

# **MARY'S IGLOO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

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**2016-2021**



## **2016 Top Priorities**

1. More housing and rental units
2. Bulk fuel improvements
3. Heavy equipment and storage
4. Alternative sanitation solutions for Teller
5. Climate change coalition and subsistence advocacy
6. Improve public safety
7. Build a community hall
8. Local job training and local job data base
9. Alternative energy development projects
10. Re-establish the Tribe at Mary's Igloo seasonally

Submitted to:  
**The Native Village of Mary's Igloo  
The Mary's Igloo Native Corporation and  
The Bering Strait Development Council**

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Approved: Nov. 14, 2017**

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## **NATIVE VILLAGE OF MARY'S IGLOO RESOLUTION # 11-14-17-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF MARY'S IGLOO ADOPTING THE MARY'S IGLOO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016-2021 AND PRIORITIES APPLICABLE FROM OCTOBER 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Mary's Igloo IRA Council is the federally recognized governing body of the tribal members of Mary's Igloo; and,

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Mary's Igloo IRA Council'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 Native Village of Mary's Igloo IRA Council is responsible for the planning and implementation of economic development activities for the Mary's Igloo tribe living in Teller, Alaska; and,

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2016-2021 economic development priorities (10) listed in this Local Economic Development Plan were developed, reviewed, and approved by the community during a joint public meeting held on September 28, 2016; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Native Village of Mary's Igloo IRA Council approves and adopts this five-year Local Economic Development Plan and priorities for Mary's Igloo applicable between October 1, 2016 and December 31, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 10 economic development priorities listed below for the Native Village of MARY'S IGLOO as reviewed, updated, and re-prioritized, and approved on 11/14/17 are:

1. More housing and rental units
2. Bulk fuel improvements
3. Heavy equipment and storage
4. Alternative sanitation solutions for Teller
5. Climate change coalition and subsistence advocacy
6. Improve public safety
7. Build a community hall
8. Local job training and local job data base
9. Alternative energy development projects.
10. Re-establish the Tribe at Mary's Igloo seasonally

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a convened meeting of the Native Village of Mary's Igloo IRA Council on 11/14/17 at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 7 for and 0 against, and 0 absent.

Type name Luai Oquilluk type date

President, Native Village of Mary's Igloo

Date 1-24-18

**Mary's Igloo Planning Team Participants**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Many of the people of the Native Village of Mary's Igloo tribal members live in Teller, Alaska. The village of the Mary's Igloo tribe was originally called "Kauwerak" and was located on the northwest bank of the Kuzitrin River, on the Seward Peninsula, northeast of Nome, 40 miles southeast of Teller. Tribal



Mary's Igloo photo found at soundprint.org.

members still use this land in the summer and for subsistence hunting, but by 1900 most had moved to Teller or Nome for employment and education opportunities. Some of the tribe settled in another site called "Aukvaunlook" which thrived during the gold rush and became known as "Mary's Igloo". By the late 1940's and early 1950's the church, school, and post office closed and residents moved to Teller or Nome. Teller, where they tribe lives now, is located on a spit between Port Clarence and Grantley Harbor, 72 miles northwest of Nome, on the Seward Peninsula. The 2015 DCCED Certified Population of Teller was 261. Local tribal enrollment in the Mary's Igloo tribe is 83. Most of the other residents of Teller are members of the Native Village of Teller.

## 1.1 Purpose of the Mary's Igloo Local Economic Development Plan 2016-2021

The Native Village of Mary's Igloo as a federally recognized tribe and the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation as a federally recognized entity 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 Native Village of Mary's Igloo is responsible for tribal governance and contracts with various federal, state, and other organizations to administer governance, infrastructure, public services, education, economic programs, environmental program, and social or cultural programs. The tribe is also responsible to teach the cultural importance of and host cultural events, to be financially responsible with all grants and funds, to maintain tribal enrollment records and enroll new members, to be caretakers of the lands and environment, and to assist tribal members and meet their needs. The Mary's Igloo Native Corporation is responsible for oversight and stewardship of assets for the benefit of shareholders, economic growth and development, and maintaining compliance with corporation policies and bylaws along with State and Federal regulation.



The LEDP is a critical step in the on-going development of the community and its efforts to improve community conditions and the well being of its members and residents. It is structured to:

- Provide the 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 community 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 community 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 community governance.
- Place emphasis on the crucial development issues; economic and resource development, land use planning and needs of the community with regards to infrastructure, and priority capital improvement projects.
- Involve key decision makers to assist in the identification of common goals and direction to achieve those goals.

### **Defining Success for Mary's Igloo Our Most Basic Needs and Beyond**



## **1.2 Planning Process and Public Involvement**

### **1.2.1. Planning History and Accomplishments**

The Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program (CPD) worked with Mary's Igloo in developing and updating its Local Economic Development Plan (LEPD). LEPD's analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop goals, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future development. Mary's Igloo's participated in LEPD development with the Teller tribe and community in 1998, 2006, and 2013. The Native Village of Teller IRA Council, the City of Teller, the Native Village of Mary's Igloo, the Teller Native Corporation, and the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation have regularly updated the priorities of the community and the tribe. In 2010 Mary's Igloo approved and published a separate LEPD to focus on the Native Village of Mary's Igloo and Mary's Igloo Native Corporation priorities.



## Mary's Igloo Top Priority Accomplishments Since 2010

2010 – 2014 Top Priorities	Status or Ongoing Progress	Completed
1. More job training to become certified in various fields	Mary's Igloo sent people to training in Nome for backhaul training, recycling and Freon removal, Kawerak provided TC, TFC, and tribal council training.	✓ Partially completed
2. Local job data base	There is no organized database of jobs or job seekers, but jobs are posted at bulletin boards around town.	✗ Not completed
3. Alternative energy development projects	A resident installed solar and wind at his house.	✓ Partially completed
4. Code red or firefighting equipment for upper and lower Teller sites	When the LORAN station closed in 2010 the community of Teller was given some fire-fighting equipment. This equipment needs to be evaluated and stored properly if useable. The volunteer firefighters are reorganizing. The Nome Volunteer fire department brought hoses and used harbor water to put the fire out. Some fire hoses were left in the community.	✓ Partially completed
5. Multipurpose building in Teller	The old Mary's Igloo tribal office was in the old church which burned. From 2012 to 2016 Mary's Igloo Traditional Council rented space in the Teller Traditional office building. In 2016 they began renting a blue duplex building from the City of Teller. Most other community events are held at the school or the Bingo Hall. Mary's Igloo Development Coordinators have partial funding from ICDBG and another source and are continuing to secure funding for a community hall.	✓ Partially completed
6. Re-establish the Tribe at Mary's Igloo	Some Mary's Igloo families camp at the old Mary's Igloo site in summer when they can. This year the culture camp took a day trip to the old Mary's Igloo town site to help youth connect to our cultural land.	✓ Partially complete
7. Mary's Igloo runway	No progress.	✗ Not completed
8. New homes in Teller and Mary's Igloo for Mary's Igloo members	Four new homes were built in Teller, and three were for Mary's Igloo tribal members. Some Mary's Igloo tribal members have done repairs, renovations or weatherization on homes. The city has a VPSO housing unit. Some demolition has been done of old buildings in Teller. BSRHA installed handicap ramps on a few homes in Teller.	✓ Completed and ongoing

## Other Mary's Igloo or Teller Accomplishments Since 2010

- Bulk Fuel and Power** – AVEC has provided power since 2005. Plans for the Teller/Brevig Mission electrical intertie are on permanent hold due to complications in beginning construction and storm damage. AVEC is providing some bulk fuel storage for the Teller Native Corporation to prevent the community from having fuel outages or shortages. Teller Native Corp installed



temporary electrical access for lights and pumps at the tank farm. The City of Teller plans to improve energy efficiency at the washeteria building with funding from NSEDC.

2. **Water and Sewer** – BSSD still operates the water treatment plant and does line maintenance and water testing annually. The City of Teller operates the washeteria, which has 4 washers (\$4 or \$8 per load), 3 dryers (\$2 per load), and 2 showers (\$.25/2 minutes). The city has a regular honey bucket haul service. The city ordered wrong septic system for the washeteria and is waiting on a replacement. Two city employees attended an international conference to learn about innovative sanitation systems for small rural communities.



AVEC power plant and bulk fuel storage tanks.

3. **Public Safety** – Teller had a VSPO briefly a few years ago, and is currently recruiting for a VPSO. Teller's law enforcement is served by the Alaska State Troopers. Both the firefighters and the search and rescue volunteers are reorganizing. Mary's Igloo Traditional Council bought two new satellite phones for the local volunteer search and rescue team. AVEC installed a few new street lights. Health aides serve as responders to medical emergencies.
4. **Social/Cultural** – Local events include: City Bingo nights, an annual dance festival (Sep.), youth camp (Aug.), Thanksgiving feast, Easter activities, 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic and games, Christmas feast and activities, family nights during the school year, sewing night at the Bingo hall, and family nights and sports at the school. Some also attend various events in Nome like the annual Kawerak Regional Conference.
5. **Education and Job Training** – Several Mary's Igloo graduates went to college. Others attended various trainings like Hazwoper, Tribal Coordinator Training, ICWA training, Backhaul and recycling training, and tribal council training. The Head Start building solved the freeze up issues that used to close school for parts of the year.
6. **Health** – The Teller Traditional Council bought a truck for the clinic for emergency transport and the city provides patient drivers when needed. The city provides regular honey bucket and trash haul. The school lets residents use exercise equipment. NSHC is looking into local EMT training. The morgue is operational now.
7. **Natural Resources** – Due to local advocacy, Teller was able to stop harbor gold dredging efforts in order to protect our subsistence resources. MITC stays involved in discussions about development at Pilgrim Hot Springs and about the graphite mine development.



Core samples taken from Graphite One's summer 2012 exploration program.

Photo: Graphite One Resources

**8. Transportation** – The Teller airport is maintained by the DOT. The DOT has new equipment for airport maintenance. Local roads road maintenance and snow removal is improving, but the city needs better equipment to do the job more effectively. The city filled the spit with gravel where it had been damaged by the big storm, but it is still partly submerged during his surges. The city allows residents to use a garage for vehicle repairs in inclement weather. AVEC took over management of all street lights and installed some new ones. Trails to Brevig Mission are maintained, and King Island Native Community maintains the trail from Nome to Wooley Lagoon.

**9. Environmental and Solid Waste** – The city provides regular honey bucket and trash pickup. Both tribes operate EPA IGAP grants and participate in the backhaul and recycling program at Kawerak. Each spring and fall there are community wide clean-up efforts. Both the MITC and TTC IGAP programs are partnering on a scrap metal clean up of the old Blodgett fire site. There was planning discussions about adding more fencing at the dumpsite. There is also a plan being developed to do some water sampling near the graphite mine site. Old Military drums were cleaned up at Davidson’s Landing and American Rivers.



Before (above) and during (below) the cleanup of the Blodgett fire site, a cooperative effort of both the MITC and TTC environmental programs.

**10. Business Development and Job Opportunities** – Several local residents obtained a business license or temporarily operated a new business. The community participated in Lemonade Day which trains young people on how to start a small business. A local resident hauls ice for other residents. There are occasional fund raisers that provide opportunities to purchase food and other goods. There was local hire on the dust control projects.



**11. Communications** – The Quintillion project is in progress bringing fiber optic cable capacity to the Bering Strait region. Despite the high cost and inferior quality of service, most families have cell phone, internet, or satellite TV services. These forms of communication access has many benefits to local residents: communication, education, access to health information, selling or ordering good and services, banking, and using aps like Skype to reduce long distance phone costs.

**12. Tribal Governance** – Mary’s Igloo Traditional Council has a tribal coordinator, and family tribal coordinator; operates an IGAP grant which employs several staff; rents a new office space from the City of Teller; and obtained a new office copier, new furniture, and IGAP computers. MITC has had a quorum for tribal council meetings; holds annual meetings each year; held successful annual elections; and updated policies or ordinances as needed.

## Planning Committee & Staff Description

Kawerak worked with the Native Village of Mary's Igloo and the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation in developing its first Local Economic Development Plan (LEPD) in 2010 and this new LEPD in 2016. LEPDs analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop goals, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future development. The joint entities regularly review their priorities.

### 2.3 Method for Plan Development and Components

The Mary's Igloo planning organizations sought a strategic planning process based upon:

- Technology of Participation methods developed by *the Institute of Culture Affairs*
- Let Your Assets Be Your Guide: A Handbook for Community Planning by *Rural Alaska Community Program and the Denali Commission*



Owen Menadelook, son of Janelle Menadelook and Tyler Oquilluk.

