

VILLAGE OF SOLOMON

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2016-2020



2016 Top Priorities – Jointly approved on 4/26/2016

1. Obtain a tribal community hall/office in Nome.
2. Expand and improve our ICWA services.
3. Assess effects of climate change and collaborate for Salmon enhancement and testing in Solomon.
4. Fully effective operation of the Solomon Bed & Breakfast (business plan, obtain land, tourism development, gift shop, alternative and renewable energy).
5. Create and manage our own transportation program for Solomon (roads, boat harbor, airstrip).
6. Improve our language resources in our dialect (immersion school, educational resources, writing children's books and Solomon history books).
7. Improve access in public schools to learn tribal government, Alaska Native history, and math and science using our environment as a tool.
8. Advocate for restorative justice and tribal input into culturally appropriate sentencing of our tribal members.
9. Work with other Nome-based tribes to develop culturally related classes and activities for all ages to pass on cultural knowledge and promote wellness.
10. Improve education and enforcement of land use rights in and around Solomon.
11. Clean up land and old church site, improve drainage, and add historical markers in and around Solomon.
12. Advocate for an affordable family-friendly laundry/washeteria/carwash in Nome.

Submitted to:
The Village of Solomon
Solomon Native Corporation
and
The Bering Strait Development Council

Submitted by:
Pearl Mikulski
Planner
and
Community Planning and
Development Program
Kawerak, Inc.

September 2016

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JOINT RESOLUTION 2016-01

Village of Solomon and Solomon Native Corporation

A JOINT RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY OF SOLOMON'S LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LEDP) AND VILLAGE PRIORITIES WHICH ARE APPLICABLE FROM JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020.

WHEREAS, the Village of Solomon is the federally recognized governing body of the tribally enrolled members of Solomon, and the Solomon Native Corporation is the for-profit village corporation serving its share holders; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Solomon's purpose 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 Solomon Native Corporation's purpose is economic development on behalf of its shareholders; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Solomon and the Solomon Native Corporation are responsible for the planning and implementation of economic development activities for the tribe and/or shareholders; and,

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

WHEREAS, the Solomon LEDP provides the factual data support necessary to qualify for assistance in funding local projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Solomon and the Solomon Native Corporation, with assistance from the Kawerak Planning staff, has updated its five-year LEDP that states the mission, values, goals, priorities and strategies necessary for guiding future growth and economic development of the tribe and/or shareholders; and,

WHEREAS, the 2016-2020 top development priorities listed in this LEDP were developed, reviewed, and approved by the tribe and the corporation during public meetings; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Solomon and the Solomon Native Corporation approves and adopts the Solomon Local Economic Development Plan 2016-2020 and its priorities for the tribe, applicable between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2020. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the top development priorities listed below for the community of Solomon was reviewed, updated, prioritized, and approved are:

1. Obtain Community Hall/Office Building Located in Nome.
2. Expand and Improve ICWA Services.
3. Assess Effects of Climate Change and Collaborate for Salmon Enhancement Testing in Solomon.
4. Fully Effective Operations of Solomon Bed & Breakfast (business plan, obtain land, tourism development, gift shop, alternative and renewable energy).
5. Create and Manage Transportation Program for Solomon (roads, boat harbor, airstrip).
6. Improve Language Resources (immersion school, educational resources in our dialect, write children's books and Solomon history books).
7. Improve Access in Public Schools to Learn Tribal Government, Alaska Native History, and Math and Science using our Environment as a Tool.
8. Advocate for Restorative Justice and Tribal Input into Culturally Appropriate Sentencing of our Tribal Membership.
9. Work with Other Tribes to Develop Culturally Related Classes and Activities to Pass on Knowledge and Promote Wellness.
10. Educate and Enforce Land Use Rights in and around Solomon.
11. Clean Up Land and Old Church Site, Improve Drainage and Add Historical Markers in and around Solomon.
12. Advocate for Affordable Family Friendly Laundry/Washeteria/Carwash in Nome.

CERTIFICATION:

We certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a convened meeting on this 21st day of April, 2016. We further certify the resolution was passed by the Village of Solomon Tribal Council was passed unanimously.

<u>Kirsten Timbers, President</u>	<u>4/21/16</u>
Village of Solomon	Date

<u>Elizabeth Johnson, Secretary</u>	<u>4/21/16</u>
Village of Solomon	Date

CERTIFICATION:

We certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a convened meeting on this 29th day of April, 2016. We further certify the resolution was passed by the Solomon Native Corporation Board of Directors with a vote of 5 for and 0 against.

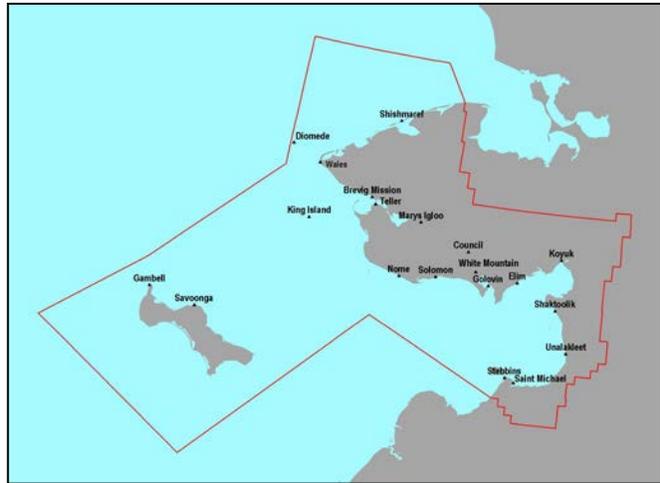
<u>Gregory Timbers, President</u>	<u>4/26/16</u>
Solomon Native Corporation	Date

<u>Kirsten Timbers, Secretary</u>	<u>4/26/16</u>
Solomon Native Corporation	Date

*Actual copies of signed resolution on file at tribal and corporation offices.

1.0 Introduction

Solomon was settled by Inupiaq Eskimos of the Fish River Tribe and was noted on maps as “Erok” in 1900. Erok was a summer fish camp for the Fish River Tribe and later became a permanent settlement. The original site was situated in the delta of the Solomon River but later moved to a place known as Jerusalem Hill. Solomon was a fast growing community in the gold rush days of 1899 and 1900 when gold fever was the instigation for expansion on the Seward Peninsula. During the big strike for gold there were anywhere from three to seven enormous dredges scouring the Solomon area for the precious yellow metal. By 1904, this gold rush boom town was the supply center for the Solomon River miners, and was the third largest Seward Peninsula town. It was also the southern terminus of the Council City and Solomon City Railroad. After the gold mine rush Solomon returned to a predominately Alaska Native community of subsistence reindeer herders and miners. The BIA School shut down in 1956 requiring all families with children to relocate to Nome or Anchorage. Many families returned to Solomon during the summer months for subsistence activities. There were a handful of people that continued to live in Solomon year round. Solomon had year round residents until 2005 when the surviving original residents permanently relocated to Nome. Solomon comes alive in the summer with the operation of the Solomon Bed and Breakfast/Community Center and family subsistence camps.



Solomon was incorporated as Solomon Native Corporation (SNC) in 1975. There were 37 original shareholders of SNC, owning a total of 67,000 acres of in and around Solomon. SNC provides campsites to its shareholders and engages in land use agreements for material sales, mining exploration and production.

The original shareholders of SNC were also recognized under the Village of Solomon, and many current shareholders and their descendents/relatives are also Tribal members. The Village of Solomon was organized under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1993 as a Federally Recognized Tribe. The Village of Solomon’s initial authority was mainly political as the tribal governing body. The primary purpose of the Village of Solomon is to design and implement programs for increased quality of life and well being of its family and tribal members who reside in Nome and elsewhere. The Village of Solomon currently has about 140 tribal members.

Almost all of the tribal members who live in the region live in Nome year-round. Nome was historically inhabited by Alaska Natives, but the discovery of gold in 1898 brought thousands of non-Natives to the area. The city was incorporated in 1969. The current population is 3,721. Nome is located in the Bering Strait region of Northwestern Alaska, an area about the size of West Virginia and serves as the economic hub for 16 communities. Nome was built along the

Bering Sea, on the south coast of the Seward Peninsula, facing the Norton Sound. It is 539 miles northwest of Anchorage, 102 miles south of the Arctic Circle, and 161 miles east of Russia.

Purpose of the Solomon Local Economic Development Plan 2016-2020

The City of Nome as a state-recognized governing body and the Village of Solomon as a federally-recognized tribe have 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 City of Nome and the Village of Solomon, contract with various federal, state, and other organizations to administer governance, infrastructure, public services, education, economic programs, environmental program, and social or cultural programs. The Village of Solomon and Solomon Native Corporation have worked together on joint projects such as the Solomon Bed and Breakfast. In addition, both SNC board members and the Village of Solomon Council members joined together in the creation of this strategic plan.



Myrtle Komakuk, Francis Wright, known to all as “Auntie Fran”, and Liz Johnson.

Planning is a critical step in the ongoing development of the community and its efforts to improve community conditions and the well being of its members and residents. To better meet the needs of the tribal members, the Village of Solomon and the Village of Solomon developed this five year strategic plan which is structured to:

- Provide the tribal community 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 a section setting forth policies, goals, and standards for the tribe relative to each major component of the plan.
- Provide implementation strategies for development priorities; including land use, public facilities and services, capital improvements, economic development and tribal governance.
- Place emphasis on the crucial development issues; economic and resource development, land use planning and needs of the tribe 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. Planning Process and Public Involvement

2.1 Planning History and Accomplishments

The Village of Solomon (VOS) and the Solomon Native Corporation (SNC) developed a Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) together in 2011. This updated the previous LEDP which was written in 1998. Accomplishments toward the top priorities since 2011 are below. A full description of all tribal or corporation accomplishments are below the table.

Status of Progress on Top Priorities from 2011-2015

Priority	Accomplished or ongoing	Not fully completed
✓ More Solomon gatherings and involvement.	At least 3 per year, plan to continue this annually.	
✓ Driveway improvements to campsites.	Ongoing, plan to continue this as needed.	
✓ Community potable water.	Well improvements/water tank purchased, plan to maintain this.	
✓ Emergency communication.	Satellite phones, cell phone & antennas purchased, plan to maintain this.	
X Assess effects of climate change.	Addressing it in IGAP grant.	Ongoing, more needs to be done.
X Salmon enhancement.	SNC gave NSEDC and State permission to do fish testing, counting, salmon enhancement in Solomon.	Ongoing, more needs to be done.
X Full operation at the B&B/Community Center.	Partially operational.	Not fully operational.
✓ Waste management.	Addressing this in IGAP grant, plan to maintain this annually.	
X Airstrip improvements.	Airstrip is usable in summer months.	No improvements made.
X Community power.	Partially addressed by obtaining a generator and backup generator for the B&B/Community Hall.	Need to explore power and renewable/alternative energy for Solomon.
X Boat harbor.	People still launching from the river bank.	No improvements made.

1. Economy, Business Development, Tourism, Jobs & Employment Opportunities

- Kawerak employed our Solomon Tribal Coordinator.
- Tribe employed tribal members as ICWA staff, Development Coordinator (Grant writer/Project planner), IGAP staff, and part time workers for the B&B, Youth Camp, and for construction of the shelter cabin.
- VOS purchased supplies for the shelter cabin supporting the local economy.
- VOS added bunkhouse for overflow use of annual youth camp and B&B guests.
- VOS earned some annual income from B&B each year.
- VOS attended ATIA conference (statewide tourism conference).

- VOS attended B&B state association meeting every spring (2015).
- SNC had an 847% increase in the annual distribution of dividends, increased from \$.88 to \$7.57 per share, historical record breaking high dividends.
- One Solomon tribal member raises chickens (eggs).
- Some Anchorage based Solomon tribal members are selling scrap metals and recyclable materials.
- Social email and local email Listserv provides opportunities to sell Native arts and crafts and swap Native foods.
- Regular SNC quarterly board of directors meetings and annual shareholders meetings and elections with quorum met every year.
- SNC financial compliance with State of Alaska and U.S. Treasury and complete financial reports for every annual shareholder's meeting.
- SNC earned revenue from numerous surface-use agreements.
- SNC developed a new investment strategy for their permanent fund.
- SNC has a new Shareholder Campsite Program.

2. Communications (telephone, radio, & cable TV)

- Tribal office has regular hours, phone, fax, and internet.
- VOS published tribal newsletter biannually for past five years.
- SNC published newsletter annually.
- VOS is in the process of planning to update B&B website.
- VOS is maintaining a Facebook page.
- VOS still has 2 satellite phones one at the B&B and one at the shelter cabin.
- VOS obtained cell phone and antenna to install this summer at the community building.
- VOS provides WIFI and internet at the B&B during the summer season.
- VOS provides annual reports and holds annual meetings to disseminate information.

3. Cultural (art, language, subsistence, & traditions)

- Elders and youth group attended youth and elders conferences.
- VOS holds tribal gatherings three times per year in Nome and Solomon for past 5 years.
- VOS holds a tribal gathering/meeting in Anchorage once per year for past 5 years.
- Some tribal members are drummers or dancers with other cultural groups.
- VOS organizes cultural activities-story telling, kuspuk sewing; jam making; catching, cutting, smoking & drying fish, etc. at camp.

4. Education & Job Training

- Tribal Coordinator training provided by Kawerak.
- VOS attended ICWA training.



Summer Gathering event at Solomon – 2015.

- Council training provided by Kawerak.
- Grant writer training provided by Kawerak.
- IGAP grant training and environmental trainings funded by EPA grant.
- VOS attended BIA annual conference.
- The tribe has 3 recent college graduates and 6 active college students.
- SNC provides scholarships for 4-8 students per year.

5. Electrical Power & Bulk Fuel

- VOS made repairs to the generator and obtained a backup generator for the B&B.
- VOS applied for FY17 grant for environmental assessment on renewable energy.
- VOS obtained energy assessment of community building.
- VOS obtained IGAP grant to address community power.
- Many Nome-based tribal members applied for the NSEDC energy subsidy.

6. Housing (teachers, elders, & low cost housing)

- One tribal member obtained a new house through BSRHA income based home buyers program.
- One tribal member received buy down assistance from BSRHA to purchase a home for he and his growing family.
- One tribal member remodeled a house and made a rental unit.
- VOS fixed a door for an elder.



Helen Larsen and Autumn Johnson
at the 2015 Youth Camp.

7. Natural Resources (timber, minerals, fish & wildlife)

- SNC cooperated with State of Alaska Fish and Game and NSEDC for salmon enhancement and counting on the Solomon River.
- SNC earned revenues from materials (gravel).
- VOS IGAP staff conducted water quality tests in Solomon 2015.

8. Public Facilities & Buildings

- VOS does regular maintenance at the community building and shelter cabin.
- VOS maintains tribal office in Nome.

9. Law Enforcement & Public Safety (Fire/Crisis/Search & Rescue)

- VOS closed 4 ICWA cases over the last 5 years, 3 of which were last year.
- VOS maintaining shelter cabin at Mile 31, and sat phones at B&B and shelter cabin.
- VOS provided fire extinguishers and first aid kits at the tribal office, B&B, and shelter cabin.

10. Sewer & Water Source

- VOS maintains a well and septic system at the B&B.
- VOS purchased a 200 gallon water tank for the B&B in Solomon containing potable water for tribal members to use while B&B is closed (will be installed in 2016).

