NEC staff meetings look a little different this year!
AGENDA
2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, November 7, 2020 • 10:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER
   Shane Smithhisler, President

2. ROLL CALL
   Shelby Sinnok, Senior Administrative Specialist

3. INVOCATION
   Pastor Bertha Koweluk, United Methodist Church

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
   A. Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director
   B. Stephanie Blanning, Finance
   C. Cathy Lyon, Human Resources

5. NEC PROGRAM REPORTS
   A. Lori Hughes, Tribal Services
   B. Theresa Kenick, Housing
   C. Lola Tobuk, Family Services
   D. Jacob Martin, Tribal Resources & Transit
   E. Andrew McCann, Youth Services

6. ELECTION RESULTS
   Tentatively November 13, 2020

7. ADJOURNMENT

Tribal member comments should be sent to annual.meeting@necalaska.org or by phone 907-443-2246
Leora Kenick, Harold Ahmasuk Jr., and Esther and Josie Bourdon were among about 40 elders who were surprised with a gift of muktuk, shared by Delma Apassingok of Gambell to NEC for distribution to elders.
1) CALL TO ORDER – Tribal Council President Shane Smithhisler called the meeting to order at 10:09 A.M.

2) ROLL CALL – Cathy Lyon conducted the roll call. A quorum was established as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
<th>Excused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shane Smithhisler</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Bahnke</td>
<td>✔️ (10:10 A.M.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathew Michels</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary David</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloria Karmun</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeanette Koelsch</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amber Otton</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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3) INVOCATION – Pastor Bertha Koweluk, presented the invocation.

4) INTRODUCTION OF STAFF & GUESTS
   a. Shane Smithhisler, Tribal Council President; Mathew Michels, Secretary/Treasurer; Gloria Karmun, Member; Jeanette Koelsch, Member; Kevin Bahnke, Vice President; Mary David, Member; Amber Otton, Member. (staff present: Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director; Cathy Lyon, Human Resources Manager; Shelby Sinnok, Administrative Specialist; Stephanie Blanning, Accountant; Toni Smith, Accounting Specialist; Edward Omedelina, Custodian; Jacob Martin, Tribal Resource Director; Teresa Trigg, Climate Adaptation Plan Assistant, Orlin Gologergen, Environmental Intern; Theresa Kenick, Housing Specialist; Paul Hukill, Carpenter; Bivers Gologergen, Foreman; Ali Wykis, ICWA Specialist II (based in Anchorage); Lola Tobuk, Family Services Director; Dawn Warnke, Tribal Services Director; Tara Richards, Tribal Services Specialist.
   b. Melanie Bahnke, President of Kawerak, Inc.
   c. Angie Gorn, President & CEO of NSHC
   d. Mike Heintzelman, Nome Police Department

5) HONORING ALFRED SAHLIN, PAST NEC COUNCIL MEMBER
   a. Moment of Silence
6) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: GLORIA KARMUN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. MATHEW MICHELS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

7) Guest Presentations
   a. Angela Gorn, President & CEO of NSHC
   b. Mike Heintzelman, Deputy Chief of Police; Sharon Sparks DV/SA Advocate
   c. Melanie Bahnke, President of Kawerak, Inc.
   d. Cheri McConnell, Tribal Affairs Program Director at Kawerak, Inc.

Lunch Break Recess at 12:11 P.M. Back on record at 1:00 P.M.

8) APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 3, 2018 MINUTES
   I. Page 2 of 4, Line 41: Received to received

MOTION: KEVIN BAHNKE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED. MATHEW MICHELS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

9) NEC PROGRAM REPORTS:
   a. Theresa Kenick, Housing
   b. Lola Stepelin, Family Services
   c. Dawn Warnke, Tribal Services
   d. Jacob Martin, Tribal Resources & Transit
   e. Ali Wykis, Tribal Court
   f. Tiffany Martinson, Youth Services

MOTION: KEVIN BAHNKE MOVED TO APPROVE ALL OF THE PROGRAM REPORTS AS A BLOCK. GLORIA KARMUN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

10) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:
    a. Tiffany Martinson, Executive Director
    b. Stephanie Blanning, Accountant
    c. Cathy Lyon, Human Resources

MOTION: MATHEW MICHELS MOVED TO APPROVE ALL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AS A BLOCK. KEVIN BAHNKE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

11) NEW BUSINESS
    a. Mary David, US Census update
    b. Elder/Youth Representative to the Tribal Council
MOTION: PEGGY SHERMAN-LUCE MOVED TO APPROVE ELDER & YOUTH NON-VOTING SEATS TO THE TRIBAL COUNCIL. AUSTIN AHMASUK SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

12) ELECTION RESULTS – Presented by Tribal Council President Shane Smithhisler

SHANE SMITHHISLER: NEC has two (2) seats open for election. There were three (3) candidates who were eligible to run. There was a total of 72 voters this year. Kevin Bahnke received 61 votes, Shane Smithhisler received 55 votes, Louis Green Jr. received 20 votes.

NEWLY ELECTED TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE INCUMBENTS KEVIN BAHNKE AND SHANE SMITHHISLER.

MOTION: MATHEW MICHELS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ELECTION RESULTS. MARY DAVID SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

13) MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

Sharon Sparks: Congratulations Shane and Kevin. Would like to request tribal members be invited to internal trainings and be included in the strategic planning. For the purpose of a united voice to address city issues to the city Council. It is important to advocate for tribal members to be foster parents.

Austin Ahmasuk: Congratulations Kevin and Shane. Attended City Council meetings our tribe is mentioned continually, our tribe contributes to our community. The city is a destroyer of Alaska Native people, lands, see that with the port expansion, sand spit was destroyed. The City tried to outlaw hunting at the port, Nome should be a zone of peace. Our moose hunt is a two-day hunting and does not respect our way of life.

Barb Amarok: Thank you Sharon appreciate what you said, also appreciate Chuck’s request for a message to the City Council with a statement addressing the response to Sexual Assault cases in Nome. Appreciate Austin speaking about the port expansion, this is said to be a positive thing, no discussion on the dangers.

