

GOALS & PRIORITY ACTIONS

Land Use, Housing & Environment

Context

Land Use

Koliganek is a visually appealing village with distinct residential areas grouped around a central cluster of public facilities. The village fronts onto the Nushagak River. Many of the houses enjoy views across the river to Ketok Mountain. Much of the upland tundra is swampy and unsuitable for construction, consequently houses tend to be located closer to the river, between the airport and the main village center, and along the creek to the west of the main village center. The old airstrip is situated just to the south of the main village center. As yet, this site has not been repurposed.



The main village center contains a K-12 school, health clinic, two general stores, the fuel storage facility and power generator and the village council building. The village council building is a very full facility that houses the post office, Bristol Bay Native Association's Early Learning Program, the Tribal Children's Service Worker office, the New Koliganek Village Council offices and EPA. It is also the primary location for village meetings. A new health clinic to provide both primary and behavioral health care will be constructed in 2006 on a lot across from the school, just north of the old airstrip. A vehicle storage and maintenance building will be constructed in 2005 and will be located on part of the old airstrip. Extending Tundra Road would increase access to this future development area.

The community water & sewer system serves all of the main residential areas and public facilities. The village plans to secure funds for an extension to serve houses located further from the village center [see Koliganek Land Use Map]. The landfill is located at the end of the road leading west from the main village center. A location for a replacement landfill is currently being sought.

The compactness of the current layout of the village keeps down the costs of providing public services, by limiting the distances that utility systems and transportation networks must traverse. As the village grows, maintaining the compact layout of the village will help the village contain costs for providing public services, and will protect surrounding subsistence areas. An additional constraint on development is the lack of suitable land for construction, due to wet tundra along the upland areas. The village identified the old airstrip as a future development area for new residential development. Koliganek's population experienced a marked increase between 1980 and 1990 from 117 to 181, but has remained stable between 1990 and 2004, increasing only from 181 to 187 over that period.

Environment

Excerpted from the Koliganek Environmental Program Work Plan, 2006 - 2007:

Koliganek has operated an active Environmental Program through the US Environmental Protection Administration's Indian General Assistance Program since January 2000 and have an approved grant for continuation funding through December 2005. Koliganek's Environmental Program has been successful in improving the health and environment of our community. The environmental office develops, plans, and establishes environmental protection programs for the village. This program has allowed the Village Council to build the basic capacity to administer an environmental protection program. The overarching goal of the program is to become more educated on environmental issues to be better able to develop and implement pollution prevention measures to respond to environmental issues as they arise. We want to continue to educate the environmental staff and the community residents to better protect our environment like our ancestors did and to keep it safe and healthy for our future generations.

Koliganek residents are very dependent on a subsistence lifestyle and utilize the fish, game, berries, and vegetation to feed their families. The community understands the need to address community pollution sources and to protect the surrounding environment for the betterment of their health. Since the Village became established at its present location, we have witnessed many lifestyle changes, some of which has impacted the environmental health of our community through the toxins found in waste. We believe education is the key instrument in keeping our environment safe and healthy for future generations, thus we hold community environmental educational meetings. Through school presentations, educating our students remains a high priority because they are the ones who will bear the responsibility of being the future shepherds and steward over our lands to ensure our environment remains healthy.

The environmental concerns identified by the community that we need to address are summarized below. Some concerns have been addressed through short-term measures but still require staff time and resources to implement, while others will require longer-term solutions and considerable resources to address.

We continue to feel there is too much trash being dumped in the landfill and this includes hazardous and toxic waste. A new landfill or expansion of the existing site is a high priority because we are on our last cell and it will be filled with in a year's time. We now have a burn box, which has helped to minimize the amount of waste and will need to be upgraded in the future. Though burning reduces the amount of waste put in the land fill we still need funding to move forward to determine if the existing landfill can be expanded and, if not, to identify alternative sites for a new landfill that meet state requirements. We have begun recycling aluminum cans and transporting our batteries and would like to continue to do so. We have hired and trained a solid waste operator to implement our solid waste issues, such as taking care of recycling, hazardous waste, and burnable items, in addition to maintaining the dumpsite.

Under the past solid waste grants we were able to purchase a connex van to house recyclable items and hazardous waste. We will need funds to transport the waste to a recycling center especially batteries. We would like to continue to recycle and transport the waste that is affecting our environment. Also we will be sorting other hazardous wastes such as antifreeze, any type of oil, paints, household cleaners and solvents. At this time we are only

separating these items from other wastes because they are not burnable and pose a significant hazard to the environment.

We need better spill response planning and prevention measures and adequate spill response materials in the event of a fuel spill. Some years ago we had an oil spill and it affected our drinking water source and the well had to be moved. We need to upgrade our aging tank farm, develop a spill response plan and maintain a roster of Hazardous Materials-certified responders, and make sure we have adequate spill response materials and protection gear. Most residents use oil heaters to heat their homes and need better education on how to prevent home heating fuel spills as well as other measures that can be taken to keep vehicle (trucks, ATVs, skiffs, etc.) waste oil from leaking into the ground or water. The Village utilizes a waste oil heater but needs to improve our used oil collection and storage system.

