

Spring 2022

MANH CHOH NEWSLETTER



Kinross Donates \$1 million to Indigenous Studies Initiative

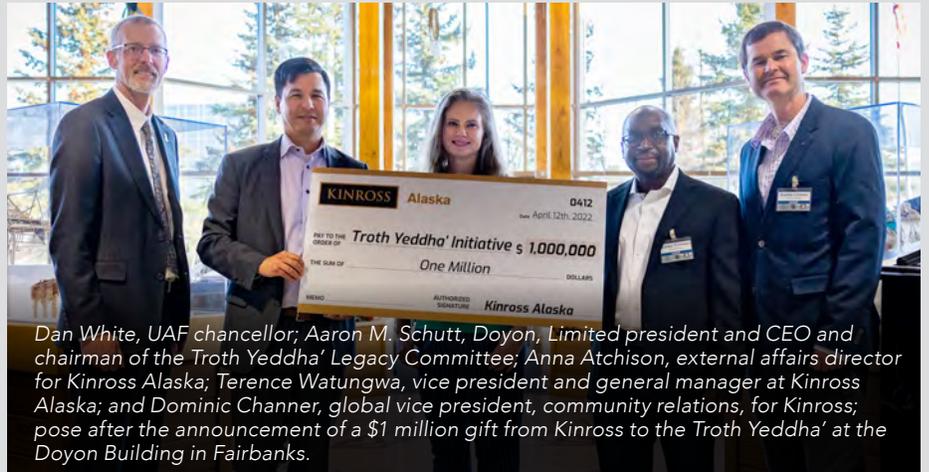
From Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

An initiative launched a decade ago to create an Indigenous Studies Center received a major boost with a \$1 million donation from Kinross Alaska to the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

According to a UAF news release, the donation will fund the schematic designs and bid specifications needed for the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center, a planned 34,000-square-foot facility.

"This is much more than a building. It is a space and a tangible symbol of honoring and valuing Alaska's first people," Anna Atchison, External Affairs Director for Kinross Alaska, said in the news release. "This facility will help to shape and strengthen the future of Alaska Native students by creating a much-needed space for the current and planned growth of Indigenous programming at UAF."

Kinross Alaska approached UAF about a partnership to help advance the Troth Yeddha' Initiative, which was launched a decade ago with the goal to raise \$40 million toward constructing the center.



Dan White, UAF chancellor; Aaron M. Schutt, Doyon, Limited president and CEO and chairman of the Troth Yeddha' Legacy Committee; Anna Atchison, external affairs director for Kinross Alaska; Terence Watungwa, vice president and general manager at Kinross Alaska; and Dominic Channer, global vice president, community relations, for Kinross; pose after the announcement of a \$1 million gift from Kinross to the Troth Yeddha' at the Doyon Building in Fairbanks.

The donation is part of Kinross Alaska's commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Fort Knox mine, which was celebrated in December.

Atchison told the News-Miner Wednesday that it wasn't a question of contributing to the university.

"We have a strong connection to a university that in turn has a strong connection to the community," Atchison said. "This donation is also a way of recognizing thousands of years of

history and culture for the Alaska Native peoples."

According to the release, the center would be built on the Troth Yeddha' Park site on the UAF campus. Once built, the center would become UAF's administrative hub for its College of Rural and Community Development. The college includes programs such as Alaska Native Language Center, Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development and the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies.

Tribal Member Spotlight: Roy David Sr.



Roy Davis Sr. had a smashing 85th birthday.

Roy David Sr. is an Alaska Native elder from Tetlin who recently celebrated his 85th birthday surrounded by family and friends. Roy was raised living a traditional semi-nomadic subsistence lifestyle of hunting, trapping, fishing and gardening. He has held various jobs, including alcohol counselor and village public safety officer for Tetlin Village. Roy has mushed dogs in the Upper Tanana region and plays the guitar during Sunday service. One of his favorite scriptures

is: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." Roy is a wealth of knowledge of traditional stories that he shares with the younger generation in hopes of keeping his Native traditions and values alive. Roy and his beloved late wife Cora David have two adopted children named Roy David Jr. and Lydia David.

