

NPR-A Working Group Teleconference  
December 17, 2015

**Participants**

NPR-A Working Group Members

Crawford Patkotak, ASRC  
John Hopson Jr., City of Wainwright  
Qaiyaan Harcharek, City of Barrow  
Doug Whiteman, City of Atkasuk  
Riley Sikvayugak, Nunamiut Corporation (Anaktuvuk Pass)  
Sayers Tuzroyluk, Tikigak Corporation (Point Hope)  
Theresa Clark, Olgoonik Corporation (Wainwright)  
Doreen Lampe, ICAS  
Andy Mack, Kuukpik Corporation (Nuiqsut)  
John Boyle, North Slope Borough  
Sam Kunaknana, Native Village of Nuiqsut

Non-member teleconference participants

Sarah Longan, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Dave Arnold, Native Village of Nuiqsut  
Martha Itta, Native Village of Nuiqsut  
Joseph Akpik, Native Village of Nuiqsut  
Brian Person, North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management  
Faith Martineau, Caelus Energy  
Theresa Imm, ASRC  
Valli Peterson, ConocoPhillips  
Kate Koffman, Hillcorp  
Nicole Whittington Evans, The Wilderness Society  
Ann Rapaport, The Nature Conservancy  
Maggie Massey, Alaska Wilderness League  
Michelle Turner, SLR Corporation  
Amanda Henry, ASRC  
Siri Velli, Brown University  
Jason Burgerson, on behalf of Gordon Brower (North Slope Borough Planning)

Proceedings:

**1) BOEM Hillcorp Liberty Production Plan**

Presenters Mark Storzer and Albert from BOEM (DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) gave a brief overview of the Liberty Production Plan (please refer to the pdf presentation on that for details). Responding to concerns voiced during scoping, BOEM has decided to extend the scoping comment period to Jan. 26, 2016.

The Working Group debated whether or not it was appropriate to spend time on matters that are occurring outside of the NPR-A. They concluded that on a case-by-case basis issues such as the Liberty Project would be allowed to be presented for informational purposes only and that participation in the Working Group meeting in no way changes BOEM's responsibilities to work closely with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and to hold meetings in all the potentially affected North Slope communities.

## **2) Potential Conflict of Interest Clause for the NPR-A Working Group Bylaws**

The question of whether the Working Group should have a conflict of interest clause in its bylaws was first brought up at the September 25, 2015 face-to-face meeting in Barrow. The Working Group directed Stacie McIntosh to look into how other BLM advisory groups have addressed this issue. For the November 2015 teleconference, she provided them with a one-page handout of information that included the ethics language for the BLM Resource Advisory Council and with the DOI BLM Pinedale Anticline Working Group Charter.

In summary, BLM advisory groups do not have conflict of interest clauses. What they do include in their bylaws are statements on ethics that clarify that all members of the advisory body are bound by the conflict of interest clauses of their individual organizations and they carry those rules through to the advisory body. For example, if the President of a Tribal Government has to sign a conflict of interest clause as part of her leadership role for the Tribe, then that same rule is the one that she must follow when she serves on a BLM advisory board.

During the November call, issues discussed included the fact that the make up of the Working Group is very specific (North Slope entities) compared to that of most advisory groups. The issue was considered unfinished business during the November call because there was not robust representation from tribal governments on the call.

Stacie McIntosh stated that this is a subject that could become very confusing and could become the focus of every meeting, but that the spirit of the Working Group is a shared understanding that it is a forum for communities across the Slope to come together and discuss issues that effect all of them, that it is better to work together than individually when trying to advise and give input to BLM, and that it provides an opportunity for all to hear everyone else's opinions and ideas, and that is why the Working Group was established to include all the entities by the Secretary of the Interior.

Qaiyaan Hacharek stated that the Working Group was so diverse that there was no conflict of interest clause that could adequately serve all members, and that each individual's oath of office and/or organization's conflict of interest clause should suffice.

## **3) Concerns and ethics of public meetings**

The concern that the Working Group meetings are public and that all proceedings are open to outside interests was discussed. Stacie McIntosh explained that the decision to

make the meetings open to the public was decided by a vote of the Working Group. Crawford Patkotak explained that there is a concern on outside interests having influence over decisions that need to be made locally, which has always been a strong emphasis of the Working Group and is its main reason for being, but that the BLM needs to be open, fair, and consistent by having the meetings open to the public.

The Working Group decided that since the meetings are open, the members expect any special interest or industry groups that call in to maintain strict ethical standards and to never quote or use anything that any member says during the meeting in any way. The members discussed whether it would be best to have any non-member participants sign an agreement on this and explained how knowing that information is public can limit the productivity and interest level of meetings. Stacie McIntosh suggested that the new Working Group website can include a statement of the expectation of strong ethical behavior of all listeners, including not to use the information overheard for any outside purpose.

Other concerns discussed were related to quorums and how many members were present when certain decisions were made at past meetings.

#### **4) Membership and activities of the Subcommittees**

Membership of the subcommittees was reviewed:

Budget: Crawford Patkotak, Andy Mack, and Sayers Tuzrolyuk

Orphan Drum: John Boyle, Crawford Patkotak, Delbert Rexford, and John Hopson

Subsistence: George Edwardsen, Esther Hugo, Jack Schaefer, Riley Sikvayugak, and John Hopson.

The Budget subcommittee met to discuss how the Working Group could secure funding for meetings. Doreen Lampe joined the Orphan Drum and Subsistence Subcommittees.

#### **5) Regional Mitigation Strategy and Next Face-to-Face NPR-A Working Group Meeting**

The BLM has received 13 comment letters since the last Regional Mitigation Strategy workshop. All the comments and other information from that workshop are available for review on the Regional Mitigation Strategy website.

The BLM is planning the third and final Regional Mitigation Strategy workshop for the second week of March, 2016 and asks all Working Group members to set aside that week on their calendars. Draft chapters of the documents will be available for review 2-3 weeks before the workshop.

The Working Group voted unanimously to hold another face-to-face meeting before the Regional Mitigation Strategy workshop. The Working Group also voted unanimously to create a Regional Mitigation Strategy Subcommittee that would be open to all Working

Group members so that the group can hold its Pre-workshop Regional Mitigation Strategy planning meeting without any outside groups in attendance.

### **Adjournment**