From: Bob
To: Richard Parkin; Bill Dunbar
Subject: Bristol Bay Regional Vision Project
Date: 02/26/2011 07:38 PM
Attachments: BB Vision Handout and Charts 022311.pdf
Vision Statement final with Notes 022311.pdf

Bill, Rick –

I urge you to please read the two small attachments. And apologies for the length of this email.

==========

In my comments and in response to a question in our Friday meeting, I referred to a major project undertaken by residents of the BB region; the *Bristol Bay Regional Vision Project*. This one-of-a-kind project was triggered locals realizing how many outside entities are making plans for the region. Government agencies and industry have made or have pending plans for the region. Even local NGOs are making plans but from their specific areas of concern.

Everyday people living in the region decided it was time for them to start planning for themselves – and, in the process, to set a broad standard to use in evaluating plans and projects coming at them from all sides. Support for the project (over $1 million) was raised from several foundations and donors. Five local NGO's oversee the project and one of them (Bristol Bay Native Association) is the administrator (handles funds, helps with logistics etc). A team of Commissioners was chosen to attend community meetings, to listen to the people and distill the people's ideas for their future into a single written statement.

The project is half way done. It will be complete by June 2011. During the first half of the project – virtually every community in the region was visited. Throughout the fall of 2010, community residents attended a 2-3 hour public meeting to discuss ideas pertaining to how they wanted their region to be 25-50 years in the future.

The meetings were tearful at times and contentious at others. But in the end, residents of each village spoke. Most moving, is the extremely high degree of consensus between and within villages on all issues. In school meetings, children shared the same vision and concerns as the 80 year old elder - on every issue. Across the region and ethnic cultures the region has a remarkably uniform hope and vision for its future.

After the community visits were done, the project's commissioners (regional elders and leaders) met in a single long exhausting day of poring over the community meeting results. The result is a region-wide vision statement. It is an exquisite and poetic statement. It came straight from the people. It is their words; not those of a consultant or a political leader. This statement will be submitted this spring directly back to the people for their review. It will not reviewed or filtered by the five NGOs or by any other entity or individual.

<u>Important</u> – This process is not about Pebble. It is bigger than that. A standard set of questions were asked at each meeting in order to have a comparable base for feedback. Each participant voted anonymously using wireless "clickers". The word Pebble was not in any question. Questions asked about a wide range of issues; health care, public safety, education,

wellness, the economy etc. These results should not be seen as a referendum on any specific project or activity. Instead the statement paints a future within which projects and social programs will have to operate in order to receive their "social license". As you will see, the people want to improve their lives but will accept only that development that respects the region's common values.

Please look at the attachments. You will see the questions asked and the region's response. You will also see the vision statement. If you have any questions I will be glad to help you find answers. I was involved in creating the project but was not even a small factor in the village conversations or in creating the vision statement.

Respectfully,

Bob Waldrop
907-223-1588