

◦ Sharing ◦ Family ◦ Knowledge of Language ◦ Hunting Traditions ◦ Respect for Nature ◦ Humility ◦ Compassion ◦ Resolution of Conflict ◦ Respect for our Elders and One Another ◦ Cooperation ◦ Spirituality ◦ Humor ◦



A Holistic Approach to Sustainable Northern Communities

OSCARVILLE, ALASKA – A PILOT PROJECT

GOALS:

Only through a holistic approach can we create healthy, thriving, sustainable communities. This roundtable concept has brought together some of the important pieces of a healthy community – residents and their culture, housing, energy, infrastructure, water/sewer, community health, and economic development.

The goal is to do a pilot project in Oscarville, a small community in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region, to address the many elements of sustainability through community engagement and interagency partnerships. This will begin the creation of a statewide model for community development.

HOUSING:

Housing for sustainable living must provide ample storage for food security, adequate cold and warm storage space, comfort, safety, energy efficiency, durability, affordability and both psychological and physical wellness. By using wisdom from the past and melding it with technology from today, this approach will infuse the core cultural value system into the basis of design while creating economic development for each community. Since most of rural Alaska relies on a subsistence lifestyle, this approach is vital to their survival. Climate and environmental appropriate building science must be incorporated into all new construction and retrofit work.

WATER & SEWER:

Current infrastructure (or lack thereof) creates many health and social issues for small remote communities. A holistic approach will improve sanitation and quality of life through developing water and sewer infrastructure that meets the needs and conditions of the local community.

ENERGY:

The energy platform, which covers housing, infrastructure, power generation, renewables, landfill, distribution and education, must be addressed across the board to better utilize limited funding and local workforce over a phased period. Projects statewide could then support and build upon one another – creating a collaborative, sustainable approach that provides greater long-term benefit over the current existing silo approach. The efforts must begin with the community and focus on long-term sustainability.

FUNDING:

Current funding for this effort is covered by a grant through CCHRC from Wells Fargo and AVCP for the community of Oscarville.

TIMELINE & SCHEDULING: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

