

CHEFORNAK

Elder Guidance:

We interviewed our Elders and our Elders took part in the Nelson Island Consortium meetings. They told us what we needed to do to keep our community safe and clean and protect our subsistence. We have recorded their words and have their tapes. Their words included rules about taking care of wastes in the subsistence areas and also how to live life properly so that we will not have these problems. Their rules are about respect and how this will bring good opportunities and help when we need it. This plan is based on their words and explains how to carry out what they say as it relates to our wastes.

Elders' words:

1910



Dennis Panruk- 'Panruk': *born in Cevv'arneq on January 24,*

- ✦ *Back then our ancestors believed in keeping our environment clean.*
- ✦ *Do not wait for others to tell you what to do if you have already heard what you were told to do. Kinguketuq- It has a good ending.*
- ✦ *In the mornings, they were told not to lie around because all the dust would go on them from people walking in and around.*
- ✦ *Nowadays, we hear of different things and different sicknesses that people are getting.*
- ✦ *Dangerous equipment that is going to be reused should be properly placed where people wouldn't come across to prevent injuries.*
- ✦ *Didn't like the location of the dumpsite since it was too close to the village, but nobody listened to him. On warm/hot days we see the land with heat waves, the odor is too strong it could harm the people.*
- ✦ *The Elders/leaders would have to plan for a new dump. It's a priority to face, where the dump wouldn't be too close to the village and where the wind (N) wouldn't blow towards the village. The community as a whole would have to agree on the new site.*
- ✦ *Dump- cover- surrounding first with sacks.*
- ✦ *When the snow melts at the dump, it is really bad and you know that kids like to play around. The melting snow that's coming from the dump goes down towards the river and becomes intact to the children and their clothing and it goes with them where ever they go.*



Maria Kairaiuak- 'Naivvkuk': born in Cevvarneq on October 31,

- ✦ *If a person is not searching or asking for advice or word of knowledge, that person is like as if he is sleeping*
- ✦ *Subsistence catches were to be enough for winter storage and even more when they were to celebrate dance festivals*
- ✦ *All subsistence food that is able to be dried were to be worked on right away, even if the hunter had brought home only one catch*
- ✦ *If we see trash on the ground, pick it up and dispose of it properly.*
- ✦ *Long ago babies were not deformed or such, but nowadays more babies are born not normal. It was rare back then.*
- ✦ *If one who is talking a good way of living, stop and listen.*
- ✦ *When I became aware, I never found anything lying around (trash). We didn't have much like what you have now (food, clothes, boxes, etc...) the way of our living was quiet and our people were quiet. We were told to do things and would obey right away without any conflict.*



David Jimmy, Sr. - 'Akagalria': born in Kawarelegalik on February 6, 1940

- ✦ *Was an operator for the dumpsite under City back then*
- ✦ *Dug trenches/ditches for the trash, compacted them, and covered them with a bulldozer*
- ✦ *It was good when they use to cover the trash; there was no windblown trash.*
- ✦ *Some appliances should not be damaged so people could reuse them for parts.*
- ✦ *No scattered trash was visible back then because we didn't have as much wastes generated as there are now.*
- ✦ *Before the dumpsite, they had drums near the river where trash was burned. They dumped the ashes in the river and that is why trash was never littered. They would burn the trash in the drums when the wind was not blowing towards the village. Tanks are not disposed, they are rotting where they are.*



Theresa Abraham- 'Paniliar': born in Cevvarneq on April 9, 1941

- ✦ *Work as a community and strive*
- ✦ *It would be good if we had only one person who hauls honey buckets to the lagoon and one person who hauls the trash to the dumpsite, so they wouldn't be improperly disposed.*
- ✦ *Don't really like using chemicals in honey buckets but everybody uses them so they wouldn't smell awful in the houses.*
- ✦ *When human wastes are dumped in the lagoon, it leaches to the river and is not safe for our food- fish. And since people dump where ever they please that is a problem because they are dumped anywhere now.*

Nelson Island Consortium Meetings: We held community meetings at the following villages and dates. At each meeting we had Elders from our community (and all the other Nelson Island communities), and we had our Environmental staff and a council or administrator attend. We offered free travel to these meetings to our community members.