Chuck Fagerstrom: Would like to hear from our Tribal Directors on the public safety issue, would like to see that done in a week or two weeks.

MOTION: THE NEC TRIBAL COUNCIL HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC SAFETY IN NOME AND SUPPORT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR MORE FUNDING, AND MORE STAFF AND DEVELOP A WAGE BASE SO THAT WE KEEP EMPLOYEES FOR THE LONG TERM. BARB AMAROK SECONDED.
AMENDED MOTION: AMENDED BY PEGGY SHERMAN-LUCE TO INCLUDE SAFETY AT THE SCHOOLS. BARB AMAROK SECOND. MOTION CARRIED.

Albert Johnson: The NEC meeting should be devoted to NEC. I have no problem with NSHC and Kawaiak doing a presentation but it took 1½ hours.

Becka Baker: With all due respect to Albert Johnson, NEC has representatives on the NSHC and Kawaiak board, and I appreciate hearing from them.

Bobby Bahnke: Does anyone check the ocean bottom with all these miners sucking up the ocean ground, and plant life?

Jacob Martin: I see the land permits the state sends to me, has contact information for DNR person here, he is the supposed to be the person to get in touch with.

Vanessa Tahbone: Thank NEC for support for coaching NYO and for fundraising. Talking with our energy specialist at Kawaiak, would like to know if NEC would be interested in energy pilot project.

Louise Bauman: The Nome Nugget had an article about fish and game report CDQ for the crab was 78,000 pounds shy of the quota, would like to see if that could be investigated.

Chuck Fagerstrom: Last year we wanted to get funding for youth dancers, to fund regalia attire. Felt confident that we could have received funding through the Rasmussen foundation, nothing has happened, would like that to be a priority.

Tiffany Martinson: Roy was here and invited us to apply, unfortunately the funds were depleted, we will continue to work with youth dance group.

Lola Stepetin: I’m happy to see the positive changes to our election process, 18 and over can vote. Positive things are happening, attribute that to the current administration, and council support.

Crystal Lie: Thankful for NEC and all their support, housing, scholarships, preschool and sumumcrise and to all our council members I trust that you are there for the right reasons, thank you.

Dana Warnke: How wonderful it would be to bring back bingo.

Beverly Tran: How can we get people who do not vote who do not live here.
Shane Smithhisler: Typically, it was the cost, Tiffany has been working diligently to get more voter turnout from the membership.

Jeanette Koelsch: It’s our ordinance that guides that.

Tiffany Martinson: NEC had staff available to help with those who needed assistance to vote.

Vanessa Tahbone: Would like to see a Committee to increase voter turnout.

MOTION: VANESSA TAHBONE MOVED TO CREATE A COMMITTEE, OPEN TO MEMBERS FOR INCREASING VOTING TURNOUT. BEVERLY TRAN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

14) TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jeanette Koelsch: Thank Tiffany and staff they are doing great work, see united work with the city, need volunteers, reach out to people to help volunteer. Thank you.

Mary David: Thank you for coming, staff here are dedicated. Thanks those who voiced their concerns. We have an awesome tribal council, look out for the best interest of our members. We tribal council members, and as citizens of Nome consider public safety is a concern, particularly the cases sitting on a desk and not being addressed, I will be an advocate. Other organizations cannot handle issues all alone. Public safety is one of those issues. Thank everyone, all staff, and those that donated door prizes.

Mathew Michels: Thank you to all staff, indigenous women missing, if you see something say something. Shouldn’t be a woman’s responsibility to keep them safe, we need to teach our children to be men. Appreciate the opportunity to represent NEC we get along with one another, NEC is doing a lot of good works.

Shane Smithhisler: Thank everyone for attending. Annual meetings are getting better, appreciate members coming and giving feedback. This was a productive meeting and I look forward to the next one.

Kevin Bahnke: Thank you for the turnout, there has been a lot of feedback. We do support our City, if you like to see things change, let your voice be heard.

Gloria Karmun: Thank you for coming, good to see everyone here. Surely, we can support NPD and other entities. The Chief was here at our meeting, thank you. I appreciate the young people dancing. Appreciate the small touches on the table. We heard your road construction concerns, I value and appreciate NSHC and Kawerak reports. If you ever get a
chance go to a Kawerak meeting they do so much to help this region. Congratulations Shane and Kevin.

**Amber Otton:** Appreciate your comment Chuck, NPD needs grant writer. Public apologies from public entities has helped to build trust. Volunteers are hard to come by, watching out for each other would help the police department. Like the idea of having our members involved in our strategic plan. Congratulations to Kevin and Shane.

**MOTION:** MATHEW MICHELS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M. CHUCK FAGERSTROM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

PASSED and ACCEPTED on this 7th day of November 2020 with the following votes:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>ABSENT</td>
<td>ABSTAIN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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__________________________________________________________

Shane Smithhisler,  
President  
NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY

Mathew Michels,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY
The year 2020 has brought great challenge and adversity. NEC staff genuinely did our best to navigate through the coronavirus pandemic and meet the needs of all our tribal members. I’d like to recognize our amazing employees for their efforts and the hard work that was required to continue services, minimize disruption of operations and find a balance in order to deliver regular programs and meet the increased volume of work associated with the emergency financial assistance programs. You really made a tremendous difference and thank you for all that you do!

TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

NEC has a funding agreement with Federal Highway Administration for comprehensive transportation planning, research, design, engineering, construction and maintenance of highway, road bridge, parkway or transit facility programs or projects located in our service area. The amount of funding varies and funding amounts are included in the finance report.

NEC has a very active Transportation Committee, a subcommittee of the Tribal Council, to help guide our activities and goals. The committee includes Shane Smithhisler, Mathew Michels, Kevin Bahnke, and Jeannette Koelsch. Here are a few important activities that occurred this year:

(1) In partnership with the City of Nome, NEC is identifying roads improvement projects for 2021.

(2) NEC has applied for a Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund grant to complete a safety audit for the elementary school and update NEC’s Safety Plan. Awards should be announced after the new year.