Meet Terence



In March, we welcomed Terence Watungwa as the new VP and GM of the Kinross Alaska team. He will oversee the Fort Knox mine and Manh Choh project. Terence has over 20 years of experience with Kinross in operations management, project management, technical services management and strategic planning and execution.

Prior to joining the Kinross Alaska team, Terence worked in Washington state and global locations including West Africa.

Terence holds a BSc (Eng) Hons in mining engineering from the University of Zimbabwe and an MBA in operations management from Colorado Technical University. He is a Stanford University Certified Project Manager and completed the Queens University Executive Program in 2017.

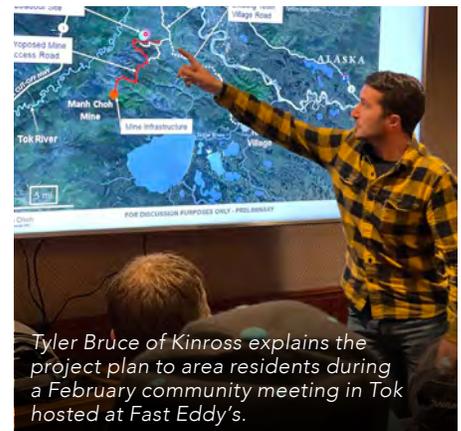
Terence and his wife, Angie, live in Alaska and his two adult children, Sean and Thierry, live close by in Washington. Terence is looking forward to learning more about life in Alaska and exploring his new home!

2022 Construction Plans at Manh Choh

Manh Choh is excited to announce it has taken ownership of the old Westmark Hotel located in Tok with plans to refurbish this facility for Manh Choh project use as workers' accommodations and mine offices. We are currently completing a detailed conditions assessment and working with potential local contractors to plan the refurbishment. Work is scheduled to begin this summer.

We continue to work toward a productive 2022 construction season pending necessary permit approvals. With great

support from the Native Village of Tetlin, local community members and Alaska companies, we are getting closer to reaching our goals. Camp refurbishment work is expected to start in late spring and continue through most of the year. Additionally, we are looking to partner with local businesses for help with further 2022 construction activities including road building, tree clearing and other earthworks. The project team is hopeful that permits will be received allowing construction activities to begin later this year to kick off the first phase of the Manh Choh project development.



Tyler Bruce of Kinross explains the project plan to area residents during a February community meeting in Tok hosted at Fast Eddy's.

Environmental Team Files for State and Federal Permits



At the beginning of this project, the team set an ambitious goal of submitting all permit applications no later than December 31, 2021. We are happy to report that this goal was achieved — with six hours to spare! On New Year's Eve, the environmental team was hard at work compiling applications and overcoming IT issues to submit the 1.5 GB package of applications and reports to our state and federal partners.

Like an orchestra, it took many individuals playing in concert to achieve the aggressive schedule for permit submittal. We would like to recognize the entire project team, to include the community relations team leading the robust community engagements, the many contractors who provided technical support and a special thanks to the environmental team.

In 2021, the project team conducted extensive stakeholder meetings and engagements along with a site tour with our state and federal partners to ensure they had the project familiarity needed for efficient review of the permit applications. On January 13, 2022, the wetlands permit went to public notice, 14 days after permit submittal. The public notice period ended on February 14, 2022. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for this permit.

Looking ahead, the environmental team will remain busy in 2022 with baseline sampling and other field work, subsistence studies and continuing to advance the permit applications. We're looking forward to another exciting year for the Manh Choh project!

Project Update



The Manh Choh team held three community meetings along the ore transport route in Fairbanks, Delta and Tok. Each community brought unique perspectives to the meeting and provided valuable feedback for the project team. Safety, the construction season and economic benefits were the main topics of the meetings.