- VOS obtained IGAP grant to address waste management and community potable water.

11. Social (families & recreation)

- VOS held a youth and elders camp for past five years.
- VOS allows tribal members to use shelter cabin for recreational and subsistence purposes in the summer.
- VOS provides canoes, kayaks, bikes, and fishing poles at the B&B/Community building.
- VOS provides Nome Recreation Center passes as needed to youth.

12. Transportation (roads, trails, airports, & harbors)

- VOS obtained Rasmuson grant and purchased a new 12-passenger van for the tribe.
- Dust control projects done periodically on the roads by Kawerak.
- SNC did partial improvements on the Solomon runway.

13. Tribal Governance

- Tribal Office
 - VOS maintained a tribal office continuously over the last 5 years.
 - Our long-term Tribal coordinator provides stability for all tribal activities.
 - Our alternate tribal coordinator is fully trained and able to fill in as needed.
 - TC attends trainings annually.
 - New tribal enrollments and tribal ID cards are issued annually.
 - VOS leased new copy machine from a local business in Nome.
 - ICWA staff is a tribal member.
- Tribal Government/Council
 - Quorum met for annual meeting for the last 3 years.
 - VOS had council training with John Bioff and Tribal Affairs.
 - VOS added elder and youth representative to Council.
 - VOS revised constitution to expand qualifications of three seats on Council to allow for non-Solomon/Nome residents to serve.
 - VOS is the AVE of 23 acres of land in Solomon under ANCSA.
- Planning and Grant Management
 - VOS hired a tribal member as Development Coordinator (grant writer and project planner).
 - VOS does annual review and approval of village priorities.
 - VOS staff attended grant writer, IGAP grant, and environmental trainings.
 - VOS registration updated in Grants.gov and SAMS.
 - VOS carried out activities in IGAP grant and uploaded narrative reports.



**Autumn Johnson at the
2015 Youth Camp.**

- VOS carried out activities in NSEDC and Rasmuson grants, and completed reports.
- The successful EDA project is near the end of grant obligations.
- Management and Financial Accountability
 - VOS established tribal personnel policies, including tribal preference in hiring and remote worker policy.
 - VOS had 3rd party financial reports completed from a CPA for the last two years.
 - VOS established accounting policies.
 - VOS grant financial reports and draw downs completed.



Tim Stettinger, Jacob Martin, and Derek Johnson, water sampling project - 2015

14. Environment Protection and Waste Management (protection, prevention, pollution control, landfill, & contamination cleanup)

- VOS obtained IGAP grant to address waste management and the affects of climate change.
- VOS purchased new recycle bins, assisted with Nome's E-waste event, and hosted an Earth Day event.
- VOS distributed five Bear Safe Trash cans with a user policy for Solomon summer residents.
- VOS placed a community trash trailer at Community Center to collect waste in Solomon.
- VOS held a Swap Drive in Nome to encourage RRR (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle).
- VOS hosted Mug Shot week in Nome to encourage reducing and reusing in the Bering Strait region.
- Kawerak does dust control projects in Solomon as needed and funding allows.
- Some tribal members in Nome and Anchorage are composting or actively involved in recycling and donating used clothing to various entities in the communities.
- Some tribal members take unused medications to disposal sites for proper disposal.
- VOS taught youth about recycling and reusing old t-shirts into totes.



New Garfield Okitkon Shelter Cabin at Mile 31.

15. Emergency preparedness or response/assistance

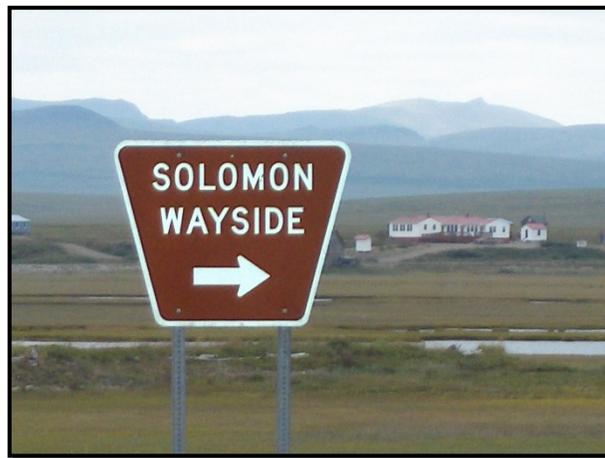
- VOS obtained \$24,000 grant from NSEDC and worked with NACTEC to build the Okitkon Shelter Cabin at Mile 31 in Aug.

- VOS provides tribal member Burial assistance, in addition to applying/receiving burial assistance from NSEDC.
- SNC has a bereavement benefit to shareholders or families of shareholders.
- VOS provides tribal member emergency assistance.
- VOS shoveled snow/fixed a door for an elder.

16. Health (health care & prevention, dust control)

- VOS provides gift cards monthly for groceries to our families who have been involved with OCS.
- Kawerak’s dust control projects in Solomon reduce health risks to humans and contamination of subsistence drying/smoking racks.

Like the previous plans, this LEDP will continue to analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop values, goals, priorities, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future development. The Kawerak Planning Department worked with The Village of Solomon and Solomon Native Corporation in developing and updating its new five year LEDP in 2016 by holding a series of workshops in Nome and Anchorage with tribal members and corporation members (see list of planning team members on page 43).



2.2 Planning Committee & Staff Description

Realizing that changes within the community and some current public service facilities are not adequate to achieve program parity, the Village of Solomon held public meetings in Nome and Anchorage to discuss and analyze how current infrastructure affects tribal residents in Nome. The conclusion of the sessions was to update the top priorities and develop a new LEDP for 2016-2020. With assistance from Kawerak’s Planning staff a series of public tribal workshops were held in Nome and Anchorage. The top 12 priorities were approved in April April 26, 2016. A draft LEDP was written and presented to the corporation and tribal membership and joint councils for review in May 2016. After some edits the plan was approved and published September 23, 2016.

2.3 Method for Plan Development and Components

The Village of Solomon and the Solomon Native Corporation sought a strategic planning process based upon:

- Technology of Participation methods developed by *the Institute of Culture Affair*.
- “Let Your Assets be your Guide: A Handbook for Community Planning” by Rural Alaska Community Action Program in partnership with the Denali Commission, January 2007.

These methods are proven to be effective in encouraging full participation from diverse groups and are best applied within community-based settings. This process was implemented among the participants 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:

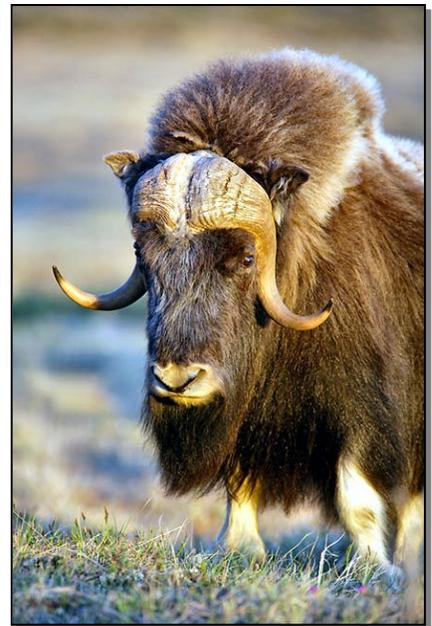
- Participation: each person bringing a different insight, perspective and knowledge that formulates the larger picture.
- Respect: respecting and honoring each person's views and ideas, empowering each other.
- Teamwork: each person working with everyone else in their role to accomplish the goals of 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.

- Vision, Values and Goals - Developed the direction for the community's social and economic development with an overall vision, guiding community values, and development goals.
- Recommended application of community values during implementation of development activities.
- Implementation Strategies - Created strategies that the community can take in the coming 5 years to begin implementing actions and movement toward the vision and development goals.

It is expected that the LEDP 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 development projects



2.4 Comprehensive Development Status

As a first-class city in the unorganized borough, the City of Nome has optional powers under the state law for planning, platting, and land use regulation within municipal boundaries. The City of Nome has assumed some of these powers. The Solomon Native Corporation assumes some of these powers over corporation lands. Also, the federally

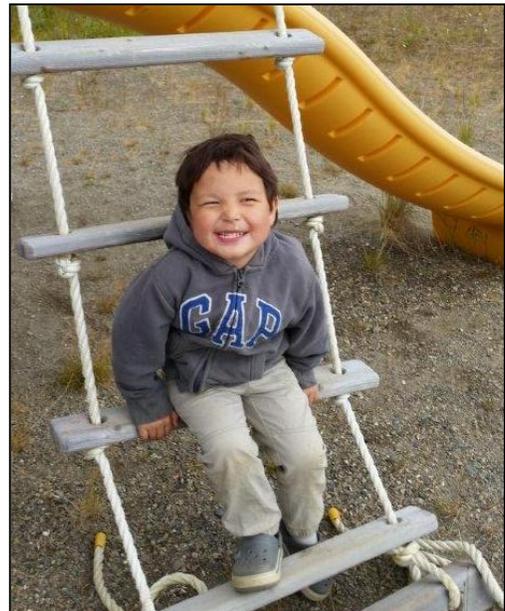
recognized governing body of the tribal members of the Village of Solomon shares some of these responsibilities and powers.

The Bering Strait Community and Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a regional economic development plan, was updated for the Bering Strait Region communities in 2013 by the Bering Straits Development Council. The next full update is scheduled for 2019. This document can be found at: <http://www.kawerak.org/forms/csd/2013%20Comprehensive%20Economic%20Development%20Strategy.pdf>

The Village of Solomon published a successful local economic development plans in 1998 and 2011. The tribe also jointly participated in a Local Economic Development Plan with the other three Nome-based tribes in 2004. Many of the priorities in that plan turned into successful development projects that were completed. New priorities for the Solomon area were approved on April 26, 2016 and will be revised as needed over the life of this plan. This 2016-2020 Local Economic Development Plan was reviewed and approved September 23, 2016.

The new approved priorities for 2016 – 2020 for the Community of Solomon are:

1. Obtain a tribal community hall/office in Nome.
2. Expand and improve our ICWA services.
3. Assess effects of climate change and collaborate for Salmon enhancement and testing in Solomon.
4. Fully effective operation of the Solomon Bed & Breakfast (business plan, obtain land, tourism development, gift shop, alternative and renewable energy).
5. Create and manage our own transportation program for Solomon (roads, boat harbor, airstrip).
6. Improve our language resources in our dialect (immersion school, educational resources, writing children's books and Solomon history books).
7. Improve access in public schools to learn tribal government, Alaska Native history, and math and science using our environment as a tool.
8. Advocate for restorative justice and tribal input into culturally appropriate sentencing of our tribal members.
9. Work with other Nome-based tribes to develop culturally related classes and activities for all ages to pass on cultural knowledge and promote wellness.
10. Improve education and enforcement of land use rights in and around Solomon.
11. Clean up land and old church site, improve drainage, and add historical markers in and around Solomon.
12. Advocate for an affordable family-friendly laundry/washeteria/carwash in Nome.



Jack James at the 2015 Summer Gathering

3.0 Community Description

3.1 Location

Solomon is located on the west bank of the Solomon River, 30 miles east of Nome. It lies one mile north of Norton Sound. It lies at approximately 64.560830 North Latitude and -164.439170 West Longitude. (Sec. 03, T011S, R029W, Kateel River Meridian.) Solomon is located in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 15.6 sq. miles of land and 0.1 sq. miles of water. The climate is both continental and maritime. Summers are short, wet and mild; winters are cold and windy. Temperatures range between -30 and 56. Annual precipitation is 16 inches, with 54 inches of snowfall.

3.2 History and Culture

At the time of contact with Europeans, the Inupiat had an established seasonal fishing and hunting camp site on the sand spit between the Solomon and Bonanza Rivers. Based on the information received from the Inupiat at Little Diomed Island in 1779, Solomon was known as Amutach on the map of Russian explorer Ivan Kobelev. At the turn of century in 1899 gold was discovered in the gravels of the Solomon River. The gold rush during the summers of 1899 and 1900 brought thousands of people to the Solomon area. At different times three to seven enormous dredges worked the Solomon River. By 1904 Solomon had seven saloons, a post office, a ferry dock, horse stables, and a school house and was the southern terminus of a narrow gauge railroad. The Council City and Solomon City Rail Road intended on laying tracks to the gold mine town of Council but fell 20 miles short of that goal when they went bankrupt in 1907. They did provide limited service to miners in the Solomon River from 1904-1907, with runs from the Bonanza channel to the East Fork of the Solomon River. In 1913, the railroad was washed out by storms and the remains of the train can still be seen in Solomon next to the Bonanza Bridge and is the world renowned 'Last Train to Nowhere'.

In the years following the gold rush and storm Solomon changed from an all Caucasian mining town to a predominately Inupiat village. The people relied on subsistence and reindeer herding for their livelihood. In 1918, the flu epidemic struck Solomon and over half of the 62 residents died of the influenza and were buried in a mass grave. In 1939, the community relocated to the present site, which was formerly known as Jerusalem Hill. The BIA constructed a large school in 1940 which now serves as the Community Center and Bed & Breakfast.

During World War II a number of families moved away from Solomon. The BIA School was shut down in 1956 requiring all families with children to move to communities with schools, many of whom went to Nome and Anchorage. Solomon continued its mail license until 1958 when there were too few residents to support the mail contract. The Solomon Roadhouse operated until the 1970s and served as the last checkpoint for the Iditarod, the Last Greatest Race on Earth, during its first several years. The Safety Roadhouse now serves as the last checkpoint before Nome.

Today Pete Curran's family still owns the old roadhouse structure though it is not in service, including his original Native Allotment approximately 7.2 acres in size. There are also other Native Allotments in the surrounding areas, as well as other areas where other individuals have cabins/structures, some of which are on their own property as well as SNC property.



Historically the Malemiut, Kauwaramiut and Unalikmiut have occupied the region. Today the four tribes that reside in Nome are the Village of Solomon, King Island Native Community, the Village of Council and Nome Eskimo Community.

Around 1870 to 1880, the caribou declined on the peninsula and the general diet changed. Reindeer were introduced in the late 1800's and muskoxen in 1960's. Both were government projects to help supplement the available food sources in Alaska.

Gold was found as far back as 1865, but a strike in 1898 brought thousands of people and the population in Nome grew to over 20,000. After the creeks had been staked, gold was discovered on the beach. A railroad and telephone line was built from Nome to Anvil Creek, and the City of Nome was formed in 1901. By 1902 large mining companies with better equipment took over the smaller mining operations. Since the first strike Nome's gold fields have yielded \$136 million. The depletion of gold, a major influenza epidemic in 1918, the depression, and World War II, and a fire in 1934 have each greatly affected Nome's population.

In 2010 US Census the Bering Strait region approximately 76% of the population was recognized as Alaska Native. The US Department of Labor 2015 unemployment rate for the Bering Strait was 10.8%, whereas the state average was 6.6% and the national average was 4.8%. The US Census 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates report the median household income in 2010 for the Bering Strait region was \$49,974, per capita income was \$20,271, and 27.7% of residents were living below the poverty level. Government, Retail services, transportation, mining, medical and other businesses provide year-round income. Tourists visit the community in the summer and winter and provide income to some of the local businesses in Nome. Although many employment opportunities are available, subsistence activities are prevalent in the area. Nome is the finish line for the 1,100-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race, the halfway point for the Tesoro Iron Dog Snowmachine Race and many other local races and events.