(3) NEC is actively involved in conversations regarding the Port of Nome Expansion Feasibility Study with Nome Harbormaster Joy Baker and the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure the tribe’s interests are recognized and addressed as the project progresses.

(4) The City of Nome and NEC applied for a Department of Transportation BUILD grant for construction of the Snake River Moorage Facility. The application was not successful.

(5) We received a Competitive Tribal Transportation Grant to update the Tribal Transit Plan.

(6) NEC received financial contributions from NSHC and the City of Nome’s NSEDC Community Benefit Share to support transit operations, which is greatly appreciated.
## NEC 2020 Accomplishments by Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMINISTRATION</strong></td>
<td>Selected Bristol Engineering Services Company, LLC, as NEC’s professional engineering firm to assist NEC’s Transportation Program.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Created the ability for employees to work from home, and improved safety policies and safety training to reopen the office.</td>
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<td>Launched new online newsletter.</td>
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<td>Developed new online/mail-in ballot voting opportunities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Concluded a successful 2019 financial audit with no findings.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Updated NEC’s Employee Handbook, as well as the Housing, Youth, Tribal Services and Tribal Council policies.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developed NEC’s CARES Act program.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Upgraded to Microsoft 365 and our new email system.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgraded accounting software and timekeeping system.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSING</strong></td>
<td>Served more clients in response to the pandemic.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRIBAL SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>Doubled the higher education scholarship for fall 2020 in response to the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Served more clients in response to the pandemic.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH</strong></td>
<td>Received a one-year extension for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) FY19 funds.</td>
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<td>Introduced the in-home relative provider program.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Offered youth subsistence adventure kits in the absence of the Outdoors Club program.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FAMILY SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>Received a new three-year grant for nearly $100,000 annually to support prevention and outreach services to tribal children and families to prevent the break-up of families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Added new tribal-state compact scopes of work: Diligent relative/ongoing placement search, licensing assistance, and safety evaluation walk-throughs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSIT</strong></td>
<td>Received a new competitive tribal transit grant to update NEC’s tribal transit plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRIBAL RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td>Conducted fieldwork and gathered over 2,350 points of water quality data.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Began beach trash prevention by offering trash containers, thanks to City of Nome and Sitnasuak Native Corporation.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hired an assistant, Devan Otton, who was able to assist with Beach Cleanup and removal of over 3,500 pounds of scrap metal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARES ACT FUNDING</strong></td>
<td>Title IV-B Child Welfare, Tribal Transit, Child Care Development Fund, NAHASDA, NSHC COVID-19 Wellness, Treasury Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
See the facing page for a summary of NEC’s accomplishments during the past year.

GOALS FOR 2021
Our goals for the coming year are the following:

(1) Ensure required CRF Treasury reporting is complete and that all requirements are met, and close out all CARES Act funding.

(2) Create and implement a plan for BIA CARES Act funding.

(3) Formal training for the Tribal Council, and management training for staff.

(4) Implementation an upgraded Tribal ID to meet TSA requirements.

(5) Employee compensation review and revised structure.

(6) Housing needs assessment.

(7) Develop projects for FHWA funding.

(8) Complete implementation of adding NEC as a partner in MyCache, an online higher education scholarship application shared with other local and regional scholarship funders.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC
NEC’s offices closed to the public on March 18, 2020, due to stay-at-home orders, travel restrictions and safety concerns related to the pandemic. In preparation for closure, staff had already been working on mobilizing our workforce to minimize disruption in service. After administration had time to implement supplemental safety policies and ensure we had adequate PPE and cleaning supplies, NEC began safely recalling our workforce in June. Our recall occurred in phases and by August, all staff were back to work full-time in Nome. Due to local recommendations in Anchorage, our staff continue to work from home and will do so until those recommendations are lifted.

NEC offices are closed to the public for safety reasons. In-person assistance is available by appointment. Visitors must complete a simple health screening that includes a short health questionnaire and a temperature reading prior to entering the building.

We would like to recognize the City of Nome, the members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (includes local responders such as the City, NPD, NVFD, NSHC, SOA Public Health, NPS and NEC), and the leadership at Norton Sound Health Corporation—particularly Dr. Peterson and his team for the leadership they provided to our region during such a difficult time.

CARES ACT FUNDING
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. This act included a $2 trillion economic relief package. Through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), the CARES Act provided payments to state, local and tribal governments to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. CRF provided NEC with a significant amount of funding.

CRF funding can only be used to support activities that:

(1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19);

(2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the state or government; and

(3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

It was important to the Tribal Council and administration to provide an opportunity for our tribal members to provide input on the use of the funds. Members were invited to provide comments by email, and a series of listening sessions were offered to give members an opportunity to provide comments directly to the Tribal Council. Also, a planning committee was formed that included two seats for interested tribal members who were not on the Tribal Council. The purpose of the committee is to review comments.
NEC’s CARES Act Fund Balances as of October 28, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARES ACT AWARDS</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>RECEIVED</th>
<th>SPENT</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title IV-B Child Welfare</td>
<td>Family Services</td>
<td>$1,234.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,234.00</td>
<td>9/30/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Transit</td>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>$3,497.00</td>
<td>$3,497.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Development Fund</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>$68,108.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$68,108.00</td>
<td>9/30/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAHASDA</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$231,019.00</td>
<td>$202,637.00</td>
<td>$28,382.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*NSHC COVID-19 Wellness</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$6,118.00</td>
<td>$3,882.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*U.S. Treasury Department</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$5,389,400.00</td>
<td>$2,092,528.00</td>
<td>$3,196,872.00</td>
<td>12/30/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Bureau Of Indian Affairs</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$1,002,659.00</td>
<td>$10,705.00</td>
<td>$991,954.00</td>
<td>9/30/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,705,917.00</td>
<td>$2,315,485.00</td>
<td>$4,290,432.00</td>
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*Treasury, BIA and NSHC funding was not restricted to NEC’s service area of Nome, AK, and the use could be determined by tribal priorities. All other funding is restricted and program-specific.