These methods are proven effective in encouraging full participation from diverse groups and are best applied within community-based settings. This process was implemented among the 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 four parts. Each component helped provide a comprehensive planning approach.

- LEPD Vision, Values and Goals - Developed the direction for the community's social and economic



Church organist in Mary's Igloo from James Wickersham Photographs, 1882-1930's (found in ALASKA'S Gold Lode database on the State of Alaska Education and Early Development website).

development with an overall vision, guiding community values, and development goals.

- 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.
- Funding - Identified potential funding and community investments to implement development goals.
- Recommended application of community values during implementation of development activities.

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

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

## **2.4 Comprehensive Development Status**

As a second-class city in the unorganized borough, the City of Teller has optional powers under the state law for planning, platting, and land use regulation within municipal boundaries. The City of Teller has assumed some of these powers. As the federally recognized governing bodies; both the Native Village of Teller and the Native Village of Mary's Igloo share some of the responsibilities in relation to their own tribal members.

Each LEDP document in the Bering Strait region is compiled into a regional planning document called the Community and Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a regional economic development plan. The CEDS 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://kawerak.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2013-Comprehensive-Economic-Development-Strategy.pdf>

Mary's Igloo developed a separate Local Economic Development Plan for Mary's Igloo in 2010, and voted to renew it in 2016. The Newly-Approved 2016-2021 Priorities for the Native Village of Mary's Igloo are:

1. More housing and rental units
2. Bulk fuel improvements
3. Heavy equipment and storage
4. Alternative sanitation solutions for Teller
5. Climate change coalition and subsistence advocacy
6. Improve public safety
7. Build a community hall
8. Local job training and local job data base
9. Alternative energy development projects.
10. Re-establish the Tribe at Mary's Igloo seasonally



## 3.0 Community Descriptions

### 3.1 Location

Many of the people of the Native Village of Mary's Igloo live in Teller, Alaska. The village of Mary's Igloo was originally called "Kauwerak" and is located on the northwest bank of the Kuzitrin River, on the Seward Peninsula, northeast of Nome, 40 miles southeast of Teller. It lies at approximately 65.141898° North Latitude and -165.043931° West Longitude. (Sec. 17, T004S, R031W, Kateel River Meridian.)



Mary's Igloo is located in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 7.5 sq. miles of land and 0.1 sq. miles of water. Tribal members still use this land in the summer and for subsistence hunting, but by 1900 many had moved to Teller or Nome for employment and education opportunities. Some of the tribe settled in another site called "Aukvaunlook" which thrived during the gold rush and became known as "Mary's Igloo". By the late 1940's and early 1950's the church, school, and post office closed and residents moved to Teller or Nome.

Teller, where many of the tribe now resides, is located on a spit between Port Clarence and Grantley Harbor, 72 miles northwest of Nome, on the Seward Peninsula. It lies at approximately 65.263610° North Latitude and -166.360830° West Longitude. (Sec. 01, T003S, R038W, Kateel River Meridian.) Teller is located in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 1.9 sq. miles of land and 0.2 sq. miles of water. Teller is a 2<sup>nd</sup> class city in an unorganized borough. The 2008 DCCED Certified Population of



Our Lady of Lourdes Mission photo found in the Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks archives.

Teller was 260. Total tribal enrollment in the Mary's Igloo tribe is 138, 83 of these members live in Teller. Most of the other residents of Teller are members of the Native Village of Teller.

In 1974 new housing was built at "New Site" because there was no available land in the old site of Teller. During storm surges some families were evacuated temporarily to New Site. Having a town divided into two sections makes it difficult to travel to obtain goods and services, visit family, and carry out other activities, especially for those without vehicles, snowmobiles, or all-terrain vehicles.

### 3.2 History and Culture

#### History of Mary's Igloo

Natives of "Kauwerak," as the village was originally called, were Inupiaq Eskimos known as Kauweramiuts. This village was originally located about 15 miles downriver. By 1900, Kauwerak

was abandoned, and most Natives moved to Teller or Nome because of the schools and employment opportunities. Some settled at the present site, which they called "Aukvaunlook," meaning "black whale." During the gold prospecting boom, non-Natives renamed the village "Mary's Igloo," after an Eskimo woman named Mary, who welcomed miners, trappers and other newcomers into her home for coffee. Supplies for the gold fields upriver were transferred onto river boats here. A post office and store were opened in 1901. By 1910, Mary's Igloo became a large mixed community of Eskimos, white traders, miners, innkeepers, missionaries and support crews for barges. The flu epidemic of 1918-19, and a tuberculosis epidemic two years later, devastated the community. A Catholic orphanage, "Our Lady of Lourdes Mission," was opened at nearby Pilgrim Springs in 1918 by Father Bellarmine Lafortune. A Lutheran orphanage was built at nearby New Igloo. The BIA school closed in 1948 and the Alaska Native School was closed in 1952 for lack of students. The post office and store also closed in 1952. Today the old village is a summer fish camp.



### History of Teller

The Eskimo fishing camp called "Nook" was reported 20 miles south of Teller in 1827. A Western Union Telegraph expedition wintered at the present site in 1866 and 1867; it was then called "Libbyville" or "Libby Station." The Teller Reindeer Station was operated by the U.S. Government at a nearby site from 1892 to 1900. The station was named in 1892 by Sheldon Jackson for U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Interior Henry Moore Teller. Teller Mission, a Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Mission, was built in 1900 across the harbor at the current site of Brevig Mission. It was renamed Brevig Mission in 1903, after the Reverend T.L. Brevig. Present-day Teller was also established in 1900 after the Bluestone Placer Mine discovery 15 miles to the south. During these boom years, Teller had a population of about 5,000 and was a major regional trading center, attracting Alaska Natives from Diomedes, Wales, Mary's Igloo and King Island. In May 1926, bad weather caused the dirigible "Norge" to detour to Teller on its first flight over the North Pole from Norway to Nome. The city of Teller was incorporated in 1963. Teller is known as a traditional



Photo in 1926 of the dirigible "Norge," which made the first undisputed crossing of the North Pole by air. The designer and pilot had touted it as the Rome to Nome trip, but it had to stop in Teller due to bad weather. After stopping in Teller, it returned to Europe and never did make it to Nome.

Kawerak Eskimo village with a subsistence lifestyle. Many residents of Teller belong to the Mary's Igloo tribe.

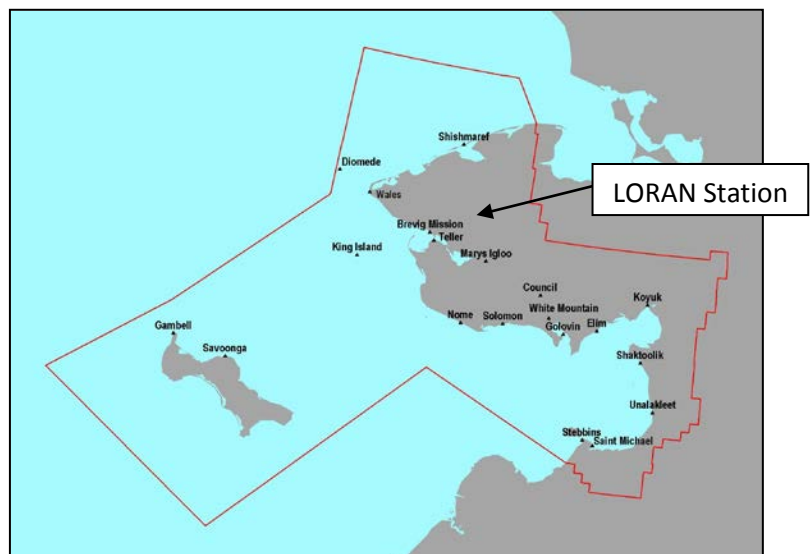
The Teller economy is based on subsistence activities and supplemented by part-time wage earnings. Fish, seal, moose, beluga whale and reindeer are the primary meat sources. There is a herd of over 1,000 reindeer in the area, and the annual round-up provides meat and a cash product which is sold mainly on the Seward Peninsula. Over one-third of households produce crafts or artwork for sale. Teller Mountain is a predominantly Inupiaq village. It is connected to Nome by road. The nearest communities are Brevig Mission and Nome. Winter trails are made across the tundra and ice for travel by snowmachine while in summer the rivers and the ocean are used for travel. Barges deliver goods during the summer months and local airlines provide daily service to Teller year-round, weather permitting.

### **History of Musk oxen**

The return of musk oxen to Alaska is applauded as an important success story in wildlife conservation. The number of musk oxen had greatly reduced worldwide which led to a move to restore protected populations to Alaska. In the 1930's, 34 musk oxen captured in Greenland were brought to Fairbanks and later moved to Nunivak Island where they adapted, thrived and increased to about 750 by 1968. In the 1960's animals were transported to other areas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Thompson, the Seward Peninsula, Nelson Island, Wrangell Island, and even the Taimyr Peninsula in Russia. In 1990, approximately 2,220 free-ranging musk oxen resided in Alaska with about 700 on the Seward Peninsula. Despite increased numbers, few residents have ever benefited from the project, because only a limited number of hunting permits are issued. The musk oxen also compete with the moose, reindeer, caribou, and humans for tundra vegetation, greens and berries.

### **History of the LORAN Station at Port Clarence (on Point Spencer)**

Built in 1961, the LORAN (Long Range Aids to Navigation) Station at Port Clarence was the largest of twenty-four U.S. Coast Guard transmitting stations. It was self sufficient, generating its own electrical power, potable water, and treating and disposing of all of its waste. The station could house 23 people who served for one year of unaccompanied tour of duty and it was located near Brevig Mission and Teller. The dual rated transmitting tower was the tallest in service and stands 1350 feet and pulse signals were transmitted at approximately 980,000 watts that could be received well over 1000 miles from its origin. It was an electronic system, which propagated low frequency radio waves from a fixed radio transmitter to mobile receivers to allow travelers to determine their position. LORAN operated twenty-four hours a day in all weather extremes. Logistic supplies were received every three weeks via C-130 aircraft from Air Station Kodiak. Mail was received three days a week by commuter plane from





Nome, AK. Heating and operating fuel arrived in the summer by barge once a year.

Unfortunately, the installation of the radar affected the migration of the Beluga whale, because they are very sensitive to the radar. The beluga stopped coming into the inlet or passing close to the shore which affected subsistence hunting. When some buildings were dismantled in the 1970's at Port Clarence, the wood was brought to Brevig Mission and Teller to be recycled and used to build houses. However, it was too late in the year to get proper insulation and many of those homes were hastily built using grass or moss as insulation. Villagers would times travel to Port Clarence to sell arts and crafts to the personnel that are stationed there.

In 2010 the Loran Station was dismantled and all personnel at the site left. The fuel and many of the fixtures were given to the community of Brevig Mission and the community of Teller was given some firefighting equipment. In 2016 Congress approved the Point Spencer Land Conveyance Act which conveyed 2,500 acres of the former Loran station land to the Bering Straits Native Corporation, and smaller portions to the State of Alaska and the US Coast Guard. This could lead to the development of a deep draft harbor at Port Clarence, particularly as activities in the Arctic waters increase, but many believe expanding Nome's port makes more sense because Nome has the infrastructure to support a harbor and Port Clarence does not. Others worry about environmental impacts to subsistence resources, safety issues, and losing local control of economic benefits as any development takes place.

### 3.3 Government, Corporations, and Service Providers

#### 3.3.1 City of Teller

The City was incorporated as a second-class city within an unorganized borough in 1963. City owned/operated services include water delivery, washeteria, honeybucket and trash haul, landfill, heavy equipment operations, road maintenance, and public safety, as well as, bingo, and city and clinic janitorial services. The City levies a 3% sales tax. There are no current liens, fuel loans, PERS debt, or delinquent audits. The Teller budget for 2015 is posted at:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/dcrarepoext/RepoPubs/FinDocs/TellerFY2016Budget.pdf>

Gaps Identified: City needs storage and better heavy equipment and vehicles for road maintenance, snow removal, honey bucket and trash haul, and landfill maintenance.