Some homes have individual drinking wells with such high iron content that the water is not drinkable and causes other problems. The maintenance of these private well water systems is expensive and we want everyone to have the best drinking water available. We need to find funds to get these homes connected to the community water and sewer system and to research suitable home treatment systems in the interim.

A number of fishing and hunting operations have established camps upriver and downstream from the village and use the Koliganek airport as a staging point to transport their clients. Guided and non-guided float trip operations are also common. Concerns remain about human waste and garbage disposal from these operations polluting the river and land and resulting impacts on our commercial fishing and subsistence activities.

The potential for mineral development impacting our village has become an important issue because of the Pebble Gold-Copper Project. The project is an initiative of Northern Dynasty Mines Inc. to develop, build and operate what would be the largest open-pit mine in North America. The company initiated a comprehensive environmental studies plan in 2004 and anticipated applying for permits in spring 2005. Other deposits in the Nushagak drainage, such as the NovaGold deposit in the King Salmon River and renewed interest by Cominco to resume exploration activity in the Sleitat Mountain area nearby Koliganek, make it necessary that we take an active role in the planning process. It also means developing baseline assessments, such as conducting a water quality assessment and documenting and mapping our traditional use areas.

Housing

Submitted by the Bristol Bay Housing Authority:

New Koliganek Village Council has chosen Bristol Bay Housing Authority (BBHA) as their “Tribally Designated Housing Entity.” The Bristol Bay Housing Authority was created by Alaska Statute AS 18.55.955 in 1974 to administer Low Income Housing programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The programs are governed by the terms of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act. In 1996, Congress revamped Indian Housing Programs with the passage of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

BBHA passes through to the Council one half of the “Need” funds provided by a formula allocation under NAHASDA. BBHA maintains a “Regional Pool” with the other half of the funds from each village participating in the “Pool,” and constructs new home on an annual basis from a ranked Village list. BBHA monitors sub-recipient activity for provision of

housing services and programs administered by the individual tribes who use BBHA as their Tribally Designated Housing Entity.

Under the prior 1937 Act (USHA), 18 single family homes were built in Koliganek in 2000, none of which have been conveyed to the homebuyers. Ultimately, all will transfer to the private ownership of the program participants. According to the FY05 NAHASDA funding formula, the "need" component as computed by HUD through BBHA for Koliganek is \$162,176. One half of these funds stay in a regional pool for construction of homes in accordance with a ranked regional list of villages, the other half of the funds are passed through to the Koliganek Village Council for locally administered programs, such as rehab of village residents' owned homes, and youth programs.

Koliganek's rank for FY05 in the regional pool for new single family homes funded by HUD/NAHASDA is position # 13, which would provide funding for 4 to 5 new homes for Koliganek in the next decade, assuming current levels of funding for HUD programs remain relatively stable.

There is no multi-family housing in Koliganek. BBHA will look at the feasibility of multi-family housing financed by Tax Credits through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, which is a competitive process, should the demand and waiting list exist. The project could be four-plex apartments in nature, combined with such buildings in other neighboring villages, to make the project financially feasible

There is currently no specified Elder housing in the Village. Bristol Bay Housing Authority, in cooperation with the Village Council will monitor the need and determine feasibility of such a project. Funds for such a project can come from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's "GOAL" program, which requires Senior projects to be "Named" recipients through Alaska Legislative Appropriations, other sources may include the HUD 202 (Public Housing) funds, which require a separate 501(c) 3 be set up for this purpose.

Goals

- 1. Protect and maintain healthy water quality and subsistence resources in surrounding environment.**
- 2. Ensure all residents have access to clean water.**
- 3. Maintain a clean environment in and around the village by addressing solid waste disposal and educating the community.**
- 4. Maintain a compact land use pattern to keep the cost of providing community services to a minimum.**
- 5. Ensure quality housing is available to all residents.**

Priority Actions

During the April 2005 Community Planning Workshop in Koliganek, the community identified the following six priority actions, listed in order of importance, for Land Use and Environment.

Oppose mining development to protect environment and subsistence.
Keep Native allotments in local control and support the Nushagak-Mulchatna Land Trust.
Extend water and sewer system and maintain and upgrade existing system.
Continue Recycling Program and other environmental programs.
Protect traditional hunting grounds and educate about Native Land boundaries.
Continue to support solid waste operator and good landfill management.

Participants also identified other important activities, which are listed below under the appropriate goal in order of importance.

Goals & Priority Actions

I. Protect and maintain healthy water quality and subsistence resources in surrounding environment.

Koliganek residents depend upon the health of the surrounding environment for their livelihood. Residents harvest subsistence fish and game, as well as berries and other plants, for a large portion of their diet. Many residents also engage in commercial fishing, and tourism related businesses for cash employment. For these reasons, Koliganek residents are especially concerned with threats to the health of the surrounding environment.

Possible mining development in the Iliamna-Newhalen area is a cause for great concern. The village council and corporation have passed resolutions opposing mining development. Concerns about the environmental impacts from run-off into the watershed from the Pebble Mine development, and its impacts on subsistence fishing, hunting and water quality, are the central concerns for the village on this issue.