NEC’s CARES Act Fund Distributions as of October 28, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEC CARES ACT EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS</th>
<th>PAYMENTS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coronavirus Emergency Financial Assistance Grant Program</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>$1,826,110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Housing Assistance</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>$80,115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Welfare Assistance</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>$36,628.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student &amp; Post-Secondary Student Support Program</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Assistance Program</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assistance provided since 10/28/20</td>
<td>1,011</td>
<td>$2,017,853.74</td>
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that were submitted by the tribal membership, establish priorities, and create emergency financial assistance programs.

The priorities that were identified included:

(1) Provide emergency financial assistance to all members regardless of residence.

(2) Ensure our youth have support to be successful in school, especially if distance learning was required.

(3) Ensure operational needs are addressed to continue operations safely in order to meet the needs of our tribal membership.

CRF PROGRAMS

Treasury funding was used to support the following programs:

(1) **Cleaning Supplies.** Early in the pandemic, there was a shortage of cleaning supplies globally. Administration was directed to purchase supplies to ensure we had products available in Nome. Products were first made available to our elders and those who were immuno-compromised in Nome, then shared with others who needed them. Cleaning supplies are still available to those who are in need in Nome.

(2) **Mask Project.** In partnership with Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, NEC had fabric face masks made for the community. We also received 5,000 fabric face coverings from FEMA that are available.
(3) **Coronavirus Emergency Financial Assistance Grant Program.** This is a one-time financial assistance grant program to support NEC tribal member households that experienced added or increased expenses and were financially impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

(4) **Emergency Housing Assistance.** This program provides eligible low-income applicants with temporary emergency financial assistance to avoid displacement due to loss of income, reduction in hours or lack of employment because of the coronavirus pandemic.

(5) **Emergency Welfare Assistance.** This program provides temporary financial assistance for essential needs—primarily food, childcare, and mortgage assistance to avoid displacement due to loss of income, reduction in hours or lack of employment because of the coronavirus pandemic.

(6) **Student & Post-Secondary Student Support.** This program offers a one-time emergency financial assistance grant for added or increased educational expenses because of the coronavirus pandemic.

(7) **Internet Assistance.** This program offers internet assistance to eligible applicants who experienced increased expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of distance learning, telehealth, or telework.

(8) **Small Business and Artisan Assistance.** Creation of this program is in progress, with details to be announced.

**FINANCE**

*Stephanie Blanning, Accountant*

**FINANCE STAFF**

» Stephanie Blanning, Accountant

» Toni Smith, Accounts Payable Specialist

**2019 FINANCIAL AUDIT**

Clay Table Accounting completed NEC’s 2019 single audit. The NEC Tribal Council accepted the financial audit on July 16, 2020, and again, NEC qualified as a low-risk auditee and there were no audit findings. This spring we will be sending out RFPs to auditors in Alaska to secure another three-year contract.

**INDIRECT COST RATES**

NEC charges an indirect expense to our grants and awards, which is how our administration is funded. We go through a yearly negotiation process to secure these rates. Our provisional rates for 2020 are 69.23% BIA Compact and 26.26% “other” grants, as well as a 10% pass-through for contracts, scholarships, client assistance, etc.

**INVESTMENTS**

UBS is one of the largest wealth managers in the world. In May 2019 they were secured to manage NEC’s funds, which are distributed in three different fund types described below. Each of the three accounts has a different purpose for the funds. Along with that comes a different time horizon and risk tolerance. All three accounts share a goal to achieve the highest return given the level of risk. By investing these funds, NEC plans to secure resources for future programs and services for our members and community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments to date</th>
<th>$2,288,617.44</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance as of Sept. 30, 2020</td>
<td>$2,418,641.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain of</td>
<td>$130,024.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) **Short Term Fund.** This account was established for short-term needs. The goal is to earn a better interest rate on a short-term basis (under one-year time horizon). The current allocation is 100% certificates of deposit and institutional money market.

(2) **Capital Fund.** This account’s goal is to invest for a longer time period to take advantage of higher returns, while having the fund available for potential use for opportunities that may arise. The investments have an intermediate-to-10-year time horizon. Currently the allocation is 35% equities, 60% fixed income, 4% other, and 2% cash.

  • From when the account was established in May 2019 – December 2019, the Capital Fund was up 7.84% net of fees. Year-to-date through September 30, 2020, it was up 3.61% net of fees.

(3) **Long Term Fund.** This account’s goal is to invest for the longest time horizon, with slightly more weighting in equities to achieve a higher return over a longer period. For this perpetuity time horizon, the current allocation is 53% equities, 41% fixed income, 4% other, and 2% cash.

  • From when the account was established in May 2019 – December 2019, the Long Term Fund was up 9.15% net of fees. Year-to-date through September 30, 2020, it was up 1.79% net of fees.

