

Four Sub-Regional Planning Session Meetings in the Association of Village Council Presidents Region, Study No. 01-019

Abstract: The AVCP Region (56 villages) has four main areas within that share the same concerns and issues. They are: the Lower Yukon, the Coastal Area, the Lower Kuskokwim, and the Central/Upper Kuskokwim. We were looking to bring together people from each area that has similar concerns and issues, along with the managing agencies, to meet and discuss those concerns together, face to face.

Four meetings were scheduled in three of the four sub-regional areas mentioned above – the Coastal area, the Lower Kuskokwim area, and the Lower Yukon area. The fourth area, the Central/Upper Kuskokwim area was to be scheduled by the Kuskokwim Native Association (KNA) under a separate grant agreement (was included in our original proposal idea though).

The proposed sites were Tununak (Coastal area), Bethel (Lower Kuskokwim area), Emmonak (Lower Yukon area) and Aniak (Central/Upper Kuskokwim area). The only location which was changed of the three meetings AVCP was responsible for hosting was for the Coastal area. The Tununak Council was contacted initially and they suggested that another village be chosen to host the meeting. Therefore, the village of Toksook Bay was contacted and they happily accepted as the meeting location for the Coastal area.

Each meeting was to include representatives from AVCP, the state and federal agencies, villages within that particular sub-region, and anyone else interested. AVCP coordinate with the different organizations to schedule dates, and took care of the travel/perdiem arrangements for all the villages, and the AVCP staff. The original proposal included monies for state and federal agency representatives to attend all meetings.

For the few agency representatives who did attend or attempted to attend the meetings requiring travel, they opted to use their own means to travel. The one agency representative who did attend the Lower Yukon sub-regional meeting did join the AVCP village representatives on a charter to Emmonak as the decision for him to attend that meeting was made last minute and there was room on the plane.