
List of Issues Facing the Village of Norton

This document outlines issues that were discussed during a village meeting held on May 1, 2000, in Norton, Alaska that was facilitated by Bartz Englishhoe. The meeting was advertised to promote full participation of tribal members, shareholders, elders and youth. Meeting participants were encouraged to bring up any issue and were told that all suggestions were welcome. All ideas were written down using large notepaper taped to walls for easy viewing. Suggestions from all participants were visible for discussion. Related topics were grouped together under this document.

What Does the Norton Tribal Council Office Require?

- Full time tribal administrator and half-time assistant.
- Funds to administer the tribal office.
- Office supplies, typewriter, fax machine, printer, copier and computer equipment.

Council and Tribal Member Training Opportunities

- Training for tribal staff in office procedures.
- Grant writing workshop.
- Instruction in *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- How to run effective council and community meetings.
- What steps need to be taken to ensure the council is prepared for meetings.
- Drug and alcohol abuse, prevention and treatment workshop. Review of state and federal laws related to the control of drug and alcohol consumption.
- Tribal court training.
- Legal procedures required to incorporate as an IRA tribal government. Study of rights and powers of an IRA. What advantages does an IRA constitution give a village?

Needs of Norton Youth

- More games are needed in the community hall.
- Expand the community library with an emphasis on cultural, tribal and Indian history.
- Chaperone program for student trips.
- Establish a local basketball program.
- Continue and enhance the present Norton Village dance group.
- Create a Native youth language program.

Youth Summer and Winter Camps

- Establish summer and winter camps for Norton youth.
- Camps could be used to teach subsistence and survival skills such as gathering and preservation of traditional foods, recognition of poisonous plants, hunter safety, emergency shelter construction and fire making. Other related skills that could be taught are travel preparation (survival gear), snowmachine safety, weather forecasting, ice fishing, snaring and the use of compasses and maps.
- Camps could be used to share oral history, legends, Native traditions and values.
- Camps would be valuable in providing recreational opportunities such as skiing, hiking, swimming and camping.
- Training in sled building, skin sewing, tanning, carving and snowshoe making.

- A summer camp could be used to teach students how to catch, preserve, smoke, dry and can salmon. Students could be taught how to build and operate a fishwheel. Set netting is another option. Fish could be given to elders.
- Students and tribal members could build the summer and winter camps out of local logs. The construction of cabins and caches would teach valuable skills. Harvesting timber and carpentry are important skills to learn.
- The corporation and tribal government could work together to build and operate youth camps. The camps could be rented by others groups.

Student Education Needs

- Student leadership training.
- Medical emergency training.
- Joint elder and youth programs - Elders have a lot of knowledge and vision to share.
- Cultural programs to continue Native traditions and language.
- Suicide prevention training.
- Drug and alcohol abuse and prevention programs.
- Study of land/resource management so youth may protect and wisely use Native land.
- Computer skills training suitable for today's job market.
- Academic tutoring program for Norton students.
- Sponsor student trips to Native dance presentations, job career forums, AFN youth convention and community events. The council needs a van or bus.
- Help students establish a local newsletter, which will help improve their writing skills.

Public Service Needs

- Upgrade the community water storage tank. Norton needs a sanitary supply of drinking water.
- The community needs emergency and multi-use vehicles.
- The village needs police protection. Police officers could be either a VPSO type of policeman or a tribal law enforcement officer under the jurisdiction of the tribal government.
- Machine parts and money to maintain the community grader.
- Community truck for hauling garbage, logs, firewood and gravel.
- Use the community hall to show movies.
- Upgrade the building where the health clinic is located. The building needs a new hot water tank and utilities are too expensive for the community to maintain.
- The community requires a laundromat with showers, washers and dryers.
- New houses for the community. Existing homes need foundation repairs, new windows and casings, insulation, heating systems and exterior repairs. The community also needs land for new homes. Carpentry tools such as heavy duty jacks and chain saws are required.
- Community roads need to be widened and graveled.
- The community should look into surplus equipment from BIA, USGS and Alyeska. The community needs suburbans, a dump truck, loader, sawmill, office equipment, tools and lumber.
- Norton needs better access to state and federal services. Community members have a hard time getting copies of birth certificates, BIA enrollment forms, driver licenses and state ID's.
- More direct funding to the village council, where it will do more good. Money is being siphoned off before it reaches the village.
- Assistance helping tribal members gain title to Native Allotments.

Elder Programs

- The present hot meal program operated by Norton Regional Native Association (NRNA) is not adequate and the food is bad and watery.
- NTC should apply for funding and operate the hot meal program locally. The tribe has the community hall, a kitchen, cooks and students to help. Students could be taught to cook and serve meals. If the council operates the meal program, meals could be served daily.
- There needs to be a program to help elders fill out documents such as Native Allotment affidavits, tax forms, wills, Alaska Permanent Fund applications and longevity program questionnaires.
- Elders need assistance in taking care of their homes. A homemaker program could be established.

Norton Regional Native Association

- NRNA is giving better service now than in the past, but things can still improve.
- NRNA should hold more meetings in Norton. People need to know what programs NRNA administers. NRNA should provide more grant writing assistance to the village. The council needs to administer its own programs.
- NRNA needs to improve health clinic services.
- NTC should not automatically approve resolutions giving NRNA authority to administer programs for Norton. For example, Norton signed a resolution supporting NRNA's transportation program and the village never received any benefits from the program.

Preliminary Goals

Community Governance Goals

- Look into the benefits of seeking IRA status for Norton.
- Establish a local tribal court system through the present council or an IRA government.
- Improve the tribal enrollment system by computerizing tribal membership.
- Establish partnerships between the Norton Corporation and the tribal council to enhance the social and economic development opportunities for Norton.
- Improve the day-to-day administration of the tribal office by establishing training and education programs for council and tribal members.
- Solicit funding, technical assistance and support from other organizations and individuals in establishing a solid foundation from which the council can protect member rights and provide social and economic services to its members.

Human Resource Development Goals

- Provide better training and educational opportunities for tribal members.
- Improve the management skills of NTC staff and council members.
- Educate tribal members of their rights as Native people under state and federal laws.

Community Service Goals

- Improve the local transportation system for Norton.
- Find ways to upgrade the road system for Norton and outlying areas.
- Work with the state and federal government to improve the sewer and water system in Norton.

- Establish a long-term agricultural program for the village.
- Promote better health care for tribal members by improving health clinic services.
- Work with the state to ensure Norton receives capital improvement funding each year.

Economic Development Goals

- Finance a profitable laundromat business for the community.
- Develop a community based entrepreneur training program for tribal youth in business education, employment skills, internships and how to establish and operate a business.
- Investigate possible commercial ventures that will be profitable and use local human and natural resources.
- Work with Bartz Englishoe and Associates to implement an overall economic development plan for the community.

Follow Up

During a second community meeting all topics within this document were discussed. After a full review of issues, meeting participants volunteered for discussion teams. Each team selected a topic area and prioritized goals, established objectives and generated action items. A full meeting was reconvened after each team had completed its work. The community approved final goals and objectives. Tasks were assigned to individuals and organizations. Timelines were established to complete assignments.

Final 2007 SOQ Sample Norton Community Priority List 1-2-07