Nome is connected to three other villages by roads. The nearest villages are Teller, Solomon and Council. Solomon and Council are not occupied year -round. In the wintertime trails are staked across the land and ice for travel by snow machine. The roads,

rivers and the ocean are used for travel in winter and summer. Local airlines provide service year around, weather permitting.

3.3 Government, Corporations, and Service Providers

3.3.1 City of Nome

Nome was incorporated as a first-class city within an unorganized borough in 1901. It has a manager or “strong mayor” form of government, and regular elections are held in October. The city council meets twice a month. The city has a 5% sales tax, a 6% bed tax, and property tax mil rate of 11.0. The Honorable Richard

Beneville is the current mayor (2015-2017). City owned/operated properties or services include the new police/public safety building, old fire hall, electric utilities, water plant, landfill, mono-fill, old library/museum, new Richard Foster building (museum/library), recreation center, swimming pool, visitor center building, animal control building, mini convention center, old St. Joseph’s Church, Port of Nome, Nome Public Schools, and Public Works building. The city employs 100-120 people. Various board meet including:

- City council
- School board
- Utility board
- Port commission
- Planning Commission
- Museum and Library Commission



Nome and Regional Planning Organizations

City of Nome Planning Commission, Bering Strait Development Council, and Kawerak Community Planning & Development Program.

Regional Services & Facilities

BSRHA, NSHC, Kawerak, NSEDC, BSSD, NACTEC, and UAF-NWC.

State of Alaska Services & Facilities:

Nome Courts, State District Attorney, Alaska State Troopers, Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, Nome Youth Facility, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, DOT, OCS, DMV, Alaska Health & Social Services, and Alaska Army National Guard

Federal Services & Facilities:

National Coast Guard, Army Corp. of Engineers, HUD U.S. Post Office, US Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, FAA, BIA, BLM, US Customs, USDA, National Park Service, and National Weather Service.

3.3.2 IRA or Traditional Councils in Nome

The federally recognized councils conduct tribal government affairs for their membership. The councils own and operate various buildings, businesses, or programs. Tribes collaborate with Kawerak, Inc., the regional non-profit Native organization, and other regional entities.

- Village of Solomon
- King Island Native Community
- Native Village of Council
- Nome Eskimo Community



Jack and Sara James, Mia and Sophia Piscoya, Autumn Johnson at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Village of Solomon Information

The federally recognized Village of Solomon conducts tribal government affairs for their membership, and maintains a tribal office in Nome. Activities include: grant writing and project planning, accounting and program management, updating tribal enrollments, providing burial assistance, providing emergency assistance, hosting youth and elders camps, organizing social gatherings and hosts events. The Council meets regularly to update policies and ordinances, owns and operates the Solomon Bed and Breakfast and administers several grants including and EDA, Rasmuson, and NSEDC, as well as an EPA IGAP grant that funds the environmental program.

The Village of Solomon is governed by a seven member tribal council which includes one youth member and one elder member. Solomon tribal members have access to receive services and programs through Kawerak that include:

- Burial Assistance
- Continuing Education Program
- Direct Employment Assistance
- Higher Education Scholarships for High School Students
- Vocational Assistance Training
- Welfare Assistance
- Business Development Assistance



2015 Annual Meeting in Nome at the XYZ Center

Village of Solomon Tribal Council-2016

Position Held	Name	Term
President	Kirsten Timbers	(2015-2018)
Vice President	Cameron Piscoya	(2015-2018)
Treasurer	Annette Piscoya	(2015-2018)
Secretary	Elizabeth Johnson	(2014-2017)
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer	Brian James	(2013-2016)
Elder Representative	Katie Stettinger	(2013-2016)
Youth Representative	Vacant	n/a

3.3.3 Native Corporations in Nome

There are four village corporations and one regional corporation established under ANSCA. These are the for-profit corporations which operate various businesses in Nome and elsewhere. Solomon and Council have completed the 14c process for corporation lands. Sitnasuak and King Island are still in the process of completing the 14c process for corporation lands (see more about land status on page 40).

- Solomon Native Corporation
- Sitnasuak Native Corporation
- King Island Native Corporation
- Council Native Corporation
- Bering Strait Native Corporation

Solomon Native Corporation Board Members

Position Held	Name	Term Ending
President	Greg Timbers	(2013-2016)
Vice President	Elizabeth “Liz” Johnson	(2014-2017)
Treasurer	Robert Curran, Jr.	(2015-2018)
Secretary	Kirsten Timbers	(2015-2018)
Sergeant-at-Arms	Helen Bohn	(2014-2017)



Future Solomon Leaders: top left to right- Sara and Jack James, middle left to right - Mia Piscoya, Layna Mokiuyuk, and Autumn Johnson, second row from bottom - Tristan Hudson, and bottom row left to right - Tessa Timbers-Payenna, and Ethan Piscoya at 2015 Annual Meeting at XYZ Center.

3.3.4 Local and Regional Contacts

<p>City of Nome P.O. Box 281, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-6663, Fax: 907-443-5349 E-mail: admin@ci.nome.ak.us http://www.nomealaska.org Police-Phone: 907-443-5262</p>	<p>Kawerak, Incorporated P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5231 Fax: 907-443-4452 E-Mail: webmaster@kawerak.org http://www.kawerak.org</p>
<p>Village of Solomon P.O. Box 2053, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-4985 http://www.kawerak.org/communities/solomon.html and http://www.solomonbnb.com</p>	<p>Norton Sound Health Corporation P.O. Box 966, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-3311 Fax: 907-443-3139 http://nortonsoundhealth.org/</p>
<p>Solomon Native Corporation P.O. Box 243, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-222-6668 Email: gregoryptimbers@gmail.com</p>	<p>Bering Straits Native Corp. P.O. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5252, Fax: 907-443-2985 http://www.beringstraits.com/</p>
<p>Native Village of Council P.O. Box 2050, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-7649 http://www.kawerak.org/communities/council.html</p>	<p>Norton Sound Economic Development Corp. P.O. Box 358, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 1-888-650-2477, Fax: 907-443-2478 http://www.nsedc.com</p>
<p>Council Native Corporation P.O. Box 118, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-6513</p>	<p>Bering Straits Regional Housing Auth. P.O. Box 995, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5256, Fax: 907-443-8652 http://bsrha.org/</p>
<p>King Island Native Community P.O. Box 682, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-2209 http://www.kawerak.org/communities/kingisland.html</p>	<p>Sitnasuak Native Corporation P.O. Box 905, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-387-1222, Fax 907-443-3063 http://snc.org/</p>
<p>King Island Native Corporation P.O. Box 992, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-5494 fax 907-443-5400 http://kingislandnative.com/</p>	<p>Nome Eskimo Community P.O. Box 1090, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-2246, Fax 443-3539 http://necalaska.org/</p>
<p>Alaska State Troopers-Nome Phone: 1-800-443-2835 http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/</p>	<p>Search and Rescue-U.S. Coast Guard Phone: 1-800-478-5555 http://www.uscg.mil/D17/</p>

Business Licenses in Nome

The lists on the following pages show the records of current business licenses on file with the Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing, Business Licensing Section. These licenses may not represent actual business activity. For more information on a specific business, use Commerce's Business License Search website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/CBP/Main/CBPLSearch.aspx?mode=BL>.

3.3.5 Businesses and Service in Nome

*Not all businesses below may be currently operating

ALASKA GOLD COMPANY LLC	J.B. GOTTSTEIN WHOLESALE GROUP
ALASKA PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES NOME, LLC	JOHN'S LTD
QUYANA CARD	LARRY'S AUTO AND REPAIR
ALASKA SUB-SURFACE MINING AND EXPLORATION LLC.	CENTURION
ARCTIC ACCESS	DREDGE #7 INN
ARCTIC ARTS & SIGNS, LLC	CHUKOTKA-ALASKA INC
KICY RADIO STATION	CITY OF NOME, ALASKA
ARCTIC CHIROPRACTIC NOME, LLC	COTERIE LLC
ARCTIC NATIVE BROTHERHOOD CLUB	COUNCIL NATIVE CORP
TLC BIBLE, BOOK, & GIFTSTORE	HAIR BY STEPHANIE
MAI'S GUEST HOUSE	SPD MINING VENTURES
NORTON SOUND WELDING & FABRICATION	SHAYLA'S ENTERPRISES
BANNER WIND, LLC	DANIEL J. STANG DDS, LLC
BEARING SONG	QUALITY AUTO PARTS
NOME DISCOVERY TOURS	EMMONS MECHANICAL
BERING AIR, INC	SNOW TRAC'N NOME
BERING WELLNESS CENTER	TUNDRA B & B
BERING SEA LIONS PULLTABS	TUNDRA TOYO AND HEATING
BERING SEA RESTAURANT	EVANS AND COMPANY, LLC
AURORA INN	EZ ENTERPRISES LLC
BERING STRAITS DEVELOPMENT CO	FAGERSTROM ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED
GREEN ENERGY SOLUTIONS	ANGEL CAMP BY THE SEA
CHEM-CLEAN	DEBORAH C. FLINT DANIEL, MD
STAMPEDE VENTURES	MEMOE DAYCARE
BERING STRAITS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY	FREEDOM RESOURCES, ENT., LLC
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION	NOME CAB
BERING STRAITS REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY	GNOME COURIER LLC
QIVIUT FEVER	SUBWAY/GOLD COAST CINEMA
TUNDRA TEE	GOLDEN GLACIER INC
SECOND CHANCE INTERPRISE	LINDSEY'S SHOP
BOARD OF TRADE INC	GREEN ACRES DAYCARE OF NOME
NORTHWEST CHARTERS	NOME PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
BONANZA EXPRESS	BERING SEA BED AND BREAKFAST
BONANZA FUEL, LLC	ANGELA'S ART AND FRAME
WEE KIN CARE	NOMEMADE
NURSE AIDE EVALUATOR	KMH KRAFTS
BREAKERS BAR	AIRPORT PIZZA
BUILDERS INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC.	TUNDRA TREASURES
MICHAEL BURNETT PHOTOGRAPHY & ART	STARGATE ALASKA
SOLSTICE CLEANERS	NORTHERN GEOLOGY
	MARUSKIYA'S OF NOME

MORGAN SALES AND SERVICE
R & D ENTERPRISES
NOME OUTFITTERS
JOHNSON BUSINESS VENTURES
R & D ENTERPRISES
TRINH'S SPA & NAILS
JOHNSON CPA LLC
NOME CHECKER CAB
R. J.'S AUTO REPAIR
TRINITY MINING
CHATEAU DE CAPE NOME
CUSSY UNLIMITED
BERING STRAIT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
KAWERAK, INC
FORGET-ME-NOT STITCHES
JAKE'S CARPET CARE
KING ISLAND CARVING TOOLS & SUPPLIES
KING ISLAND FABRICS
CAPE NOME PRODUCTS
NOMEMADE
GEORGE KRIER PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
POLAR BAR/RESTAURANT
POLAR LIQUOR
KRIER INVESTMENTS, LLC
KRIER, INC
POLAR ARMS
KRUSE PROJECT MANAGEMENT
HIGH TIDE ENTERPRISES
TERRY L. MILLER, INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT
TERRY'S THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
CHATEAU DE CAPE NOME
CUSSY UNLIMITED
BERING STRAIT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
KAWERAK, INC
FORGET-ME-NOT STITCHES
JAKE'S CARPET CARE
KING ISLAND CARVING TOOLS & SUPPLIES
KING ISLAND FABRICS
CAPE NOME PRODUCTS
NOMEMADE
GEORGE KRIER PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
POLAR BAR/RESTAURANT
POLAR LIQUOR
KRIER INVESTMENTS, LLC
KRIER, INC
POLAR ARMS

KRUSE PROJECT MANAGEMENT
HIGH TIDE ENTERPRISES
TERRY L. MILLER, INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT
TERRY'S THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
ROBERT D. LEWIS
LEWIS & THOMAS, P.C
ANUQSRAAQ ARTS & NATURAL PRODUCTS
LLB LLC
RONALD LOCKE RENTAL'S
LONNIE O'CONNOR IDITAROD BASKETBALL CLASSIC
LT NOME LAW, P.C.
BED FOR A NIGHT
THE SLUICEBOX
KOUGAROK.COM
RAVE'N CUTS
TRAILS END
MCKNIGHT AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
MICHELS CONSULTING
MIDNIGHT SUN MOTORS, SALES, AND SERVICES LLC
MILANO'S PIZZARIA
JOEY L MILLER
MILLER HEALTH CONSULTING, LLC
BOARD OF TRADE SALOON
NOME SWEET HOMES
MORGAN ENTERPRISES, LLC
MUNAQSRI SENIOR APARTMENTS
GOLD RUSH SERVICES
NANUAQ, LLC
GOOD GENERAL CLEANING
BIG JIM'S AUTO REPAIR
NOME NORTON SOUND JANITORIAL
SNOWFLAKE MULTIMEDIA
NJ CONSTRUCTION LLC
FOSSIL IVORY SALES
ANIMAL HOUSE
NOME CHAMBER OF COMMERE, INC
NOME COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.
NOME EMERGENCY SHELTER TEAM
NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY
NOME GOLD ALASKA CORP
NOME HARDWARE AND LUMBER LLC
HUSKY RESTAURANT
NOME KENNEL CLUB, INC
NOME MINERS ASSOCIATION LLC.
NOME WINTER SPORTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
NORTHCOAST CONSTRUCTION INC

NORTHWEST GOLD DIGGERS, LLC
NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION
NORTON SOUND SURVEYING, LLC
NUGGET PUBLISHING
NEVA CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY
NORTHWEST PLANNING & GRANTS DEVELOPMENT
OLIN CLEANING DEFENSE
VEGGO ALASKA AVIATION SERVICES
KO ENTERPRISES
OPIQ ADVENTURES, LLC
GRIZZLY BUILDING SUPPLY
PANORAMA VENTURES LLC
ALASKA PROCESS SERVICE
RURAL FINANCIAL SERVICES
ESTHER PEDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY
PEDERSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
JILL PETERS- NOME CRP SERVICES
MR KAB1
J AND J ENTERPRISES
WEEKS APARTMENT
VT RENTALS
PK ELECTRIC, LLC
PLS CONSTRUCTION LLC
POMERANZ CONSTRUCTION
SMP SERVICES
BEACHMASTER
PINGO BAKERY-SEAFOOD HOUSE
RAGCHEW AMATEUR MAGIC, INC.
SWEET DREAMS B&B
RASMUSSEN'S MUSIC MART
RAVEN RECYCLING AND LOGISTICAL SERVICES
SAFETY ROADHOUSE
J AND J ENTERPRISES
JENNIFER READER, INDEPENDENT MARY KAY BEAUTY CONSULTANT
KOUGAROK CONSOLIDATED PLACERS
SUCK-N-SHINE SEPTIC PUMPING
RURAL CREDIT SERVICES
MARTY'S MAINTENANCE
POLARIS HBL
MARK'S SOAP & SUDS BAR
SACKETT ENTERPRISES
ANCHOR TAVERN
SITNASUAK NATIVE CORPORATION
NOME NUGGET INN
ARCTOCO
BED FOR A NIGHT
RED MOOSE APARTMENTS
RED MOOSE ENTERPRISES
NOME TOYO TECH CENTER
ALASKA MANAGEMENT SERVICES
GOLDEN CHINA
NOME CHECK CASHING
CAPE NOME PRODUCTS
SOUND QUARRY, INC.
STAMPEDE VENTURES INC
STOSH'S RENTALS, INC.
NURSE AIDE EVALUATOR/PROCTOR
NOME LIQUOR STORE
SEW FAR NORTH
THE WHIMSY SHOP
GOLD CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY
GUDLIEF ORGANIZATION
PELUK CREEK GOLD CAMP
TRIPLE CREEK FABRICATION AND REPAIR LLC
ARCTIC MARITIME AGENCY
TRINITY SAILS AND REPAIR
TUMET INDUSTRIES, LLC
ENIGMA INDUSTRIES
TWIN PEAKS ADVENTURES, LLC
VFW BERING SEA POST 9569
WEIDLER COMMUNICATIONS
WEISS RENTALS
GOLDEN SCISSORS
WEISS RENTALS
GLADYS WEST RENTALS
KJ'S ESPRESSO
WILDERNESS SKI-DOO, LLC
WINKS SERVICES