Municipal Officials and Employees	
Year of Incorporation:	1963
Manager or "Strong Mayor":	Mayor
Regular Election Held:	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday in October
Assembly/Council Meets:	Second Tuesday of each month
Local Sales Tax:	3%
Special Taxes:	3% Raw Fish Tax
Elected/Appointed Officials	
Mayor (term as mayor ends):	Blanche Okbaok-Garnie (2016)
Vice Mayor:	Joe Garnie, Vice Mayor (2017)
City Council Member:	Lucy Oquilluk (2017)
City Council Member:	Dolly Kugzruk (2018)

City Council Member:	Janelle Menadelook (2016)
City Council Member:	Paula Alvanna (2016)

<b>Advisory School Board:</b>	Etta Kugzruk
	Janelle Menadelook
	Dolly Kugzruk
	Jazzlyn Garnie
	Josie Garnie
	Susette Carroll, Principal

<b>Municipal Employees:</b>	
City Administrator	Carolyn Oquilluk
City Clerk	Richard Komok
Bookkeeper	Joylynn Kugzruk
Maintenance/Certified Operator	Jerry Okbaok
Maintenance/Custodian	Norman Ongtowsruk
Sanitation Driver	Robert Dickson, Jr.
Sanitation Assistant	Andrew Irrigoo
Alternate Sanitation Assistant	Hired as needed
Laundromat Attendant	Raymond Kunnuk
Weekend Laundromat Attendant	Annie Keelick
Laundromat Alternate	Jazzlyn Garnie/Kaitlin Topkok

<b>Bingo Department:</b>	
Primary Member in Charge	Daisy Komok
Member-in-Charge	Joylynn Kommok
Bingo Caller	Sam Komok
Bingo Caller	Etta Kugzruk
Bingo Caller	Cora Ablowaluk
Pull-Tab Seller	Christopher Lee
Janitor (Bingo Hall)	Roger Menadelook III

<b>Local Services &amp; Facilities:</b>	
Police:	State Troopers in Nome
Fire/Rescue:	City Volunteer Fire Department
Court/Magistrate:	Nome Courts
Community Hall:	Community/Bingo Hall
Gym/Pool:	School Gym
Bingo:	City
Library:	School Library

### **Teller Planning Organizations**

City of Teller  
Teller Traditional Council  
Mary's Igloo Traditional Council  
Teller Native Corporation  
Mary's Igloo Native Corporation

Teller Volunteer Fire Department  
Teller Volunteer SAR Department  
Kawerak Community Planning &  
Development  
Teller Advisory Education Committee

### **Regional Services & Facilities**

BSRHA, NSHC, Kawerak, Inc, NSEDC, UAF

### **State of Alaska Services & Facilities**

Court/Magistrate: State of Alaska, Nome Courts, Nome Troopers, National Park Service, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, DOT, OCS, Alaska Health & Social Services, National Weather Service

### **Federal Services & Facilities**

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

#### **3.3.2 Mary's Igloo Traditional Council**

The federally recognized Mary's Igloo Traditional Council conducts tribal government affairs for their membership in the village. The Mary's Igloo Traditional council operates Bingo, the youth activities program, a youth camp project, and a healthy foods program. We have helped organize cultural events and festivals for the last four years. We are in the process of developing a cultural library. We have a contract through Kawerak for a tribal grant writer. This federally recognized council works closely with Kawerak, Inc., the regional non-profit Native organization. The Native Village of Mary's Igloo has 7 Tribal Council Members which serve as the governing body and convenes on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, with an annual meeting held in October. Elections for the Tribal Council members are held in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Constitution and By-Laws.

Mary's Igloo Traditional Council Board Members	
President	Lucy Oquilluk
Vice President	Carol Ablowaluk
Secretary	Albert Oquilluk
Treasurer	Hazel Kakaruk
Member	Jamie Ablowaluk
Member	Joylynn Kugzruk
Member	Nathan Topkok

*Gaps Identified:* Need a community hall for events (elder's lunch, woodshop, meeting space, rental space, and overnight lodging for guests).

#### **3.3.3 Teller Traditional Council**

The federally recognized Teller Traditional Council conducts tribal government affairs for their membership in the village. The tribe works closely with Kawerak, Inc., the regional non-profit Native organization. The Native Village of Teller is governed by a seven member Indian Reorganizational Act (IRA) Council. Council members are elected to serve on open seats at each Annual Tribal Members meeting. The annual meeting is held in October. Elections for the Tribal

Council members are held in accordance with the procedures outlined within the Constitution and By-Laws.

Teller Traditional Council Board Members	
President	Jenny M. Lee
Vice President	Blanche Okbaok-Garnie
Secretary	Josie Garnie
Treasurer	Tanya Ablowaluk
Member	Dolly Kugzruk
Member	Sarah Okbaok
Member	Vacant

*Gaps Identified:* Need to maintain patient vehicle and replace as needed, and continue IGAP program and collaborative efforts.

### **3.3.4 Mary's Igloo Native Corporation**

One of the village corporation established under ANSCA is the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation. This for-profit corporation manages a gravel site. They are in the process of completing the 14c process for corporation lands.

#### **2016 Mary's Igloo Native Corporation Board Members**

President	Dora Hughes
Vice President	John Topkok
Secretary	Harris Topkok
Treasurer	Thomas Ablowaluk
Board Member	Karen Blodgett-Reid
Board Member	Shirley Ivie
Board Member	Jeff Okbaok

*Gaps Identified:* Need to complete 14c process, explore gravel development options and be proactive in issues related to graphite mining.

### **3.3.5 Teller Native Corporation**

The other village corporation in Teller established under ANSCA is the Teller Native Corporation. The for-profit corporation sells gravel, sells fuel, and operates the Teller Native Store. They are in the process of completing the 14c process for corporation lands. They are served by a board that holds regular elections.

*Gaps Identified:* Continued planning efforts for long term bulk fuel solutions, bigger bulk fuel tanks, annual bulk fuel purchase, effective fuel management, and improved freezers needed at the Native Store.

### **3.3.6 Regional Corporations**

Teller is served by several regional corporations, which are located in Nome or Anchorage.

## Local and Regional Government Contacts

<b>City of Teller</b> P.O. Box 548, Teller, AK 99778 <b>Office:</b> 642-3401 Fax: 642-2051 <b>Bingo:</b> 642-2045 <b>Volunteer Fire Dept –</b> 642-3401	<b>Kawerak, Incorporated</b> P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 443-5231, Fax: 443-4452 <a href="http://www.kawerak.org">www.kawerak.org</a> <b>Mary's Igloo Tribal Coordinator –</b> Phone: 642-3731 Fax: 642-2189 <b>Teller Tribal Coordinator –</b> Phone: 642-3381 Fax: 642-2072 <b>Teller and Mary's Igloo Tribal Family Coordinator –</b> 642-2185 <b>Head Start –</b> 642-2067 <b>ICWA –</b> 642-3000
<b>Native Village of Teller</b> P.O. Box 517, Teller, AK 99778 Phone: 642-3381 Fax: 642-2072	<b>Norton Sound Health Corporation</b> P.O. Box 966, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 907-443-3311, Fax: 907-443-3139 <a href="http://nortonsoundhealth.org/">nortonsoundhealth.org/</a> <b>Teller Traditional Clinic</b> 642-3311, Fax: 642-2046 <b>Village Based Counselor</b> 642-2228
<b>Teller Native Corporation</b> P.O. Box 590, Teller, AK 99778 Phone: 642-6132 <b>Teller Fuel:</b> 642-4521 <b>Teller Native Store</b>	<b>Bering Straits Native Corp.</b> P.O. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 443-5252, Fax: 443-2985 <a href="http://www.beringstraits.com/">www.beringstraits.com/</a>
<b>Native Village of Mary's Igloo</b> P.O. Box 46, Teller, AK 99778 Phone: 642-3731 Fax: 642-2189	<b>Norton Sound Economic Dev. Corp.</b> 601 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 415 Anchorage, AK 99503 1-800-650-2248, <a href="http://www.nsedc.com">www.nsedc.com</a>
<b>Mary's Igloo Native Corporation</b> P.O. Box 629, Teller, AK 99778 Phone: 642-2308	<b>Bering Straits Regional Housing Auth.</b> P.O. Box 995, Nome, AK 99762 Phone: 443-5256, Fax: 443-8652
<b>Alaska State Troopers</b> P.O. Box 1050, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-443-2835, <a href="http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/">www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/</a>	<b>Bering Straits School District</b> P.O. Box 225, Unalakleet, AK 99684 642-3041 elem., 642-3021 HS 642-3031 Fax, <a href="http://www.bssd.org">www.bssd.org</a>
<b>UAF Northwest Campus</b> PO Box 400, Nome, AK 99762 443-8400, <a href="http://www.nwc.uaf.edu/">www.nwc.uaf.edu/</a>	<b>Army National Guard</b> 642-2117
<b>Alaska State Dept. of Transportation</b> 642-3141	<b>Teller - U. S. Post Office</b> Teller, AK, 642-4261
<b>Alaska Village Electric Cooperative</b> 1-800-478-1818	<b>AT&amp;T Alascom</b> 505 East Bluff Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501-1100, 1-800-252-7266 <a href="http://www.attalascom.com/">www.attalascom.com/</a>
<b>TelAlaska</b> P.O. Box 293, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-478-3127, 1-907-563-2003 <a href="http://www.telalaska.com/">www.telalaska.com/</a>	<b>GCI Cable</b> P.O. Box 274, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-800-4800 residential 1-800-800-7754 business, <a href="http://www.gci.net">www.gci.net</a>
<b>Mukluk Telephone Company</b> Anchorage, AK 1-800-478-7055, 1-907-563-2008	<b>Dish Network</b> 1-888-825-2557, <a href="http://www.dish.com/">www.dish.com/</a>
<b>Exede Internet</b> 1-855-523-2214, <a href="http://www.exede.com">www.exede.com</a>	

<b>Teller Lutheran Church</b> 642-3500	<b>St. Ann's Catholic Church</b> 642-3831
<b>Ravn Alaska</b> 4700 Old International Airport Rd. Anchorage, AK 99502 443-2414	<b>Everts Air Cargo</b> 5525 Airport International Rd. Anchorage, AK 99502 443-7348
<b>Bering Air</b> P.O. Box 1650, Nome, AK 99762 1-800-478-5422, <a href="http://www.beringair.com/">www.beringair.com/</a>	<b>Arctic Transportation Services</b> P.O. Box 790, Nome, AK 99762 443-5482, <a href="http://ats.texrus.com/index.jsp">ats.texrus.com/index.jsp</a>
<b>Search and Rescue-U.S. Coast Guard</b> 1-800-478-5555, <a href="http://www.uscg.mil/D17/">www.uscg.mil/D17/</a>	<b>Crowley Marine Services, Inc.</b> P.O. Box 700, Nome, AK 99762 443-2484, <a href="http://www.crowley.com">http: www.crowley.com</a>
<b>Northland Services</b> 21 West 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., Nome, AK 99762 443-5738	<b>Alaska Logistics</b> PO Box 3512, Seattle, WA 98124 866-585-3281
<b>Oo-too-koo Store</b>	<b>Opiq Adventures, LLC</b>
<b>RNW Store</b>	<b>Grantley Harbor Tours &amp; Star Gate Alaska</b> P.O. Box 586, Teller, AK 99778 642-3682 <a href="http://www.stargatealaska.net/">www.stargatealaska.net/</a>

*Business Needs and Gaps Identified:* Vehicle parts are hard to obtain as well as all kinds of oil. All types of burial services (body transport and storage, caskets, urns, embalming, cremation, grave markers and flowers) are provided out of Anchorage at great cost and challenging logistics.

### 3.4 Community Infrastructure

#### 3.4.1 Housing

2010 Housing Characteristics:

Total Housing Units:	86
Occupied Housing (Households):	72
Vacant Housing:	14
Vacant Due to Seasonal Use:	4
Owner-Occupied Housing:	22
Renter-Occupied Housing:	50
Median Rent Paid:	\$475
Total Households:	72
Avg. Household Size:	4
Family Households:	54
Non-Family Households:	18
Pop. Living in Group Quarters:	0

*Gaps Identified:* There is a need for more rental units and new housing. Housing application processes are complex with many residents either over-qualified for a grant or under-qualified for loans. Wills can be notarized at the Post Office, but there is no one available locally to assist with complicated wills.

### 3.4.2 Schools

In 2016 there were 69 students and 9 teachers in the K-12 schools in Teller. In 2016 the Kawerak Head Start program had 1 teacher and 8 Head Start students.

### School District and Schools

Contact information for Alaska School Districts and Schools is available at the Department of Education and Early Development's Website

#### School District in 2010:

District Name:	Bering Straits School District
Operated By:	REAA
Total Number of Schools:	15
Total Number of Teachers:	177
Total Number of Students:	1,897
Student/Teacher Ratio:	9.74
Dropout Rate (9-12 Grade):	4.4%
Percent Native Students:	99%
Graduation Rate:	83.84%
Geographic Cost Differential (FY 2007):	1.643
% Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch:	100%

*Gaps Identified:* Need for more of a focus on Native language education and support for graduates that go off to college.