- 1 Tununak: January 4-6, 2005
- 2 Newtok: June 13-15, 2005
- 3 Chefnak: August 3-5, 2005
- 4 Toksook: January 11-14, 2006
- 5 Nightmute: September 17-19, 2007
- 6 Chefnak: June 30 – July 2, 2008

When we hosted the meeting here, we had 50 community members attend, including 8 Elders. A Nelson Island Consortium Elders Council was formed during the June/July 2008 meeting in Chefnak which includes two elders from each of the Nelson Island Consortium villages. The Elders Council include: Paul Tunuchuk and Theresa Abraham from Chefnak, Sophie Agimuk and Martina Chagluak from Toksook Bay, Helen and John Walter, Sr. from Tununak, and Elsie Tommy and Michael John from Newtok.

Community Survey: We carried out a community survey on concerns and suggestions. The full results are included in the appendix. This survey was conducted in spring 2008 by the IGAP staff.

The top concerns of our residents were:

- 🚩 Raw Sewage (Honey bucket) (34)
- 🚩 Toxic/ Hazardous waste (32)
- 🚩 Beach/ River Erosion (31)
- 🚩 Tie: Mercury, Asbestos, and Lead acid batteries (30)
- 🚩 Water Quality (29)

The most common suggestions were:

- 🚩 New Lagoon Site
- 🚩 New Water Treatment Plant
- 🚩 Running water for households
- 🚩 Dump Site
- 🚩 Disposal of hazardous liquids/ Used motor oil
- 🚩 Material Safety Data Sheets
- 🚩 Education of HazMats disposal methods

TUNUNAK

Elder Guidance: We interviewed Elders and our Elders took part in the Nelson Island Consortium meetings. They told us what we needed to do to keep our community safe and clean and protect our subsistence. We have recorded their words and have their tapes. Their words included rules about taking care of wastes in the subsistence areas and also how to live life properly so that we will not have these problems. Their rules are about respect and how this will bring good opportunities and help when we need it. This plan is based on their words and explains how to carry out what they say as it relates to our wastes.

Elders' words: January 12, 2006. "In early days, our people followed traditional ways and never were confused or felt lost of their environment, because they listened to the wisdom of their elders. Over the years, we have welcomed pain to ourselves and land to the white people ways. We never knew of how much trash and contaminations they could deliver and mess up our traditional way of life."

January 13, 2006. "It is a traditional law that we must have a great care for our hunting grounds."

August 23, 2006. "When I was young the fish caught in net would struggle even when placed into my boat. Now some fish that caught in nets seem to give up easily and die before they are put into the boat."

Andy Charlie, Born around Nelson Island area.

- 1. People should not expect to get paid for helping each other but a compliment of appreciation was a reward enough in the old days.*
- 2. People should be careful when they cut their holes on frozen rivers. They should not spill gasoline into ice holes.*
- 3. When I become aware, we had little, Everything was returned to the earth. Now we have plastics and things that will harm us and our way of life. We must be careful with these things.*
- 4. It is disrespectful to leave litter at the camps.*

Community participation for the best solid waste plan is very important to us. Community disposal practices play a big part in whether our plan protects our health and environment. In addition to listening to our Elders speak, our community participation included the following:

Nelson Island Consortium Meetings: We held community meetings at the following villages and dates. At each meeting we had Elders from our community (and all the other communities), and we had our Environmental staff and a council or administrator attend. We offered free travel to these meetings to our community members.

- 1 **Tununak: January 4-6, 2005**
- 2 **Newtok: June 13-15, 2005**
- 3 **Chefornak: August 3-5, 2005**
- 4 **Toksook: January 11-14, 2006**
- 5 **Nightmute: ****

When we hosted the meeting here, we had 12 community members attend, including 5 Elders.

Community Survey: We carried out a community survey on concerns and suggestions. The full results are included in the appendix. This survey was conducted in Spring of 2004 by the IGAP Staff.

The top concerns of our residents were: Water and subsistence contamination, hazardous waste.

The most common suggestions were: Trash collection and recycling.

