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VOS Receives Grant Award from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The tribal council is pleased to announce that the Village of Solomon has successfully received an EPA General Assistance Program grant. This program allows up to \$125,000 in assistance for planning, developing, and establishing environmental protection programs. The Tribe has applied for a two-year grant. Funding starts October 1st, 2012- September 30th, 2013. Work plans for the first year include the following; Building Capacity to develop and administer environmental program to address environmental issues facing the Tribe (i.e. training, staff, community meetings, and draft Tribal Environmental Plan); Develop and Implement Solid Waste Management for the Village of Solomon (i.e. create plan, remove waste within tribal boundaries, and training); Conduct Baseline Environmental Measurements for Meteorological

Data (develop Plans, collect data and work with agencies).

Work plans for the second year (October 1st, 2013 to September 30th, 2014) will be the following: Build Capacity to develop and administer environmental program (i.e. training, staff, and community meetings), implement a Solid Waste Management Plan for the Village of Solomon (i.e. training, conduct feasibility study, informational materials to members, and recycling and backhaul efforts); continue to conduct baseline meteorological study in Solomon, (i.e. collecting data, working with agencies and create an alternative energy plan), and draft and finalize QA project plan and begin collecting baseline water quality data within Solomon River Watershed.

For more information contact the office at 443-4985.

SAVE THE DATE!

The tribal council invites you to its VOS Tribal Membership Gathering in Anchorage in Meeting Room B at Marriott's Courtyard Hotel located at 4901 Spenard Road.

Reports, Refreshments and Door Prizes for all tribal members who attend.

**October 14, 2012
3:30 PM to 5 PM**

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President's Report to Membership by Kirsten Timbers

2012 AT A GLANCE

The Village of Solomon has concluded another very exciting year. We have continued for the third year in a row to provide emergency assistance to our tribal members. This service is something that has proven very valuable and has done things such as help members fix frozen pipes, and cover a tribal members rent when there were unforeseen circumstances. We have also for the second year in a row held our youth spirit camp with the help of Helen Bohn as our camp coordinator and Liz Johnson who has applied for grants on our behalf to NSHC and BSRHA.



These grants have helped fly our campers in from Anchorage. We have also held our very first Anchorage Solomon Tribal Membership meeting during AFN time. We were able to visit with tribal members, provide door prizes and give brief reports. We are also planning on holding the same event this year.

LEDP Commitment We have also been working diligently on meeting the needs in our LEDP. Number one on our list was to hold more gatherings. We held one at the camp, at the annual meeting and another during our December meeting we had a turkey feed. We have also applied with the help of Cameron Piscoya to meet our LEDP need to have potable water and do feasibility studies for wind energy among other things. He worked very hard on applying for a grant from IGAP, which we found out we were rewarded last month. This grant will fund a full time position to work on these needs for the next three years. Deilah Johnson has been employed with the VOS through Kawerak's Grant Writer Program. She has been working diligently on applying for a variety of grants on our behalf to meet our LEDP.

Elder and Youth Seats In an effort to engage our youth and elders we have added advisory seats to the tribal council. These were initially non voting seats, however, after considering their valuable contributions we supported the idea to include them as voting members. This was put to the membership for a vote this election.

Membership rises to over 100 We have been slowly adding more members to our tribe. Our tribal coordinator has made considerable effort in all that she does to contact and engage our tribal members through newsletters, mail outs and phone calls. She has been a great communicator and as a result was able to identify eligible tribal members and get them enrolled.

Commitment to Wellness We have provided gym and pool passes to our youth members regardless of where they live so that they can engage in healthy activities for overall wellness. This is made possible with the BSRHA crime prevention grant.

Bed & Breakfast As you may know the Solomon Bed and Breakfast has been rented out since June 20 through September 20 to ProWest. Even though it is being occupied our tribal members continue to have access to the bathroom, kitchen and laundry facilities during the hours of 10am-10pm.

Conclusion Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the VOS. I look forward to the coming year and providing continued service to our members.

Tribal Coordinator's Report to Membership by Liz Johnson

Office Operations: The office moved in November to a larger office in the BSNC building, Suite 101, the old TelAlaska office. We continue to offer use of the computer/fax/internet for tribal members when needed.

Village Priorities Reprioritized: The tribal council hosted its annual review of the Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) in May after soliciting tribal membership input and reprioritized Solomon's village priorities (see page 5).