Pressure on subsistence moose hunting from sport hunting is another area of concern. The village council is supporting residents making public testimony before the Board of Game to restrict sport hunting along a two-mile wide corridor along the Nushagak River, upriver from Koliganek. There is great concern over the number of moose being taken by sport hunters and the impact on subsistence hunting. One meeting participant said that last year 90 moose were taken by a single lodge / guide service, which was three times the number taken by the entire village population.

The Koliganek Village Corporation supports the river patrol along the Nushagak and the permitting process, which manages the sport hunting & fishing camps along the Nushagak on village corporation lands.

Priority Actions

- Oppose mining development to protect environment and subsistence.
 - Work with the Nushagak-Mulchatna Watershed Council, and other local and regional entities.
- Keep Native allotments in local control. Support the Nushagak-Mulchatna Land Trust.
- Protect traditional hunting grounds and educate outside users about village corporation land boundaries and regulations.
 - Eliminate trespass and enforce bans on hunting moose.
 - Support the River Patrol and continue to participate in the Nunamta Aulukestai (Caretakers of Our Land) group of village corporations.
 - Lobby the Board of Game to restrict sport hunting along the Nushagak corridor to ensure adequate game populations for subsistence users.
- Bring down cost of subsistence hunting and gathering by “getting back to basics” and using less fuel.

2. Ensure all residents have access to clean water.

Koliganek has a community water & sewer system but there are 14 households that use individual well & septic systems. Some of these wells do not produce good water. The community has completed a water & sewer feasibility study with ANTHC and is competing for funds to make improvements.

Priority Actions

- Extend water and sewer system to serve entire village. Maintain & upgrade existing system. Implement recommendations from the ANTHC feasibility study.
- Keep good record of water sampling and be in compliance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

3. Maintain a clean environment by addressing solid waste disposal and educating the community.

The Koliganek Environmental Program is currently working with the village council to expand the landfill. The current landfill has one cell left and a new permit to continue to operate. The council provides trash collection from houses and employs two solid waste operators. There is a burn box at the landfill, although it needs some adjustments to work properly. Some open burning still occurs. The IGAP program operates a recycling center that collects aluminum and hazardous materials. The community has been successful in getting free shipping for all toxic material from the barge company. Koliganek is the only village on the river that has secured this deal. More community education is needed to increase the amount of recycling and to decrease the presence of batteries and other toxic materials in the landfill.

Priority Actions

- Continue events and programs to keep the village clean and protect the environment such as the annual clean-up, the IGAP Program and the recycling program.
 - Implement the work plan developed by the Environmental Program.
 - Educate the community on how to minimize littering and pollution, for example, put up ‘No Littering’ signs.
- Continue to support the Water & Sewer Operator and the Solid Waste Operator positions. Certify operators and encourage continuing education.
- Locate site for new landfill. Secure funds for construction.
- Self-police to enforce environmental laws.
- Include local government, historical and environmental issues in the school curriculum, so that students can learn about relevant issues and become active participants in these areas.

4. Maintain a compact land use pattern to keep the cost of providing community services to a minimum.

Preventing development from spreading over a large area preserves subsistence areas close to the village and contains the cost of public services. The current land use pattern should be continued, with new housing development focused close to existing housing and to the village center.

Priority Actions

- Locate future public facilities close to existing facilities, for example, when school is replaced, rebuild on existing site.
- Assess the suitability for future housing development on the old airstrip.
- Develop guidelines for subdivision development that minimizes the costs of providing public services, such as keeping development compact.

5. Ensure quality housing is available to all residents.

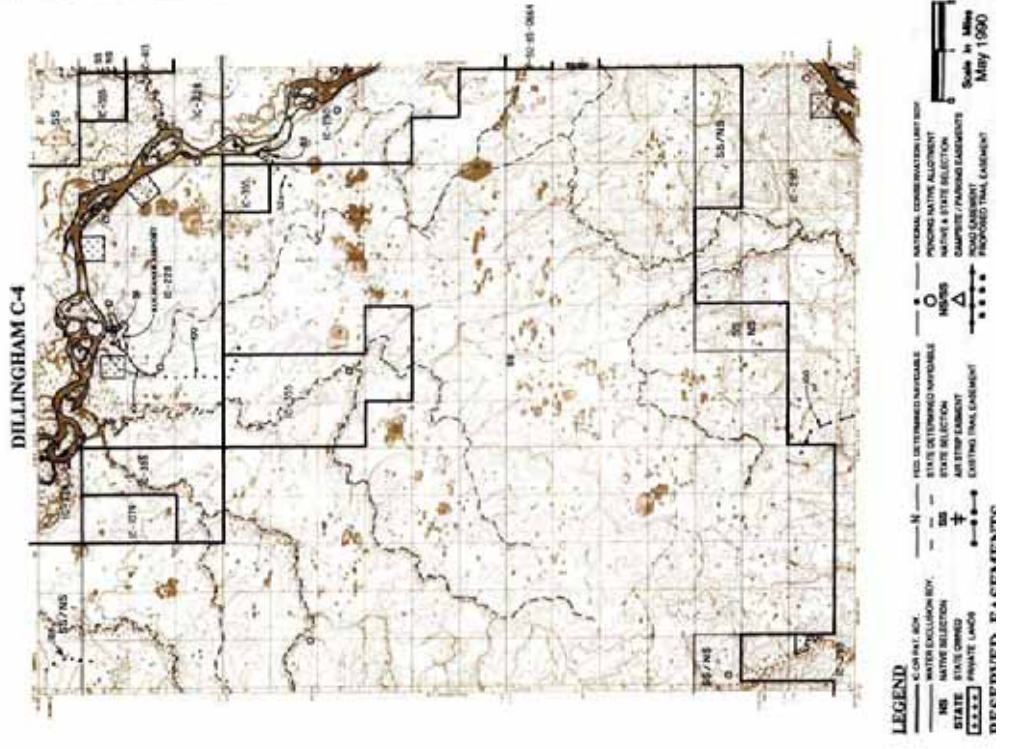
As the village grows, additional housing may be needed. Developing a variety of options for constructing, owning and renting housing encourages residents to remain in the village. Working with Bristol Bay Housing Authority is one mechanism for securing new housing. The village council could also subdivide land and make it available to residents who would like to build their own houses.