Council Meetings and Presentations: We held community Council meetings where we discussed solid waste issues and what our community wanted to do. We held these meetings each month from September 2005 - August 2006.

Community Solid Waste Committee: A Committee was formed on June 1st, 2004. This committee is comprised of 5 members. They represent different parts of our community. Their job was to make sure that our plan fits our community and will work best for our community. Their concerns included

- 1 Reduce health risks from dumpsite when people visit or smell the smoke.
- 2 Removing wastes from the dump that can be hazardous.
- 3 Not allow construction project wastes at the dump unless it is approved by the community.
- 4 Reducing subsistence risks from what comes out of the dumpsite when it floods or the wastes burn.
- 5 Making sure what we plan is affordable for everyone.
- 6 Having a good collection program so that residents do not need to visit the dump. This will protect their health and keep the dump cleaner and safer.
- 7 Reducing all our wastes and recycling and reusing all our wastes as much as we can. These are values that our Elders taught us.

The committee meets about every 6 weeks. The following people served on our committee:

- 1 **Maria Angaiak, IRA Council Member**
- 2 **David Hooper, IGAP Coordinator**
- 3 **Charlie Post, Nelson Island Consortium Representative**

- 4 Paul Sunny, Elder
- 5 Martin Albert, IRA Council member
- 6 Hubert Hooper, Environmental Committee member
- 7 Harry Lincoln, Environmental Committee chairman
- 8 Cecila James, Assistant IGAP

School Presentations: Our Environmental Staff met with the school classes and teachers. They educated the youth about:

- 1 Hazardous wastes
- 2 Recycling
- 3 Being careful at the dump
- 4 How the contaminants from the dump can get into our waters

Community Education and Outreach: Nelson Island fish net monitors and subsistence camp monitors speak to the hunters at our camps. They educate them about littering and toxic chemicals in the oil and gas. We learn from them what people are concerned about and what education they need. Our environmental staff, including our Nelson Island Consortium representative, went to homes to educate people about environmental issues. They talked to people at the stores. They also found out from our people what the big concerns were. This is what people are saying in our community that is related to solid waste management:

- 1 Honeybucket dump is polluting our river and people are getting sick.
- 2 When is our water for homes coming?
- 3 Dumpsite is polluting our river.
- 4 Town is dirty.
- 5 Too much plastic bags and litter on the tundra.
- 6 Need to move the old ATVs and snowmachines out of town.
- 7 People are not respectful and should be picking up their trash and bringing it to the dump.
- 8 People do not listen to Elders. If they listened to Elders, we would not have this trash all over.

TOKSOOK

Elder Guidance:

We interviewed Elders and our Elders took part in the Nelson Island Consortium meetings. They told us what we needed to do to keep our community safe and clean and protect our subsistence. We have recorded their words and have their tapes. Their words included rules about taking care of wastes in the subsistence areas and also how to live life properly so that we will not have these problems. Their rules are about respect and how this will bring good opportunities and help when we need it. This plan is based on their words and explains how to carry out what they say as it relates to our wastes.

See Elder interview file.

Community participation for the best solid waste plan is very important to us. Community disposal practices play a big part in whether our plan protects our health and environment. In addition to listening to our elders speak, our community participation included the following:

Nelson Island Consortium Meetings: We held community meetings at the following villages and dates. At each meeting we had Elders from our community (and all the other communities), and we had our Environmental staff and a council or administrator attend. We offered free travel to these meetings to our community members.

- ◆ **Tununak: January 4-6 2005**
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- ◆ **Chefornak: August 3-5, 2005**
- ◆ **Toksook: January 11-14 2006**
- ◆ **Nightmute: ****

Council Meetings and Presentations: We held community Council meetings where we discussed solid waste issues and what our community wanted to do. We held these meetings each month from August 2005 to July 2006.

Community Environmental Committee: A Committee will be formed late 2006. The committee is proposed to be members of the NTC council, City of Toksook Bay, High School Youth Group, Environmental staff, and members of the community. They represent different parts of our community. Their job will be to make sure that our plan fits our community and will work best for our community. Their concerns should included:

- Reducing health risks from the dumpsite when people visit or smell the smoke.
- Removing wastes from the dump that can be hazardous.