Other Service Providers in Nome

Alaska Div. of Mining Land and Water	National Weather Service
Alaska Housing Finance Corp.	Nome Arts Council
Alaska Legal Services	Nome Chamber of Commerce
Alaska National Guard	Nome Community Center/XYZ
Alaska Nanuaq Commission	Nome Dental Office
Alaska Legal Services	Nome Joint Utilities
American Legion	Nome Kennel Club
Anvil Mountain Science Academy	Nome Nugget Newspaper
Arctic Access	Nome Post Office
Bering Sea Lion's Club	Nome Preschool
Bering Sea Women's Group	Nome Public Schools
Boys and Girls Club of Nome	Nome Recreational Center
Carrie M. McLain Museum	Nome Rotary Club
Civil Air Patrol	Nome Swimming Pool
Eskimo Walrus Commission	Nome Theater Guild
Kawerak Reindeer Herder's Association	Nome VFW/Women's Auxiliary
Kegoayah Kozga Library	Nome Volunteer Ambulance
KICY	Nome Youth Facility
KNOM	Parent Teacher Student Association
Kusqi House	Pioneers of Alaska - Nome
Munaqsri Senior Apartments	Rural Credit Services
NACTEC	Seaside Correctional Center
National Family Partnership	UAF – Northwest Campus

Gaps in business services: Nome tribal members identified: the need for a local car-wash, an affordable laundry mat that is family friendly environment (the current laundry mat is located inside a bar), a dry cleaning service, appliance repair/maintenance services, and the need for burial assistance support services (body transport and preparation for burial, crematorium, urns, caskets, grave markers, and other services). Tribal members in Nome and Anchorage find that middle income families do not qualify for burial assistance, and the funeral cost can be exorbitant.



4.0 Community Infrastructure

4.1 Housing

The following housing data of Nome, Alaska is from the U.S. Census and based on the year 2010 population of 3,598.

Gaps Identified: Middle income tribal members in Nome and Anchorage have difficulty finding affordable rental units or assistance obtaining a home. Also the age of some rental units in Nome makes them drafty and less desirable due to poor

maintenance, over-crowding of living space, and being drafty and costly to heat. There is also a problem with landlord accountability and neglect and insuring all renters know their rights. Some experience issues with smokers in and near the building, and noisy neighbors, pets or unattended children. Some also deal with pests and dangerous animals such as foxes and musk oxen. Others pay a high cost for utilities due to the lack of energy efficiency issues.



Tim Stettinger in his new house.

Total Housing Units	Value
Total Housing Units	1,503
Occupied Housing (Households)	1,216
Vacant Housing	287
Vacant Due to Seasonal Use	72
Owner-Occupied Housing	557
Renter-Occupied Housing	659
Total Occupied Housing Units	Value
Total Households	1,216
Average Household Size	3
Family Households	784
Non-Family Households	432
Pop. Living in Households	3,407
Pop. Living in Group Quarters	191

4.2 Schools

The public school at Solomon was closed in 1956 and since that time all Solomon tribal members living in the Nome area have been served by the Nome Public School district. The student population is 69% Alaska Native, and the student/teacher ratio is 12:56. In 2013 the expense per student annually in Alaska was \$18,175, whereas the national average is \$10,700. Some students in the community are homeschooled and some go out of town to attend boarding school. The Kawerak Head Start program has 2 teacher and 24 preschool students. Nome also has a privately-run Nome Preschool. The high school built a new cafeteria a few years ago. In the past the Kawerak Community Education program helped over 30 students per year obtain their GED, but there were fewer graduates the last few years due to the new electronic testing requirements.



Isabella Bohn at the 2015 Youth Camp.

Gaps Identified: While the Nome Public Schools and pre-school programs try to integrate some cultural activities, there are no Alaska Native language programs. There is a great need to start language programs for students and adults and to have a language immersion school in Nome. Adults in both Nome and Anchorage need language circles and other language resources in their own dialect to insure the language is maintained and passed on the next generation. Many tribal members wish that there was less emphasis on sports and a more emphasis on cultural activities in the After-School Program. There is a need for more tutors and mentors for low performing students. More emphasis should be placed on tribal history and tribal law. Tribal members also have expressed a concern that some college bound students must take remedial Math and English courses because they were not adequately prepared in high school. The turnover rates for school administrators and teachers are very high, and teachers need cultural sensitivity training. Parents would like to see more life skills taught like firearm safety, swimming, hunting and food processing, parenting classes, budget management, and cooking. More tools should be provided to parents for baby and toddler development and classroom opportunities. Tribal members are concerned about the high drop-out rates and feel the need for more scholarships for Native students. The new electronic tests for the GED program are costly, and it is harder to obtain a passing grade. They were also concerned about the increase in suicide and bullying and see a need for prevention programs. There is a need for more tutors and peer mentoring programs to insure each student succeeds. The middle income tribal members in Anchorage find it challenging to pay for school lunches and do not qualify for assistance.

Contact information for Alaska School Districts and Schools is available at the Department of Education and Early Development's Website.
https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/

Nome Public Schools

Nome Public Schools	Operated by City of Nome
Number of Schools	5
Number of Teachers	61
Number of Students	700
Student/Teacher Ratio	12.56
Drop Out Rate	1.40%
% of Alaska Native Students	69 %
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunches	92.76%

Schools Located in Nome:

School Name	Grades	# of students	# of teachers
Anvil City Science Academy	5 thru 8	60	4
Extensions Correspondence	KG thru 12	13	1
Nome Elementary School	PK thru 6	379	31
Nome Youth Facility	8 thru 12	7	1
Nome-Beltz Jr./Sr. High School	7 thru 12	239	23

4.3 Water and Sewer

Three wells at Moonlight Springs supply water to the community, which is treated and stored in a million-gallon tank. There is a second million gallon back-up tank available. Water is heated and circulated to residences via a direct buried arctic pipe. Some homes around Nome and on the mountains have their own wells and septic systems or leach fields. A few haul their own sewage and a private company delivers water, mostly to remote cabins outside city limits. Sewage is piped from most homes. Over 98% of residences currently have complete plumbing. There were system upgrades in 2007 and 2010. Funds have been requested to continue upgrading aging sections of the water and sewer systems.

Gaps Identified: Tribal members in both Nome and Anchorage are concerned about the costs of water and sewer. Anchorage residents are concerned about earthquake damage to water and sewer systems. Not all tribal members with home off the grid may be aware of well digging or septic installation assistance services and grants from ANTHC.

Water Distribution, Source & Treatment Systems:

Water System Operator:	Nome Joint Utility System
Washeteria Operator:	Private
Piped Water System:	Yes
Central Watering Point (Haul):	No
Multiple Watering Points:	No
Water Truck (Delivery):	Yes
Individual Wells:	No
Community Well Source:	Yes

Surface Water Source:	No
DEC Water Permit Number:	340010
Water Is Filtered:	No
Water Is Chlorinated:	Yes

Sewage Collection Systems:

Sewer System Operator:	City of Nome
Piped Sewer System:	Yes
Honeybucket Haul:	Yes
Honeybucket Pits:	No
Individual Septic Tanks:	Yes
Community Septic Tank:	No
Sewage Pumper:	No
Sewage Lagoon:	Yes
Sewage Lift Station:	No
Outhouses:	No

4.4 Landfill & Mono-fill

The City of Nome operates a Class 2, permitted landfill located on the Beam Road. Refuse collection services are provided by a private contractor. The landfill is located at 3.0 Mile Beam Road, near Nome, Alaska. The city also operates a mono-fill. Tribal members in Nome and Anchorage do take advantage of free landfill days. Both Nome and Anchorage offer various options for recycling and tribal members are more conscientious about participating in local recycling programs. Anchorage members participate in curb side recycling by sorting household wastes in separate bins. Nome residents use social media and email to swap or give away unwanted items to help reduce wastes. Many tribal members donate unwanted items to thrift stores. The City of Nome has a String Clean-Up project each year, and Kawerak hosts an E-waste event at that time. Kawerak also supports recycling efforts of the tribes by operating a backhaul program.

Gaps Identified: Nome residents are concerned about the wood and cardboard wastes taking up space at the landfill and wish these items could be efficiently recycled. Tribal members in Anchorage are charged for the recycle bins and “yellow vests” required to go into the landfill. Everyone is concerned about how to properly dispose of hazardous liquids like oil and antifreeze.

4.5 Electricity

The City of Nome operates the Nome Joint Utility System. Capacity is 10,895 Kilowatts from Diesel generators and 20 wind turbines on Banner. The rate is 38 cents/kWh with Power Cost Equalization at .17/kWh. The power plant had to upgrade to double its capacity to provide power to Rock Creek Mine which only stayed in operation for a short time.

Gaps Identified: The costs of the power plant upgrade and maintenance now falls fully on the users in Nome. All residents are concerned about the rising cost of energy, the

slow progress in alternative and renewable energy projects, and high costs of weatherization of homes. Low-income families worry about shut offs in cold weather or when a household member is at risk health-wise from a non-payment shut off. More public education is needed on consumer rights and all energy issues.

4.6 Bulk Fuel

Tank Owners (Number of tanks / Total capacity): Chevron/Arctic Lighterage (5,233,000 gals.), Bonanza Fuel – jet fuel (1,500,000 gal.), Bonanza Fuel – heating fuel (1,300,000 gals.), Bonanza Fuel – gasoline (850,000 gals.), Bonanza Fuel – diesel (1,300,000 gals.), Air National Guard (20,000), Crowley (20,000). The Village of Solomon has two 500 gallon fuel tanks in Solomon. In May 2016 the cost of heating fuel was \$5.18/gal., gas was \$4.99/gal. Propane was \$6.10/gal. delivered and \$169 for a 100 lb. cylinder if exchanged with an empty cylinder.

Gaps Identified: Nome tribal members worry a lot about the rising costs and about a repeat of the fuel shortage issue of a few years ago, due to the unpredictable weather, limited fuel storage space, and short fuel delivery window in ice free summer barge delivery. We worry about safe fuel transfers, tank compliance and safety issues, leaks, environmental impacts and water seeping into the fuel/gas. Sometimes it does not feel like the costs savings seen elsewhere are reflected in our local fuel prices.

4.7 Existing Transportation Systems

Nome is a regional center of transportation for surrounding villages. There are two State-owned airports. The Nome Airport has a two paved runways, one is 6,001' long and 150' wide, and the other is 5,576' by 150' wide. Scheduled jet flights are available, as well as charter and helicopter services. The City Field offers a 1,950' long by 110' wide gravel airstrip.

There are two airstrips in Solomon. The former state owned dirt and gravel airstrip is 1600 feet in length, not maintained and considered abandoned by the State of Alaska. It is up the Authorized Village Entity (AVE) to determine the future of this abandoned airstrip. At Lee's Camp is a privately owned 1000 foot unpaved and unmaintained airstrip located 5 miles north of Solomon.

The entire seaward side of the City of Nome is protected by a 3,350-foot-long sea wall of granite boulders. These huge rocks were trucked in from Cape Nome, 13 miles distant, at a cost of more than one million dollars. A port and berthing facilities accommodate vessels up to 18 feet of draft. Lighterage services distribute cargo to area communities. A new harbor channel entrance and breakwater was completed in 2006. Local development groups and the City are funding harbor dredging, two seasonal floating docks, and a boat launch. Nome is serviced by different barging companies during the ice-free summer months.

Local roads lead to Teller, Council and the Kougarok River. Access to Nome is primarily by air and sea. However, in the winter the city can also be accessed over land or ice. Some city streets are paved, and most have culverts to help drainage. The roadways are typically two lanes wide. There are a few conflicts involving approaching wide loads

attempting to pass each other. Local speed limits are posted in Nome. Dust is a problem in spring and summer. The city seeks ways to improve local trails. The Nome Kennel Club and other groups have been involved in trail staking. Recent improvements have been made on the road towards Solomon from Farley's Camp to Cape Nome which has reduced the amount of snow drift accumulation.

Gaps Identified: All residents are concerned about the rising costs of transportation. It reduces the number of trips Nome residents can take to Anchorage for goods or services or vacations, and it can prevent Anchorage based tribal members from being able to bring the family to Nome to spend time on ancestral lands or with tribal members and family. In Nome tribal members are concerned about the limited number, skill quality, and sometimes the reliability and integrity of the local mechanics. Nome has no public transportation system, and Anchorage members are concerned about the rising costs of bus passes. Tribal members are also concerned about maintenance of the roads, driveways, trails, and runway in Solomon, and damage to the river bank from boating launches. It would be nice to have an organized Transportation program to address all transportation issues in Solomon and coordinate maintenance efforts.

4.8 Communications

TelAlaska (Mukluk Telephone) provides local phone service; GCI and AT&T provide long distance. Residential and business Internet is primarily provided by GCI and TelAlaska.

Gaps Identified: The Nome post office is understaffed and there are sometimes long waits to be served. There are local people contracted to deliver UPS and FEDEX packages, but no office to adequately obtain all the services of these carriers. Telephone and internet service has improved much in recent years, but still lags, and the costs remain high. Overage charges can hit a family hard and unexpectedly. Periodic outages can impact families more since some have given up landlines for cell phones to cut costs. One positive impact is the internet has improved access and reduced the cost of many goods that were previously difficult to obtain.