### 3.4.3 Water and Sewer

Mary's Igloo is utilized as a seasonal-use fish camp, and offers no facilities. Water is hauled from a nearby source and outhouses are used. In Teller, during summer, water is hauled from the Gold Run River (20 miles away) by the City water truck, and delivered to home storage tanks. A few residents use their own ATVs or snowmachines to haul water. During winter, treated water is delivered from a large storage tank at the washeteria, or melt ice is used from area creeks. Preliminary work has begun on a piped water and sewer system; however, a new water source must first be developed. Wells have proven unsuccessful. The school operates its own sewer system. 42 residents use honeybuckets, which are hauled by the City. A few homes and facilities have septic tanks. The city is in transition and plans to take over management of the water treatment plant in the future.

*Gaps Identified:* The school septic tank was not designed to handle the capacity it is being used for. It is too close to the shore and to town. It overflows during storm surges and the odor is smelled in town. The new septic tank the city ordered for the washeteria is the wrong size which is delaying the installation. A new sewage lagoon is needed further away from the water source.

#### Water Distribution, Source & Treatment Systems:

Water System Operator:	BSSD; Individuals
------------------------	----------------------



Washeteria Operator:	City
Piped Water System:	No
Central Watering Point (Haul):	Yes
Multiple Watering Points:	No
Water Truck (Delivery):	Yes
Individual Wells:	No
Community Well Source:	No
Surface Water Source:	Yes
Water Treatment ID #:	AK2340248
Water Is Filtered:	Yes
Water Is Chlorinated:	No
<b>Sewage Collection Systems:</b>	
Sewer System Operator:	City
Piped Sewer System:	No
Honeybucket Haul:	Yes
Honeybucket Pits:	No
Individual Septic Tanks:	Yes
Community Septic Tank:	No
Sewage Pumper:	Yes
Sewage Lagoon:	Yes
Sewage Lift Station:	No
Outhouses:	Yes

#### **3.4.4 Landfill**

The city of Teller operates the Class 3, permit # SW3A090-17 landfill. They reduce bulk with uncontained burning of trash. A new landfill is under construction. The community participates in hazardous waste collection. Both the Teller and Mary's Igloo tribes operate an environmental program through the Environmental Protection Agency Indian General Assistant Program (EPA IGAP) and coordinate with Kawerak's Backhaul and Recycling efforts.

*Gaps Identified:* Need truck and heavy equipment for better honey bucket and trash haul and landfill maintenance.

#### **3.4.5 Electricity**

Mary's Igloo is utilized as a seasonal-use fish camp, and offers no facilities. There is no central electric system at the old village site. Alaska Village Electric Cooperative took over the former Teller Power Company in 2005. They are planning plant upgrades and a new bulk fuel tank farm for the power plant.

Electric Utility Name:	AVEC
Utility Operator:	REA Co-op

Power Source:	Diesel
KiloWatt Capacity:	870
Residential Rate/KiloWatt Hour:	0.6279 cents/kWh
Power Cost Equalization Subsidy:	Yes, 0.4143/kWh
Residential Rate after PCE	0.2146 cents/kWh

AVEC Rate Schedules, Effective 09.02.2016; <http://avec.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Residential-Rates.pdf>

*Gaps Identified:* Need waste heat recovery and to continue with upgrades to power plant and tank farm.

### 3.4.6 Fuel

#### Fuel Tanks Currently in Use in Teller

OWNER	CAPACITY (in gallons)
Teller Commercial Co.	(decommissioned)
Teller Native Corp. Fuel (20,000 in AVEC tanks)	81,400
Bering Straits School District	71,200
Lutheran Church	6,100
Native Corp. Store	3,500
AK DOT	3,300
City Clinic	1,000

#### Teller Native Corporation

Number of Tanks for Heating Oil	1
Number of Tanks for Gasoline	1
Total Heating Oil Tank Capacity (gallons)	38,000
Total Gasoline Tank Capacity (gallons)	23,400
Overall Condition of Tanks	Good
Scheduled Fuel Delivery Time	Fall
Method of Delivery	Barge
Number of Temporary Tanks for Heating Fuel	1*

\* AVEC provides up to 20,000 gallons of fuel storage in TLA to prevent outages and shortages

#### Fuel Price Data – Month: July, 2016

Gallon of Heating Fuel	\$ 5.46
Gallon of Gasoline	\$ 7.01
Gallon of Propane	\$ 11.78

*Gaps Identified:* Need long term solutions for fuel storage, bulk purchase and management issues.

### 3.4.7 Existing Transportation Systems

Mary's Igloo is accessible by riverboat in the summer and by winter trails. Snow machines and dog teams are used over a well-established trail to Teller. There is no connecting road and no air transportation accessibility to the old village site.

Teller has a road link to Nome from May to September via a 72-mile gravel road. The seasonal villages of Solomon and Council are accessible through Nome in the summer. There are no roads connecting Teller with any other villages. However, in the winter the villages can also be accessed over land or ice. There are a few local roads in the village with culverts to help drainage. The roadways are typically less than 10 feet wide except for the major routes. There are several cars and trucks in the village and snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles. There are few conflicts involving approaching vehicles attempting to pass each other. Local speed limits are posted. Dust is a problem in spring and summer. The community is seeking ways to improve local summer and winter trails. The community has been involved in trail staking.

The 3,983' long by 60' wide gravel runway is operated by the State, and regularly scheduled flights are available (weather permitting) daily from Nome. Local airlines include Bering Air, RavN Alaska, Everts and ATS. Dust is a problem in spring and summer.

Teller is serviced by different barging companies during the ice-free summer months. Barges cannot currently land at Teller because there is no dock. Supplies are lightered from Nome and offloaded on the beach. The community is interested in the construction of a docking facility for barges. Port Clarence is a natural harbor and has been considered for a deep water port.

*Gaps Identified:* City needs better equipment for road maintenance and snow removal. Need to keep the Nome to Teller road open longer and install more reflectors. Need for better gravel on the road to the landfill to prevent flat tires. Need to improve local road maintenance and snow removal.

### 3.4.8 Communications

In-State Phone:	Mukluk Telephone Co./TelAlaska
Long-Distance Phone:	AT&T Alascom; GCI; Mukluk Telephone
Internet Service Provider:	GCI ( <a href="http://www.gci.net">www.gci.net</a> ); TelAlaska, Stargate Services, Excede Internet
TV Stations:	ARCS
Radio Stations:	KICY-AM; KNOM-AM
Cable/Satellite TV Provider:	Dish Network
Teleconferencing:	Alaska Teleconferencing Network
Ham Radios:	Teller Volunteer Fire Department
VHF Radios:	Local camps
Postal Mail:	United State Post Office, FedEx, UPS
Deliveries:	Alaska Air Gold Streaks, Local airline hand carries

*Gaps Identified:* Cell service is slow and unreliable (dead zones and dropped calls). Satellite TV and internet is costly with no local technical support. Internet is slow, making even simple tasks challenging. We need better accountability of carriers for by-pass mail.

### 3.4.9 Health Care

Teller is classified as an isolated village, it is found in EMS Region 5A in the Norton Sound Region. Emergency Services have limited highway, coastal and air access. Emergency service is provided by a health aide.

Clinic/Hospital in Community:	Teller Health Clinic
Clinic/Hospital Phone Number:	907-642-3311
Operator:	NSHC <a href="http://www.nortonsoundhealth.org">www.nortonsoundhealth.org</a>
Owner:	Village Corporation
Facility Status:	The clinic needs replacement
Alternate Health Care:	Medivac to Nome or Anchorage

The local health aides are long-term employees with excellent training and experience. A public health nurse comes to do administer vaccinations annually. A medical doctor and a physical therapist come bi-annually to Teller to see patients. Physician's assistants come every two months. Eye doctors, dentists, and audiologists come annually. The Village-based counselor is a long-term employee. It is estimated that 7-10 residents must go to Nome for treatment each month and 1-2 go to Anchorage for treatment each month.

*Gaps Identified:* Need to solve water and septic issues long term. Need for local EMT training.

### 3.4.10 Municipal Buildings and Property

City of Teller owned buildings include: The city offices, washeteria, bingo hall.

*Gaps Identified:* Continue upgrades to washeteria, install toilets in the Bingo Hall, obtain heavy equipment storage building.

### 3.4.11 Tribal Buildings and Property

The Native Village of Mary's Igloo rent an office building and owns a storage shed.

*Gaps Identified:* Need to install a toilet in the office building. Need boats and motors for culture camp.

### 3.4.12 Public Safety

The city VPSO housing and office space for this position. The Teller Volunteer Fire department serves the community and hopes to obtain a building soon to expand operations.

*Gaps Identified:* The community does have not have Code Red or other firefighting equipment. A local search and rescue team operates but is not fully organized or trained. Need for ATV's and snowmachines for Search and Rescue volunteers.

### 3.4.13 Libraries

A library is located in the Teller school. MITC has a small library.

*Gaps Identified:* MITC needs to expand the tribal library and purchase new books as needed.

### 3.4.14 Cemeteries and Graves

There is one main cemetery and an older no-longer-used cemetery site outside of town. The back side of the main cemetery is eroding.

*Gaps Identified:* Some graves may need to be moved in order to avoid open exposure. Continued improvements and expansion are needed to record names, re-mark older graves, and make more room for new graves.



### 3.4.15 Public buildings, lands, churches, parks, camps, and recreational areas

The school hosts various community events including: sporting event, Christmas games. Kawerak holds an annual job fair. Cooperative holiday events are held in the community. Residents use boats to go to camp areas for hunting, fishing, picnics and outdoor summer events. The harbor, channel, salt lakes, and rivers are used for boating and as a swimming area. Local trails are used for ATV, snow machine, and foot races.

The Lutheran Church shares a pastor with Brevig Mission and has periodic church conferences. The Catholic Church has a regional priest that comes periodically to hold services in Teller.

*Gaps Identified:* The Lutheran church needs a local pastor and a new heater. The community needs to obtain new picnic tables and benches for outdoor events. We need to continue plans to build an outdoor basketball court.



Lutheran Church in Teller, Alaska

## 4.0 Population and Growth Trends

Teller and Mary's Igloo are located in the Nome Census Area.

### 4.1 Teller Census Data

#### Mary's Igloo Census Population (Old Site) History:

1910:	141
1920:	92
1930:	112
1940:	0
1950:	64

#### Teller Census Population History:

1880:	36
1890	0
1900:	5,000
1910:	125
1920:	80
1930:	76
1940:	118
1950:	160
1960:	217
1970:	220
1980:	212
1990:	151
2000:	268
2010	229

## **2010 Population and Housing Characteristics in Teller, Alaska**

### **Teller Population by Race**

Population in 2000:	229
White:	9
Alaska Native or Amer. Indian:	220
Percent Native*:	96.07%

### **2010 Teller Population by Gender and Age:**

Male:	118
Female:	111
Age 4 and under:	18
Age 5 - 19:	77
Age 20 - 39:	63
Age 40 - 59:	50
Age 60 - 79:	21
Age 80 and over:	0
Median Age:	26

The 2015 DCCED Commissioner Certified population estimate of Teller is 261 people. Alaska Natives represented 96.07% of the population. There were 86 households with an average household size of 4. The percent of population by age group is listed above.

## **4.2 Employment and the Economy**

There is no employment or commercial activity in the old Mary's Igloo village, but tribal members are interested in re-building the community near the old site of Kauwerak. The Teller economy is based on subsistence activities supplemented by part-time wage earnings. Fish, seal, moose, beluga whale and reindeer are the primary meat sources. There is a herd of over 1,000 reindeer in the area, and the annual round-up provides meat and a cash product which is sold mainly on the Seward Peninsula. Over one-third of households produce crafts or artwork for sale and some residents trap to supplement their income.

## Economy, Employment, Income and Poverty - Description of Teller Economy:

The following Income and Employment data is from the 2010 U.S. Census.

**Income and Poverty Levels: Note:** Current socio-economic measures could differ significantly.

Per Capita Income:	\$10,752
Median Household Income:	\$26,667
Median Family Income:	\$27,500
Persons in Poverty:	184
Percent Below Poverty:	47.3%
<b>Employment:</b>	
Total Potential Work Force (Age 16+):	176
Total Employment:	115

The entire population depends on subsistence hunting and fishing activities, which are supplemented by part-time, wage earnings. Year-round jobs are limited; unemployment is high. Most residents spend the entire 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, 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, smelt, white fish, pike, herring, herring eggs, and ling cod fish. The decline of fishing in 2003 imposed stricter regulations on silver salmon. Several kinds of bird eggs, roots, greens and berries are gathered.