- Not allow construction project wastes at the dump unless it is approved by the community.
 - Reducing subsistence risks from what comes out of the dumpsite when the wastes burn.
 - Making sure what we plan is affordable for everyone.
 - Having a good collection program so that residents do not need to visit the dump. This will protect their health and keep the dump cleaner and safer.
 - Reducing all our wastes and recycling and reusing all our wastes as much as we can. These are values that our Elders taught us.
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- The committee will meet every month on a regular basis, and when we are called for emergency meeting.

School Presentations: Our Environmental Staff met with the school classes and teachers. They educated the youth about:

- Recycling
- Hazards of Household items

NEWTOK

Elder Guidance:

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Elders' words:

Mr. Secretary, George Tom of Newtok Traditional Council had said about what an Elder Paul Carl, 81 years old had stated. Mr. Carl is from the small village of Newtok, Alaska. Mr. Carl addressed the importance of what will happen if we were to drain the Big Lake (Nangevpak) (The Big Lake is between the Airstrip and the village) out or empties out by itself, the whole land where Newtok sits, will sink down. This has happen before in another two sites that Mr. Carl knows of. One site that had happen before is across the Ninglik River and Niuqtam Kagatii which is on the East side of Newtok about two to three miles out.

Paul Carl, 81 years old of Newtok, is originally from old village site called Ayimqeryararmiut. His belated parents were father's name was Menerqalria, mother's name was Apamaralria. His first belated wife's name was Mary Julia Carl, Cakayak. Second wife was Anna Charles, Qiraun. By his first marriage, they had 5 children. Later on he gained 9 more children by his second wife. He was a subsistence hunter, and has traveled all around the southwestern region with other hunters. He used to travel by dog team by winter, wooden boat by summer. Later on snow machine took over the dogs. He is well respected and knowledgeable of his surrounding. We, The IGAP Department appreciate his great help on passing the valuable information to us.

- ✦ People should not expect to get paid for helping each other.
- ✦ When I became aware, we had little. Everything we had returned to the earth. Now we have plastics and things that will harm us and our way of life. We must be careful with these things.
- ✦ *It is disrespectful to the person who goes camping in that area and to others to leave litter at the camps.*

3. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation for the best solid waste plan is very important to us. Community disposal practices play a big part in whether our plan protects our health and environment. In addition to listening to our Elders speak, our community participation included the following:

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other communities), and we had our Environmental staff and a council or administrator attend. We offered free travel to these meetings to our community members.

- ◆ Tununak: January 4-6 2005
- ◆ Newtok: June 13-15, 2005
- ◆ Chefornak: August 3-5, 2005
- ◆ Toksook: January 11-14 2006
- ◆ Nightmute: 2007, exact date to be determined

When we hosted the meeting here, we had 20 community members attend, including 9 Elders.

Community Survey: We carried out a community survey on concerns and suggestions. The full results are included in the appendix. This survey was conducted in January 8-12 2007 by the IGAP staff. *(Note **attach to the end of this plan all of the surveys or the summary sheet for the surveys**). If you did not do a survey, and you do not plan on doing one, delete this section.*

The top concerns of our residents were: Garbage in the village, and Dumpsite.

The most common suggestions were: Hire a trash man to haul the trash to the dumpsite, and fix fence around the dumpsite and or clean out the dumpsite and haul its contents.

Council Meetings and Presentations: We held community Council meetings where we discussed solid waste issues and what our community wanted to do. We held these meetings each month from August 2005 to July 2006.

Environmentally Clean (Menuicaraq) June 2005 in Newtok. Nelson Island Consortium had guests from five (5) villages along with their Elders. Tununak, Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Chefornak and Umkumiut were here along with five (5) people from Anchorage. Lynn Zender, Simone Sebalo of Zender-Environmental, Tami Fordham of Region 10, Joseph Sarcone of Government EPA and Steve Sumida of Acting Assistant for AITC. Oscar Wassillie of Nelson Island Consortium Director for Chefornak asked the groups of elders on how they use to keep their surrounding (May it be the fish camps, old village sites) clean.