In-State Phone:	Mukluk Telephone Co./TelAlaska
Long-Distance Phone:	AT&T Alascom; GCI; TelAlaska
Internet Service Provider:	GCI, AT&T Alascom, TelAlaska (Arctic Net), Starband, Exceed
TV Stations:	ARCS, KUAC, KYAC
Radio Stations:	KICY-AM/FM; KNOM-AM/FM. We have a new public radio station.
Cable Provider:	GCI Cable, Dish Network
Teleconferencing:	Alaska Teleconferencing Network; Legislative Information
Marine/Ham/Other Radios:	SPARC Club, Nome Volunteer Fire Department
VHF Radios:	Local camps
Postal Mail:	United State Post Office,
Deliveries:	Alaska Air Gold Streaks, FedEx, UPS, Local airlines

4.9 Health Care

Hospital/Clinic Names:	Norton Sound Regional Hospital; Quayana Care, Nome Dental Office, Arctic Chiropractic, Hospice, Maternal Home, Nome Public Health Center
Owner:	Norton Sound Health Corporation

Facility Status: The new hospital opened in 2013.
Alternate Health Care: Nome Volunteer Ambulance Dept (443-824/5262);
Norton Sound Health Corp. Medevac (443-3311 or
443-3306 for emergencies 911)

The new hospital is three times the size of the old facility and has new equipment and the latest technology, and has 18 beds. The hospital is a qualified Acute Care facility and Medevac Service. Long Term Care is performed by the Quyanna Care Center. Specialized Care is performed by Norton Sound Community Mental Health Center, Turning Point - Saquigvik (transitional living), and the XYZ Senior Center. Nome is classified as a large town/regional center. It is found in EMS Region 5A in the Norton Sound Region. Emergency services have limited highway, coastal and airport access. Emergency service is provided by 911 Telephone Service and volunteers. There are about 7 doctors, 15 nurses, and 4 PA's. Some are long term local employees with excellent training and experience. Specialty clinics occur on a regular basis. Public health nurses administer vaccinations. The hospital has a physical therapy, dental, eye, and audiology department. The CAMP department helps with chronic care issues like diabetes and long term recovery.

Gaps Identified: Tribal members feel that some patients need to be more proactive about their healthcare choices in order to get successful results. Also, it is estimated that the average family in Nome makes several trips per year to Anchorage or elsewhere depending on the medical needs of each family member. The ones with chronic issues have more frequent travel, and the costs can be exorbitant. Nome needs a detox center. Many residents and tribal members in Nome and Anchorage, regardless of income or insurance sources, seem to have had problems getting medications refilled in a timely manner. Indian Health Service policies need to be revised in Nome and Anchorage to expedite the wait time for dealing with chronic or emergency dental issues. Currently, a dental cleaning and check up appointment is required before an appointment can even be made to have a tooth pulled, which extends the time a patient is in pain.

4.10 Municipal Buildings

City owned buildings include: city office building, city garage, library/museums, visitor's center, swimming pool, recreation center, city park, Mini-Convention Center, Old St. Joseph's Church, power plant, water plant, landfill storage building, police/fire station, new public works building, and animal control shelter.



Gaps Identified: Tribal members in Nome note that the pool is often closed in summer when it is needed most, and has prime time blocked off for special groups. The Nome Recreational Center is often closed for special events. Not all families can afford to go to the pool or rec. center regularly, which increases their health risks. City Hall chambers are not large enough to accommodate much public participation. There needs to be a large meeting place for conventions and events so that the recreation center can be open

full time, year around for recreation. Anchorage tribal members are concerned about the scheduling hours and high cost of the area’s recreational centers.

4.11 Tribal Buildings

Solomon owns a multipurpose Community Center/Bed and Breakfast located within Solomon. The Village of Solomon rents office space in Nome from the Bering Straits Native Corporation.

Gaps Identified: The current tribal office is not big enough to adequately conduct all tribal business or host large tribal gatherings.

4.12 Public Safety – Law Enforcement

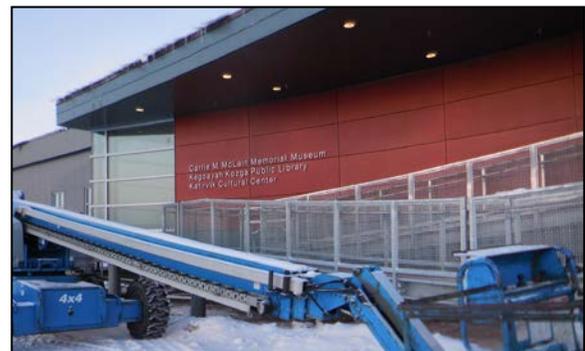
The State of Alaska has eight Troopers and two Court Service Officers who work out of Nome or Unalakleet serving 16 communities in the region. The Nome Police Department has one chief, nine Police Officers, one Community Safety Officer and five other staff. They have several vehicles and bicycles. The Nome Volunteer Fire and Volunteer Ambulance departments serve the community and have adequate equipment to serve a community of this size. A volunteer search and rescue team operates as well. The Nome Police Dept. uses local email Listserv to report and attempt to locate missing persons. N.E.S.T. operates a homeless shelter, the Bering Sea Women’s Group operates a women’s shelter, and Kawerak operates a Child Advocacy Center in Nome.

Gaps Identified: Tribal members are concerned about rumors of corrupt or biased officers, racism, Alaska Natives not being treated fairly, hearing that Alaska Native emergencies are not given priority in response time, the need for more Alaska Native officers and staff, and about the limited number of beds at the women’s shelter. The tribe is also concerned about pollution or trespass issues at Solomon, and the need for public safety services in Solomon during subsistence seasons.

4.13 Libraries and Museums, Cultural Buildings

The schools and college libraries are available to students in Nome during the school year. New books are added annually. The City of Nome operates a public library that is open six days a week. The Northwest Campus operates a public library during the fall and spring semester. The city museum is open five days a week. The City of Nome moved the old museum and library to the new Richard Foster Building. Kawerak leases a portion of the new building to the Katirvik Cultural Center.

Gaps identified: Tribal members felt there was a heavy focus on gold mining and that many cultural exhibits were not displayed due to limited space. It is hoped things will improve in the new facility.



The Richard Foster Building was completed in 2016 and is being used. The Grand Opening will be held soon.

4.14 Cemeteries and Graves

Nome has a designated and maintained cemetery near the airport. It has a morgue for cold storage in winter. There are a few burial sites and isolated gravesites in and around Nome. Improvements and expansion is needed to record names, remark older graves, and make more room for new graves. There is also a cemetery in Solomon.



Solomon Cemetery.

Gaps identified: There is a concern about erosion at the Solomon cemetery, and the need for more burial assistance services in Nome as mentioned elsewhere.

4.15 Public Buildings and Lands

Tribal and corporation members living in Nome have access to the following meeting places, churches, parks, camps, and recreational areas: The City of Nome owns the city hall building, the old library/museums, the new Richard Foster building, mini convention center, Old St. Joseph's church, City Park, the swimming pool, and the recreation center. There are several playgrounds and basketball courts around town. The college has a conference room or classrooms that are sometimes rented for events. The various Native councils or Native Corporations also rent meeting space as well as the Pioneer Igloo Hall. In the area are several flat areas on the banks of the shore for picnics and outdoor summer events. The ocean and rivers are used for fishing, events, boating and as a swimming area. Local trails are used for ATV, snow machine, and foot races. There are several other designated picnics areas around the community. Outside of town are snowboarding and ski slopes which are a favorite spot to many from the region. There is also a local outdoor gun range. The Native Corporations will rent and lease campsites outside of the city limits. The tribe operates a B&B in Solomon and offers a reduced rate to tribal members. The tribe has canoes, kayaks, bikes and fishing pools for members to use, as well as a shelter cabin that can be used in the summer for recreational use or subsistence. Several tribal members have camps.

Cultural, Tourism and Other Local Events

Visitor Attractions:	City Convention & Visitors Center; Gold Rush History; Alaska's largest gold pan; 300 miles of local roads for wildlife and bird viewing; Iditarod dog mushing; Eskimo culture
Other or Cultural Events:	Gold Rush Classic Iron Dog Snowmachine Race (halfway point); Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race (finish line in March); Iditarod Basketball Tournament (Mar); Bering Sea Ice Gold Classic/Golf Tournament (Mar); Nome to Golovin Snowmachine Race (Mar); Midnight Sun Festival (June); Fourth of July/Anvil Mtn. Run; Nome River Raft Race (June); Nome Theater Guild; Iditaswim; Miners and Musers Ball (Mar); Polar Bear Swim (May); Midnight Sun Softball Tournament (June); Bathtub

Race (Sept); Fireman's Carnival (Dec), Craft Fairs, Folk Fest, Lemonade Day, Blueberry Jam, Kawerak Regional Conference

Gaps Identified: Tribal members would like to see local language circles for adults and children in their dialect. More information should be disseminated about language tools online, Facebook, phone aps, CD's and books. They would also like more opportunities to gain cultural skills in Nome and Anchorage (sewing, crafts, dancing, hunting, firearm safety, weather knowledge, food preparation, sled building, etc.)

Churches in Nome

Baha'i Center	Bible Baptist Church
St. Joseph's Catholic Church	Nazarene Church
United Methodist Church	Nome Community Baptist Church
Nome Covenant Church	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Nome Presbyterian Church	River of Life Assembly of God
Seventh Day Adventist Church	Church of Latter Day Saints

5.0 Population and Growth Trends

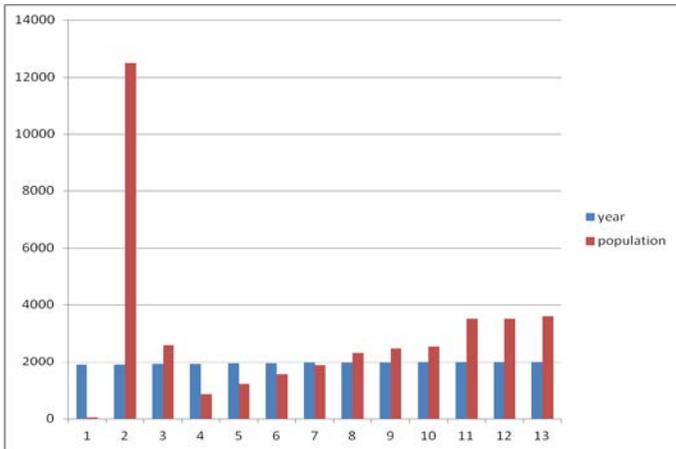
5.1 Nome and Solomon Census Data

Census data for 2000 revealed that 9,391 people were living in the Bering Strait Region which is comprised of 16 communities. In 2010 that number increased to 9,462. US Department of Labor estimates for 2015 are 10,040. Nome had a 2.65% increase in population from 2000 to 2010. The following population data for Nome is from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census. Additional detail is available from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Population by Race:	2000	2010
Population in :	3,505	3598
White:	1,328	1,093
Alaska Native or Amer. Indian:	1,789	1,971
Black:	30	18
Asian:	54	78
Hawaiian Native:	2	9
Other Race:	15	18
Two or More Races:	287	411
Hispanic Origin (Any Race):	72	85
Not Hispanic (Any Race):	3,433	3,513
Percent Native*:	51.04%	54.78%

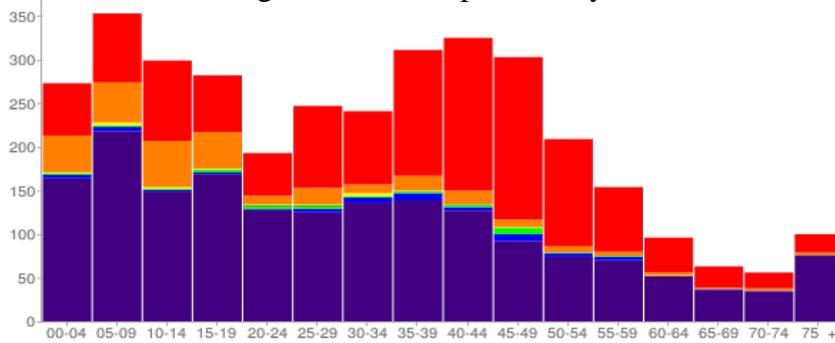
Population by Gender and Age:

Male:	1,876
Female:	1,629
Age 4 and under:	273
Age 5 - 17:	845
Age 18- 64:	2,168
Age over 65:	219



Nome Population		
Order in chart	year	population
1	1890	41
2	1900	12,488
3	1910	2,600
4	1920	852
5	1930	1,213
6	1940	1,559
7	1950	1,876
8	1960	2,316
9	1970	2,488
10	1980	2,544
11	1990	3,500
12	2000	3,505
13	2010	3,598

Changes in Nome Population by Race



	Change	Percent	Color on Graph
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	182	10.17% increase	purple
Asian alone	24	44.44% increase	dark blue
Black or African American alone	-12	40.00% decrease	Bright green
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Native alone	7	350.00% increase	dark green
Some other race alone	3	20.00% increase	yellow
Two or more races	124	43.21% increase	orange
White alone	-235	17.70% decrease	red

*Source: <http://censusviewer.com/city/AK/Nome>

Census counts were are not always done for Solomon each year of the US Census which started in 1880. Below are the numbers for years when it was counted separately.

Year of count	Solomon population
1939 (for 1940 Census)	106
1950	93
1990	6
2000	4

*Note: The School closed in 1956, and the last year Solomon had year-around residents was in 2005.

5.2 Languages

English is the primary language spoken in Nome. The three Alaska Native language spoken are Yupik', St. Lawrence Island Yupik, and Inupiaq. The Village of Solomon is primarily Inupiaq. There are some other languages spoken in the community, such as Spanish, Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, German, etc.

Gaps Identified: Tribal members want a strong language program for adults and students of all ages, especially the very young, local language circles, language resources in the Fish River Inupiaq dialect, and a regional Alaska Native Language Emersion school.

5.3 Employment and the Economy

Nome is the supply, service and transportation center of the Bering Strait region. Government services provide the majority of employment. 60 residents hold commercial fishing permits. Retail services, transportation, mining, medical and other businesses provide year-round income. Several small gold mines continue to provide some employment. The government, schools, native organizations, airlines, and private businesses provide the local employment. Construction jobs provide seasonal employment. Ivory and bone carving, sewing, knitting, beading, wood carving, and ulu making contribute some cash flow to local artists.



Subsistence activities contribute to the local diet. The entire population depends on subsistence hunting and fishing activities, which are supplemented by part-time, wage earnings. Jobs are limited and unemployment is high. Some residents spend part of the summer at camps doing 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, seal, walrus, reindeer, caribou, musk ox, 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.

2010 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.

<u>Per Capita Income in Nome:</u>	\$32,374
Median Household Income:	\$71,643
Median Family Income:	\$77,768
Persons in Poverty:	416
Percent Below Poverty:	10.30%

6.0 Environmental Scan

6.1 Topography and Vegetation

In the Nome and Solomon area at least six distinct geographic beaches exist on the coastal plain inshore from the present day beach. These ancient marine beaches represent different sea levels that once occurred in the region during Pliocene and Pleistocene times. The ancient beaches are overlain by a mantle of glacial till and outwash deposits between 50 to 60 feet thick. The coastal plain which is approximately a 4 mile wide stretch of poorly drained lowland, extends from Cape Nome to the hills just west of Cripple River. Bordering the coastal plain is a series of hills which were formed by folded and faulted interbedded schists and limestones. Primarily, the soils along the hill sides are rubble or gravel overlying shallow bedrock. These soils are typically well drained.

The primary vegetation cover in the Nome region is tundra. There are virtually no large trees in the area. Vegetation is generally limited to lichens, willows, shrubs, mosses, low bush berries, and various grasses. The entire Seward Peninsula falls within the continuous permafrost zone. The permafrost is continuous throughout the coastal plain except under deep lakes and major streams. This permafrost is known to reach thicknesses of up to 300 feet. The potential flooding from surrounding rivers and coastal storm surges exists; however, there is little documentation of serious flooding within the city. 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 Nome is generally limited to 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.