UBS with Tammy Head, our fund manager, has expertise and long-standing relationships in Alaska with Alaska regional corporations, foundations, settlement trusts, hospitals and tribal entities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANT AWARDING AGENCY</th>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>AWARD AMOUNT FY 2019</th>
<th>AWARD AMOUNT FY 2020</th>
<th>AWARD AMOUNT FY 2021</th>
<th>ESTIMATED 2021 OPERATING BUDGET</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norton Sound Health Corporation</td>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highways Administration</td>
<td>Tribal Transportation Program</td>
<td>$273,890</td>
<td>$265,369</td>
<td>$265,369</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Spending remaining 2017 &amp; 2018 funds in 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norton Sound Health Corporation</td>
<td>COVID-19 / Wellness</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of the Treasury</td>
<td>Coronavirus Relief Fund</td>
<td>$5,349,323</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spend by 12/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIA Office of Self Governance</td>
<td>BIA CARES</td>
<td>$1,002,659</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$987,659</td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIA Office of Self Governance</td>
<td>BIA Compact - Tribal Operations, Education, ICWA, Welfare Assistance, JOM, Tribal Court</td>
<td>$1,388,892</td>
<td>$1,149,770</td>
<td>$1,149,770</td>
<td>$1,149,770</td>
<td>FY19 includes one-time Tribal Court funds. FY21 based on prior year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIA Department of the Interior</td>
<td>BIA Special Projects: Child Abuse Prevention</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>Special Projects awarded when available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Alaska - Department of Health &amp; Social Services</td>
<td>TITLE IV-E Reimbursement</td>
<td>$106,095</td>
<td>$93,998</td>
<td>$93,998</td>
<td>$93,998</td>
<td>FY21 estimate based on FY20 reimbursement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Alaska - Department of Health &amp; Social Services</td>
<td>Diligent Relative Search &amp; Indian Child Welfare</td>
<td>$94,978</td>
<td>$88,094</td>
<td>$72,829</td>
<td>$72,829</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children &amp; Families</td>
<td>TITLE IV-B Child Welfare Social Services</td>
<td>$24,020</td>
<td>$23,022</td>
<td>$23,022</td>
<td>$23,022</td>
<td>Estimated budget based on prior year’s award amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Alaska - Department of Health &amp; Social Services</td>
<td>TITLE IV-E Family 1st Prevention Services (FFPS)</td>
<td>$94,987</td>
<td>$94,987</td>
<td>$94,987</td>
<td>$94,987</td>
<td>FY20 year 1 of 3-year award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children &amp; Families</td>
<td>TITLE IV-B Family 1st Prevention Services (FFPS)</td>
<td>$20,740</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20,740</td>
<td>One-time funds being spent in 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children &amp; Families</td>
<td>TITLE IV-B Child Welfare Services CARES Act</td>
<td>$1,234</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,234</td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development - Alaska Office of Native American Programs</td>
<td>NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant - Weatherization, Rental Assistance</td>
<td>$699,521</td>
<td>$755,686</td>
<td>$768,532</td>
<td>$770,000</td>
<td>Spending the remaining 2019 + 2020 in 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Schedule of Grant Awards (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANT AWARDING AGENCY</th>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>AWARD AMOUNT FY 2019</th>
<th>AWARD AMOUNT FY 2020</th>
<th>AWARD AMOUNT FY 2021</th>
<th>ESTIMATED 2021 OPERATING BUDGET</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development - Alaska Office of Native American Programs</td>
<td>NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant - CARES Act Funds</td>
<td>$231,019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIA Department of the Interior</td>
<td>BIA Special Projects: Reindeer Youth Summit</td>
<td>$53,031</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>Special Projects awarded when available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP)</td>
<td>NEC Environmental Program</td>
<td>$130,980</td>
<td>$117,580</td>
<td>$117,350</td>
<td>$117,350</td>
<td>FY19 had one-time additional funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norton Sound Health Corporation</td>
<td>Tribal Transit Program Support</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,851</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Nome</td>
<td>NSEDC Community Benefits Share Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>$18,862</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Used for Transit Program support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Transit Authority</td>
<td>Tribal Transit</td>
<td>$5,166</td>
<td>$13,251</td>
<td>$3,801</td>
<td>$11,251.00</td>
<td>FY20 includes 2 awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Transit Authority</td>
<td>Tribal Transit CARES Act Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,497</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Museum &amp; Library Services</td>
<td>Native American Library Services</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Pass-through funds to City of Nome library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawerak Childcare</td>
<td>After School Activities</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children &amp; Families</td>
<td>Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)</td>
<td>$255,975</td>
<td>$255,975</td>
<td>$355,975</td>
<td>Estimated award for 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children &amp; Families</td>
<td>CCDF CARES</td>
<td>$68,108</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One-time funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,078,957</td>
<td>$9,616,525</td>
<td>$2,883,133</td>
<td>$4,078,423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACCOUNTING UPGRADES
An accounting system upgrade was approved by the Tribal Council at the July meeting. This upgrade will take place mid-November going into December and includes a timeclock system which replaces manually-tracked paper timesheets. It also includes a web portal access which will allow better accounting functions for any remote working needs due to office or school closures.

SCHEDULE OF AWARDS
A schedule of NEC’s grant awards for years 2019-2021 with a projected operating budget for 2021 appears on pages 14-15. We have had no major loss in funds but we do have increases and decreases in award amounts from year to year, which is expected. We have not had to return any funds due to non-spending and have been successful in fully expending and closing out our grants and awards by their deadlines.

HUMAN RESOURCES
Cathy Lyon, Manager
Below is a summary of activities of NEC’s Human Resources Department for the past year:

» This year NEC recruited for eight positions: deputy director, Youth Services manager, environmental intern, summer intern, ICWA specialist II, ICWA coordinator, office assistant, and on-call transit driver.

» We reviewed HR files documentation and assisted supervisors with providing timely evaluations and merit increases. Worked with staff with personnel issues, assisting with interpreting and understanding policies, and provided orientation. Provided Safety Policy training, reviewed incident reports, conducted employee interviews, and reviewed precautions for staff for reopening safely.

» We assisted employees with insurance claims or medical plan updates and system administration. Completed annual insurance renewals. Assisted staff with Workers’ Compensation reports. Completed employer reports.

» We worked with our insurance carrier to complete a liability audit and preliminary audit for 2020. Assisted the carrier to review workers’ compensation information to complete class coding.

» We provided an overview of Tribal Services policies to new staff. Provided guidance on reporting requirements. Provided coverage during vacancy as needed for General Assistance and Higher Education. Provided Tribal Council support. Provided support to Tribal Enrollment Officer and guidance.

» We coordinated building maintenance issues and annual safety precautions, replaced a copier, and reviewed the new phone system information.

» NEC has 15 employees: 14 regular full-time employees and one regular part-time employee. Of our employees, 53 percent are NEC tribal members and 87 percent are Alaska Native or Native Americans.

CURRENT NEC STAFF VACANCIES
» ICWA Coordinator (Anchorage)
» ICWA Specialist II (Nome)
» Tribal Services Case Manager (Nome)
TRIBAL SERVICES

Lori Hughes, Deputy Director

The Tribal Services Department assists tribal members to become self-sufficient by providing financial assistance for general needs, higher education, vocational training, and employment services.