Priority Actions

- Assess demand for new housing, on a periodic basis.
- Investigate mechanisms for developing housing such as land disbursement to individuals.

Koliganek Trail Easements

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RESERVED EASEMENTS

- EIN 32 One (1) acre site on the right bank of Nushagak River.
- EIN 32a Proposed access trail from the Nushagak River westerly to public lands (25 foot trail).
- EIN 36 Access trail from the Nushagak River south to the airstrip (50 foot trail).
- EIN 101 Existing access along the road from Koliganek airstrip southwesterly to the Koliganek landfill (25 foot road easement).
- EIN 100 Proposed access trail from EIN 101 road at the landfill southeasterly to public lands (25 foot trail).
- EIN 129a Proposed access trail 7 miles west of Koliganek north to public lands (25 foot trail).

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⁵ *Bristol Bay Easement Atlas*, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water, 1990.

Community Wellness, Culture & Education

Context

Community Wellness

Koliganek residents have access to a number of services to improve behavioral and physical health. A Village Public Safety Officer, who is employed by BBNA, serves the village. Supporting the VPSO, by hiring a substitute to work while he is on leave, is a high priority for the village. Safety concerns include teaching residents, particularly youth, about gun and water safety and first aid. Increasing healthy recreation opportunities is also a high priority.



A new health clinic has completed the design phase and has secured most of the capital funds for construction. This project is planned for summer 2006. When the new health clinic is completed, the existing clinic facility will be remodeled to serve as a family resource center. This facility will include space for an arts & crafts center and a young children's room, for early childhood activities. This will also free up space in the existing village council building, which is currently overcrowded.

Koliganek is served by a number of service providers. On-site providers include:

- Primary Care Health Clinic with a Community Health Aide Practitioner (CHA/P) who provides primary health care services.
- Tribal Children's Service Worker (TCSW) - ICWA case management and family support.
- Early Learning Opportunities program - Provides center-based half- day early learning program for 3-5 year olds.
- Parents As Teachers program - Home-based services for 1-3 year olds, through Southwest Regional School District.
- BBNA childcare program - There are currently three registered in- home providers in Koliganek.

Koliganek is also served by a number of itinerate providers, including:

- Family Service Worker - based in New Stuyahok, provides behavioral health services.
- Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)- provides nutritional support for expecting mothers and children aged 0-5.
- Infant Learning Program (ILP) - provides diagnostic and therapeutic services to families of children with developmental disabilities.
- Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC) - provides itinerate primary care, public health, oral health, and behavioral health clinical services.

A 2003 planning effort through BBNA's Early Learning Opportunities Project surveyed parents and caregivers of young children and learned that older relatives care for many young children in Koliganek. Without a Head Start program, the community has identified a center-based early childhood program for 3-5 year olds as a top priority. Another identified priority was nutritional support for expecting mothers and new parents.

Culture

Koliganek residents are very proud of their Yup'ik heritage and seek to pass on Native traditions and language to younger generations. Teach subsistence activities, arts & crafts such as skin sewing and Yup'ik dancing are important priorities. Residents would like these activities to be more integrated into the school curriculum, particularly language instruction. The construction of the new family resource center, in 2006, will provide facilities for cultural classes and activities.

Education

Koliganek is part of the Southwest Regional School District and has a K-12 school with 79 students enrolled during the 2002-2003 school year. There are currently 24 students enrolled in Kindergarten through third grade. The existing facility is in need of replacement. The project is on the state priority list and is planned for design following the completion of New Stuyahok's school, which is planned for construction in 2007. The community's preference is for the existing facility to be replaced on the current site.

Currently the high school has some itinerate teachers who cycle through the schools in the district teaching core courses. Consequently, some courses are available some semesters and then are not offered again for a year or more. This means that senior high students often lack choice in scheduling courses that are necessary for graduation. The Southwest Regional School District is considering changing the itinerant system so that the permanent teachers in each school teach core subjects, and itinerate teachers are used for electives.

Some schools in the district have succeeded in securing funds to provide more computers and software for students. Koliganek School students have no access to laptops outside of the computer lab, and do not have access to up-to-date software. Many courses lack textbooks and some lack curricula for teachers to use in their classrooms.