Safety is the top priority for the project including the ore transport plan. Together with our yet to be determined trucking partner, we will implement a wide range of safety measures:

- We will insist on a strong safety culture through recruiting, training and ongoing coaching
- We will meet or do better than all legal/regulatory requirements, including load and speed limits and driver duty times
- We will schedule and plan the route to keep drivers within safe and legal duty limits
- We will maintain active communication between drivers and dispatch to alert road hazards and conditions
- We will have a dedicated safety staff
- We will hire and train experienced drivers
- We will structure trucking contracts to ensure safety first
- We will engage with communities through a local community advisory committee and dedicated grievance mechanism
- We will have a comprehensive safety system including real-time vehicle and driver monitoring that incorporates camera visuals and fatigue management
- We will use purpose-built equipment and diligently maintain it
- We will cover loads to minimize dust
- We will drive to conditions, including slowing or stopping operations when necessary.

Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly Meetings

Members from the leadership team attended two Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly meetings to advocate and educate assembly members on the importance of the 404 Wetlands permit and the economic impact that Manh Choh will have on the surrounding areas. A resolution proposed by an assembly member was passed asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to extend the public comment period past February 13, and to

facilitate an additional community meeting. The project team and a diverse set of supporters, including vendors, Tetlin Chief Michael Sam, the Fairbanks Chamber and other village leadership electronically submitted letters opposing the resolution. The Corps issued a statement declining the recommendation of the Borough Assembly.

Joint Legislative Committee Presentation

Former GM Jeremy Brans and Tetlin Chief Michael Sam provided information to the Alaska State House Transportation and Natural Resources Committees on the economic and transportation aspects of the project. DOT Commissioner Ryan Anderson and individuals with ore transportation concerns also presented to the committees. The joint committee was especially interested in hearing how the project would improve the way of life for Tetlin and local people.

Local Organization Outreach

The Manh Choh team also had the opportunity to present the project to Explore Fairbanks, the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. The presentation focused on the ore transportation safety commitments and measures that will be implemented once operations begin.

Meeting with Local School Districts

We also began outreach to local school districts to learn about bus routes, including stop locations and times along the ore transport route and to discuss the ore transportation plan. We appreciate the useful feedback received so far and

look forward to more discussions. Manh Choh will continue to work with schools, DOT and our trucking partner, once selected, to maximize safety in this planning phase and throughout operations.

DOT & FAST Launch Independent Studies on Ore Transport Plan

In late March, the Alaska Department of Transportation decided to conduct an independent study of the route and to create a Transportation Advisory Committee comprised of representatives who will take part in the analysis, review the work and make final recommendations. Similarly, Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation planning (FAST)

announced an independent study focused on traffic impacts in the Fairbanks Area. We look forward to participating in the DOT and FAST working groups. We welcome the continuing opportunity for community engagement, information sharing and outreach.



Cranberries and morel mushrooms nourished by new growth after forest fires are abundant on Tetlin land and support the Tribe's traditional subsistence harvest.

Cultural Share

Potlatch Holds Special Place in Native Culture

Potlatch gatherings hold a special place in Alaska Native culture and carry different levels of meaning depending on the many reasons for the gathering, such as naming a child after someone, accomplishments, traumatic events, marriages and the passing of loved ones. It strengthens the ceremonial, spiritual, social and cultural aspects of the community. Some potlatches last for days, months and even years, depending on the occasion.

In the Athabascan culture, when a person passes, the whole village comes together to grieve with the family and friends of the deceased. After the person is laid to rest, a strong spiritual connection is maintained through water, food, song and dance as the tribal

ceremonies prepare to free the spirit for their next journey in the life cycle.

A potlatch is formally defined as the distribution of material wealth as a means of increasing social recognition; this is only a superficial description, overlooking the scope, intention and deeper meaning of many tribal ceremonies.

By giving gifts to those of opposite clans who come together to grieve with the family and friends, the family pays the earthly debts of the deceased. Gifts given often include intricate beadwork, rifles, blankets and money.

These are occasions for expressing grief as members tell stories, laugh, cry, express anger, guilt, sorrow and love.

Ceremonies have changed over the years, resulting in some traditions evolving. Many Elders recall the unique way their people would prepare moose soup by carefully slicing the meat and adding blends of fish and smashed berries. Blankets were also strung up outside and would be given as gifts to attendees along with the prepared dishes.