6.3 Climate

January temperatures range from -3 to 11; July temperatures are typically 44 to 65. Average annual precipitation is 18 inches, including 56 inches of snowfall. Nome has a transitional climate with less extreme seasonal and daily temperature variations than Interior Alaska. During the ice free summer months, the Norton Sound controls the climate; however, when the sound freezes, the climate changes from maritime to continental. The temperature extremes are -46



degrees F in the winter and 84 degrees F in the summer. Temperatures were milder in 2014 and 2015 due to El Nino. The mean monthly wind speed is between 9 and 12 mph.

6.4 Wildlife

A wide variety of fish and wildlife are present around Nome and Solomon. Moose, caribou, wolf, wolverine, beavers, porcupines, duck, geese, and other waterfowl are present. Seal, beluga whale, all species of salmon, whitefish, lingcod, tomcod, smelt, pike, and trout are present in the area waters. 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.

6.5 Historic Preservation

There are ancient and historical sites in and around Solomon related to the Native culture and mining.

6.6 Seismic, Flood, and Wetland Information

Nome lies in seismic risk zone three, subject to earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater. There is no record of damage in Nome from earthquakes or tsunamis. Nome is subject to ice-jam from the Bering Sea and some low frequency flooding. Climate changes and fall and spring storms have done some damage to property on the shore in recent years.

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.



Derek Johnson digging the pit for the outhouse at the Garfield Okitkon Shelter Cabin at Mile 31.

6.7 Land Status

SNC was the first Village Corporation in the Bering Straits region that received patent title to all of the land it was entitled to under ANCSA.

6.8 Designated Land Status and Management Issues

There are no National Wildlife Refuges near Nome, according to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers near Nome, according to the U.S. National Park Service. Nome is included in the

Bering Strait Coastal Resource Service Area. Development in Nome may be subject to the Bering Strait Coastal Management Plan developed in 1989, which was updated in 2010. State land includes the Nome airport. Some Native allotments and mining claims do exist within or near the Solomon Community. There are some local right of way and easements issues to consider before developing certain projects.

6.9 Land Use Potential

Within Nome there are some possible land areas for future development projects if care is taken not to build on existing wetlands. There are a few places in or near Solomon which should not be used due to mining or other issues. The formerly state-owned airport in Solomon is considered abandoned and could be used or repurposed. There is some interest in doing upkeep on the runway for emergency uses.

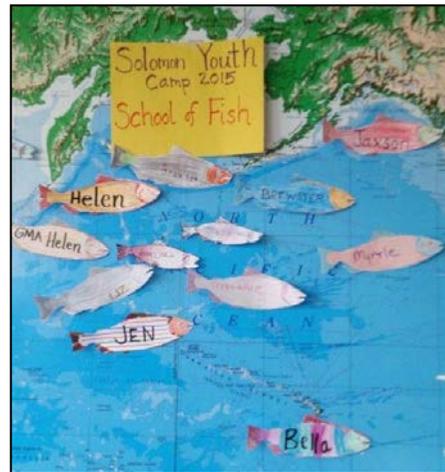
7.0 Analysis of Development

The following is a review of the positive and negative issues that affect program and project development in the community of Solomon or on behalf of tribal or corporation members.

7.1 Development Opportunities, Trends, and Strengths

What are our development opportunities, current trends in Nome and Solomon, or strengths and assets that will help us as we plan and complete projects in our community?

- **People and Organizations** – We are a close knit community, we have talented artists, some tribal members are drummers or dancers, we have strong active educated individuals, we have positive role models, we have skilled workers, our people work together, we have volunteers, we share information, have inter-agency agreements, our tribal office has regular hours, we have a good tribal coordinator, we are improving on communication with a website and we publish regular newsletters. The internet has improved our access to information like grants and world news and issues. We now have a development coordinator to write grants and help plan important projects.
- **Health and Safety** – We see an increase in health education (prevention, screening, dental care, and emergency care), we have good fire department and search and rescue volunteers, Nome has a variety of



Youth Camp – August 2015.

recreation opportunities (playgrounds, recreation center, pool, camps and youth activities), and the tribe has satellite phones and a shelter cabin at Solomon.

- ***Economy, Education, and Training*** – More of our tribal members are seeking higher education; and job opportunities, job training, and tourism opportunities are improving.
- ***Culture*** – We have been having more community gatherings, we are seeing more respect shown for our Elders and one another, we share subsistence foods, and we see more bicultural programs in the community.
- ***Environmental*** – We have a wide variety of subsistence foods available (animals, birds, eggs, berries and plants), the corporation has good gravel and mineral sources available for development, we have been involved in cleanup and recycling programs, we provide community education on the proper disposal of wastes, we conduct regular water quality testing, a tribal member serves as an energy champion on a local energy planning group, there have been tests on the local birds, salmon counts and samples taken for testing, and some salmon enhancement projects in Solomon.

- ***Infrastructure*** – We maintain the B&B/community building, we installed satellite phones in Solomon, we have water tanks and generators in Solomon, we have a playground in Solomon, we lend recreational equipment to tribal members, we do some maintenance on the transportation in Solomon (roads,



airstrip, driveways, and trails), some tribal members obtained new housing or renovations in Nome, Nome has adequate infrastructure (water and sewer, electricity, landfill, bulk fuel tank farm, communications, new hospital, schools, heavy equipment, air and marine transportation systems, public buildings, library, post office, correctional facilities, city office, tribal buildings, churches, stores, restaurants, hotels, internet, roads, cemetery).

7.2 Development Barriers, Hazards, and Areas of Concern

What are development barriers, hazards, or areas of concern or challenges that we need to recognize?

- It is challenging to get people to take advantage of programs and activities.
- Planning is more difficult due to having a small tribal membership, some of which live in Nome.
- We need to engage members more in tribal activities.
- We offer the Solomon B&B at a reduced rate and need more tribal members visiting/camping at Solomon.

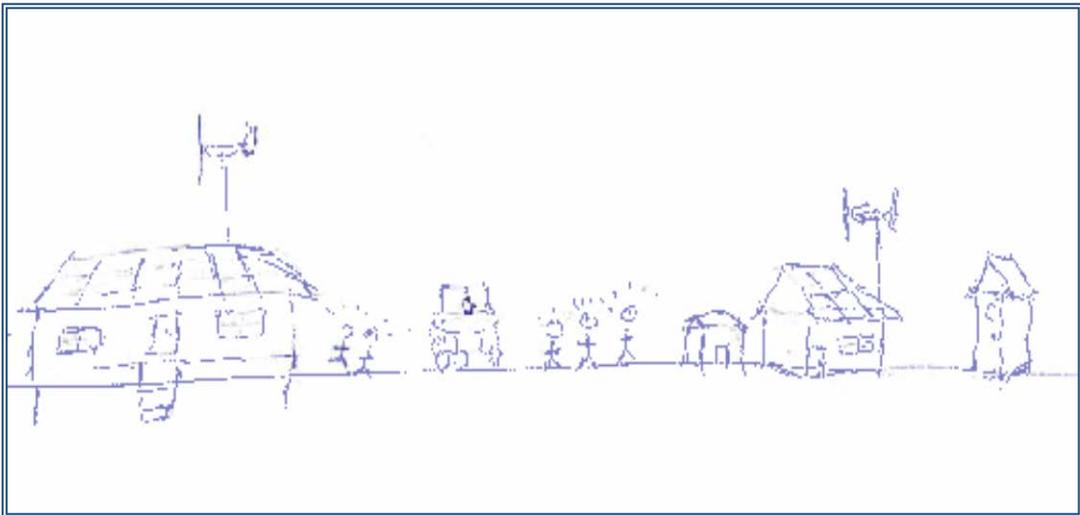
- We have been operating under occupancy at the B&B.
- Funding is more competitive and opportunities do not always fit tribal priorities.
- Transportation to and from Solomon, and to and from Nome/Anchorage is a challenge and can add to the cost of important activities or projects.
- We see possible trespass and legal issues in Solomon that need to be monitored or addressed. We are not always aware of who has been granted access to Solomon lands and waterways.
- We would like to see better communication and cooperation so that more tribal members are hired for projects that happen in Solomon like the salmon enhancement or fish counting/testing projects.
- We would like more tribal knowledge of the mining activities going on around Solomon to be sure there is no damage to the environment. We need more local testing to determine possible damages to our lands due to mining activities in the past.
- Our tribal members struggle with the rising costs of living (housing, energy, transportation, communication and food).
- We need to deal with some of the dilapidated building in Solomon, especially the old mining sites.
- Dust is more of an issue now and can damage meat racks during subsistence seasons. We need more road maintenance, speed limits, and adequate dust control every year.
- We are concerned about the college readiness skills of high school graduates being too low for college coursework.

8.0 Solomon's Vision, Mission and Goals

8.1 Planning for Solomon's Future

The Village of Solomon, the Solomon Native Corporation and community members sought to develop priorities for future projects and activities which the community will use to enhance the local economy and build on the identified cultural strengths, economic opportunities, and current community assets over the next five years, 2016 -2020.

Cultural heritage and economic development can work together. This will take creative



Vision drawing of Solomon by tribal member.

innovation approaches to community development. Our brainstorming was oriented to the future, but grounded in history. Participants were also encouraged to think of ideas that would be responsive to the tribal surroundings and to be realistic and practical. Based upon this, the overall community vision was reviewed and updated in 2016:

8.2 Solomon Community Vision:

By 2020 Solomon will:

- ❑ Have the VOS & SNC working together for capacity building and creating new projects.
- ❑ Enhance the local economy while staying true to subsistence traditions.
- ❑ Empower ourselves and each other as a community to enhance and strengthen our social and economic future.
- ❑ Strive for unity.
- ❑ Engage and empower our youth to be leaders.
- ❑ Utilize our elders and youth to revitalize our culture and traditional values.



Solomon Local Economic Development Planning Session in Anchorage – Feb 6, 2016.

Solomon Planning Team 2016 (all three sessions)

Kirsten and Tessa Timbers
 Deilah Johnson & Tristan Hudson
 Annette Piscoya
 Kathy Sweetland
 *Luke Johnson
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Robert Curran, Jr.
 Tim Stettinger
 Greg Timbers
 Lee Johnson
 *Marcus Johnson
 Meghann Piscoya
 Liz Johnson
 Jaxson Huntsman
 *Tobias Huntsman

8.3 Areas of Responsibility

After reviewing the vision and in preparation of developing a mission statement for the community of Solomon, the planning group identified the areas of responsibility of the VOS and SNC:

Corporation Responsibilities:

- Economic growth and development.
- Oversight and stewardship of assets for the benefit of shareholders.
- Maintaining compliance with corporation policies and bylaws along with the State of Alaska and Federal regulations.

Tribal Areas of Responsibility:

- Teach cultural importance of our tribe.
- Oversee ICWA cases of tribal members.
- Host social and cultural events for tribal members.
- Financial responsibility to manage funds and grants.
- Tribal enrollment of new tribal members.
- Tribal governance (ordinances, policies, by laws, constitution).
- Be caretakers of our lands and environment.
- Assist and serve our tribal members and meet their needs.



Tristan Hudson at the 2015 Youth Camp.

8.4 Solomon Community Mission

The planning group developed a community mission statement for the joint entities on behalf of the community of Solomon:

“To increase cultural awareness and promote the well being of our tribal members while protecting our environment”.

8.5 Solomon Community Development Goals

The planning group also developed three goals to accomplish this mission.

1. *Develop Solomon into a viable community.*
2. *Maintain and increase tribal self-sufficiency.*
3. *Assist our tribal members to foster future growth and become leaders.*

9.0 Values to Guide Community Development

Values

The planning group identified our community values which will help guide us as we develop and implement projects to improve our community.

Cultural Values - Knowledge of our language, strong work ethic, arts, Eskimo foods, competence in cultural activities and skills, knowledge of family histories, sharing and caring for each other, love of nature, respect for elders, and sense of community and belonging to the tribe.

Traditional or Modern Values - Church, formal and higher education, and use of technology, ATV's, UTV's and boats.

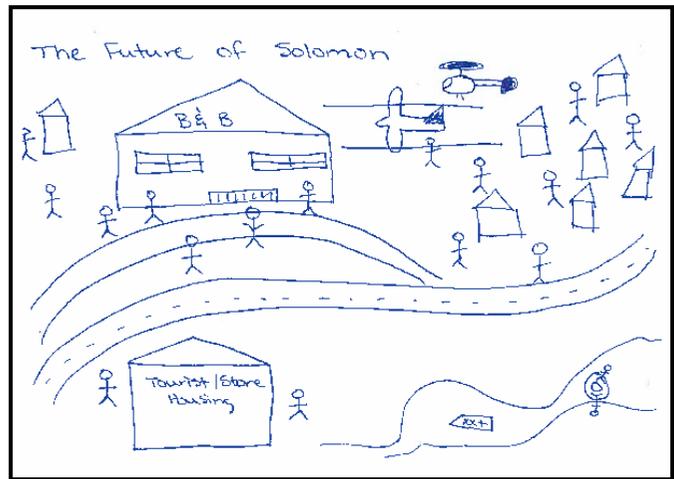
Applying our Values: When we develop and plan important projects or programs, what are the things we must remember?

We should:

- Practice positive communication with each other and outside agencies
- Ensure proper clean up and project oversight
- Utilize and create our own tribal membership expertise
- Seek and secure other financial resources
- Be culturally sensitive to our community
- Utilize our own natural resources
- Have transparency in all stages of the planning process
- Protect our land and our resources
- Help one another

10.0 Development Priorities and Implementation

There were 12 priorities identified by the Village of Solomon in order to meet our tribal members' needs and improve economic development for the tribe. In order to provide a thorough understanding of each project, the following information is given for each priority:



Project Description
Background
Project Needs and Benefits
Potential Constraints to Project Development

Project Implementation
Plan of Action
Organizations Responsible and Contact Information
Funding Possibilities

Approved Top 12 Priorities for the Village of Solomon 2016-2020

1. Obtain a tribal community hall/office in Nome.
2. Expand and improve our ICWA services.
3. Assess effects of climate change and collaborate for Salmon enhancement and testing in Solomon.
4. Fully effective operation of the Solomon Bed & Breakfast (business plan, obtain land, tourism development, gift shop, alternative and renewable energy).
5. Create and manage our own transportation program for Solomon (roads, boat harbor, air strip).
6. Improve our language resources in our dialect (immersion school, educational resources, writing children's books and Solomon history books).
7. Improve access in public schools to learn tribal government, Alaska Native history, and math and science using our environment as a tool.
8. Advocate for restorative justice and tribal input into culturally appropriate sentencing of our tribal members.
9. Work with other Nome-based tribes to develop culturally related classes and activities for all ages to pass on cultural knowledge and promote wellness.
10. Improve education and enforcement of land use rights in and around Solomon.
11. Clean up land and old church site, improve drainage, and add historical markers in and around Solomon.
12. Advocate for an affordable family-friendly laundry/washeteria/carwash in Nome.

10.1 Priority #1

Obtain a tribal community hall/office in Nome.

10.1.1 Project Description

Background

Due to various issues the rented tribal office has changed locations several times over the years.

