 99501, Phone 1-800-650-2248, Fax 1-907-274-2249, <http://www.nsedc.com>
  - Local donations and fund raisers
- 

## **8.10 PRIORITY # 10 Cemetery renovations**

### **8.10.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

The cemetery is old and poorly maintained. It has not been mapped or planned. There are no written policies in place for care or usage of the cemetery.

#### **Project needs and benefits**

Markers need to be replaced, and some graves may need to be moved. Land and cemetery management issues need to be solved as the corporation has land use conflicts and liability concerns. Proper planning will assure that our ancestors, tribal members, and residents are honored by providing adequate care of gravesites.

## **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Solving land issues and obtaining project funding will be the major constraints. Locating knowledgeable people who can properly assist with mapping graves may be time consuming.

### **8.10.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Form a heritage committee to work on a cemetery improvement plan. Develop some goals for the committee.
- Enlist a group of volunteers and youth to do a summer maintenance event at the cemetery to prepare for the bigger project that is being planned.
- Contact tribal members and residents and pass out a survey to determine all known gravesites located in the cemetery. Begin a preliminary mapping of all known sites.
- Meet with various agencies and try to solve the land issues and begin some written policies for all future use of the cemetery.
- Use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Conduct local fund raisers and contact local agencies, residents, and tribal members seeking donations of cash, time, or construction materials for the project.
- Write policies for the use and maintenance of the cemetery. Map all sites.
- Begin the project of expansion, relocation, or renovation according to the grant guidelines.

#### **Organizations Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Council Native Corporation, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

#### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- Private foundations
  - Local and regional agencies
  - Local donation and fund raisers
-

## **8.11 PRIORITY # 11 Equipment Storage Building**

### **8.11.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

The Native Village of Council has a John Deere Crawler Dozer 550 and fire equipment that are currently stored outside in the elements. The tribe would like to have an un-insulated storage building to house these pieces of equipment in.

#### **Project needs and benefits**

The storage building would need to be approximately 30'x40', garage door access, have windows and be made out of steel. This project would need to have a piece of property to be put on in Council. The dozer and fire equipment would be easier to be kept free of rust and maintained better if they were housed indoors instead of outside year-round.

#### **Potential Constraints to Project Development**

Solving land issues and obtaining project funding will be the major constraints. The Native Village of Council will have to work with the State of Alaska for land acquisition.

### **8.11.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Contact the State of Alaska to start discussion about land acquisition.
- Acquire a piece of land to put the storage building on.
- Obtain project funding for equipment storage building.

#### **Organizations Responsible and Contact Information**

- Native Village of Council, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762
- Council Native Corporation, P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762

#### **Funding Possibilities and Other Contact Information**

- State of Alaska
- Private foundations
- Local and regional agencies
- Local donation and fund raisers

## 9.0 Community Project Lists

**Completed projects** that were on the idea list in the 2004-2009 Local Economic Development Plan: Diabetes prevention camp, fish and environmental surveys, business development (Tumet), communication improvement (Wireless Walrus public access computer at the tribal office), Cultural activities and potlucks, language revitalization project, staff sent to various trainings, recycling bins installed in Council, tribe is providing some season jobs for members, Long-range transportation plan completed, Strategic Economic Development Plan completed, ICWA program

**Ongoing projects** that are in progress from idea list in the 2004-2009 Local Economic Development Plan: Land use planning, Road maintenance and brush cutting, fire protection, corporation is making agreements for future mineral development

**Future Project** ideas for the Native Village of Council and the community of Council

- Natural Resources and Environment- Protection of land and natural resources, permitted access, environmental specialist, fish enhancement, and berry picking permits.
- Health-Use healthy subsistence food-berries, animals and plants, part time, seasonal or shared health aide, diabetes prevention/nutrition, health clinic, and health aide training.
- Public Facilities, Buildings, and Housing- tribally-owned rentals-cabins.
- Communications- Telephone/communication system and communication improvements.
- Waste Management- Dumpsite improvements, incinerator (contained) and new landfill/dumpsite with lead battery, aluminum and plastic recycling collection/removal, local public garbage cans, and solid waste disposal.
- Tribal Government- Land development, land-use planning, cooperation and communication among organizations and residents, cooperation with property owners, and tribal youth court.
- Transportation- Trail staking, road improvements i.e. brush cutting, access across river, boat launch, railroad, and public parking areas.
- Social- Church services, cemetery renovation, recreation areas, and youth center.
- Law Enforcement- Tribal police.
- Sewer and Water- Safe drinking water source, sewage and water treatment, public restroom facilities, water-get a public well going, and public washeteria/shower facilities.
- Public Safety- Fire protection, search and rescue, and public safety, fire equipment, and fire safety/first aide training for community.
- Cultural- Cultural camps/outings, cultural arts and crafts activities, subsistence food preparation, Elders, youth, and cultural activities, and arts and crafts development opportunities.
- Electrical Power and Bulk Fuel- Bulk fuel tank relocation, bulk fuel solutions, and electric power/generators.

- Education and Job Training- Tutoring, equipment operator training, and business training.
- Jobs Opportunities and Business Development- Tours-youth guides, bird watching, walking tours, guided tours, encourage new business development, healthy snack shop for kids to run in the summer, rent tribally owned cabins and 4-wheelers etc., gold panning in publicly owned areas, and promotion of tourism.

**Review and Update Process**

The Native Village of Council agreed to review the priorities annually and add addendums to this plan as needed.

**Maps**

Current maps of the community are available through the Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program or the Kawerak Transportation Program.

**Public Participation**

Planning Meeting – December 8, 2008

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| • Chase Gray       | • Kat Lee      |
| • Maureen Pederson | • Barb Vial    |
| • Flora Simon      | • Berda Wilson |
| • Steven Longley   |                |

Planning Meeting – March 20, 2009

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Chase Gray       | • Kat Lee            |
| • Maureen Pederson | • Nora Brown-Douglas |
| • Flora Simon      | • Barb Vial          |
| • Steven Longley   | • Rachel Kryder      |

Planning Meeting – April 17, 2009

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Barb Vail        | • Flora Simon        |
| • Chase Gray       | • Nora Brown-Douglas |
| • Maureen Pederson | • Rachel Kryder      |

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Society of Wetland Scientists, available online at: <http://www2.sws.org/regional/alaska/Wetlands.htm>

**Prepared for the Native Village of Council and the Bering Strait Development Council  
By  
The Native Village of Council and Kawerak Community Planning and Development**

### **Native Village of Council Planning Organization**

Native Village of Council  
P.O. Box 2050  
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Phone: 907-443-7649, Fax: 907-443-5965

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Web: [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org) / e-mail: [pmikulski@kawerak.org](mailto:pmikulski@kawerak.org)