Koliganek residents understand that many decisions about their children's education are decided at regional and statewide levels. In addition, the relationship between local residents and the school administration needs to be constantly maintained, to ensure that when staff turnover occurs, community concerns and priorities remain on the table. Koliganek has been lucky to have maintained a fairly stable cadre of teachers and administrators, including a number of local people who teach in the school. Nevertheless, local residents seek to remain engaged with education decisions.

Currently, Yup'ik language instruction is taught only in the elementary and middle school grades. This should be increased to give high school students the opportunity to become literate and fluent in a Native language. While young people in other Bristol Bay villages speak Yup'ik, many in Koliganek do not.

Goals

1. **Prepare students for success, by offering an excellent education for both college-bound and vocational-technical students.**
2. **Provide bilingual and bicultural education at every grade level.**
3. **Strengthen the relationship between the community and the school, and involve local people at local, regional and state levels of decision-making.**
4. **Improve primary and behavioral health care for all residents.**
5. **Maintain a safe and healthy village for all residents.**
6. **Provide healthy activities for youth.**
7. **Preserve Native traditions and promote local culture to the outside world.**

Priority Actions

During the April 2005 Community Planning Workshop in Koliganek, the community identified the following eight priority actions, listed in order of importance, for Community Wellness, Culture & Education.

Hire a substitute VPSO.
Teach arts and crafts in school.
Start a Boys and Girls Club.
Start Yup'ik language program for all ages.
Teach gun safety.
Increase access to the school gym.
Replace school with new building on same site.
Teach CPR and water safety.
Provide drug and alcohol abuse prevention training for youth.
Increase access to mental health and substance abuse services.

Participants also identified other important activities, which are listed below under the appropriate goal in order of importance.

Goals & Priority Actions

1. Prepare students for success by offering an excellent education for both college-bound and vocational-technical students.

Priority Actions

- Replace school with new building on same site.
- Increase funding for textbooks and classroom materials.
- Make college credit courses available to high school students.
- Support graduates in attending college with more funding and orientation to help them adjust to life in a large city.
- Have student exchange with bigger schools, other villages, and with different countries to experience a different culture and a new environment.
- Provide early childhood programs.
- Continue to employ the Special Education teacher.
- Provide summer classes and tutoring for those that need extra help.
- Increase course offerings to ensure core classes are available year round, and to provide courses in specific topics.
- Improve access to technology and full course materials.

2. Provide bilingual and bicultural education at every grade level.

Priority Actions

- Include Yup'ik language instruction & literacy in the high school curriculum.
- Investigate part-time immersion programs for young students, such as in Manokotak.
- Teach traditional arts & crafts to students.

3. Strengthen relationship between the community and the school, and involve local people at local, regional and state levels of decision-making.

Priority Actions

- Start a Koliganek Newsletter.
- Continue to recruit and employ local people as teachers. Involve the Community School Committee in teacher hiring decisions.

- Create strong family ties by encouraging parents to help children to do well in school and by helping them with homework and volunteering to supervise.
- Attend CSC meetings, regional school board and Village Council meetings.
- Encourage teachers who are from outside the community to get involved and become a part of the community.

4. Improve primary and behavioral health care for all residents.

Priority Actions

- Construct a family resource center.
- Construct a new health clinic.
- Hire an additional health aide (in progress).
- Increase Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) training.
- Provide drug and alcohol abuse prevention training for youth.
- Start a Suicide Prevention program.
- Create a Village Wellness Team and hold regular meetings.
- Hold regular sobriety meetings, A.A. and Alateen.
- Increase access to mental health and substance abuse services.

5. Maintain a safe and healthy village for all residents.

Priority Actions

- Hire a substitute VPSO.
- Teach gun safety.
- Teach CPR and water safety.
- Provide fitness classes and equipment.
- Provide safe homes for domestic violence victims.
- Start a Tribal Court with a tribal clerk and case worker.

6. Provide healthy activities for youth.

Priority Actions

- Start Boys and Girls Club.
- Increase access to school gym.

- Get more equipment for the teen center.
- Participate in summer spirit camps.
- Start an Elder and Youth Program.

7. Preserve Native traditions and promote local culture to outside world.

Priority Actions

- Teach young people good hunting skills and how to process and store traditional foods.
- Have cultural nights for Native dances, arts and crafts, and storytelling.
- Secure funding to operate a Cultural Center.

Public Facilities & Transportation

Context

Public transportation and infrastructure in Koliganek includes the airport, roads, power, water, sewer, solid waste, phone and internet, a tank farm, and maintenance equipment for roads and the airport. Koliganek's airport was recently relocated. Some future goals for the airport include paving and the need for a small shelter located at or near the airport. The increasing cost of fuel has had strong impacts on rural communities throughout Alaska. Koliganek



would like to investigate wind or hydropower generation in the future. In the meantime, the power generator is currently being upgraded. Other public infrastructure projects needed in Koliganek include extending sewer and water lines to serve all residents, identifying an appropriate site for a replacement landfill, and purchasing maintenance equipment that can be used to dig ditches for sewer and water lines and to maintain village roads, the landfill, and the road to the airport.