Project Need and Benefits

The current office is small and does not comfortably accommodate the growing staff or have enough space for guests and visitors at council meetings. It has been challenging to host tribal events at the office. For larger meetings rented alternative spaces. If the tribe could build or buy their own community hall/office we could comfortably accommodate the staff, seek grants to hire more staff, and comfortably hold council meetings and tribal gatherings. We could save month by not having to rent alternative spaces to hold large gathering. We would also have secure storage space for our program supplies.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

The tribe would need to seek a grant or loan to build or buy a building and take into consideration the operating and maintenance costs.

10.1.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Meet with staff and council members to determine needs: storage, furniture, floor space, number of rooms, and how the building will be used.
2. Consider project partners to share the space and look for ways to reduce operating costs or to generate income by renting space or services to others.
3. Meet with banks, realtors, and contractors to find out about interest rates, compare the cost buying an existing building and renovating, to buying land and building a new building.
4. Begins project planning and seek funding sources.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- *Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)* - http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/icdbg
- *Rasmuson Foundation*- <http://www.rasmuson.org/>

10.2 Priority #2

Expand and improve our ICWA services.

10.2.1 Project Description

Background

The tribe is successfully operating an ICWA program and has closed cases over the last few years.

Project Needs and Benefits

Solomon is a small tribe. Every time we lose a child, even if they are adopted to other Alaska Native tribes and stay in Alaska, the child could lose a vital connection to our tribe. Also the tribe loses the opportunity to nurture that child to become an active member of the tribe.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

We need to stay educated on tribal rights and legislation, keep staff adequately trained, seek funding to expand programs, collaborate more effectively with other agencies.

10.2.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Send staff to important conferences or trainings so they can network and stay informed of issues and opportunities.
2. Survey elders and get tribal members for input in how to improve ICWA services. Research successful programs in other regions.

3. Build interagency relationships and seek funding to improve services.
4. Work with at-risk families and provide supportive services to struggling parents.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- *US Dept. of Health and Human Services*- <http://www.hhs.gov/>
- *Private Foundations*

10.3 Priority #3

Assess effects of climate change and collaborate for Salmon enhancement and testing in Solomon

10.3.1 Project Description

Background

River flooding and climate change affects the Solomon area by causing road damage and sloughing of land at the graveyard. Every year the land under the Community Center/Bed & Breakfast shifts and causes need for repair. Salmon numbers have greatly decreased in the region and many entities are developing projects to enhance local stocks.

Project Need and Benefits

Community members are concerned about the changes in weather patterns and how it affects subsistence. Members would like to see annual repair of both the graveyard and the roads around Solomon. They believe that by working together to find funding and sub-contracting with SNC that they can repair damage that has been done over the last 15 years. Meanwhile they hope to find funding to study the long term effects of climate change. The village site is very important to the tribe for subsistence uses. Protecting and enhancing the salmon resources will ensure that tribal members have access to subsistence resources in the future.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

Road and land mitigation projects are costly and require professional expertise. Land issues and access to repair the cemetery may require time consuming development of proper permissions from families or land owners. Projects of this nature take expert planning, adequate funding, and professional implementation to carry out.

10.3.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Determine boundaries of damage and any land ownership issues and access.
2. Assess the damage annually and hold joint meeting with SNC & VOS to put together a plan for repairs.
3. Research similar projects being implemented in the region.

4. Determine best site for the project and solve land access issues.
5. VOS will apply for funding for repairs once they identify project partners and develop a project proposal.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon
- Solomon Native Corporation

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- *Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation* - <http://www.nsedc.com>
- *Oak Foundation* - <http://oakfnd.org/>
- *US Fish and Wildlife*- <http://www.fws.gov/>
- *Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game* - <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/>
- *Bering Sea Fisherman's Association*- <http://www.bsfaak.org/>
- *DOC, Economic Development Admin Public Works* - <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>
- *Bureau of Indian Affairs Climate Change Grants* - <http://bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/climatechange/index.htm>
- *Environmental Protection Agency* - <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-program>

10.4 Priority # 4

Fully effective operation at the Bed & Breakfast/Community Center (business plan, obtain land, tourism development, gift shop, alternative and renewable energy).

10.4.1 Project Description

Background

The Community Center/Bed & Breakfast was designed and brought to life 15 years ago with the idea that community members would have a centralized location to spend their time, do their laundry, and have social events. The Bed & Breakfast portion of the building was to ideally pay for itself and bring business to the tribe. Obtaining funding for the reconstruction of the building was successful and the old school was beautifully restored into the new Community Center/Bed & Breakfast. Community members would like to see alternative energy supplement the Community Center/Bed & Breakfasts diesel powered generator as well as provide power to the surrounding homes. They are interested in studying alternative power to see which would be the most feasible for their area and situation. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) are qualified to assist with feasibility assessments, system design and determine financing strategies. Solomon is eligible for forty hours of technical assistance from NREL. The tribe would like to explore obtaining the land where the B&B sits and update the business plan to expand tourism opportunities, build a gift shop, and expand activities for tourists like eco-tourism, birding or side-by-side rides.

Project Need and Benefits

A solid business plan will guide the tribe in making improvements and increase sustainability of project. It will allow them to take into consideration both the needs of tribal members and the needs of potential guests who come to Solomon. It will help in developing an effective marketing strategy and help develop policies for building use that will insure success.

Over the last several years, the tribe faced challenges in being able to pay staff part-time or full-time for the Solomon B&B/Community Center. This has presented a problem which has lead to the building not being open and available in a consistent manner. Community members are not able to take advantage of the building during the months that they are living at Solomon and feel that they would like to resurrect the building as a social meeting place. By developing attractive tourist packages for the B&B members feel that they can have a thriving business.

Having the Community Center/Bed & Breakfast fully operational will allow community members the security of feeling provided for in many social & physical ways. It will also help fulfill the dreams and visions of the project that started many years ago. By having consistent hours of operation, the Community Center will help community members to feel a stronger sense of community at Solomon. By having the building open on a consistent basis, the Bed & Breakfast will see more business from travelers wanting to stop in for a meal or a room. The business will need to be advertised in a manner consistent with potential clients and develop an interactive website.

The community wants to set a meteorological (met) tower to study the wind speed and direction in the Solomon area. They will need to study the information over the course of at least a year to determine the different data at the different times of year. The Alaska Energy Authority Anemometer Loan Program might assist with equipment and expertise. Solar data from Nome suggests solar may be a viable solution for electricity and space heating during certain times of the year. Solomon can look toward the NREL's and ACEP's research and technical support to help answer questions and find a workable solution.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

There is a need for funding and reliable staff to manage the facilities with consistent hours that are regularly advertised to assure full occupancy and ensure that there is adequate funding for facility maintenance. There is a need for reliable wind or solar data to determine the resource and a good plan for energy projects that will meet the needs of the community hall/B&B and the community.

10.4.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Look to original EDA business plan as a starting point, but expand and update the business plan.

2. Have meetings with elders and tribal members to determine cultural resources or information we want to share with tourists.
3. Determine cost of facility maintenance and expenses needed and set user fees that will meet the needs. Consider subsidized rate for members.
4. Train several trustworthy and reliable tribal members to care take/work the CC/BB as the current budget allows. Hire staff and alternates, and then develop a consistent, well published, schedule of operation. Designate times and dates for special activities.
5. Focus on tribal membership needs and try to make the Community Center uses a priority over the B&B customers.
6. Advertise to tribal members to let them know about the Community Center/B&B. Advertise in publications such as Alaska Air or Alaska Magazine. Boost website advertising and develop and more automated reservation system.
7. Consider the market of clients desired and create attractive tourist packages (eco-tourism, side-by-side rides, birding, and cultural or historical information)
8. Develop Policies and Procedures to ensure full utilization and economic operation.
9. Solve any land issues and identify project partners.
10. Research the feasibility of solar power & Community Center/B&B power consumption, by gathering existing data on other similar projects in the region.
11. Research costs and develop project to gather data on wind and solar resource.
12. Once data is gathered, select and develop a project plan for alternative energy project and seek funding.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon
- Solomon Native Corporation

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)** - http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/icdbg
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)** - <http://www.anthc.org/>
- Rasmuson Foundation** - www.rasmuson.org
- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC)**- <http://www.nsedc.com>
- US Dept. of Health and Human Services** - Administration for Native Americans (ANA), Language/Cultural Preservation, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/>
- National Park Service Historic Preservation** - <https://www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/> or <https://www.nps.gov/thpo/grants/>
- Rural Development Housing & Community Facilities Programs** - http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=GRANTS_LOANS

- ❑ *National Renewable Energy Laboratory* - <http://www.nrel.gov>
- ❑ *Alaska Energy Authority, Anemometer Loan Program* - <http://www.akenergyauthority.org>
- ❑ *Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority* - <http://www.aidea.org/>
- ❑ *Alaska Center for Energy and Power* - <http://acep.uaf.edu/>
- ❑ *Cold Climate Housing Research Center* - <http://www.cchrc.org/>

10.5 Priority #5

Create and manage our own transportation program for Solomon (roads, boat harbor, air strip).

10.5.1 Project Description

Background

There is no city government in Solomon, the state abandoned and no longer owns or maintains the airstrip. No entity has tried to address the need for a boat harbor, and road maintenance has been sporadic and often long overdue. Drainage has been an ongoing issue. Kawerak did do some dust control work, and some trail maintenance. The tribe repaired some driveways.

A second 1000 ft. runway does exist in near Solomon which is not maintained and in poor condition.

Several sites belonging to members do not have road access. This has resulted in lack of building or maintaining homes in the area. Members would like to have driveway construction and improvements made to the roads in Solomon.

Both Solomon tribal members and non-members use the Solomon River to launch their boats either to access the river or to access the ocean. There is only one good place to launch a boat and that place is in jeopardy of washing out. It is a mixture of sand and mud and in danger of erosion. Some tribal members would like to see a concrete slab built there that would allow people to back their trailers into the water and unload their boats without harming the bank.

Project Need and Benefits

The need for the runway improvements and expansion will be apparent once the B&B starts operating at full capacity. In order to include fly in/fly out options and helicopter trips, the VOS will want to have the airstrip in working order. It's also important for access in or out of Solomon in the event of an emergency such as a serious illness or injury.

Roads in Solomon are limited and poorly maintained. Many of the home sites that do have a road going nearby do not have driveways into their homes. This results in parking issues. Also, culverts need to be placed so that drainage from the upper side of the road can adequately drain out and not cause damage to the road. Driveways will add to the ease of elders' transport and other benefits such as hauling water or fuel.

If the Village of Solomon puts together tourist packages that involve boating, they will need a safe and secure place to launch a boat with clients. Also, members of Solomon catch salmon and hang them to dry for subsistence foods and use that area to put their boats into the water.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

The tribe will need education to develop a transportation program capable of making airstrip, road and water access improvements. Land issues need to be solved and partner agreements in place to improve the air strips. Project design and work done will need to meet air carrier requirements to assure the strips will be approved for use once repaired. Annual maintenance afterward will be needed to assure that the airstrips stay in working order. Land access issues need to be solved with agreements, and collaboration is needed for the VOS and SNC to work together to obtain funding and create a plan for the road repairs or construction and annual maintenance. Land ownership issues need to be solved and MOA's developed with the VOS and SNC who owns the land at the Solomon River. Research will be needed to design the project which will protect the environment and give adequate access to the water.

10.5.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. VOS & SNC plan together for repair and expansion projects.
2. Solve land issues and develop agreements.
3. Research, develop project design, and apply for grants that would lend themselves to this project
4. Research land ownership and which sites need access.
5. Solve access issues with legal agreements or right of ways.
6. Determine project partners and contractors (SNC).
7. Work with SNC for the gravel and to implement project improvements.
8. Develop maintenance plan and user policies, and then implement the projects.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon
- Solomon Native Corporation

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- **Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)** - Barbara Gallegos 602-379-721, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/icdbg.cfm>
- **Denali Commission** - <http://www.denali.gov>
- **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)** - <http://www.anthc.org/>
- **Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC)**- <http://www.nsedc.com>
- **U.S. Army Corp of Engineer, Alaska** - <http://www.usace.army.mil/> or <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/>
- **State of Alaska Harbor Engineer (DOT&PF)** - <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/desports/>

- *United State Department of Agriculture USDA* - <http://www.rd.usda.gov/ak>
- *Alaska Dept. of Transportation* - <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

10.6 Priority # 6

Improve our language resources in our dialect (immersion school, educational resources, writing children’s books and Solomon history books).

10.6.1 Project Description

Background

Retaining our language is very important to our tribal members. While some language resources are being developed, they are not readily available to our tribal members, especially in our own Fish River dialect. There are some successful immersion schools in other parts of Alaska, but none in Nome.

Project Need and Benefits

Our Tribal members want to have access to books, CD’s, computer programs, and phone Aps that will help us retain and strengthen our language. There is a need to document the tribal history in Solomon and develop culturally appropriate children’s books. This will allow us to share and teach our young about our tribe and our language. The tribe would like to see a language immersion school developed in Nome.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

Challenges to this priority are forming the collaborative partnerships with other Fish River Tribes to develop language resources before the fluent speakers of the language are gone. Also the costs for capital projects and program development of an immersion school will take considerable planning and resources.

10.6.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Assess currently available resources in our language, especially the Fish River dialect and share those sources with our tribal members.
2. Contact other tribes to see if we can collaborate on projects they are developing, begin to develop a new language project together or begin planning a language immersion school.
3. Develop incentive program or assistance to help tribal members to create books, CD’s, curriculum, or other publications.
4. Seek funding and implement projects.

Organizations Responsible and Contact Information:

- Village of Solomon

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- *Administration for Native Americans*, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana>
Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance

10.7 Priority # 7

Improve access in public schools to learn tribal government, Alaska Native history, and math and science using our environment as a tool.

10.7.1 Project Description

Background

Our children are not taught enough about tribal government and Alaska Native history. Math and Science are not always taught in a way that allows them to make the practical applications to real life experiences in our environment.

Project Need and Benefits

The tribe wants to be proactive and work with the public school system to insure that our youth are taught these important topic areas. When there is a strong focus on these topic areas, we believe that our children will be inspired to become tribal leaders, have relevant knowledge our tribe and our history, and gain practical skills in using Math and Science to solve regional and local problems.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

Challenges will be forming the partnerships and obtaining funding to develop curriculum that meets the school's criteria. It will be important to be proactive as it is implemented to insure the goals are met.

10.7.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Meet with public school official to determine the content and number of hours currently given toward the instruction of tribal government or Alaska Native history, or Math and Science using our environment as a tool.
2. Form a task force and meet with elders and other tribes to determine appropriate curriculum goals, content desired and which age groups to target.
3. Seek funding for curriculum development and work with school to insure curriculum meets educational standards and are appropriate, implementable, and will meet the tribes' goals.
4. Monitor the progress and make recommendations for change as needed.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- National Park Service Historic Preservation* - (202) 354-2020, www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal or preservation_grants_info@nps.gov
- Rasmuson Foundation* - www.rasmuson.org

10.8 Priority # 8

Advocate for restorative justice and tribal input into culturally appropriate sentencing of our tribal members.

10.8.1 Project Description

Background

The Village of Solomon Tribal Council recognizes that there are at risk youth and young adult tribal members in the community that are essentially at a crossroads where if they make bad choices, they end up caught up in the state criminal justice system. Once in the system, especially if they spend time incarcerated, it is very likely that they will then continue down the wrong path with more bad choices leading to further incarceration.