Grantwriter: Through Kawerak's grant writer assistance program, the Village of Solomon hired a grantwriter for three months. Tribal member Deilah Johnson was hired and has been working on the following projects: Vehicle purchase for youth camp and tribal gatherings; Solomon community center upgrades including display cases for Solomon's old schoolhouse records; and, preservation of the old school house records that the tribe obtained two years ago.

IHP Meeting Held in July: For the second year, the Village of Solomon joined King Island Native Community and Native Village of Council to review and discuss Indian Housing Plan priorities. Joint IHP priorities for the three tribes are as follows:

1. Adequate Elder Housing on existing privately owned homes, and remove income limits on services for elders.
2. Increase income guidelines to fairly represent the high cost of living in our region.
3. Provide an emergency allocation to include; heat, plumbing and electrical.
4. Increase renovation money from \$25k to \$50k
5. Provide discounts for energy efficient appliances.
6. Weatherization improvements should have no income guidelines
7. New homes/More Homes

Kirsten Timbers is a BSRHA commissioner, appointed by Kawerak and currently serves as Chair of the BSRHA board. The IHP is an annual requirement that the tribe approves in order for BSRHA to administer a housing program on behalf of Solomon and the other tribes in the Bering Strait region.

Policy of the Council: The tribal council recently passed a policy that states the following: As owners and operators of the Solomon Bed & Breakfast, it is the Village of Solomon's current policy to inform all guests and visitors that all tribal members of the Village of Solomon have full access to the Solomon Community Center, its primary gathering place at any time that the Solomon B&B is open for business. Tribal members will have full access to its main meeting room, business center (for internet use), showers and laundry facilities as long as it does not interfere with paying guests of the B&B. If there are any issues or disputes, please contact the Village of Solomon's office immediately so that it can be remedied. You may contact the office at (907) 443-4985 or send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.

AFN Youth & Elders conference: The tribal council has authorized 3 youth and 3 elder delegation to attend AFN's youth and elder conference October 15-17th. Part of this delegation will include one youth and elder living in the Anchorage area. A tribal membership meeting in Anchorage has also been scheduled October 14.

New Hospital Artwork to Represent Solomon: The new hospital artwork coordinator is asking for tribal input from members. The new hospital will have a certain amount of space that is designated for each tribe and states that will be a display space that will represent the Village of Solomon. The artwork coordinator will also buy artwork from tribal members and is also accepting donations. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please call the office.

Summer Youth Spirit Camp Held in Solomon

Youth attending camp this year were: Amber Gray, Brewster, Bronson and Bella Bohn, Sydney Adams, Wilma Amaktoolik, Zackery and Peter Curran and Julia Davenport.

Pictured below with “Augie”, owner and operator of Auku Gold & Resort. The youth had the opportunity to see gold panning demonstration as well as hands on panning for gold themselves.



Rosalyn Paniptchuk, Bella Bohn & Autumn Johnson at Solomon's tribal gathering August 11, 2012

Welcome Newest Tribal Members

Solomon Stettinger, son of Kavik Stettinger

Brandon Henry, son of Kim Henry

Skyler Henry, son of Kim Henry

Chamonix McElliott, granddaughter of Nels Nelson

“Sydney had so much fun at camp last week, we must have stayed up till 2am talking about it (I hope she minded her manners) I know some of the best times I ever had were at fish camp and I am so glad she gets the opportunity to go too. thank you so much. Next year if possible I would love to go.

Once again thank you and all that helped”.

(an email sent on 8/14/2012 by Grace Davenport, Sydney's mother)

Solomon's Vision & Values

Solomon tribal members sought to develop priorities for future projects and activities which the community can use to enhance the local economy and build on the identified cultural strengths, economic opportunities, and current community assets over the next five years. Based on this, the overall community vision was developed. By 2015 Solomon will:

- Have VOS and SNC working together for capacity building and creating new projects
- Enhance local economy while staying true to subsistence traditions
- Empower ourselves and each other as a community to enhance and strengthen our social and economic future
- Strive for unity
- Engage and empower our youth to be leaders
- Utilize our elders and youth to revitalize our culture and traditional values.