Public services in Koliganek include a “Code Red” program with a portable fire suppression unit that the village received from Alaska Village Initiatives. Police services include the State Troopers and a local Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). Koliganek is located in EMS region 21. Interested residents receive training from EMS programs once every two years. The New Koliganek Clinic is located in an aging building. Plans for a new clinic building have been approved and, upon securing remaining funds, the clinic will be constructed in 2006. Other public service needs in Koliganek include renovation of the Village Council Building with more adequate space for meetings, or establishing a community center that provides adequate meeting space and a youth center. There is no senior center located in Koliganek, however there is a lunch program at the school for elders as well as personal care attendants. In general, families in Koliganek care for their elders. Another public service priority is Koliganek's post office. The current building is inadequate for the village needs. Koliganek and other villages in the area belong to the zip code for Dillingham. The distance to these villages from Dillingham is problematic for postal delivery. Receiving fresh produce and other time-sensitive packages needs improvement. Koliganek needs a larger post office and its own zip code.

Education in Koliganek is provided at the Koliganek School, located in the Southwest Regional School District. Grades Kindergarten through High School are located in the Koliganek School. The current facility needs to be replaced.

The matrix on the following two pages details existing public facilities & transportation services in Koliganek.

SERVICE PROVIDER CURRENT FACILITIES ISSUES/NOTES/NEEDS

Transportation & Infrastructure			
SERVICE	PROVIDER	CURRENT FACILITIES	ISSUES/NOTES/NEEDS
Airport	DOT/PF	Maintenance building, airstrip	Airport recently relocated and constructed. Paving the airstrip is a future priority. Some residents would like a small shelter placed at the airport. There was one located there that had to be moved at the request of DOT/PF to accommodate snow plowing.
Power	New Koliganek Village Council		Village Council operates bulk fuel tank & generator. School has own tank and generator (separate). Wind or hydropower should be investigated to replace costly fuel. Power generator currently being upgraded.
Water/Sewer	New Koliganek Village Council		The current system needs to be extended to serve all residences.
Solid Waste	New Koliganek Village Council	Landfill located at west end of village.	A replacement landfill site is currently being sought. The Village Council has a solid waste operator funded by EPA.
Telephone/ Internet	Bristol Bay Telephone; GCI; AT&T	3 satellites	Located on Village Council property.
Tank Farm	New Koliganek Village Council	250,000 gallons capacity	
Maintenance Equipment	New Koliganek Village Council; DOT/PF (for airport)		Village Council owns a 350 John Deere dozer/backhoe; a 555 John Deere crawler (motor); an 850 crawler; a 316 Cat motor backhoe; an 8000 series Pacific Detroit 3.7 yard dump truck; and two Pacific Detroit flat beds. DOT/PF owns a full-size grater.

SERVICE PROVIDER CURRENT FACILITIES ISSUES/NOTES/NEEDS

Services & Facilities			
SERVICE	PROVIDER	CURRENT FACILITIES	ISSUES/NOTES/NEEDS
Fire	New Koliganek Village Council	“Code Red” Program	Have a portable fire suppression unit from the Alaska Village Initiatives program – adequate for village needs. Had training on it.
Police	State Trooper	Located in Koliganek; VPSO	One VPSO in village – adequate coverage for responding to local calls..
EMS	BBAHC	New Koliganek Clinic	Located in EMS region 21 in the Bristol Bay Region. Get training from EMS programs once every two years for whoever needs it.
Post Office	Contract	In small section of village council building	Inadequate. Need larger facility and own zip code.
Community Center	None	None	Need village council building to be renovated.
Village Council			Would like a larger facility. Sometimes use the school gym for larger meetings and projects. Exercise room, but kind of small.
Youth Center			Community priority – need a place for kids to play & hang out – might be part of the community center. Interested in sports programs.
Clinic	BBAHC	Aging facility	Denali Commission business plan approved and design complete to replace clinic. New clinic will be built in 2006 if remaining funds are secured.
Senior Center	None	None	Families care for elders. There is a lunch program at the school for elders. Personal care attendants are also available in Koliganek for elders.

Education			
K-8	Southwest Regional School District	Koliganek School	▪ Facility needs to be replaced.
Middle School	Southwest Regional School District	Koliganek School	▪ Part of K-8.
High School	Southwest Regional School District	Koliganek School	▪ Included in same building as K-8. Facility needs to be replaced.

Goals

1. **Provide and maintain quality community services and facilities.**
2. **Decrease cost of living (decrease fuel & utility costs).**
3. **Improve transportation links within village and with other communities.**

Priority Actions

During the April 2005 Community Planning Workshop in Koliganek, the community identified the following six priority actions, listed in order of importance, for Public Facilities & Transportation.

Expand post office and secure own zip code.
Improve use of alternate energy sources (hydropower, wind generation, etc.) to reduce cost of living. ⁶
Replace existing school.
Equip teen center to use as a recreation, health and fitness center.
Upgrade power plant (in progress).
Upgrade pump house and extend water/sewer system.

Participants also identified other important activities, which are listed below under the appropriate goal in order of importance.

Goals & Priority Actions

I. Provide and maintain quality community services and facilities

Priority Actions

- Expand post office and secure own zip code.
- Replace existing school.
- Equip teen center to use as a recreation, health and fitness center.
- Upgrade and extend water & sewer system.
- Continue Fire Department, upgrade fire suppressant equipment and continue training. Secure a fire truck and ambulance.
- Upgrade Community building.
- Operate a Cultural Center.
- Purchase heavy equipment.
- Maintain VPSO vehicles.

