



Brownfield Newsletter

Tribal Environmental

The Native Village of Port Heiden welcomes: Jaclyn Christensen as the new Brownfield Coordinator and Chelsea Carlson as the Brownfield Assistant in October!

Brownfield Newsletter 2013

The Native Village of Port Heiden WELCOMES: Jaclyn Christensen as the new Brownfield Coordinator and Chelsea Carlson as the Brownfield Assistant in October!

The first order of business on the job was to investigate the project proposed to work on cleaning up a few buildings in the old village of Meshik. Based on a previous Brownfield assessment Phase I&II report on the Old Meshik Town Project these two properties needed qualified to be the meet remediation action. The cleanup criteria says we can only remove harmful to human health and envi-

ronment condition findings as documented with sampling data, site activities performed. The two properties belonged to Annie Christensen and the late Henry Matson.

Condition 1: Our first and foremost goal after receiving the previous data was to updated the assessment done by Iliaska Environmental, LLC of Igiugig, Alaska in 2008 another requirement for Brownfield Clean Up (within 180 days of the last assessment).

Condition 2: The properties however were not publicly owned the properties (a re-



Erosion effects

quirement by regulation) would have to be transferred to the Village or the City in order for the project to move forward. So I was on a mission to draw up maps and documents with the help of the village lawyer to oversee that these properties are transferred from Alaska Native Township properties on a quick claim deed on behalf of the Native Village of Port Heiden.

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Special points of interest:

- New Hires
- ATCEM conference
- ASTM phase 1&2
- AK forum on the environment
- AK STRP workshop

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Project: Task 1 to remove Asbestos Containing Material, Task 2 confirm and remove PCB ballasts on each property, Task 3 test and treat 7 count of 55 gallon drums with unknown material, and Task 4 properly remove and dispose of lead paint removal based on the previous assessment and analytical findings from lab sample results performed on behalf of Aniakchak Contractors, LLC and Boretide Consulting, LLC during the 2011 field season.

Unfortunately the weather halted our efforts for the cleanup project to move forward because of stormy weather causing erosion to the coastline of The Old Village of Meshik. I have photographs documenting the changes to the coastline and the project location for the month of November to compare to historical photographs predating the project. On November 4, 2013 after the storm we photographed the site to behold the work of Mother Nature and found our old village very changed. Then a few days later after another storm a group of us visited the site and documented the storms progression to the area on November 8, 2013. On November 10 the property belonging to the late Henry Matson had collapsed to the beach and the other property belonging to Annie Christensen was teetering on the bank. The three sites were removed by The Native Council of Port Heiden that afternoon.

ATCEM 2013

The 19th annual ATCEM conference was held November 12-15 at the Hilton hotel in Anchorage. Scott Anderson, Jaclyn Christensen, and Chelsea Carlson attended representing the Native Council of Port Heiden. ATCEM's purpose is to educate, equip, and empower Tribal organizations to build capacity to address environmental health challenges in rural communities. The conference brought together over 300 Alaskans from all across the state. Some of the topics included in the sessions were solid waste, air quality, water and sanitation, and IGAP job skills. Other than the sessions there were other fun activities going on during the conference. There was traditional Native dancing, homemade jam contests, brunches, raffles, and award presentations. One of the awards given away was the Elder Appreciation Award, who was given to our very own Annie Christensen. Jaclyn Christensen nominated her and accepted the award for her because Annie Christensen wasn't able to attend the meetings, Jaclyn gave a short speech about Annie as our tribal president along with her role and responsibilities that she carried along with many tribal projects.





Training & Traveling 2013

Brownfield Training and Travel Report:

In November and December we attended two Brownfield training programs.

November 12 - 15, 2013 Chelsea and I attended the 19th annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM).

Since this is my first time attending the sessions and workshops so I went to as many as possible. Chelsea went to just as many too but we tried to sit in on different events to get a full experience. Topics of choice included: the 7 Generations overview, Local Environmental Observation (LEO) Network, Human Pollution Sources in water, and Alaska Native Liaisons in the Dept. of Interior, The Cherokee Word for Water film, Indoor Air Quality, and Basic Emergency Management and Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP).

Beside the small sessions the overall experience was great and informational I think all the presenters and keynote speakers did well. I learned how to submit environmental observations online about a variety of topic related to climate change, global warming, invasive species and erosion. I also took a survey on berries in Alaska and the types of berries we get in our region. One of the most detailed presentations was about finding pollution tracers in water of a village that kept experiencing landfill or dump pollution in tidal flats

and standing water. Basically the presentation displayed the presence of ibuprofen and caffeine that were thrown out with the garbage where it later polluted the water along with many other trace chemicals including some that can cause cancer. The other informational presentation on indoor air quality raised concerns for black mold the hardest mold to get rid of in your home and the best way to prevent this mold from growing is to keep the heat and moisture in a constant balance by adjusting your temperature and the amount of ventilation into your home to avoid creating too much moisture that cause your home to sweat and create an environment for mold.

December from the 11th to the 13th, 2013 Angela Engelkes and I attended the American Standard and Testing Material (ASTM International) Phase I and Phase II Training also at the Anchorage Hilton.

The training went over in detail the purpose for Brownfield sites and the two types of assessments I&II that are based on common standards for how to obtain relevant information for a proper environmental condition; and what the cleanup action or assessment recommendation comes down to is determined by the environmental findings. For instance some sites can be an environmental hazard condition in a few ways: Potential, Historical and Current.

Brownfield assessment sites evaluate and determine if public property is suitable for reuse or re-

purpose of the property. The greatest example that we heard was if you are starting a business and this certain piece of property is selling at a great price you should consider the reasons why, because it can be too good to be true. If the property was a former dry cleaning facility chances are the property has significant liability issues to your health such as PCE and TCE soil and ground water contamination that has been found or not found in an assessment review that each tenant should be made aware of. The assessments are not just for property owners that buy and sell them are also to help businesses and owners determine who the responsible party is as the funding sources in the determination for cleanup action.

Depending on the assessment you can become eligible to receive SARA or Superfund allocations for cleanup and removal if human health or environmental health risks are evident and critical. These findings also have to comply with CERCLA, TSCA, and RCRA standards for federal funds and reporting requirements not to mention State environmental requirements as well and in Alaska are ADEC. These sites are using determined as FUDS sites under the Department of Defense and our program at Brownfield will never overlap with a FUDs site.

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Tribal Environmental

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Meshik School's Christmas play was on December 19, 2013 the kids sang and did some stand up comedy, Good job kids!



Up & Coming events

- February 3-7, 2014 -Alaska Forum on the Environment: The forum will be held in Anchorage February 3 through the 7. The forum provides an opportunity for State, local, military, private, and Native leaders and professionals to come together and discuss the latest projects, processes, and issues that affect us here in Alaska.
- March 17-19, 2014 -Alaska State and Tribal Response Program (STRP) Workshop in Fairbanks, AK this workshop is designed to help map your priority list and eligibility for assessments and clean up grants & projects