TRIBAL SERVICES STAFF
» Lori Hughes, Deputy Director
» Vacant, Tribal Services Case Manager

FUNDING

Tribal Services programs are part of NEC’s Compact of Self-Governance between NEC and the United States of America. The compact authorizes NEC to provide programs, activities, functions and services on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as determined by tribal priorities.

The Welfare, Burial, Emergency and Direct Employment Assistance reporting period is October 1 – September 30 annually. The Higher Education and Vocational Training reporting period is January 1 – December 31 annually.

» Welfare Assistance. This program provides temporary financial assistance to meet the essential needs for Alaska Natives/American Indian from out of our region and for NEC tribal members who reside in the Nome Service Area. There were 34 applicants, and 15 were approved. Sixteen applicants were not approved because they were either over income, had no unmet need, or submitted an incomplete application. Staff have 30 days to receive documents to make a determination of eligibility.

» Burial Assistance. This program provides financial assistance for funeral expenses for which other financial resources are unavailable. There were five applicants, and one was approved. The four applicants not approved either had not enrolled with NEC, the deceased family members received assistance from other organizations, or the applicants didn’t apply as required at the Department of Public Assistance.

» Emergency Assistance. This program is available in cases of a fire in a home or natural disaster situations like flooding. No applications were received.

» Direct Employment Assistance. This program is available to eligible applicants who require financial assistance for transitional needs to secure and/or retain employment in the Nome service area. There were seven applicants; all seven were approved.

» Higher Education. This program provides scholarship funds to students who pursue education by enrollment in an associate or bachelor’s degree program. Scholarships are made available to students enrolled in a master’s degree program as long as funds are available. There were 58 applicants for the spring semester/winter quarter. Of these, 53 were funded and five were not funded due to being on probation. Six students applied for scholarships for the summer term, and all six were funded. Sixty-three students applied for fall semester scholarships. Of those, 62 were funded. One was not, due to classes being cancelled. A total of 127 students applied for our scholarships, with 121 students receiving funding. For fall 2020, we doubled the usual scholarship amounts.

» Vocational Training Assistance. This program is for students who wish to increase job skills necessary to obtain or retain employment through certified vocational programs. We received three applications, and all three were approved for assistance.

NORTON SOUND WELLNESS GRANT

The NSHC Wellness Grant funds NEC’s Condolence program that offers $150 when a tribal member passes away. In 2020, NEC assisted six families with this program.

NSEDC

We receive pass-through donations from NSEDC to distribute to regional residents for bereavement ($500) and medical hardship ($250). Six families received the bereavement donation.

HIGHER EDUCATION MYCACHE UPDATE

NEC staff has been working with the MyCache web developer to have our organizational profile added to the site by early December. We plan to use our normal paper application process for the spring 2021 application period, and our new MyCache online application process for the summer 2021 application period. We are very excited to join MyCache, a one-stop-shop website that gives enrolled tribal students a way to apply online for higher education assistance to other Bering Strait regional entities in one place. Applicants create a profile and upload and save required documents at the site. Still in the early planning development stages: The MyCache entities are working with the web developer to create a MyCache app, which would allow students to apply on their mobile devices. The entities are also working towards having one universal application. The goal of working towards these updates is to enhance and make the application process even more accessible to students.
HOUSING

Theresa Kenick, Housing Specialist

HOUSING STAFF
  » Theresa Kenick, Housing Specialist
  » Bivers Gologergen, Foreman

FUNDING

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) reorganized the system of housing assistance provided to Native Americans through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The two programs authorized for Indian tribes under NAHASDA are the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG), which is a formula-based grant program, and Title VI Loan Guarantee, which provides financing guarantees to Indian tribes for private market loans to develop affordable housing. NEC participates in the IHBG. Regulations are published at 24 CFR Part 1000.

We received the NAHASDA award letter announcing $755,686 for FY2020. This was an increase of $56,165 over the $699,521 received in FY2019.

INDIAN HOUSING PLAN

Each year, NEC is required to submit an Indian Housing Plan (IHP) that identifies what programs NEC will offer in the upcoming year (January-December). The FY2020 IHP was submitted to the HUD office in October 2020. The 2020 Annual Performance Review (APR), which is an annual report of activities, is due by January 30 of the following year.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

NEC’s Rental Assistance Program was created to assist low-income tribal members with monthly rent. To ensure sustainability and affordability, eligibility is limited to members who are elders 62 and older, members with disabilities, or caregivers of members with disabilities. Currently we have 10 clients: eight elders, one caregiver, and one medical. Currently we have no applications on the waiting list. We extended all clients’ contracts to December 31, 2020.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

This program offers $100,000 for labor and materials to enhance the energy efficiency of eligible low-income homes in the Nome service area. NEC budgets for six projects per year if funding allows. Priority is based on three issues: (1) the date of the initial application; (2) the date the application is complete, and (3) the overall safety of the home. Currently we have five pending applications on the waiting list. These applications are incomplete, need updated income verification, or need a copy of the home ownership documentation. We are currently understaffed with one foreman, on hold until it’s safe to return to construction for this program.

FAMILY SERVICES

Lola Tobuk, Director - Anchorage

FAMILY SERVICES STAFF
  » Lola Tobuk, Director – Anchorage
  » Cory Jackson, ICWA Specialist II – Anchorage
  » Paige Meadows, ICWA Specialist II – Anchorage
  » Vacant, ICWA Specialist I/II – Nome
  » Vacant, ICWA Coordinator – Anchorage

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Paige Meadows began his employment with the Family Services program as an ICWA Specialist II in the Anchorage office on December 18, 2019. Paige was previously employed by OCS in Nome and Juneau and we are fortunate to have him on board. Recruitment is currently underway for an ICWA coordinator for the Anchorage office and an ICWA specialist for the Nome office. The Anchorage staff remain on teleworking status due to the municipality of Anchorage’s COVID-19 mandate, which will be reviewed by the Municipality on Nov. 15, 2020.