Project Need and Benefits

Solomon tribal leaders are looking for ways to intervene early on if possible, to have an effect that will put our tribal members back on the right path leading healthy, productive lives. And in general, we are seeking ways in which we can engage with our membership when they are in trouble, in more culturally appropriate, traditional ways.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

The only challenges will be becoming educated in the new rule, determining our restorative process and setting up the administrative infrastructure to monitor cases.

10.8.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

The Village of Solomon Tribal Council met with Kawerak's Counsel and discussed entering into a restorative justice partnership with the Nome Court System through Court Rule 11, a new Court Rule that allows State Courts to enter into agreements with tribes to conduct a restorative justice process at sentencing of a tribal member, and make recommendations back to the State Court. In order to implement this plan of action, we will need to do the following:

1. Meet telephonically or in person with Superior Court Judge Eric Smith to learn more about the Restorative Justice project.
2. Enter into a Rule 11 agreement with the Court System.
3. On our own or with the assistance of Kawerak's Counsel, develop the administrative infrastructure necessary to monitor cases, notify the Court when we take a case, and make recommendations back to the State Court.
4. On our own or with the assistance of Kawerak's Counsel, develop own restorative justice process. This may include traditional cultural elements, circle sentencing, involvement of the Council, victims, and others, to be determined by the Council. In order to understand our options better, we will identify other tribes in the State already doing this, and reach out to them for ideas.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

It does not appear initially as though additional funding will be necessary (and the State is not providing funding). Should funding be necessary, we will explore tribal court funding options.

10.9 Priority # 9

Work with other Nome-based tribes to develop culturally related classes and activities for all ages to pass on cultural knowledge and promote wellness.

10.9.1 Project Description

Background

In recent years we have seen an increased interest and more local efforts to organize cultural activities. Our tribe is also excited about the completion of the Katirvik Cultural Center and looking forward to regional efforts there to increase opportunities for cultural activities. The Village of Solomon has made great efforts to host several cultural events or meetings for our tribal members.

Project Need and Benefits

The tribal members believe cultural events for all ages are needed to pass on cultural knowledge, unify our tribe, and provide for healthy activities. More effort needs to be made to insure there are a variety of opportunities year around.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

The biggest challenges are organizing collaborative efforts with other tribes, the project cost, staff resources, and having suitable locations to hold events.

10.9.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Make a list of currently available cultural events and distribute the list to tribal members.
2. Consider low cost events that tribal members living outside the region could participate in like a story-telling teleconference.
3. Work with other tribes and conduct a survey or form a task force to brainstorm cultural activity ideas.
4. Seek donations or funding to buy supplies and organize events, then advertise and host events.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- ❑ *Fund raisers and donations*
- ❑ *Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC)-*
<http://www.nsedc.com>
- ❑ *Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority, <http://www.bsraha.org/>*

10.10 Priority #10

Improve education and enforcement of land use rights in and around Solomon.

10.10.1 Project Description

Background

There has been some concern about trespassing and questionable activities occurring on the land in and around Solomon.

Project Need and Benefits

Tribal members are not always sure whose responsibility it is to insure the land and water are not polluted or the environment and wildlife threatened in and around Solomon. Tribal members need to know where to report questionable activities and more information about land use rights in general.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

Challenges will be to determine all the laws governing private property, corporation lands, tribal authority, information about state or federal lands, as well as other relevant laws about the environment and wildlife.

10.10.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Form a joint entity work group to develop a contact list of agencies involved in land use or environmental code enforcement. Determine land ownership of all lands in and around Solomon. Make a list of land-use concerns.
2. Distribute information to tribal members so they can report concerns to the appropriate place.

Organizations Responsible:

- ❑ Village of Solomon
- ❑ Solomon Native Corporation

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

It does not appear initially as though additional funding will be necessary (and the Federal government is not providing funding). Should funding be necessary, we will explore funding options.

10.11 Priority #11

Clean up land and old church site, improve drainage, and add historical markers in and around Solomon.

10.11.1 Project Description

Background

Tribal members feel that the debris from the old church site is ugly, and this site and others should have an appropriate historical markers instead. The drainage issues have the potential to damage the land and the existing driveways, roads and buildings.

Project Need and Benefits

Tribal members feel it is important to keep Solomon beautiful and clean up dilapidated buildings, address drainage issues, and add some historical markers so our tribal members and guests can learn about the history of the tribe and the community.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

Safety and possible issues like asbestos are always a concern in demolition projects.

10.11.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Form a work group to explore land ownership access issues, assess project needs and costs, and make a plan of action and schedule. Try to reduce project cost by seeking volunteers or hiring tribal members to do the clean up.
2. Contact DOT and Kawerak's Transportation Program to see if they can make recommendations about the drainage issues and how to address them.
3. Meet with tribal members and determine types and content of various desired historical markers and research the costs to order and ship to Nome.
4. Seek funding and implement projects.

Organizations Responsible:

Village of Solomon
Solomon Native Corporation

Funding Possibilities

- ❑ *Kawerak Transportation Program*
- ❑ *Alaska Department of Transportation*
- ❑ *Environmental Protection Agency – IGAP program*
- ❑ *National Park Service Historic Preservation* - (202) 354-2020, www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tribal or preservation_grants_info@nps.gov
- ❑ *Rasmuson Foundation* - www.rasmuson.org

10.12 Priority #12

Advocate for an affordable family-friendly laundry/washeteria/carwash in Nome.

10.12.1 Project Description

Background

The only public places to wash clothes in Nome are XYZ (elders only) and Soap & Suds (which is located in a bar). There is no place to wash a vehicle. Public showers are only available at the Recreation Center and separated by gender. There is no family shower where you could assist a family member of the opposite gender.

Project Need and Benefits

Tribal members want a family-friendly laundry mat option in Nome where it's appropriate and safe to take children and affordable. People who need access are usually renting places without access to washing machines or dryers or live outside city limits in houses that don't have water and sewer. Many of these families cannot pay the high prices of the current laundry mat even if they did use it. An affordable option would improve the health and safety of our tribal members. Access to a car wash would be a great benefit in the spring and summer, beautify the community and reduce the dust. Access to a family-friendly and handicap accessible shower would benefit single parents who take care of a child of the opposite gender and also help family members who assist elders with bathing.

Potential Constraints to Project Development

Because the City of Nome considers a facility like this as a business, the water is metered which raises the cost of the service, as does the cost of energy and maintenance.

10.12.2 Project Implementation

Plan of Action

1. Approach the Soap & Suds to see if they could open a place where families can wash clothes. Approach the City of Nome about installing a pay by the minute water hose near the Recreation Center to wash vehicles, and installing a family shower that is handicap assessable at the Recreation Center.
2. Meet with the Chamber of Commerce and express the tribe's concerns to see what can be done about the City of Nome or the Utility's policies about water usage to see if an exception can be made for providing a public service.
3. Meet with other tribes and Native Corporations to see if they want to collaborate on a solution or explore the possibility of looking for a new tribal office/community hall and install washing facilities for our tribal members to use for a fee.

Organizations Responsible:

- Village of Solomon
- Solomon Native Corporation

Funding Possibilities or Other Contacts:

- ❑ *Local or Regional Native Corporations*
- ❑ *Private Entrepreneurs*

Other future project ideas for Solomon to guide us in planning collaborative projects and seeking funding opportunities:

Health:

1. We need to strongly advocate for a full service Substance Abuse Detox Center in Nome.
2. We need tribal advocacy to change Indian Health Service (HIS) and Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) policies to reduce wait time for addressing dental emergencies.
3. Nome tribes need to advocate for a tribal doctor at Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC).
4. We need to increase tribal access to tribal healing techniques and natural remedies and medications.
5. Nome needs a Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) program.
6. We need support services in Nome and Anchorage for survivors of those who lost loved ones to suicide and more suicide prevention, and suicide awareness in memory of Scottie McPeck.
7. We need to look for funding to provide recreation center passes to tribal members of all ages both in Nome and Anchorage.
8. We need to build public restrooms in Solomon at the river and outside the B&B for use when it is closed.
9. We should continue waste management, recycling, and dust control projects in Solomon.



Housing:

1. We should develop solid partnerships with compatible entities, and work with other organizations to improve access to affordable housing and provide budget and credit counseling.
2. We should insure that all tribal members are aware of housing assistance for improvements or weatherization and other funding opportunities.

Environmental:

1. We should continue water quality testing (obtain baselines and check for Ph levels, minerals, turbidity, and toxins) in Solomon.
2. We should look for potable water sources in the creeks and rivers around Solomon.
3. We want clean land and better drainage around Solomon.
4. We need more salmon testing and enhancement projects in Solomon.
5. We need to assess the effects of climate change in relation to access to Solomon.
6. We need to be more involved in RRR (reduce, reuse, recycle) and proper waste management at Solomon, in Nome, and in Anchorage.



Public Safety and Law Enforcement:

1. We need Solomon tribal members to be foster parents in Anchorage to assist with ICWA placements to keep our children with tribal members.
2. We all need to advocate for thorough investigations and swift prosecution of perpetrators of violence and rape.
3. We need to continue to improve emergency communications in Solomon.
4. At the B&B we need to check first aid supplies annually obtain a defibrillator.
5. We should help develop a tribal court.
6. We should improve and expand our ICWA services.
7. We should provide education to tribal members regarding domestic violence.
8. We need to oversee fish and game policy changes regarding subsistence and stay informed and advocate for tribes better.
9. We need to educate and enforce land use rights in Solomon.
10. We should teach CPR, first aid, firearm safety, hunter and boating safety, swimming, and outdoor survival.



Autumn Johnson, Tristan Hudson, and Isabella Bohn at the Youth Camp 2015.

Energy:

1. We should explore ways to provide community power and back-up power in Solomon.
2. We should explore renewable and alternative energy options for Solomon, wind or solar panels for B&B, and seek NSEDC grants and other matching grants for energy.
3. We should explore renewable energy options for tribal members in Nome and Anchorage to help them cut energy costs.

Transportation:

1. We should create a bypass or alternate route road to Solomon.
2. We should seek funding for airstrip improvements or to operate our own airport in Solomon.
3. We should continue dust control and make driveway improvements to campsites.
4. We should build a boat ramp and a boat launching area/dock (with a public restroom) in Solomon.
5. We should explore pros and cons to create our own transportation program.

Tribal Activities:

1. We should obtain a tribally-owned community hall/office building in Nome.
2. We need to adopt child codes and ordinances and expand ICWA services.
3. We need to utilize technology of teleconference equipment or Skype so more tribal members can participate in meetings.
4. We need to provide rides or cab vouchers so more tribal members can get to

important tribal meetings.

5. We need to keep tribal members informed about important information, like what benefits are available to tribal members that live outside the region.
6. We need to establish a Solomon tribal office or liaison in Anchorage.
7. We should improve interaction between Nome and Anchorage tribal members (Facebook, letters, phone calls, email, teleconferences, etc.).
8. We should improve collaborations and work with SNC on community issues.



Jackson Huntsman and Tristan Hudson at the 2015 Youth Camp.

Education:

1. We need an immersion school in Nome to help preserve our Native language.
2. We should encourage the schools to teach Native science and math using our environment as a tool, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program.
3. Tribal government and Alaska Native history needs to be a core part of the high school curriculum.
4. We need access to technology classes for adults in Anchorage and Nome, especially for beginners, computer information, how to use cell phones or cameras, how to use applications, and internet safety.
5. Nome and Anchorage tribal members need life skills training like: managing household budgets, infant learning programs for babies and toddlers, support for new mothers, parenting classes, safe processing of foods, and babysitting classes.
6. We need to establish or support mentorship programs to keep students in high school and college.

Language:

1. We should work with other tribes to develop an Alaska Native language immersion school in Nome and advocate for better language programs in Head Start the public schools.
2. We should develop language circles in our dialect in Nome and Anchorage.
3. We should have cultural language activities for tribal members in Anchorage and provide books, CDS, and other language resources to all tribal members.

Elders, Youth, Family, Cultural, Recreational, and Social:

1. We need to do more fund raising for our Nome and Anchorage based youth so they can travel more to participate in Native Youth Olympics, sports, youth camps, and other school trips.
2. We should develop historical displays or arts and crafts/photos to place at the tribal office in Nome and at the B&B/community building in Solomon.



3. We should teach more culturally related classes like: language circles, sewing, parka and kuspuk making, how to build a fish rack, making a smokehouse, learn about medicinal plants, carving, beading, and subsistence food processing.
4. We should remember to serve frybread and Native foods at all tribal meetings.
5. We should celebrate every time we increase our tribal enrollment by 10 members with a gathering and games.
6. We should encourage tribal members to create our own children's books about Solomon and its history with illustrations for our children and encourage tribal members to be local historians and create notebooks about Solomon to preserve history and improve our knowledge of Solomon.
7. We should try to have more Solomon gatherings and involvement (5 times a year),
8. We should start providing more social services and tribal assistance, provide more assistance to tribal members (firewood, refrigerators, propane and/or oil) and lend each other assistance like "barn raising".
9. We should provide transportation to help tribal members hunt and fish in Solomon or obtain an ocean worthy boat for tribal members to use.
10. We should do more cultural activities together with other tribal members, activities like: berry picking, starting a dance group, or promoting and supporting family wellness.
11. We should develop a Cultural Center in Solomon.



Cynthia Gray and Tessa Timbers-Payenna at the 2015 Annual Meeting at XYZ Center.

Improvements in Solomon (which did not fit under other categories):

1. We need to improve upkeep at the cemetery, shore up the eroding bank, and repaint the crosses.
2. We should provide community potable water.
3. We should help tribal members build camps and acquire camp sites.
4. We should work with state and SNC and advocate for better land management and oversight of activities in and around Solomon (mining, recreations, scientific studies, subsistence use).
5. The tribe should obtain the land where the B&B/Community building is located.
6. We should build a place for people to prepare and store their catch.
7. We should clean up the debris at the old church site and add historical markers in Solomon.

Employment Opportunities, Business Development and Tourism:

1. We should advocate that Kawerak and NSHC hire more Alaska Natives according to their own policies.
2. We should advocate that the Alaska state government keep their hands off our Permanent Fund Dividend.

3. We need full operation of the B&B/community Center in Solomon.
4. We should develop a B&B business plan and marketing plan.
5. We should develop and enhance eco-tourism opportunities in Solomon (birding, side by side rides).
6. We should open gift shop and historical display in Solomon.
7. We should see about getting added back as an Iditarod Check Point.
8. We should develop a tribal birding business (guides, information, etc.).
9. We should operate tribal gaming/casino in Solomon.
10. We should promote reindeer herding on Solomon lands.
11. We need to support the development of Alaska Native natural healing products and medicines.
12. We should build a Solomon B&B in Anchorage.
13. We should advocate for affordable access to a family-friendly laundry/washeteria in Nome.
14. We should provide assistance to tribal members who are seeking funding to build businesses on Native allotments.



Project brainstorming activity at the Anchorage LEDP session in February 2016.

Review and Update Process

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

Planning Committee comments regarding the planning meetings and processes:

- It was nice to gather and get to know each other more; it feels like we are a family.
- It's good to plan together – makes us feel like unified tribal members.
- We need to work harder and invite more tribal members next time.
- We should try to meet in Solomon next time and provide travel funds to get there.
- We should have a picnic in Solomon soon.



The Solomon B&B / Community Hall.

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