

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Public Advisory Group Meeting
Wednesday, July 18, 2001
12:00 o'clock p.m.

Fourth Floor Conference Room
645 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska

PAG MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Meacham, Chairman
Ed Zeine
Brett Huber
Gary Fandrei
Dan Hull
Stan Senner
Pat Norman
Torie Baker
Chris Beck
James King

TRUSTEE COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT:

Molly McCammon, Executive Director
Dr. Phil Mundy, Science Coordinator
Sandra Schubert, Program Coordinator
Cherri Womac, Trustee Staff
Veronica Christman, Trustee Staff

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Doug Mutter, Department of the Interior
Cynthia Brady, Department of the Interior
Chip Demarest, Department of the Interior
Bill Hauser, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Jeff Short (Telephonically), NOAA

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1 meetings have been ongoing, I think we have three planned
2 for August. We tried twice to do Nanwalek and Port Graham
3 and because of events occurring in the community or
4 weather, we weren't able to complete those.

5 We've been working with the communities and
6 the corporations to talk about long-term stewardship
7 programs with the landowners and there are some informal
8 programs in place right now. Tatitlek has one, Port Graham
9 has one, Nanwalek is working with the corporation right
10 now, we're helping to facilitate that, so that's something
11 that's occurring. We're hoping to formalize those
12 relationships once the natural resource plans are complete
13 and approved by the village councils.

14 And we've also been working with the
15 communities that are not part of what we call pilot
16 communities in the community involvement project. There
17 are five pilot communities that we're working on to develop
18 their natural resource programs, but we're also working
19 with the other communities to get their programs up and
20 running as well. And we put together a guide for the
21 villages to get their program started and where to go for
22 funding and how to put their management program development
23 plan into place and finding the right technical assistance
24 in the right areas and training education.

25 We've also been working on looking at the

1 GEM and how to define community involvement. That's been a
2 big issue. I noticed in the National Research Council's
3 report that it was an issue and it's always been an issue
4 for the communities. And, like I said the last time I
5 testified before the Trustee Council, that's something, I
6 think, the communities have to define and that's we're
7 working with them on is defining that. And the concept of
8 a community fund or endowment, the \$20,000,000 endowment,
9 that we've talked about in the past is still very important
10 to the communities. We did a position paper, about four
11 years ago, on that concept and we're revamping that right
12 now to get more specific. We have ideas on how that fund
13 would be managed and how the decisions would be made
14 regarding funding and how it would work with the programs
15 being funded under the research and monitoring of the GEM.
16 And so it's going to be a pretty big document once it's
17 done, it'll be like a white paper, but hopefully that will
18 answer a lot of questions and concerns about that community
19 fund that we are proposing.

20 CHAIRMAN MEACHAM: Excuse me, Patty. When
21 do you anticipate that being?

22 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: By the end of the
23 fiscal year.

24 And the final thing we're working on is the
25 region-wide natural resource management plan, and that also

1 will be done by the end of the fiscal year. And what we'll
2 do is take the concerns and issues in each of the tribal
3 management plans and integrate them into one area-wide or
4 region-wide plan that, hopefully, we can use to work with
5 the Trustee Council on research issues and concerns.

6 If there's any questions, I'll be happy to
7 answer them, or try to.

8 CHAIRMAN MEACHAM: Thank you, Patty. Go
9 ahead, Dan.

10 MR. HULL: One of the NRC's recommendations
11 about the administrative structure for GEM would be to have
12 two committees that, I guess, serve separate functions, one
13 of scientists and one of communities. And I think their
14 definition of -- the NRC's definition of communities is a
15 little vague, but I assume it means both people from
16 communities like Chenega, Cordova, Kodiak, Tatitlek, as
17 well as interest groups.

18 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Uh-huh.

19 MR. HULL: Is that something that you think
20 is a good idea; and how might that work with the current
21 community involvement, community facilitator?

22 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: We didn't really
23 embrace that idea or recommendation by the Research
24 Council, partly because it had the scientists separated
25 from the communities and so there really wasn't -- it

1 didn't look like there was any interaction. And the second
2 thing is because they had those two groups only reporting
3 the Chief Scientist and not going directly to the Trustee
4 Council, the way it's currently operating. Sitting there
5 listening and -- listen to your meeting and the plan that
6 you're talking about now with the integration with the
7 scientists and the communities and the other interest
8 groups and one group or committee, I think, is a good idea.
9 Because that way the information can be shared in the same
10 forum, whereas you're not having these recommendations and
11 this recommendations coming together and one, maybe, given
12 higher level of importance or credibility than the other.