The school, native store, post office, city, IRA, Kawerak, Norton Sound Health Corporation, and airlines provide the local employment. Construction jobs provide seasonal employment. Ivory and bone carving, sewing, knitting, beading, and ulu making contribute some cash for local artists.

*Gaps Identified:* Economic challenges: communication services, fuel, food, and burial services are costly. Local prices seem extremely high for things like milk, formula, and even distilled water.



2013 participants of Lemonade Day, where youth obtain training and sponsors and learn to be entrepreneurs.



## Business Licenses in Teller

The records below reflect current business licenses on file with the Department of Community and Economic Development. These licenses may not represent actual business activity.

Business Name	Business License Number
OO-TOO-KOO STORE	1003094
OPIQ ADVENTURES, LLC	1018676
RNW STORE	1012777
TELLER NATIVE FUEL	919450
TELLER NATIVE STORE	905790

## 5.0 Environmental Scan

### 5.1 Topography and Soil

Teller is located on a spit between Port Clarence and Grantley Harbor, 55 miles southeast of Cape Prince of Wales, on the Seward Peninsula. The community is 72 miles northwest of Nome. The geographical coordinates for Teller are 65 degrees 16 minutes north, 166 degrees 22 minutes west. Teller is located in a transition zone between the Seward Peninsula mainland and a spit between Port Clarence and Grantley Harbor. Consequently, soils in the area range from well-drained to poorly-drained. The main community is located near sea level on coastal and alluvial deposits of silt and sand. Hilly areas and ridges supporting low shrubs and alpine tundra are generally well-drained and very gravelly, but have some erosion potential. The steeper slopes on the bordering mountains are poorly drained and support sedges and mosses. Permafrost ranges from shallow to deep and is discontinuous around Teller, although most of the town site is ice-free.

### 5.2 Vegetation

Vegetation on the Seward Peninsula is principally tundra, with alpine dryas-lichen tundra and barrens at high elevations and moist sedge-tussock tundra at lower elevations. Patches of low-growing ericaceous and willow-birch shrubs occur on better-drained areas. Vegetation in Teller 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.



Hot tub at Pilgrim Hot Springs

### 5.3 Climate

The climate of Mary's Igloo is both continental and maritime. Temperatures range from -9 to 57; extremes from -65 to 99 have been recorded. Average precipitation is 11 inches, with 50 inches of snowfall. The climate of Teller is maritime when ice-free, and then changes to a continental climate after freezing. Grantley Harbor is generally ice-free from early June to mid-October. Average summer temperatures range from 44 to 57; winter temperatures average -9 to 8. Extremes have been measured from -45 to 82. Annual precipitation is 11.5 inches, with 50 inches of snowfall. Winds from the east are predominant at Teller during the winter, and southwest and north winds prevail in the summer. The average wind velocity is 15 knots. The maximum wind speed ever recorded at Teller was 58 knots to the northwest.

*Gaps Identified:* We need a climate change coalition and more subsistence advocacy. There are local concerns about increase in storms and erosion. We need a new seawall and to protect infrastructure and graves near the shore. We are concerned about road damage at New Site.

#### **5.4 Wildlife**

A wide variety of fish and wildlife are present around Teller. Moose, caribou, wolf, lynx, 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 of Teller. No critical habitat areas, refuges, or sanctuaries are listed in the area surrounding the community. No known endangered species habitats are located within the planning area. There is a problem occasionally with beavers damming the rivers.

#### **5.5 Historic Preservation**

There is a historic crash site of the “Norge” inflatable balloon near Teller.

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

Teller lies in seismic risk zone three, subject to earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater. There is no record of damage in Teller from earthquakes or tsunamis. Teller is exposed to flooding and erosion caused by storm surges and storm-driven waves from the Bering Sea and Port Clarence. The Army Corps of Engineers has determined that nearly half of the homes in Teller are situated in the 100 year floodplain. Storm winds from the west and southwest have the greatest potential for causing damage at Teller, and major flooding occurred in 1913 and 1974. The 1974 storm was especially severe, as large chunks of ice were driven into the village by strong winds. Some flooding of the village occurs almost every fall, although damage is usually minor.

Alaska's wetlands occupy 43.3 % of its 403,247,700 acres. This contrasts to the contiguous US where they occupy only 5.2 % of the land surface. Wetlands in Alaska include: bogs, fens, wet and moist tundra, ponds, forests, mud flats, fresh and salt marshes. Most regions in Alaska have a land surface with extensive areas of wetlands. Expanses of moist and wet tundra underlain by permafrost occur in the northern and western regions. Some of the Nation's most extensive complexes of salt marshes and mud flats occur along the coasts of the Bering Sea.

#### **5.7 Land Status**

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

##### **Mary's Igloo Native Corp. ANCSA Land Entitlement:**

12(a) Land Entitlement*:	92,160 acres
12(b) Land Entitlement**:	12,160 acres
14(c)(3) Status***:	In Process
14(c)(3) Comments:	Summer subsistence site; interest in relocation
14(c)(3) Agreement Signed:	No
14(c)(3) Acres:	0.0
Map of Boundaries done:	No
Municipal Land Trust:	Yes
Authorized Village Entity Type:	Native Village of Mary's Igloo

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

### **Teller Native Corp. ANCSA Land Entitlement:**

12(a) Land Entitlement*:	115,200 acres
12(b) Land Entitlement**:	17,600 acres
14(c)(3) Status***:	In Process
14(c)(3) Comments:	Starting map of boundaries. Federal townsite.
14(c)(3) Agreement Signed:	No
14(c)(3) Acres:	0.0
Map of Boundaries done:	No
Municipal Land Trust:	No

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

There are no National Wildlife Refuges near Teller, according to the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers near Teller, according to the U.S. National Park Service. Teller is included in the Bering Strait Coastal Resource Service Area. Development in Teller may be subject to the Bering Strait Coastal Management Plan developed in 1989 and revised in 2008. State land includes the airport. No Native Allotments exist within the city limits. There are some local right of way and easements issues to consider before developing certain projects.

### **5.9 Land Use Potential**

Within Teller there are some possible land areas for future development projects if care is taken not to build on existing gravesites or wetlands. There are a few places which should not be used due to various issues.

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

**6.1 Development Opportunities, Trends, and Strengths-**What are our development opportunities, current trends in Teller, or strengths and assets that will help us as we plan and complete projects in our community?

- *People and Organizations* - strong active individuals, positive role models, local workers with various skills, more local grant writers, assistance and cooperation with outside organizations.
- *Health and Safety* - increase in health education, prevention and screening, clinic dental care, less injuries due to health education, more life jackets are used regularly, good volunteer fire department and search and rescue volunteers, local gym nights where adults and youth can exercise, and the city has a honey bucket and trash haul service.
- *Economy, Education, and Training* - more jobs and job training, more ATV's and snowmachines, better education, and new school.
- *Culture* - community gatherings, Eskimo dancing, and positive community events, close knit families, traditional values are held, sharing of subsistence foods, and hunting and fishing activities.
- *Environmental* - peaceful location, different varieties of fish available, access to the ocean for hunting, wide variety of subsistence foods available animals, birds, eggs, berries and plants, vast tundra and wetland ecosystem, and tourism opportunities.

- *Infrastructure* – AVEC took over the power plant, landfill, good telephone system, new clinic completed, new school and Head Start building, heavy equipment, air and marine transportation systems, library, post office, new Internet access and computer technology, road access to Nome.

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

- *People and Organizations* – need better organization on community projects, need more local grant writers and grant managers, need to get youth more involved and mentoring in leadership.
- *Health and Safety* – need local law enforcement, need a public safety building, need improvements at the washeteria for the community, regular water delivery, need stronger curfew ordinances, need more shelter cabins on Mary’s Igloo land, and need more street lights.
- *Economy Education and Training* – federal and state budget cuts, war threats, higher taxes, rising energy costs, rising cost of living, need for more local job training, need more local jobs, and need to enforce TERO ordinances.
- *Environmental* - changing climate affects shorelines, trees, berries, plants, fish and wildlife, and need a hazard mitigation plan.
- *Infrastructure* – need more housing, improve road and trail conditions, renovate old buildings, solve fuel and water shortages, need a better store, and maintain or relocate some graves that are near the shore.

## **7.0 Mary’s Igloo Vision, Goals, and Values**

### **7.1 Mary’s Igloo’s Community Vision and Mission**

#### **Mary’s Igloo’s vision is:**

Mary’s Igloo will be a strong community that:

- takes care of our people and our environment
- works hard and stays healthy
- lives and celebrates our cultural way of live
- makes wise development decisions and follows them through

#### **Mary’s Igloo’s mission statement is:**

“To serve our tribal members’ best interests as their elected officials by providing services they need and help them with their problems, protecting our land, and strengthening our sovereignty.”

### **7.2 Mary’s Igloo Community Values and Development**

#### **Mary’s Igloo Values**

- Respect for elders and children
- Subsistence – fishing and hunting lifestyle
- Cultural values and knowledge

- Traditional holidays, celebrations, Eskimo games
- Education
- Knowledge of our language
- Healthcare
- Modern communication – telephone, internet, TV
- Respect for the land

**7.3 Applying Values to Community Development** - When we develop and plan important projects or programs, what are the things we must remember?

**We should:**

- Keep an open mind about all present and future projects.
- Always get approval from the land owners before building.
- Determine what lies beneath the land before we dig.
- Plan the project with the community involved.
- Choose sites wisely that are good for building foundations upon.
- Determine the long term effects of a project, make decisions that are the best for the community.
- Do not leave trash behind.
- Think about safety, thorough inspections afterward, ongoing maintenance.
- Support and encourage each other.
- Gain support from other organizations and inform the community, get them involved.
- Careful grant writing for obtaining funding.
- Utilize as much local hire as possible, especially certified or trained workers.
- Involve the youth in projects because they are our future leaders, get their input.
- Support the people that come in to help with projects in the community.
- Communicate with the community as the project progresses, celebrate success with open house.

## **8.0 Development Priorities and Implementation**

There were 10 priorities identified by the Mary's Igloo Planning Committee and approved by the Native Village of Mary's Igloo and the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation in order to improve the economic development for the community. 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**

### **Jointly Approved Top 10 Priorities for the community of Mary's Igloo 2016-2021**

1. More housing and rental units
2. Bulk fuel improvements
3. Heavy equipment and storage
4. Alternative sanitation solutions for Teller
5. Climate change coalition and subsistence advocacy
6. Improve public safety
7. Build a community hall
8. Local job training and local job data base
9. Alternative energy development projects.
10. Re-establish the Tribe at Mary's Igloo seasonally

#### **8.1 PRIORITY #1 More Housing and Rental Units**

Continue to develop the new town site in Teller, Coyote Creek, to provide homes for Mary's Igloo Tribal members who do not yet have adequate housing. There's a need for rental units in Teller, for the Mary's Igloo tribal members who do not qualify for new housing or are unable to purchase a new home due to financial and/or credit issues.

##### **8.1.1 Project Description**

###### **Background**

For the past 30 years the tribal members of the Native Village of Mary's Igloo have been living in Teller, Alaska. Several of the tribal members live in the original HUD homes built there 30 years ago. These small structures are not warm in the winter and they are not much more than a bedroom/living room, measuring out at 12' x 16'. The Native Village of Mary's Igloo would like to see their elderly, veterans, single adults, young married couples or families, and low-income families gain new homes.

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

Many tribal members are living in less than optimal conditions in Teller. Housing is scarce and good housing even harder to locate. By building new housing for tribal members we will help to increase the quality of life for many people.

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

Some constraints are determining eligibility of families for proposed units. It takes time to gather information in order to apply for funding. Other constraints would be the bureaucratic process of leveraging options or other assistance options to obtain new housing for Native communities. Some funding sources have stringent compliance regulations. The high cost of shipping reduces the funding available to build homes. Other constraints would be selecting a site for the project, obtaining easements, and solving environmental issues.

##### **8.1.2 Project Implementation**

## **Plan of Action**

### **For Mary's Igloo members in Teller:**

- Conduct a local survey to determine the housing needs and number of units needed.
- Hold joint meetings with the city, corporation, utilities, etc. to begin planning for new housing at Coyote Creek.
- Develop preliminary plans for the size and projected cost of the project.
- Begin addressing any site control issues – what land is available for setting up new houses, what land needs to be transferred, sold, or leased long term to provide parcels for new developments. Coordination with Teller Native Corporation and City of Teller, and possibly Bering Straits Native Corporation may be required in order to address site control issues.
- Complete a feasibility study or business plan in order to determine profitability of the project. Explore insurance options.
- Continue to seek funding to assist community members in renovations.