Family Services receives funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to operate an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program, and additional funding for Special Child Abuse Prevention projects; Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, Subparts 1 and 2, to provide a broad range of services designed to support, preserve, and/or reunite children and their families; the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Office of Children’s Services (OCS) Tribal-State Compact program; the State Title IV-E reimbursement program; and the State Title IV-E Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) program (new for FY21). Title IV-B funds are directed toward family preservation and reunification intervention so that children will not have to be removed from their homes. Although funding under Title IV-B is modest, these funds are an integral part of the services for families who need assistance in order to stay together.

NEC entered into a compact agreement with the State OCS on December 15, 2017, to provide child welfare
services to tribal children and families identified in its service population and delivery areas. For FY21, NEC received funding for one FTE position to perform four Scopes of Work: Diligent relative search, ongoing placement searches, foster care licensing assistance (new) and safety evaluation walk-throughs of unlicensed relatives (new). All co-signers to the Tribal State Compact are finalizing implementation and process mapping for each new scope of work. Referrals should begin to be sent from OCS by mid-November 2020.

Family Services received a three-year State of Alaska Title IV-E Prevention Services grant beginning in FY21 to provide culturally-appropriate prevention services to tribal children and families that strengthen and preserve the family unit while alleviating barriers that prevent caregivers from keeping their children safe in the home. Our staff will accompany OCS investigation workers to assess protective capacities and determine appropriateness for NEC intervention to prevent the break-up of the tribal family.

The ICWA Notices and Protective Services Reports (PSR) from the State OCS from January 1-September 30, 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 2</th>
<th>Quarter 3</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEC formally intervened in ten cases since January 1, 2020. Currently, there are 67 tribal children in state or out-of-state custody for a total of 37 cases. In addition to CINA cases, Family Services staff prepare cultural adoption packets for the NEC Tribal Council.

TRIBAL RESOURCES

Jacob Martin, Program Director

PROGRAM FUNDING

The Tribal Resources Program operates with funding under an EPA/Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant, with an operating budget of $118,000 annually. The program director successfully negotiated continued EPA/IGAP funding through 2020.

PROGRAM FUNCTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEC’s Tribal Resource Program follows an approved work plan under the EPA/IGAP, and within this work plan are the following three components:

1. Increase Tribal Environmental Capacity
   - Jacob Martin was hired as subsistence specialist in May 2015, then as program director in October 2016
   - Program staff participated the following meetings, conferences and trainings:
     » Bering Strait Norton Sound Migratory Bird Council (BSNSMBC) meeting.
     » NSHC Regional IGAP Training. The program director assisted with training staff from our region.
     » Regional EPA/IGAP teleconferences.
     » ANTHC – Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network teleconferences.
   - Staff successfully completed the UAF Water Quality Certification program.

2. Environmental Research
   - Staff collected environmental and water quality data for nine sites identified in the EPA work plan, and collected water quality data for several other sites in conjunction with UAF water quality courses.
   - Over 470 instances of data were collected with five parameters, resulting in 2,350 data points.

3. Pollution Prevention/Recycling
   - Program staff assisted the City of Nome and Kawerak with recycling, backhaul of toxics, and spring cleanup activities.
   - Program staff crushed aluminum cans at the City of Nome’s Recycling Center.
   - Tribal Resources hired one intern, Devan Otten, who conducted the beach clean up, assisted with water quality sampling, and assisted with Kawerak backhaul and e-waste.
   - Beach Clean-up project cleaned up an estimated 3,500 lbs of scrap metal and five large bags of trash.
   - Set up two trash receptacles—one at East Beach and one at the mouth of the Nome River. Checking them every three days for two months, we brought eight 55-gallon drums’ worth of garbage to the landfill. Thanks to Aaron Cooper for providing the two 55-gallon drums.

4. Government-to-Government Consultation
   - Wrote two comment letters in opposition to the IPOP, LLC, mining operation in POA-2018-Bonanza Channel/Safety Sound Public Notice and further revision by IPOP and their contractors.
NEC believes this operation to be harmful to the Safety Sound/Bonanza Channel environment, as it would impact numerous NEC and local Nome residents’ ability to subsist throughout the year.

Attended the two in-person meetings with Army Corp of Engineers, Village of Solomon, Solomon Native Corporation, Bering Straits Native Corporation and Kawerak Natural Resources and one phone during NEC’s COVID hunker-down period.

Copies of NEC’s comment letter are available by request.

Attended a meeting between Kawerak, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and their partnership with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

Copies of NEC’s comment letter are available by request.

TRIBAL TRANSIT

Jacob Martin, Program Director

TRIBAL TRANSIT STAFF

- Jacob Martin, Program Director
- Harrison Miklahook, Transit Driver

PROGRAM FUNDING

In 2014, NEC was awarded a startup grant from the Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration to purchase a 15-passenger bus and provide transit services in the City of Nome. In 2016 a discretionary operating grant was awarded, which has continued to support the program to date. This funding allows NEC to offer a fixed transit bus route in town Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Harrison Miklahook was hired as our transit driver on February 2, 2018, and is doing a superb job for us!

The week of March 2–6, 2020, was the last week NEC transit ran. It closed until further notice as a result of the pandemic.

To help prevent the spread of viruses among passengers, we sought and found a vendor able to install barriers that meet federal standards and fit our transit bus. As of February, we also have a steam cleaner capable of disinfecting the entire interior of the bus in 45 minutes.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY20 Q1</th>
<th>FY20 Q2</th>
<th>FY20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passengers</td>
<td>1,536</td>
<td>1,238</td>
<td>2,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trips</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stops</td>
<td>1,361</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>2,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles</td>
<td>1,630.4</td>
<td>1,119.9</td>
<td>2,750.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time (hours)</td>
<td>217.17</td>
<td>130.88</td>
<td>348.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOUTH SERVICES

Drew McCann, Youth Services Manager

YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Our Youth Services Department in 2020 was strongly impacted by COVID-19 and a lack of staffing in the department. Due to this, our programs were limited and participation by youth was even more limited. Like many other programs, we are looking to adapt to continue serving NEC members to the best of our ability during this pandemic.

