

EVOS ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

Project Number: 030052

Project Title: Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program

PI Name: Patty Brown-Schwalenberg – Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Time Period Covered by Report: October 1, 2002 – September 1, 2003

Date of Report: September 8, 2003

1. Work Performed: In FY03 this project continued the long term coal of involvement and capacity building of Tribal Natural Resource Programs with a long-term goal of preparing communities to interact effectively with the GEM program. This project had 4 elements:

- 1) Communicate GEM goals and actions to tribes and coordinate Tribal participation in GEM meetings and workshops:
 - The Tribal Natural Resource Planner, hired under this grant, attended all Trustee Council meetings, Public Advisory Committee meetings, the annual Science Symposium and served on the Science and Technology Advisory Committee's Habitat Subcommittee.
 - The Tribal Natural Resource Planner reported on Trustee Council, PAC , and STAC meetings, workshops and symposiums to the communities through newsletters, e-mails, and presentations to CRRC Board and Village Council meetings.
 - Village Natural Resource Specialists attended the Annual Science Symposium in January, 2003 as well as the Alaska Forum on the Environment, and Oceans and Watersheds Symposium. Representatives from Nanwalek, Port Graham, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Eyak Qutekcak, Valdez, Seldovia, Ouzinkie and Chignik Lake attended these meetings under this grant.
- 2) Conduct a WisdomKeepers Series to afford effective information exchanges between resource users and scientists and managers:
 - The format of the workshops is designed to promote discussions and interactions rather than lectures. CRRC, in conjunction with the Tataitlek Village Council, held their first WisdomKeepr meeting in Tatitlek November 6-8, 2002. Sixteen people traveled to Tatitlek including two Trustees, GEM scientists, staff from the Trustee Council and CRRC.

- To prepare for the Tatitlek workshop the CRRC Planner and TEK specialist traveled to Tatitlek in July and September to meet with community leaders and the high school principal to determine how best to prepare for the workshop. A technique was decided on that involved having the students conduct a village survey in order to stimulate discussion within the community.
 - The students of Tatitlek High School interviewed Tatitlek residents regarding environmental change and provided informative presentations of the results of their surveys at the opening of the WisdomKeeper Workshop. The surveys gave the students a chance to learn both about their community's issues and about the science and planning involved in GEM.
 - The Tatitlek workshop attendees developed a list of eight potential projects that would respond to concerns and issues identified at the workshop.
 - The CRRC Planner and TEK Specialist attended 3 meeting of the Port Graham Natural Resource Committee, 2 with the Nanwalek Village Council and 1 with Port Graham Elders to prepare for the Port Graham WisdomKeeper Workshop.
 - The Port Graham WisdomKeeper Workshop will be held September 24-26 and 22 participants from outside Nanwalek and Port Graham have committed to attending. Affiliations of participants include: EVOS Trustee Council staff, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, National Ocean Service/NOAA, University of AK Fairbanks, UAF Marine Advisory Program, Auk Bay Laboratory/NMFS, University of Washington and Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission.
- 3) In coordination with EVOS TC project #030575, prepare a GEM community involvement plan with meaningful involvement of tribes:
- CRRC was a partner with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies and Prince William Sound Science Center in a working group funded by the EVOS Trustee Council to prepare a plan for community involvement in the GEM program.
 - The PI, CRRC Tribal Natural Resource Planner, and CRRC Fisheries Biologist were on the working group to prepare a Community Involvement Plan. At least one CRRC working group member attended 7 meetings throughout the reporting period.
 - The CRRC Planner wrote sections of the plan and coordinated the tribal participation in the capacity survey.
 - The CRRC Planner participated in a panel at the annual January Science Symposium entitled: *Community Involvement Planning in the GEM Region*.

- 4) Begin development of a training curriculum for natural resource technicians in the oil spill communities:
 - A working group was created consisting of the PI, CRRC staff, Fish and Wildlife Service, UAA, King Career Center, U.S. Forest Service and the Alaska Marine Advisory Program to design a curriculum
 - A survey was started reviewing existing training opportunities in GIS, marine and terrestrial ecology, biology, data collection and management, research and monitoring methodologies and other subjects critical to professional responsibilities.

2. Future Work: The final WisdomKeeper Workshop will be held in Port Graham September 24 – 26, 2003. A report on the workshop will be completed by October 1, 2003. A proposal for FY04 has been submitted which would continue: 1) communication between the oil-spill area tribes and the GEM program; 2) a WisdomKeeper Series for discussing and sharing research and monitoring issues; and 3) training opportunities for resource specialists in oil spill communities through development of a training curriculum and providing travel to GEM workshops and scientific symposiums.

3. Coordination/Collaboration: This project integrates Tribal natural resource issues and priorities with the GEM program. Through the WisdomKeeper Workshops, CRRC brings together GEM researchers, EVOS Trustees and staff, resource managers, and Tribal and community members to discuss community issues and priorities.

CRRC convened a working group to develop a natural resource curriculum and identify training opportunities for Tribal personnel working in the GEM area. The working group consists of personnel from CRRC, Forest Service, Alaska Marine Advisory Council, UAA, King Career Center and Fish and Wildlife Service.

CRRC contributed in-kind services to 030052 as well as to 030575 led by the Center for Alaska Coastal studies in which CRRC is a project partner. Tatitlek Village IRA Council and Nanwalek Village IRA Council – Tribal Fisheries program, made in-kind contributions. CRRC contracted with Dr. Henry Huntington to serve as the TEK specialist and Mr. Michael Woods, King Career Center as a curriculum consultant.

4. Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications: The focus of this project incorporates community involvement, traditional knowledge, and capacity building into the GEM Program. Through the PI and CRRC Tribal Natural Resource Planner, communities were kept informed of EVOS Trustee Council decisions, meetings, policies, and personnel actions and GEM project proposals, projects, and research results.

This project is designed to facilitate community involvement by integrating the Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs with the GEM program. Tribal personnel attended the annual GEM workshop and high school students from the WisdomKeeper Program presented posters at the GEM workshop.

CRRC contracted with Dr. Henry Huntington to serve as TEK specialist and facilitate the WisdomKeeper meetings. Through coordination with the TEK specialist, CRRC staff, PI and EVOS staff, WisdomKeeper meetings were planned and conducted in Tatitlek and Port Graham to exchange GEM planning information and local knowledge.

The Tribes want to develop technical management capabilities and resource programs in order to manage the natural resources upon which they depend. Formal training would prepare residents to work on GEM projects and also enable rural residents to better understand the objectives of GEM research. As a first step in capacity building this project convened a working group to design a curriculum to provide training for tribal natural resource specialists and surveyed the training resources already available.

5. Information Transfer: No publications were produced during the reporting period. A report on the WisdomKeeper Workshop in Tatitlek, November 6-8 was written and a report on the WisdomKeeper Workshop in Port Graham, September 24-26 will be produced. Caroline Kompkoff and Thomas Tomaganuk from the Tatitlek WisdomKeeper Workshop presented a poster, *Resource Survey for Tatitlek WisdomKeeper Workshop*, at the Scientific Symposium -Marine Science in the Northeast Pacific, January 13-17, 2003, Anchorage Alaska. At the same Symposium, the PI presented a paper entitled *Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program*. The CRRC Tribal Natural Resource Planner served on a panel at the symposium on *Community Involvement Planning in the GEM Region*.

6. Budget: Expenditure to date, and anticipated through project completion remain within the allocated budget. Some monies in the Contractual category may remain unspent.

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