⁶ There is currently a study exploring wind power generation in Koliganek. There is a tower set up for testing winds over the next year (2005 – 2006).

2. Decrease cost of living by decreasing fuel & utility costs.

Priority Actions

- Improve use of alternate energy sources (hydropower, wind generation, etc.) to reduce cost of living.

In addition to this priority, Koliganek is currently in progress of upgrading its power plant.

3. Improve transportation links within village and with other communities.

Priority Actions

- Build a public access boat ramp to give fishermen and those traveling along the river easier access to stopping in Koliganek. This is intended to stimulate economic opportunities by creating demand for related services, such as boat mechanics (boats can stop in Koliganek to be repaired) and seasonal boat storage space.
- Improve community roads and complete a transportation plan.
- Pave runway at airport.



**From left to right:
Youth Center, Koliganek Village Council Building, Clinic, School, Tank Farm**

Economy

Context

Compared to many villages in the Dillingham Census Area, Koliganek has a fairly stable economy. The percentage of adults not in the workforce is 39%, compared with 32% for Dillingham and 28% for the state as a whole (Census 2000). For comparison, in Togiak, the largest village in Bristol Bay, 67% of adults are not in the workforce. Both median household income and median family household income are higher in Koliganek than the median for the Dillingham Census Area, but lower than for the State of Alaska. While most families in Koliganek are not struggling, cash employment and income remain difficult to come by for many village residents.



A thriving village economy, according to village planning discussions, allows residents to bring together multiple income streams, as well as allowing time to harvest subsistence foods. The three most commonly identified means for improving the village economy include:

- **Educating youth and adults so that all local jobs can be staffed with local people.** This includes heavy equipment operators, construction project managers, health clinic staff, behavioral health counselors, teachers, principals, village council administrators, environmental workers, utility plant operators, maintenance workers, mechanics, construction and trades workers, grant writers, pilots and many other occupations necessary to village life.
- **Identifying and supporting entrepreneurs to generate more local small businesses.** Some of the businesses identified during planning workshops that could be launched in Koliganek include: Laundromat, coffee & snack shop, childcare center, arts & crafts center, beauty shop, gift shop, firewood collection, bed & breakfast, sightseeing and guiding, and Internet-based employment. Small businesses are always risky and time-consuming ventures. Some additional barriers to small business development in rural villages include lack of access to start-up capital, business planning assistance and marketing.
- **Engage in value-added activities using local resources.** Village residents are very skilled at harvesting abundant local resources and processing those materials to add to their value. Traditional practices and knowledge contribute greatly to these types of ventures. For example, a local guide who has been traveling the area for his or her entire life will add enormous value to any tourism enterprise. Some examples of value-added activities include fish smoking and processing, arts & crafts production and village-based tourism. Barriers to developing value-added ventures include lack of compliant facilities for processing foods, lack of access to markets and high transportation costs.

The goals and priorities identified in this section outline a strategy for improving the economy in Koliganek. The main driver for increasing opportunities for satisfying employment is to attract and

retain young people to the village. Residents are concerned that many young people who leave the village to attend college may never return, due to a lack of employment opportunities.

Goals

- 1. Increase job and business opportunities for local residents.**
- 2. Become independent by building local capacity and training local residents.**
- 3. Develop cultural tourism and arts & crafts marketing.**

Priority Actions

During the April 2005 Community Planning Workshop in Koliganek, the community identified the following top three priority actions, for improving the village economy.

Improve opportunities for local hire.
Train and employ Koliganek residents to work as heavy equipment operators and construction jobs.
Identify and develop new job and business opportunities such as firewood collection and delivery, electrician and linemen, power plant technician, substitute VPSO, and others.

Participants also identified other important activities, which are listed below under the appropriate goal in order of importance.

Goals & Priority Actions

- 1. Increase job and business opportunities for local residents.**

Priority Actions

- Increase local hire.
- Train and employ residents in heavy equipment operation and other construction-related trades.
- Identify and develop new job and business opportunities such as firewood collection and delivery, electrician and linemen, power plant technician, substitute VPSO, and others.
- Improve Internet access and increase Internet-based employment.
- Develop childcare businesses.
- Restart school tutor program.
- Start a snack & coffee shop.
- Start a Laundromat.
- Keep commercial fish permits in local ownership.
- Start a beauty shop & gift shop.

2. Become independent by building local capacity and training local residents.

Priority Actions

- Improve vocational education training opportunities for residents and be willing to leave home to participate.
- Train and employ a village grant writer.

3. Develop cultural tourism and arts & crafts marketing.

Priority Actions

- Establish an arts & crafts and cultural center.
- Develop locally-owned tourism, sightseeing and guiding businesses.
- Use the Internet and web-based marketing to sell arts & crafts and market local businesses.
- Market cultural tourism statewide through partnerships with the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Alaska Performing Arts Center and others.

Feasibility of a Firewood Collection and Delivery Business in Koliganek, Alaska

This type of business poses an excellent opportunity for a young adult from the community seeking to start a small business. There are elders in Koliganek that would greatly benefit from firewood collection and delivery. Typically, firewood is collected outside the village by snow machine, four-wheeler or dog team. Wood is cut and then hauled back to the village. Typically, families collect their own wood. Based on current community feedback, this is a service that would in high demand. It would likely be most feasible if the person starting this business set a schedule for fire collection and delivery. Then families would know when delivery would take place. It may be less feasible and less efficient (depending on the demand, and the availability of the person starting the business) to provide an on-demand service.