### **For Mary's Igloo members at Mary's Igloo:**

- Select potential sites for the homes and look into easement and environmental issues as well as access issues to utilities.
- Begin planning process to determine which lands are available for establishing homes, camps, and/or cabins at the Mary's Igloo site.
- Assess tribal membership interest in establishing new homes and/or rental properties at Mary's Igloo site.
- Secure funding and project partners for the various stages of project. The tribe can apply for the ICDBG grant or they can look into the leveraging options listed below:
  - Title VI options – This is a program where they tribe borrows against future block grant allocations.
  - Partnering – There are USDA programs for low interest loans to build houses for eligible families.
  - Section 184 – There is a program where the tribe can use a commercial bank to obtain funds for new housing.
- Continue to work with the tribe, city, corporation, and private owners to expand all housing opportunities in the community, including loans.

### **Organizations Responsible**

- Native Village of Mary's Igloo
- Bering Strait Housing Regional Authority
- Mary's Igloo Native Corporation
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Resources**

- State of Alaska DCCED Mini-Grant Program
- ICDBG
- HUD
- CDBG
- AHFC



- Wells Fargo Bank
- Bering Strait Housing Regional Authority
- USDA Rural Development Housing and Community Facilities Program
- UAF Cold climate housing

## **8.2 PRIORITY #2 Bulk Fuel Improvements (storage, bulk fuel purchase, heat fuel and gas)**

### **8.2.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

The existing tanks were built in the 1990s, primarily with block grant funds awarded to Teller Traditional Council. The power lines for the pumps are buried in the gravel pad, and were damaged by flooding in recent storms (2011, 2014) that resulted in approx. 1 foot of standing water above the gravel pads. These pumps are now inoperable, and Teller Native Corporation is using a portable above-ground pump that has to be manually lowered into the storage tanks to transfer fuel and gas to customers' vehicles and containers.

In the last five years, Teller Native Corporation management issues have resulted in the corporation being unable to make fuel purchases at their full capacity, and this fall TNC did not have any funds to pay for the seasonal fill-up required to meet local demand for the winter. During times of shortage, residents purchase fuel and gas from Brevig Mission or Nome (when the roads are open), which involves either snowmobiling around the lagoon, over the frozen lagoon (which can be dangerous on thin ice), traveling by boat to Brevig Mission (if there is open water), or driving or snowmobiling to Nome.

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

A long term solution is needed to address the buried power and fuel lines that were damaged by flooding, and the purchase of one or two back-up portable above ground pumps will ensure that fuel is available, should one of the current operating pumps become inoperable. Longer term, there is also a need to evaluate the site of the tank farm, to determine whether it needs to be built up more or relocated to avoid storm surges that cause flooding or erosion.

Eliminating fuel shortages will also improve the well-being and safety of residents in winter when they have to travel to get fuel. The State of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) Rural Energy Group estimates that a village of this size needs at least three 25,000-gallon tanks for fuel to meet existing demand. An upgrade of the fuel dispensing system with 24-hour availability is desirable as well.

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

### **8.2.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Promote safe travel practices for community members traversing the lagoon by boat or snowmobile to Brevig Mission, or when traveling to Nome by car or snowmobile, to purchase needed fuel.

- Encourage local entities to develop collaborative solutions for the annual fall-time bulk fuel purchase.
- Determine if the Native Village of Mary's Igloo is eligible for any funding for parts of the solutions.
- Show public support to bulk fuel providers.
- Conserve fuel as much as possible, institute theft prevention measures, and maintain emergency action plans for times of shortages. Restrict sales when supplies are low.
- As a short term solution seek funding to perform renovations and repairs on existing tanks and/or pumps.
- Make sure current tanks are filled to capacity on the last shipment of the season. Form agreements to utilize all available storage tanks in Teller.
- Obtain grant writer or project planning training and seek technical assistance from outside agencies. Begin more detailed project planning.
- If needed, apply for funds to build a new tank farm. Explore options of using the current tanks or dismantling the old tank farm once the new tank farm is built.

#### **Organizations Responsible**

- City of Teller – current tank owners
- Teller Native Corporation – operators
- Teller Traditional Council – possible future land issues
- Mary's Igloo Native Corporation – consumer
- Mary's Igloo Traditional Council – consumer and advocate for MI members
- Bering Strait School District – consumer
- AVEC – power provider
- NSHC – consumer
- Kawerak Head Start - consumer

#### **Funding Possibilities and Resources**

- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation - (Consolidated Bulk Fuel purchase)
- Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
- Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)
- Kawerak, Inc. CDP Program
- Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC)
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Denali Commission

### **8.3 PRIORITY #3 Heavy Equipment and Storage**

#### **8.3.1 Project Description**

##### **Background**

The current City of Teller storage buildings are in very poor condition and need to be replaced or drastically renovated. Storage is also needed for the search and rescue equipment, emergency supplies, firefighting equipment, and for the VPSO equipment.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

Indoor storage is more secure and prolongs the useful life of heavy equipment in the Arctic.

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

Potential constraints are finding available sites, short construction season, high cost of transportation of project supplies, and finding funding sources for the project.

## **8.3.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Assess current buildings and needs for the future and begin some initial floor plans for a new building. Select a few potential sites and address land issues so a decision can be made. See what local resources are available to count as a match.
- Review policies and procedures that exist or need to be developed for the new storage building. Decide how or if other agencies will use the building or share expenses.
- Work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Once funding is secured, hire a grant manager and project manager to plan and begin construction. Develop temporary storage plan for construction materials.
- Write up a plan and schedule for moving equipment into the new facility when it is available.

### **Organization Responsible**

- City of Teller – lead agency
- Mary's Igloo Traditional Council – potential partner in co-owning or co-developing a site for the storage building, or could independently build and lease such a property
- Mary's Igloo Native Corporation – potential partner in co-owning or co-developing such a property
- Teller Traditional Council – potential partner in co-owning or co-developing a site for the storage building, or could independently build and lease such a property
- Teller Native Corporation – potential partner in co-owning or co-developing a site, or could independently build and lease such a property to the City of Teller

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Resources**

- NSEDC - Large Infrastructure Grant
- Rasmuson Foundation – Tier 1 Grant Program
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG)
- State of Alaska Legislature - Appropriations, Senate
- State of Alaska House of Representatives
- United States Legislature - Appropriations
- United States House of Representatives

## **8.4 PRIORITY #4 Alternative Sanitation Solutions for Teller**

### **8.4.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

Tribal members want toilets even if piped water is a distant hope, including alternatives such as ocean/brackish water well and septic systems, rain catch systems, and/or water tanks in the homes.

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

The health benefits of having reliable access to water for septic use will eliminate the need for honey bucket hauling from homes to disposal/pump stations. It will also help reduce the risk of contracting blood-borne and/or waste-borne illnesses such as E. coli, Streptococcus, C. Difficile, cholera, and Hepatitis.

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

Negative attitude to innovative ideas – state health agencies and some funders may not be willing to support basic waste storage and treatment systems, preferring instead to support projects that include complete conventional indoor plumbing and septic systems, which would mean much higher costs for infrastructure projects. Additional constraints may arise from the fact that alternative sewer/waste handling systems are not tested in cold/arctic climates, nor are they always designed for use in locations with severe weather hazards.

### **8.4.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Hold local meetings to determine sewer and water priorities, based on which community projects are funded and scheduled to begin.
- Set up a meeting with VSW (State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, Village Safe Water Program) to discuss available options. Contact: Project Engineer 907-269-7610.
- Contact the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to learn about their Individual Sanitation Facilities Scattered Sites Program: 907-729-4098 or 907-729-3702.
- Train a city grant writer or work with the tribe to possibly use Kawerak's grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds. Identify funding sources and submit an application for design and construction funds.
- Research innovative solutions being implemented in other places, and seek funding for pilot projects.

#### **Organization Responsible**

- Local entities working collaboratively
- Mary's Igloo Traditional Council – to serve as an advocate for tribal members
- Teller City Council – to serve as an advocate for community members, inclusive of Mary's Igloo and Teller tribal/community members

#### **Funding Possibilities or Other Resources**

- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium – Individual Sanitation Facilities Scattered Sites Program
- State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water (Village Safe Water Program)
- USDA Rural Development – Rural Utilities Service: Water and Environmental Programs; Tasha Deardorff, Program Manager; [tasha.deardorff@ak.usda.gov](mailto:tasha.deardorff@ak.usda.gov); 907-271-2424, ext. 118
- USDA Sewer, Water, Solid Waste Management Loans and Grants - <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs>
- Environmental Protection Agency – Clean Water Act Indian Set-Aside Program; [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)
- US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Authority – Public Works Program ([www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov))
- Environmental Protection Agency – Safe Drinking Water Act Tribal Set-Aside Program
- Department of Housing and Urban Development – Community Development Block Grant; Indian Community Development Block Grant; Emergency Solutions Grants Program – [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)
- Private Foundations who are willing to fund innovative solutions.

## **8.5 PRIORITY #5 Climate Change Coalition and Subsistence Advocacy**

### **8.5.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

Environmental conditions are changing. There is less sea ice coverage from autumn through spring, less stable sea ice for hunting and traveling, increasing frequency of adverse climactic/weather changes resulting in flooding, erosion. We see more erosion and damage to infrastructure and homes, and also negative impacts to hunting and other subsistence activities.

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

We need to protect our resources and environment to ensure continued access to traditional subsistence resources on the land and from the sea.

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

Climate change is a complex global issue, but we are seeing some positive activities by various agencies to begin addressing the challenges.

### **8.5.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Stay informed, be active in regional, statewide, and national meetings addressing climate change and subsistence hunting and fishing practices

- Tribal resolutions that identify climate change as a factor affecting the community's traditional and customary hunting and fishing practices; and tribal resolutions that advocate for local or traditional subsistence access
- Develop responsible local hunting practices
- Develop and prioritize a list of local needs and seek funding to meet those needs (adaptive hunting and safety gear)
- Be involved in statewide, national and global advocacy. (Kawerak, AFN, Legislators, etc.)

### **Organizations Responsible**

- Mary's Igloo Traditional Council
- City of Teller – to advocate on behalf of all community members

### **Funding Possibilities or Other Resources**

- Kawerak Subsistence Resources Program: 907-443-4265; [subsistence@kawerak.org](mailto:subsistence@kawerak.org)
- Alaska Federation of Natives: [www.nativefederation.org](http://www.nativefederation.org); 907-274-3611; [afninfo@NativeFederation.org](mailto:afninfo@NativeFederation.org)
- Alaska Community Based Monitoring Program – Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network – [www.leonetwork.org](http://www.leonetwork.org); 907-729-2464; [ask.leonetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ask.leonetwork@gmail.com)
- State Representative Neal Foster, Alaska State Legislature; 907-465-3789; 800-478-3789; [Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov)
- State Senator Donny Olson, Alaska State Legislature; 907-465-3707; [Sen.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov)
- Senator Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate, 907-271-3735, 202-224-6665, [Deborah\\_Vo@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:Deborah_Vo@murkowski.senate.gov)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence; Hazel Nelson, Director, 907-267-2190, [hazel.nelson@alaska.gov](mailto:hazel.nelson@alaska.gov)
- State of Alaska Community Resilience and Climate Adaptation Programs – Melissa Taylor, Deputy Director; 907-269-4550; [melissa.taylor@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.taylor@alaska.gov)
- US Department of the Interior, Federal Subsistence Management, 800-478-1456; Gene Peltola, Assistant Regional Director, 907-786-3484, [gene\\_peltola@fws.gov](mailto:gene_peltola@fws.gov)
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Office – EPA Alaska Operations Office; 907-271-5083; [www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-alaska](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-alaska)
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Tribal Program – Jim Woods, Senior Tribal Policy Advisor; 206-5553-2871; [woods.jim@epa.gov](mailto:woods.jim@epa.gov)

## **8.6 PRIORITY #6 Improve Public Safety**

### **8.6.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

There is a need for winter trail staking to ensure safe travel from Teller to regularly used hunting grounds in the area, also up to the old site at Mary's Igloo, toward Brevig Mission, and also leading from Teller to Nome. Winter trail staking will aid in preventing travelers and hunters from getting lost or stranded, serving as guideposts back to Teller and nearby Brevig Mission. The winter trail staking between Teller and Brevig Mission is particularly

valuable given the high probability for travel needed from one location to the other to purchase fuel in the event Teller runs out during the winter.

The community has also obtained some emergency firefighting equipment but needs more, as well as adequate secure storage for all equipment and supplies. Access to firefighting equipment in Nome over the road system would take too long for assistance to arrive. Although some residents have first aid and fire fighting training, firefighting is volunteer-based. More training is needed to be better prepared for emergency situations.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

The trail staking project can provide temporary employment locally, and the staked trails will aid in navigation for hunters and travelers going out in the country from town.