13 MR. HULL: Do you think it would still be
14 important to continue the community facilitator program in
15 GEM?

16 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: I do, in one form
17 or another. I think what we're proposing under this
18 community fund is that part of that fund would be to
19 support community involvement through funding a portion of
20 the natural resource programs in each communities so that
21 their job is not only to address natural resource
22 management issues in and around their area, but also work
23 with the Trustee Council and the researchers on EVOS-
24 related research and monitoring. Because the problem we're
25 having right now is the community involvement project and

1 whole Restoration Program is winding down and so there's
2 not justification to keep the community facilitators on at
3 the level that they were, say, four or five years ago. But
4 it's getting to the point where the community facilitators
5 in the communities are feeling like that amount of money
6 that they're receiving isn't even worth their time to do
7 anything with, you know, five or \$6,000 for some
8 communities and 9,000 for others. It's hard for them to
9 find someone to hire, basically, to serve that role,
10 because it's not that much money over a whole year's period
11 of time. So by supporting the natural resource program
12 that function of the community facilitator would then
13 become the function of the natural resource program. So it
14 would just support, you know, a part of one job or
15 something like that.

16 MR. SENNER: Patty, where does primary
17 funding come from for the natural resource managers?

18 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: The Bureau of
19 Indian Affairs.

20 MR. SENNER: Is that something you see as
21 likely to continue, as stable?

22 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Oh, yeah. Yeah.
23 Yeah, the only problem that we're facing right now is out
24 of the, what is it, \$44,000,000 that's available nationwide
25 for tribal natural resource management through the Bureau

1 of Indian Affairs' budget only about 2,000,000 comes to
2 Alaska. And so we're trying to work with Congress to
3 increase that piece of the pie, but it's real difficult,
4 you know, because the concept of tribes in Alaska has just
5 been since '93. And the tribes in the Lower 48,
6 particularly in the Great Lakes region and in the Northwest
7 have been very politically savvy about getting funding, you
8 know, to fund their natural resource programs. So the vast
9 majority of the funding goes to those two areas, where the
10 rest is distributed amongst the other 48 state tribes. And
11 then, you know, since we're just getting into it recently,
12 within the past 10 or so, 15 years, there's not much coming
13 to Alaska.

14 That source of funding and then the
15 Administration for Native Americans has been real willing
16 and supportive of tribal natural resource projects and
17 programs. They have an environmental grant program and
18 their regular program that funds a lot of different stuff,
19 so there's two different places you can go for funding
20 there.

21 CHAIRMAN MEACHAM: Pat.

22 MR. NORMAN: Just additional information
23 for his question. The corporations, and I'll just use my
24 corporation as an example, we were developing within our
25 own corporation natural resource positions who are

1 basically monitoring our 113,000 acres of land that we have
2 on the outer coast. What we were hoping to do with the
3 development of natural resources in Port Graham was that we
4 would supplement that position with funds from the
5 corporation and add the responsibility of the corporation's
6 needs within that program as a way to make up some of the
7 funding shortfalls that will come up.

8 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, the biggest
9 problem is trying to find base money to keep the office
10 opened and a person on staff. We've been always pretty
11 successful at finding funding to do projects, as you in the
12 non-profit world probably very well know, you know.

13 MR. SENNER: That sounds very familiar.

14 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: But something like
15 this community fund would provide that seed money to have
16 someone in the office. And finding the rest of the money,
17 you know, has been something that we've been doing for a
18 long time. The Fish and Wildlife Service, we've gotten
19 money from them, the Alaska Science and Technology
20 Foundation has funded a number of projects for the tribes
21 here and the Eagle Staff Fund has done some work here so,
22 you know, those kind of things are project specific and
23 they're always going to be out there, but the problem is
24 trying to find the base funding.

25 CHAIRMAN MEACHAM: Other questions of

1 Patty?

2 (No audible responses)

3 CHAIRMAN MEACHAM: Okay, thank you very
4 much for the information.

5 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Okay

6 MS. McCAMMON: Thank you, Patty.

7 CHAIRMAN MEACHAM: Anybody else here who
8 would like to provide any testimony, or on line?

9 (No audible responses)

10 CHAIRMAN MEACHAM: In that event I'll close
11 the public hearing portion of our session.

12 (Off record - 12:17 p.m.)

13 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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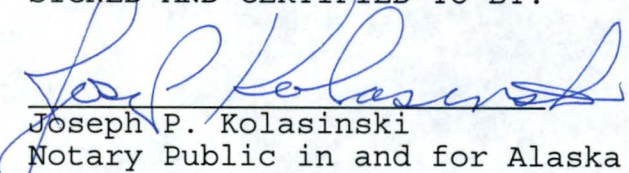
THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 10 contain a full, true and correct transcript of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group Public Testimony recorded electronically by me on the 18th day of June 2001, commencing at the hour of 12:05 p.m. and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability.

THAT the Transcript has been prepared at the request of:

EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL, 645 G Street,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501;

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 25th day of June
2001.

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED TO BY:


Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04