Values applied to community development:

- Practice positive communication with each other and outside agencies
- Ensure proper cleanup and project oversight
- Utilize and create own tribal membership expertise
- Seek and secure other financial resources
- Be culturally sensitive to our community
- Utilize our own natural resources

For a copy of the Village of Solomon's Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP), please call the office at 443-4985.

Solomon's Top Priorities

1. Community power/electricity (wind, solar and diesel backup)
2. More Solomon Gatherings and involvement
3. Waste management
4. Emergency communication
5. Salmon enhancement
6. Full operation of Bed & Breakfast/Community Center
7. Driveway Improvements to Camps
8. Community potable water
9. Boat Harbor
10. Airstrip Improvement



Mia Piscocoya, sits with her mother during Solomon's tribal gathering/dinner on May 9, 2012 at the Nome XYZ Senior Center after reviewing the LEDP village priorities that were re-prioritized by the tribal membership. See tribal membership comments on page 7.

Why Be Tribally Enrolled?

Proof of tribal membership is required for many services that might be available to those of Alaska Native heritage (Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts). Some examples are childcare assistance for working parents, to register at an Indian Health Service Clinic or educational grants or scholarships.

How do I become Tribally enrolled?

One can apply to the Tribe of one's parents or ancestors. In Alaska, the Tribe is in the village where the relatives are from. For families from Solomon, many moved to Nome and beyond the Bering Strait region after the BIA schoolhouse closed in 1956 so the children could attend school.

History of Tribe

The village was originally settled by Eskimos of the Fish River tribe, and was noted on a map as "Erok" in 1900. The original site for Solomon was in the delta of the Solomon River; it became a mining camp. In 1913, the railroad was washed out by storms, and in 1918, the flu epidemic struck. This site is known as Dickson today, and remains of structures and railroad equipment exist. In 1939, the community relocated to the present site, which was formerly known as Jerusalem. The BIA constructed a large school in 1940 and discontinued in 1956. The Village of Solomon was not recognized until 1993 and organized under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1993. Today, there are over 130 tribally enrolled members of Solomon. It's primary focus is to implement programs and services for increased quality of life for all of its tribal members and their families.

Can I be enrolled to more than one Tribe?

The Village of Solomon allows dual enrollment for minor children until the age of eighteen. After that, the child will have to choose which tribe to stay enrolled in and relinquish with the other.

August Tribal Election Results

Kirsten Timbers 13

Benny Piscoya 15

Write in: RoseAnn Timbers 1

Write in : Tim Stettinger 1

Election of constitutional amendment to increase from 5 to 7 member council

Yes 16 No 3

ICWA Services Available for Village of Solomon Tribal Members

What is Indian Child Welfare Act? (ICWA): The Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 United States Code Sections 1901-1963. ICWA was passed in 1978 in response to the high number of Native children who were removed from their families and tribes by non-tribal public and private agencies, and placed in non-Native foster homes or made available for non-Native adoption.

How does ICWA work? The main goal of ICWA is the protection of Native children. This includes assisting in family reunification, adoptions, and alternative placement of children. The program also ensures that Tribal Councils are represented in Court proceedings. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies when a state court determines that a Native child is involved in a proceeding. This includes child custody proceedings, foster care placement, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive and adoptive placements. A tribal court or tribe may properly exercise their rights in any and all of these types of proceedings.

Contact the Village of Solomon at 443-4985 for additional information.

Membership Comments During Solomon's Village Priorities Review

List top three priorities that you want the tribal council to address this year.

#1 more involvement new faces, good younger members, more involvement

#7 maybe more members would get involved

“unity” between corporation and tribe to accomplish common goals for all tribal members and families

Emergency communication or full operation of the bnb/community center

I feel like maybe members don't feel comfortable speaking up or getting involved because not everyone knows one another well enough to voice their thoughts. There are too many opportunities for Village of Solomon. If we all work together as a tribe, we can all benefit.

More camp sites for village members

Is there a subject of concern that is not listed on the priorities list?

Yes to purchase the SNC lot the VOS is sitting on

Teach our members to speak Eskimo

Teamwork being an elder of VOS getting involved and volunteer more or when asked

Separate offices

Community center in Nome for the winter months, bigger office space, look into the SBA 8a program, create jobs, IRR

Office space and meeting/gathering place for tribal council and members

Need to educate 18 years – 15 old offer classes to learn more about our corporation; teach them young at least pay them for showing up

Getting to know other tribal members. I don't know more than ¼ of the members. Maybe at each meeting we can draw a name out of a hat and make it a point to get to know them better.