Improved firefighting equipment and an organized volunteer firefighting team with proper training would improve public safety in the community. It will ensure that volunteers have the skills and access to equipment during an emergency. Better equipment like night fire safe boots, clothes, fire safe coats, vision goggles, and other equipment will insure workers are safe and have all the things needed to do the job right. Better locations and enlarging the outdoor storage sheds will improve accessibility to equipment and provide storage for other emergency supplies like fuel, inflatable shelters, generators, extra food and water, and medical kits.

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

- Planning, funding, solving land issues for storage needs, and high freight costs are the main project constraints.
- No local funding available for training, storage for equipment, and even simple supplies for a rescue like gas and food.

## **8.6.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Identify and prioritize trails that need to be staked. Determine length of trails and estimate materials needed for staking projects, including stakes, gasoline needed for traveling to and from during the staking project, and identify how many people you need to stake each trail.
- Assess current status of all fire fighting and safety equipment. Be sure to include all outdoor storage containers and sheds. Begin some initial planning of fire safety needs.
- Select a few potential storage sites and address land issues so a decision can be made. See what local resources are available to count as a match.
- Develop a list and research all of the new equipment needs. Develop a resource list and prices including freight.
- Review policies and procedures that exist or need to be developed for the use of firefighting equipment by trained volunteers. Decide how or if other residents will use the equipment or share expenses.

- Use Kawerak’s grant writer assistance program or to hire a grant writer to explore funding sources, seek matching funds and apply for project funds.
- Once funding is secured, hire a grant manager and project manager to implement the program. Develop temporary storage plan for equipment and materials in Nome.
- Write up a plan and schedule for moving equipment to Mary’s Igloo and Teller.
- Help organize a local fund raiser for the Search and Rescue supplies to be used in a search.

### **Organizations Responsible**

- Native Village of Mary’s Igloo in collaboration with other local entities.

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Resources**

- CDBG - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Denali Commission
- NSEDC
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- State of Alaska Legislature
- State of Alaska Senate and House of Representatives
- United States Senate and House of Representatives
- REVL Communications – 650 West 58<sup>th</sup> Suite J. Anchorage, AK 99518, Phone: 907-563-8302
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) License (if radios needed)

## **8.7 PRIORITY #7 Build a Community Hall for Teller**

### **8.7.1 Project Description**

#### **Background**

A new multi-purpose building is needed in order to alleviate the existing structural deficiency problems of local organization offices as well as provide the much needed space for essential community activities and business expansion. These community functions will be consolidated into a single facility that will include a community hall, teen center, elder’s center, office space for businesses, the City of Teller, Teller and Mary’s Igloo Traditional Councils, and Teller and Mary’s Igloo Native Corporations.

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

The benefits of having the multiple-use building include:

- The consolidation of governing entities into one building will help eliminate duplication of services and facilitate closer working relationships and increased coordination of activities.
- The teen center will not only offer a safe place to the youth of Teller, but will also increase the efficiency with which services are delivered by being in the same building that houses the organizations that plan and administer youth activities.
- The enhancement of the quality of life of residents by providing a place suitable for community events, meetings, and other gatherings. The quality of these meetings



will also be enhanced by being in the same building that houses the organizations that plan and administer these activities.

- Rent from business would help offset monthly operation and maintenances of the building.

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

Finding land to build the multipurpose building on could prove to be challenging as property is very limited in Teller. Thorough planning will require cooperation between the tribal entities, the City of Teller and the native corporations that all reside within the city limits of Teller.

## **8.7.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

- Hold joint meetings to begin planning the facility, determine possible locations, and begin planning floor space needed and building uses. Determine who will be the lead agency and which entities will be partners.
- Start planning with the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation, the City of Teller, the Teller Traditional Council and the Teller Native Corporation to lay out plans for designing the multipurpose building and acquire property for the building.
- Seek funding to hire a designer and architect to determine total project costs.
- Collaborate with other local entities and each should apply for various grants. MITC should then apply for the Indian Community Development Block Grant construction grant.
- Following are brief descriptions of these funding types compiled from the Denali Commission web site.
  - **Conceptual planning** projects should address early project development issues and questions. The expected outcome of a Conceptual Planning project is design readiness including a Business Plan and Site Plan Checklist. Funding of conceptual planning proposals does not commit the Commission to fund subsequent project phases.
  - **Design** projects are for the final design of a Multi-Use facility to at least 95% completion. The expected outcome of a Design project is construction readiness. Funding of design proposals does not commit the Commission to fund subsequent project phases.
  - **Construction** projects can occur after completing all the project elements identified in the Conceptual Planning and Design phases. The expected outcome is the construction of a Multi-Use Facility that eliminates the duplication of services and increases the efficiency of delivering services.
  - **Repair** and renovation projects can occur after completing all the project elements identified in the Conceptual Planning and Design phases. The expected outcome is the repair or renovation of a Multi-Use Facility.

### **Organizations Responsible**

- Native Village of Mary's Igloo (in collaboration with other local entities)

### **Funding Possibilities and Other Resources**

- ICDBG

- CDBG
- Denali Commission
- EDA
- Rasmuson Foundation
- NSEDC
- MJ Murdock Foundation

## **8.8 PRIORITY #8 Local Job Training and local job database**

### **8.8.1 Project Description**

Mary's Igloo Traditional Council (MITC) needs to provide jobs to tribal members by creating a trained workforce within the community to take advantage of job opportunities. MITC wants to help tribal members put together professional resumes and keep a data base of resumes and upcoming jobs.

### **Background**

The Tribe at Mary's Igloo would like to see more of the available work force gain regular employment. Out of the 163 eligible (over 16 years old) workers, there are only 58 people regularly employed in Teller. In the past there have been a few trainings held to help people get certified for certain jobs, but the tribe feels more employment opportunities could be taken advantage of if potential workers had the skills required to obtain those jobs.

### **Project Needs and Benefits**

MITC wants to be proactive to prepare MITC tribal members to become part of the local work force, by resume building, relevant job training, and maintaining a local labor database. The database will inform employers about the availability of the local workforce and allow the tribe to stay aware of all local employment opportunities. It will benefit the entire community as it would not be limited to MITC members only, but also the TTC members as well.

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

Mary's Igloo is located in a remote area and does not have a local college branch or job center. Not everyone has access to high-speed Internet and would not be able to take classes online. There are only a few village based trainings available each year. Some get sent out for training, but they are usually people already working a job, not job seekers.

In the past, trainings have been provided for using the ALEXsys but they have been held in Nome. While one person from Mary's Igloo was invited to attend this training, the person selected didn't make it to the training and the opportunity was postponed. Tribal staff would also need training on how to maintain a database or secure filing system for the workforce and employers.

## **8.8.2 Project Implementation**

### **Plan of Action**

1. Local Training - An assessment of job training needs would be useful to determine the types of job trainings that should be provided. Once the types of trainings are identified we will seek resources to get people trained.
  - The Mary's Igloo Traditional Council will survey the community to find out how many people are interested in job training and what types of training they want. Once assessment is complete and resources have been identified, coordinate tribal members with correct trainings.
  - Get into contact with Kawerak's Employment Services & Training Department to find out what types of trainings will be happening in the next year and how to enroll members in the courses.
  - Find out what type of distance education classes are being offered by the University of Fairbanks.
  - Seek partners and other funding to host training.
2. Resume and database building - In the meantime, most of what is needed is in place, including an office, a public-use computer and staff that are willing to help individual applicants. The staff at the Native Village of Mary's Igloo needs to be trained in using the Alaska Department of Labor ALEXsys resume builder so that they can continue to help members with professional development. We need to have someone travel to Teller and spend a couple of days training staff and tribal members in the use of the ALEXsys. With the staff and tribal members trained, better resumes will be produced and more job opportunities can be taken advantage of.
  - Keep in contact with the Nome Job Center to find out what types of trainings they are facilitating throughout the region.
  - If the job center is unable to provide the training send someone to Nome to learn the system or work with Kawerak or NSEDC to receive assistance getting this training on the ALEXsys system and Access database systems.
  - Find out about existing job databases or recording systems used within the region or state.

### **Organizations Responsible**

- Mary's Igloo Traditional Council in collaboration with other community and regional entities

### **Funding Possibilities or Other Resources**

- Kawerak, Inc. EET Division
- University of Alaska Fairbanks – Career & Technical Education
- Norton Sound Health Corporation
- NACTEC
- Bering Strait School District
- AVTEC
- Job Corp.
- NSEDC
- Kawerak, Inc
- State of Alaska, Department of Labor & Workforce Development - Nome Job Center

## **8.9 PRIORITY #9 Alternative Energy Development Projects**

### **8.9.1 Project Description**

The tribe wants to be proactive in developing alternative energy solutions to reduce rising energy costs. This will include being involved with exploration of geothermal energy at Pilgrim Hot Springs and Mary's Igloo. It will also include other projects like waste heat recovery, energy efficiency, weatherization, and developing wind and solar solutions to meet local needs.

#### **Background**

Despite substantial well drilling activities at nearby Pilgrim Hot Springs, the exact location of the geothermal resource in the area has yet to be pinpointed. Mary's Igloo has substantial surface and sub-surface land holdings directly adjacent to Pilgrim Hot Springs. Over the next two years, Pilgrim and the surrounding area will be the focus of geothermal exploration. Findings could lead to a massive alternative energy source that may have the potential to power one or more villages on the Bering Strait peninsula.

Some tribal members have done some renovations to weatherize homes. A few years ago MITC obtained energy star rated refrigerators or freezers for Teller residents to help cut energy costs. One resident has installed solar panels. More needs to be done.

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

The village of Teller has extremely high energy costs with residents paying as much as \$6.92/gallon for stove oil. If a substantial geothermal energy source was to be found at Mary's Igloo, energy could be produced at a much lower cost and could power Teller and possibly other villages in the Bering Strait Region. Mary's Igloo's first priority would be to lower the cost of living for Teller residents. All efforts to cut costs would help struggling families have more funds for other essential needs.

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

Mary's Igloo needs to establish a way to ensure historic sites and artifacts are properly handled if and when scientists encounter them. The exploration phase is very costly and is currently being undertaken by the University of Alaska Fairbanks through funding by the State and Federal governments. Terrain also presents a potential problem as getting in and out of the Mary's Igloo area will be challenging with any types of heavy equipment for exploration, power plant development or power lines set up.

Most individual home owners are living in poverty and do not have the resources for weatherization, energy saving appliances, or to acquire alternative energy systems for their homes. A project like this is even challenging for the tribes, corporations and other local entities. The products are not readily available, nor are the professional installers needed to put them in place.

### **8.9.2 Project Implementation**

#### **Plan of Action**

- Mary's Igloo needs to take an active role in Pilgrim Hot Springs project development which may mean sending a tribal representative to be a part of exploration planning.
- Ensure good communication and coordination with the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation.
- Review prior agreements regarding land access negotiations so that current exploration can proceed in a timely manner.
- Interested tribal college students should apply to work with the UAF team as they explore the Pilgrim/Mary's Igloo area.
- Mary's Igloo will stay in good contact with UAF to ensure that they are well aware of exploration data.
- Continue to seek ways to help individuals and local entities reduce energy costs and install alternative energy systems to reduce costs.

#### **Organizations Responsible**

- Mary's Igloo Traditional Council
- Mary's Igloo Native Corporation

#### **Funding Possibilities or Other Resources**

- Gwen Holdmann at UAF, Alaska Center for Energy and Power
- U.S. Department of Energy
- Alaska Energy Authority
- RurAL Cap

### **8.10 PRIORITY #10 Re-establish the Tribe at Mary's Igloo Seasonally**

#### **8.10.1 Project Description**

##### **Background**

For thirty years Mary's Igloo members have been seeking ways maintain a strong connection to the old Mary's Igloo site. Originally, Mary's Igloo members chose to move to Teller because they were told their children had to attend school. As there was not a school available at Mary's Igloo, the children either had to move with their parents or go to a boarding school. The entire population eventually moved to Teller leaving behind a ghost town of old cabins. Currently the site is only used for fall, winter and spring camping.

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

A project of this size needs considerable planning. The Tribe will need to explore the steps needed to be able to claim residency at Mary's Igloo. Many of the benefits that the Tribe sees in moving back to Mary's Igloo are related to tribal identity, subsistence issues and clean water.

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

The effort to move back to Mary's Igloo will need to be made from a dedicated group of people willing to establish themselves in a remote area for at least six months of each year. They will have to reside there without the conveniences of local jobs, easy air access, modern appliances, electricity, TV, a store, Internet or phones.