Mary Julia Carl, Cakiileg, of Toksook Bay Elder.

Our first ancestors used it, may it be within the village or anywhere in the tundra. They didn't have much of the trash to trash with. Just the animal bones or used grass that was used for beddings or floor matting. Whenever they wanted to change the old beddings or floor matting, they just gathered up the used grass and burn them in one place. As for animal bones, they would place them in the gunny sack. In the spring time, they'd throw the gunny sack into the lakes or ponds. They didn't have five (5) gallon plastic honey bucket containers. Only our Grandparents had one or two type gallon potty trainer containers. Our elders were much respected and totally important to us as well. Mr. Wassillie was very understandable when he talking about our past. Everything that we did have a reason, according to rules that has been passed on to us, especially from our unseen Universal Creator. In this belief, our ancestors honored the air, water and the land. Because of all three elements, we are still surviving. Without these three

elements, we become nothing because of the human era. For this reason, we must keep our environmental area clean.

John White, Acuruunaq of Nightmute Elder

How are we going to live? How are we going to understand, going against each others and trying to understand? We should be getting started now. I never got to know both of my parents. People, who lived in Cakcaak from what I used to see, never had any trash to trash with. There were lot of fishes and they were taken care with care, our mothers made sure our stomach won't go hungry. Ever since the white people appeared, the trash appeared; they even showed us how to live in this crazy world, which we are losing our identity slowly. Whatever the white people bring unknown products, they only bring in illness. Even if we go to the hospital, we are still dying of some kind of cancers. For crying out loud or gee whiz, we should start following how our late ancestors use to live. Our Universal Creator is watching us, he made this planet and it was clean when he gave it us.

Joseph John, Arnaucuaq, 69, Elder/Member of Newtok

As for the dried fishes that has been burnt by the sun, they became inedible, even the dogs won't eat them. So, it is better to bury them in the ground or even just burn them.

Late William Andy, Ungusraq, 76, Elder of Newtok

These people who have been talking are true but even if we tell our workers, they are still trying to make it work. Having only one worker just doesn't cut it. We will still telling them but it still won't work.

Mark Tom, Nuuyaraleq, Elder of Newtok

We, males should take our hats off during all the meeting to show respect just like if we are at the church since we do start the meeting with a pray. Even if I haven't attended all of the meeting, it is just like I have gone to all of them. Because I have heard these messages before, it still continues even up to this day. As we continue to go on living like this, we will stop seeing what we use to see. God is for real. When you look at the map of Alaska, you are looking at Subsistence Way of Life, Alaska. It should not be divided by the people of State of Alaska nor does Federal Department who thinks they are governing our daily live which in truthfully not true at all.

Oscar Wassillie, Uquviarlug of Chefornek Nelson Island Consortium Director

We came here to Newtok to talk about your fishing areas like Cakcaak or any known subsistence site rivers, any fish camps that looks trashy or getting trashed by the people who leaves their trash behind. Even if the campers dig a hole to burry them, the animals are still digging them out, that makes it messier. We are still going to keep telling the communities to bring in their trash into the village dumpsite for proper disposal.

Community Solid Waste Committee: A Committee was formed on June 1st, 2004. This committee is comprised of 5 members. They represent different parts of our community. Their job was to make sure that our plan fits our community and will work best for our community. Their concerns included:

- Find a solution to haul the trash from the bank of the river on the other side of the river.
- Find income to hire trash haulers.
- Make trash bins in the village and emptied by the trash hauler.
- Spring clean up set up, ask for donations and wages.
- Making sure what we plan is affordable for everyone.
- Having a good collection program so that residents do not need to visit the dump. This will protect their health and keep the dump cleaner and safer.