Questions:

- What fee would need to be charged to cover fuel, maintenance, repairs, and other anticipated costs of doing business?
- Is this a fee that residents would be willing to pay for the service?
- How many families or individuals would want this service?
- How often would trips be made?
- What sort of schedule could be offered for families to receive firewood delivery?
- What sort of maintenance and repair schedule should be planned to assure the quality of transportation, chainsaws, sleds, etc?

Leadership

Context

By engaging in community planning, first through the Koliganek Community Strategic Plan completed in 2004, and through the current Community Comprehensive Planning process, Koliganek has taken key steps towards forming a consensus among village residents and leaders about the future of the village. Planning increases local control and communicates Koliganek's values, goals, and priorities to parties throughout the state.

At the April 2005 community workshop, residents identified the top priorities of strengthening the capacity of village organizations, and engaging youth in leadership. Residents would also like to improve the village's ability to compete for project funding.

The New Koliganek Village Council, a federally recognized tribal government, and Koliganek Natives, Ltd., the village corporation, govern Koliganek. Koliganek is a member of the Bristol Bay Native Association, the regional Native non-profit organization, the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, the regional Native for-profit. Koliganek Natives, Ltd. is a founding member of Nunamta Aulukestai (Caretakers of Our Land), a consortium of village corporations. Village residents are also active on the Nushagak-Mulchatna Watershed Council. Koliganek is located in the southwest region served by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC), the regional non-profit economic development organization for Southwest Alaska. SWAMC is one of 13 Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) whose mission is to "advance the collective interests of Southwest Alaska people, businesses, and communities".

The following describes the goals and priority actions identified by the village planning team and at the community-planning workshop in April 2005.

Goals

- 1. Strengthen existing leadership roles and skills in fulfilling organizational responsibilities; project management training; and community relations building.**
- 2. Establish opportunities and incentives to motivate local youth to take on leadership roles; widely acknowledge their achievements in the village.**
- 3. Improve ability to obtain funding for successful community projects.**

Priority Actions

During the April 2005 Community Planning Workshop in Koliganek, the community identified the following priority actions, listed in order of importance, for Leadership.

Create incentives for youth to return to the village, such as a student loan forgiveness program.
Establish a student exchange program or humanities forum program.
Get assistance from regional organizations for securing funding for projects.
Educate community about leadership: qualities of a good leader, how to promote leadership, positive word of the day, education about the process to bring a project to completion.
Encourage youth to run meetings; to learn rules of order and meeting facilitation.

Participants also identified other important activities, which are listed below under the appropriate goal in order of importance.

Goals & Priority Actions

1. Strengthen existing leadership roles and skills in fulfilling organizational responsibilities; project management training; and community relations building.

Priority Actions

- Educate community about leadership: qualities of a good leader, how to promote leadership, positive word of the day, education about the process to bring a project to completion.
- Promote accountability in village positions to ensure job responsibilities are being fulfilled.
- Encourage open communication between leaders and residents.

2. Establish opportunities and incentives to motivate local youth to take on leadership roles; widely acknowledge their achievements in the village.

Priority Actions

- Create incentives for youth to return to the village. For example, establish a student loan program for resident youth to obtain higher education outside the community in fields that will benefit Koliganek or other communities in the region. In exchange, the students would have the option of returning to the village to work (and possibly to nearby villages – to expand the number of opportunities for students to return to the region for work) in that field for five years, at which point the loan would be forgiven. The student would also have the option of not returning to the village (or region), and repaying the loan.
- Establish a student exchange program or humanities forum program.

- Encourage youth to run meetings; to learn rules of order and meeting facilitation.
- Involve students in resource development issues (e.g. Pebble Mine).
- Encourage older kids to be good role models to younger ones. Encourage older kids come back to community to share success.

3. Improve ability to obtain funding for successful community projects.

Priority Actions

- Get assistance from regional organizations for securing funding for projects.
- Document successful projects to share with funders and residents.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMARY

This section lists priority infrastructure projects by category. The following section “Implementation” gives details for the top three priority actions in each category identified in this plan.

Land Use, Housing & Environment

- Extend water & sewer system. Maintain and upgrade existing system.
- Continue solid waste management. Locate new landfill site and secure funds for new landfill.

Community Wellness, Culture & Education

- Replace school with new building on same site.
- Secure more computers & software for school.
- Construct family resource center.
- Construct new health clinic.
- Equip teen center.
- Operate a cultural center.

Public Facilities & Transportation

- Expand post office.
- Improve use of alternative energy sources (hydropower, wind generation, etc.)
- Secure equipment for health and fitness center.
- Upgrade power plant (in progress).
- Build boat ramp for improved boat storage.
- Upgrade fire suppressant equipment. Purchase a fire truck and ambulance.
- Upgrade community building.
- Purchase heavy equipment
- Emergency equipment needs include an ambulance, fire truck, and ATVs for Code Red equipment.
- Improve community roads.
- Pave runway.