We have continued some programs and created new ones that are less hands-on and more supportive in nature for our youth, their families, and childcare providers.

Drew McCann is NEC’s new Youth Services manager. He started September 14. Drew brings great experience from his previous position as the regional banking branch manager at Wells Fargo here in Nome. The Youth Services manager is responsible for assisting with the planning, development and implementation of services that include pre-school and school-aged education programs; youth intervention, prevention, and support; and community activities for youth.

The Youth Services department looks to expand staffing as we develop and implement programs that require more time. In the future we look to add a Youth Services specialist to help organize and staff activities, assist with...
the application review process, and perform other necessary tasks. Our focus in the department will be on child-care and development—activities to keep kids healthy, culturally aware, and on track with education. Lastly, we look to maintain and develop partnerships that strengthen our current and future programs for youth.

FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to AK CARES funds, the department operated 2020 on two main grants and one pass-through grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Johnson O’Malley Fund (JOM), and Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). More information on the grants and how we now use them and would like to use them in the future appears below. We have collaborated with several partners, including Norton Sound Health Corporation, Kawerak, Nome Public Schools, Nome Preschool Association, and Kegoayah Kozga Public Library.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF)

Background on Grant. The Child Care and Development Fund is authorized by the Child Development Block Grant and helps low-income families obtain childcare so they can work or attend training/education. The funding is intended to improve the quality of childcare and promotes coordination with early childhood development and afterschool programs. This funding serves ages 3-12 and the goal is to ensure staff are well trained in providing quality childcare in a safe environment, and to promote literacy and cultural competency. We want to ensure that NEC tribal children are offered engaging and culturally-relevant activities.

Relative Childcare Program. We are very excited to announce that our NEC Relative Childcare Program is ready to roll out. This program will enhance tribal members’ options when it comes to childcare. This program will provide childcare for parents who work or subsist 20 hours per week and will pay the provider to care for the child. Currently, eligible relatives include great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncle or siblings (who live in a separate household). Due to COVID-19’s impact on available childcare providers, we are looking at options of temporarily expanding who can count as a relative provider, such as another tribal member or a cousin, and will update the program upon approval of any amendments required to make these changes. This program is one of the first of many steps we will be taking over the coming years to enhance childcare and child development in our Nome service area.

Preschool Scholarship Program. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the Nome Preschool we were able to secure a waiver and pay the providers based on a child's enrollment instead of attendance, which helped maintain preschool operations while students were not attending. This resulted in our Preschool Scholarships supporting seven students when the school was shut down. We have continued our Preschool Scholarships Program but have had fewer requests for scholarships in the later part of 2020 because the Migrant Education Program is covering our youth’s cost to attend. We have provided funding in instances where MigrantEd cannot. Due to the pandemic and a surplus of CCDF funds, we have been able to cover full tuition for students in the Preschool Scholarship Program and we are extremely happy with that. Normally we have a copay that the parent would be responsible for, and we will go back to that eventually. So far, for the 2020-21 school year this program is covering two students at Nome Preschool. At the request of the Nome Preschool Association, we did not provide transportation this year for preschool students.

Preschool Mini-Grant. We provided the Nome Preschool Association with a $12,500 grant that funded classroom materials and supplies, replacement of a heater, continuing education for the NPA staff, books, and an ongoing ADA-compliance ramp project. They have spent most of the funds in some focus areas but have more to allocate due to the ramp project evolving from the original plan. Nome Preschool secured a donation of the ramp and will be working to update a bid for installation of the ramp upon arrival to Nome before this winter.

Lori Hughes, NEC’s deputy director, and Alicyn Bahnke, NEC office assistant and NBHS senior, assembled Outdoors Club Subsistence Adventure Kits.

Outdoors Club Subsistence Adventure Kit. We were unable to provide an Outdoors Club this summer, but had an amazing response from parents for the Outdoors Club Subsistence Adventure Kit opportunity we offered for youth. Following our granting rules and regulations, we offered kits to Nome-based, tribally-enrolled children ages 3-12. A total of 102 kits were distributed. A big thank you to all staff who pitched in to make this happen!
JOHNSON O’MALLEY FUND (JOM)

**Background on Grant.** The Johnson O’Malley Fund grant results from NEC’s Compact of Self-Governance with the United States of America. The compact authorizes NEC to provide programs, activities, functions, and services on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as determined by tribal priorities. This program serves ages 3 through graduating high school senior. The main goal is to provide supplemental educational, cultural, and linguistic support for our tribal students.

**Use of JOM funds.** We are excited about expanding JOM programs in coming years based on successful models from tribes around Alaska. Currently, in partnership with Nome Public Schools and Kawerak, we fund the salary for the college and career guide position at Nome-Beltz High School. In the past we have used these funds to pay for a portion of sports scholarships such as Challenge Life basketball camp, youth softball and basketball, and Summertime, but most of these programs were modified or cancelled this year due to the pandemic. We look forward to using JOM funds to support the linguistic programs in Nome and activities for older youth. Two members of our administration were able to attend a JOM conference this year where they learned valuable information about the program and how we can leverage its resources more effectively for the benefit of our tribal students. We also look to use this fund to support Native Youth Olympics and also the Nome Native Youth Leadership Organization.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

**Background on Grant.** NEC partners with Nome’s Kegoyah-Kozga Library to receive a $10,000 pass-through grant called the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The pandemic created quite a few last-minute changes. The programs the library was able to provide safely during the pandemic were very well received by the community.

**Use of IMLS Funds.** These funds were used to facilitate the Summer Reading Program, which this year was offered online for the first time. The library had two ways of tracking statistics for this reading program: The number of books each child read, and the number of minutes each child read. Enrolled children reported reading a total of 314 books, and reading time of 11,900 minutes. The library gave out 546 craft kits between June and August, and 200 Alaska Seasons Books were given out to children. Children who enrolled in the summer reading program received T-shirts that sported the NEC logo and the name of the library.