## 8.10.2 Project Implementation

### Plan of Action

- Hold tribal meetings about setting some goals to organize groups to spend more time at Mary's Igloo. Determine the needs while at Mary's Igloo and why people want to go. Determine what the barriers are and explore ways to solve them. (education, water, housing, etc.)
- Once the tribe of Mary's Igloo establishes residency by living six months out of each year at Mary's Igloo, seek support for a local Post Office at Mary's Igloo (might have to do it by a contract at first).
- Tribe will explore the road leading off the Kougarok Rd. to nearby Pilgrim Hot Springs to see if it will be a viable means for transportation.
- Tribe will be writing for grants seeking funding for housing at the Mary's Igloo new town site.

### Organizations Responsible

- Native Village of Mary's Igloo

### Funding Possibilities and Other Resources

- State of Alaska Department of Transportation
- Kawerak's Transportation Department

### Future Mary's Igloo Project Ideas

The following list of future development projects was updated for Teller or the old Mary's Igloo village site by the planning participants. These ideas were a tool in selecting our top priorities and will be helpful to our grant writers over the next five years.

- **Business Development & Tourism** – Multi-purpose building, hardware and parts store, more local jobs and childcare providers, more tourism development (open gift shop in a new community hall), community refrigerator/freezer, B&B's, build a restaurant, start a professional ice haul service, complete and open new barber/salon soon, open a clothing store, and local veterinary services.
- **Communications** – Better faster internet service, better cell phone service, GPS systems, more VHS radios, more ham radios, start a local radio station.
- **Cultural and Social** – Re-establish to the Mary's Igloo town site on a seasonal basis, continue summer culture camps, harpoon making, sled building classes, learn to make tuuqs and ivory fish hooks, more local activities for all ages, develop more local awards and recognitions, continue to repair the cemetery and move graves as needed, revive the activities committee, basketball court, local golf course, teen center with a ping pong table, continue sewing and arts and crafts activities, more Kawerakmiut song and dance events, and obtain 8-10 picnic tables and benches for outdoor events.
- **Education & Jobs** – Local job database of local qualified workers, enforce Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances (TERO), more trained certified workers, job shadowing and mentoring for youth, incentives for locals and students to obtain education and training, need more heavy equipment operator training, need more carpenter training,

and electrical training, plumber training, need more public safety training, veterinary training.

- **Energy & Bulk Fuel** – Solve the fuel shortage problems long term, bigger bulk fuel tanks, annual bulk fuel purchase, needs better and cheaper power, need to develop alternative energy sources (wind, solar, water, and geo-thermal), repair old electrical wiring in some homes, make homes more energy efficient, and obtain a new fuel truck.
- **Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Development** – Be proactive in protecting subsistence having a local voice and say in regulations, form a climate change coalition to be involved in subsistence advocacy, continue water testing and line maintenance, and remove old drums at Deese Creek, MINC gravel development, and re-open Teller Fish and Meats seasonally.
- **Health** – Obtain diver's suits for search and rescue, continue honey bucket and trash haul, dust control at the airport and streets to protect health and drying meat racks, local green houses, community exercise program (walk to save energy and improve health), and public information and assistance regarding bed bugs, Avian/Swine flu, Zika virus and new or invasive species.
- **Housing (teachers, elders, & low cost housing)** – Continue to remove unusable buildings, more housing for Mary's Igloo members in Teller, build rental apartments and duplexes, veterans and elder housing, new cabins for Mary's Igloo town site for tribal members, maintain our VPSO housing, and need to fix old houses and make them more energy efficient.
- **City/Tribal Government and Law Enforcement** – Continue to improve city planning and management, continue to improve organizations and procedures, update policies, bylaws, and election procedures as needed, recruit for a VPSO or VPO, and stronger curfew laws.
- **Public Safety (Fire/Crisis/Search & Rescue)** – Teller needs a new public safety building for fire hall and search and rescue, need to obtain search and rescue boats, need storage for equipment, continue to organize volunteer search and rescue team, need to obtain Code Red or other firefighting equipment, need more public safety training (search and rescue, first aid, First Responder, gun safety for the public, CPR, cold water immersion), public safety equipment (fire fighting and search and rescue), need to develop a local hazard mitigation plan for emergency evacuation, need evacuation road, more fire extinguishers for homes and other buildings, post local speed limits and enforce them, repair or more shelter cabins around Teller and on the Mary's Igloo town site (at Aquipuk and toward Pilgrim), free or reduced cost ice walkers need to be provided to all elders and pregnant women to prevent serious falls on ice, and need survival suits for public safety use.
- **Sewer & Water Source** – Alternative sanitation solutions for flush toilets at old and new sites in Teller, continue to improve water treatment and safety in Teller, maintain safe water sources in Teller and Mary's Igloo, maintain water transmission lines and pumps, need bigger water tanks, continue renovation of the washeteria building and equipment, reliable water delivery service.



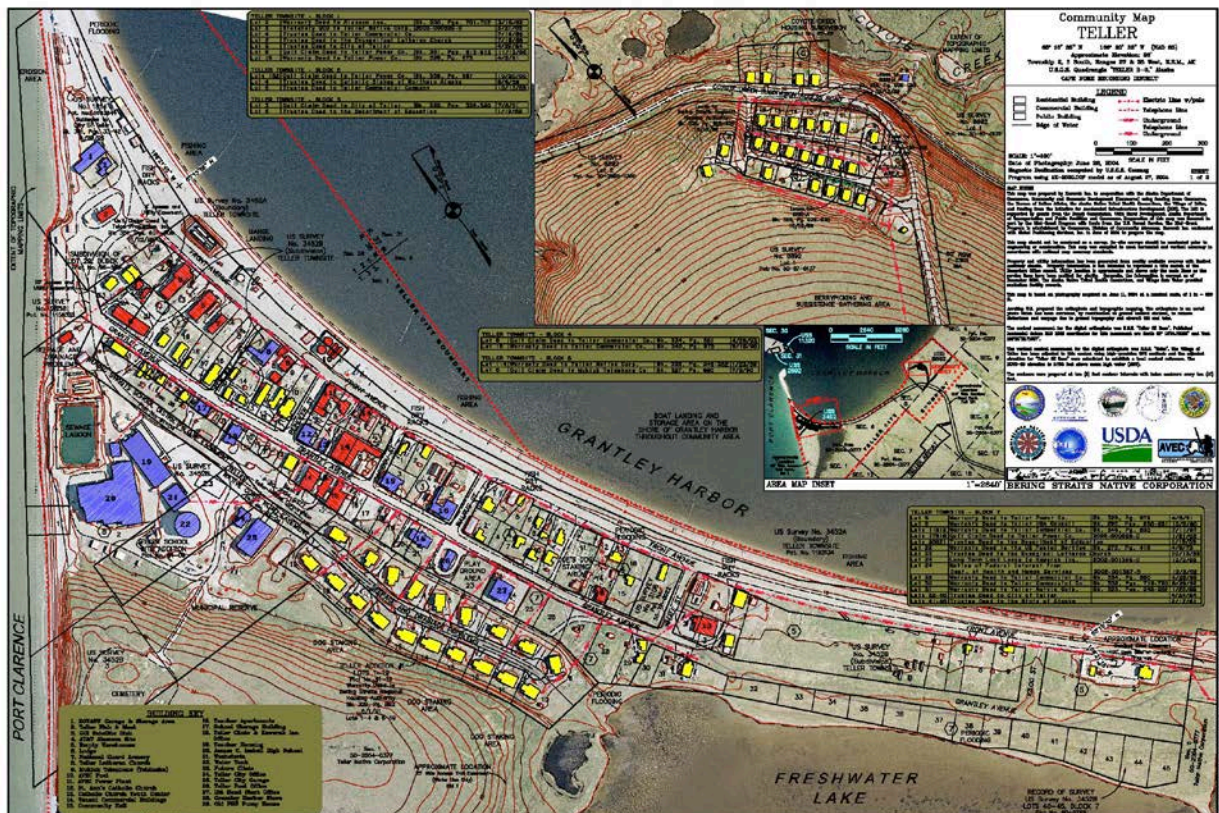
- **Transportation** – Obtain new and repair old heavy equipment for better in town road maintenance and snow removal, heavy equipment storage building needed, continue snow removal and road maintenance in Teller (fix potholes and provide better drainage), need more street lights especially around businesses, continue to maintain and improve the summer and winter trails, need a crosswind runway, need for more dust control projects in summer and fall, all airlines need local agents, and advocate for better gravel on road to landfill to prevent flat tires.
- **Waste Management (landfill, contamination cleanup)** – Continue regular pickup of trash and honeybuckets, landfill needs better fencing and maintenance, and we need a burnbox.
- **Economy/Cost of Living** – Need affordable housing; find ways to reduce fuel, transportation, freight, and food costs; improve bypass mail system (damage during transit), fuel conservation, need more energy efficient appliances/lights, and need a used clothing swap facility.

## Review and Update Process

The Mary's Igloo Joint entities have agreed to review the priorities annually and add addendums to this plan as needed.

## Maps

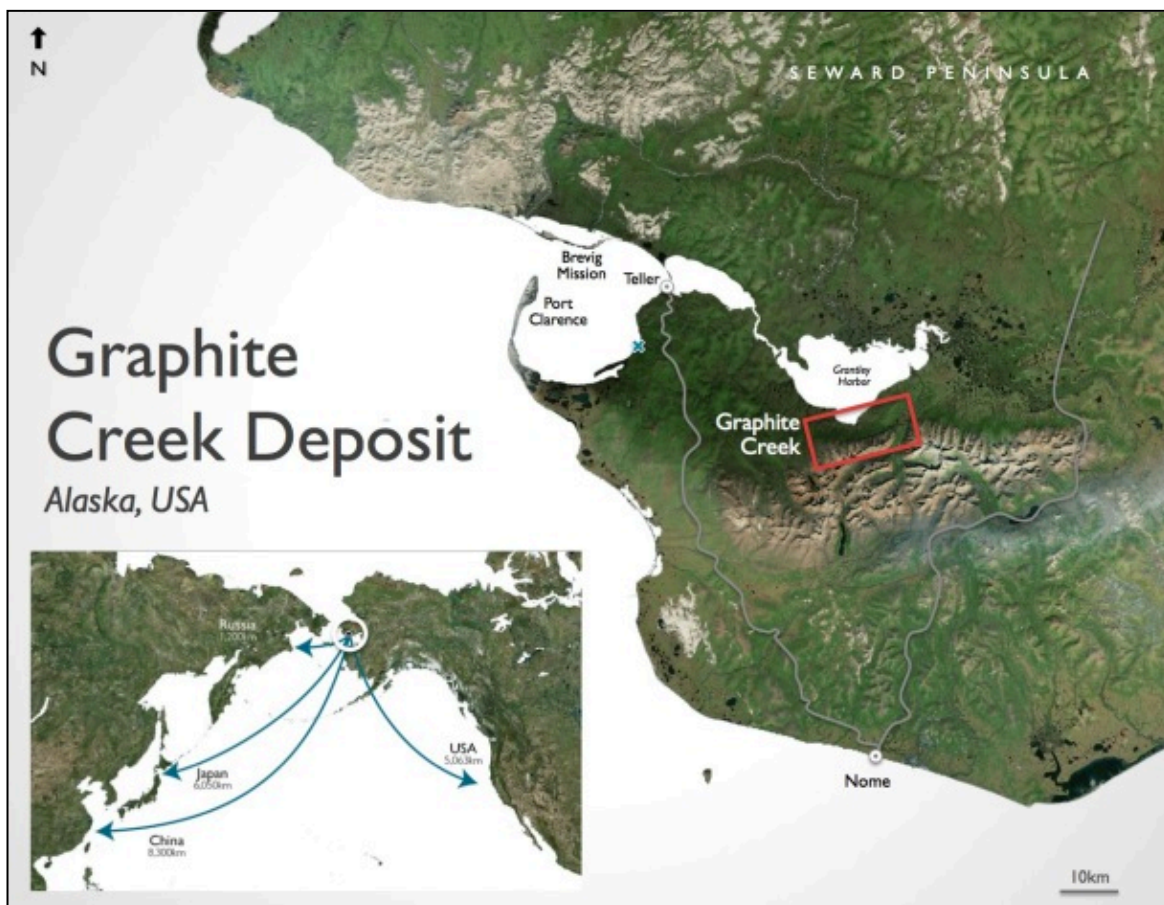
Current maps of the community are available through the Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program or the Kawerak Transportation Program.











A map of graphite deposit on the Seward Peninsula. Image: Graphic One Resources

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**Prepared for Mary's Igloo and the Bering Strait Development Council  
by  
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