The committee meets about once a month. The following people served on our committee:

- Joseph John Sr. Council Member
- Dominic Charles, IGAP Director
- Margaret Nickerson, Nelson Island Consortium Representative
- Paul Carl, Elder
- Carol Kassaiuli, Youth Member

Community Education and Outreach Nelson Island fish net monitors and subsistence camp monitors speak to the hunters at our camps. They educate them about littering and toxic chemicals in the oil and gas. We learn from them what people are concerned about and what education they need. Our environmental staff, including our Nelson Island Consortium representative, went to homes to educate people about environmental issues. They talked to people at the stores. They also found out from our people what the big concerns were. This is what people are saying in our community that is related to solid waste management:

- Honey bucket dump is polluting our river
- When is our water for homes coming?
- Dumpsite is polluting our river
- Town is dirty.
- Too much plastic bags and litter on the tundra
- Need to move the old ATVs and snowmachines out of town
- People are not respectful and should be picking up their trash and bringing it to the dump.

Community Information for Solid Waste Planning

Current Community Population

We have 320 people living here now, including 7 school staff that leave during the summer. Additionally, we have about 1 people who leave for commercial fishing. On most days in the summer, about 50 people are camping overnight at fish camps. During

Fall hunting, we have about 40 to 80 people out hunting overnight. During winter, about 20 to 50 people are gone from the village on most days for subsistence. The average number of people gone from the village for other reasons, like visiting, shopping, medical appointments on most days is about 3 to 5. About 3 to 5 visitors come and stay over in our village each day in the summer, and in the winter we have about 50 people each month for tournaments and gatherings. We usually have about 2 to 7 people each year who live here during summer for construction, and 0 to 3 people for winter projects. For about 4 to 6 weeks during Spring Breakup, and 4 to 6 weeks during Fall Freeze up, most people stay in the village due to dangerous boat and snow machine travel.

NIGHTMUTE

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Elders' words:

Long ago the people used to have trash box at the end of village for the other end of village and the other one for the other end of village and if the boxes are full the people work together to empty out the boxes, by dumping the trash to one area like the one call today a dumpsite. The bone/waste of food are also collected differently at the house(s) when there is enough they would bring them to where no man has stepped on in the pond or the lake, although it might be kind of far from the village.

When the trash first start coming to village the trash was either burned right away and or buried to the ground.

The elders used to tell people to help each other and try not make too much trash allover the ground and respect the land and not to move anything out at tundra which belongs to someone because they will think about it when they go to that area. The elders still use and respect the traditional way of life, they never seem to be confused or felt lost of their environment. They teach us and want us to keep on using the cultures and values today. Over the years the elders have seen change and learned to accept the changes but one thing will never be taken away. That way is the Traditional way of living. This wisdom of knowledge is passed on through many generations. They teach us to respect the environment and the resources that we depend on so much. If we do not respect the environment we will lose the resources. What they mean is if we are not careful to keep the environment free from contaminants the fish plants and animals that we harvest for subsistence will no longer be plentiful, will gradually decrease and eventually be gone.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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- Making sure what we plan is affordable for everyone.
- Having a good collection program so that residents do not need to visit the dump. This will protect their health and keep the dump cleaner and safer.
- Reducing all our wastes and recycling and reusing all our wastes as much as we can. These are values that our Elders taught us.

The committee meets about every 6 weeks. The following people served on our committee:

- **Joe John, Council Member**
- **Henry Francis, IGAP Director**
- **Anna James, Nelson Island Consortium Representative**
- **Rose George, Elder**
- **Jimmy Wassile, Youth**
- **George John, Village Corporation and Store**
- **Joseph James, School Board**
- **Molly George, City Manager**

School Presentations: Our **Environmental Staff** met with the school classes and teachers. They educated the youth about:

- Hazardous wastes
- Recycling
- Being careful at the dump
- How the contaminants from the dump can get into our waters

Community Education and Outreach: Nelson Island fish net monitors and subsistence camp monitors speak to the hunters at our camps. They educate them about littering and toxic chemicals in the oil and gas. We learn from them what people are concerned about and what education they need. Our environmental staff, including our Nelson Island Consortium representative, went to homes to educate people about environmental issues. They talked to people at the stores. They also found out from our people what the big concerns were. This is what people are saying in our community that is related to solid waste management:

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- Need to move the old ATVs and snowmachines out of town
- People are not respectful and should be picking up their trash and bringing it to the dump.
- People do not listen to Elders. If they listened to Elders, we would not have this trash all over.