Communication is essential for tribal members both near and far. Has the tribal council done a good job in communicating with you?

Yes, I get Liz, Cam and Deilah always encouraging me to be more involved, I'm slowly trying and will do.

Yes Liz has contacted me anytime there is something of interest to me or my family

Liz is very consistent in keeping communication lines open and she does a good job!

No, not as much from the council. Do get good communication from tribal coordinator

Liz is very top on her job for keeping in touch with me

Yes the newsletter is good for me and the monthly meetings whenever I'm able to make it

Yes they do a great job sending out emails and answering questions

Yes they have kept me updated with upcoming events mail and phone calls have been a great way to communicate for me

Yes, newsletters, emails, calls; Yes, newsletters and emails; Yes; Yes, with newsletters and first ever Anchorage meeting

I've always been contacted by email, mail and phone to be updated about news, gatherings, changes, openings, anything to do with my tribe

No, I feel like if my mom wasn't tribal coordinator, I wouldn't know anything

Opportunity to Attend Elders & Youth Conference

The Village of Solomon is pleased to sponsor an elder and youth delegation to attend the annual First Alaskans Institute's Elders and Youth conference this year. This year's theme is:

Native Knowledge: Respecting and Owning our Living Culture. Celebrate Alaska Native intellect. The conference stimulates dialogue between young people and Elders and encourages them to maintain traditional Native values and practices while thriving in the modern world.

The conference is on October 15-17, 2012 at the Denaina Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage.

Per Diem, travel and hotel accommodations will be provided and a meeting stipend of \$150 per day will also be issued after the conference has concluded. A written report will be required to be submitted to the Council soon after.

If you are interested in attending, please call or email the office as soon as possible by September 24. The Council will then select three elders (ages 55 and older), two from Nome and one from the Anchorage area. Three youth (ages 13-18) will also be selected, two from Nome and one from the Anchorage area.

Tribal ID Cards Available



Helen Bohn displays her tribal ID card this summer

The office continues to offer tribal ID cards for tribal members both near and far. Contact the office by sending an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org with current mailing address and photo and a tribal ID card will be issued and mailed. Any questions, please contact the office at 443-4985.

CACHE for College and Higher Education Available

The Bering Straits Foundation, Sitnasuak Foundation, Kawerak, Inc., Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation and Norton Sound Health Corporation have partnered to ease the process of applying for scholarships for the people of our region.

The application is called "CACHE" which stands for "Combined Application for College and Higher Education." This application is for individuals going into accredited college or vocational education programs, who meet the eligibility requirements of the organizations they apply to. For more information, visit the Bering Straits Foundation website at www.beringstraits.com.

*join us for a
holiday celebration!*

Date: December 12, 2012

Time: 5:30—7:30 PM

Location: Nome TBD

**Attend the last meeting of the year and
have Christmas dinner with the tribal
council.**

All tribal members are invited to attend.

**Door prizes will be given throughout the
meeting.**

Jobs Available At Village of Solomon

The Village of Solomon prefers to hire qualified tribal members when hiring for jobs at VOS. Upcoming jobs available next summer is a carpenter, maintenance and laborer workers to open and close the Solomon Community Center. During youth camp, two camp coordinators will also be hired. Contact the VOS office for more details.

ASRC SKW Eskimos, a subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, is building the Nome Long Term Care facility next to the new Nome Hospital. Contact them directly for jobs available by visiting their website at www.asrc.com.

NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS OF THE SOLOMON COMMUNITY CENTER/BED & BREAKFAST

As owners and operators of the Solomon Community Center/Bed & Breakfast, it is the Village of Solomon's policy to inform guests and visitors that our tribal members have access to the Solomon Community Center/BNB primary gathering areas at any time the Solomon B&B is open for business (from 7:30 am till 6:00 pm).

The Village of Solomon's tribal members shall have access to the main meeting room, business center (for internet use), ADA bathroom including shower/bath and laundry facility as long as it does not interfere with paying guests of the B&B.

No smoking is allowed in any of the buildings/facilities or vehicles that the Village of Solomon owns & operates.

If there are any issues or disputes, please contact the office immediately so that it can be remedied. You may contact the office at (907) 443-4985 or send an email to tc.sol@kawerak.org.



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