Over time, restrictions and laws have impeded the villages' ability to harvest wildlife in honor of an upcoming potlatch. Today, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has put specific protections in place so that Alaska Native people can follow their cultural traditions and harvest wild game even when a specific hunting season is closed.

HR/Employment

Check Out *manhchoh.com* for the Latest Job Listings

These are exciting times as we look toward hiring for construction in 2022 and operations in late 2023. We welcome the new addition of Meg Day to the project team, who will manage workforce development and training for the project. Come say hello at our upcoming community meetings!

Interested in employment? Visit *manhchoh.com* to view available jobs and to create a user profile that will send you email alerts when jobs that match your search become available. To be considered for training programs and to receive additional information, please contact the HR team and we will first send you a skills and jobs interest assessment to help us build programs of interest to you!

We can be contacted in a variety of ways:

- Visit us at the Kinross Manh Choh office in Tok, Mon - Fri, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Email us at: manhchoh.hr@kinross.com
- Call us at **907.490.2241**
- Text us at **907.482.7311**
- Visit our website at manhchoh.com or jobs.kinross.com

Preliminary construction jobs include skill sets that can be applied in other industries and jobs such as construction, utility, oil and gas, other mining projects and around your communities.



Stay Connected – Sign Up for Project Updates

Manh Choh will work diligently to keep you updated on our activities and to listen and take into consideration your suggestions and concerns. In addition to occasional community meetings, you can use our website as a place to ask questions or make comments. Go to manhchoh.com to sign up.

With The Addition of Passing Lanes, Area Roadways Will Be Safer for Everyone.

In the coming years, DOT&PF is planning improvements along the Alaska, Richardson and Steese Highways including adding 18 passing lanes, asphalt resurfacing, bridge replacements and other work. With the addition of passing lanes there will be a safe opportunity to pass approximately every 10-20 minutes. This is in addition to annual inspection and maintenance.

Visit dot.alaska.gov/nreg/tetlintoforknox for more information.

Five Fast Facts about Manh Choh



1. It was important to the new project owners upon acquisition that the project be renamed in traditional language. The Village of Tetlin, at the recommendation of the village elders, chose the name "Manh Choh" ("mon-CHO"), which can be translated from the Upper Tanana Athabascan language as "Big Lake."
2. The Manh Choh project is expected to create 400-600 high-paying jobs during operations and 200-300 jobs during construction.
3. Ore will be processed at the Fort Knox mill, which significantly reduces the mine's environmental footprint by removing the need for a new mill and tailings storage facility.
4. Once in production, Manh Choh will be the second largest private employer in the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area.
5. In 2021, 74% of project spending was with Alaska-based businesses.

History of the Tok Dog Musher's Association

Tok Race of Champions Always Signals Spring

By Teresa Faulise



Kinross Manh Choh is a proud community partner of the Tok Dog Musher's Association and recently sponsored the annual "Tok Race of Champions."

Tok Race of Champions 2022 was a big success this spring, thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and our lovely sponsors such as Kinross Manh Choh. The sun was out, the trails were solid and the mushers came to race! There was a wonderful turnout of locals and racers for the big event and all were satisfied!

The community came out to the hall to see the races, visit with friends and family from throughout the valley, sample the hamburgers and take a chance on the raffles! Mushers from Alaska and across the country attended the race. Folks always know spring is here when the Tok Race of Champions is on! Due to record snowfall in the Upper Tanana Valley this

year, keeping the dog trails cleared and groomed proved to be a huge and costly job, but in the end the club was successful and the mushers were happy.

The Junior Championship welcomed many young mushers and they only had to share the track with a couple of moose! There was also great fun to be had by the adults with the skijoring race. This proved to be a popular event this year and in recent years during the junior races.

About TDMA

The TDMA was officially formed in 1958. Dog races in the Upper Tanana Valley actually started in 1954 and continue through today! The Tok Race of Champions is considered part of the Triple Crown Distinction, along with the Fur Rendezvous in Anchorage and the Open North American in Fairbanks.

2022 Exploration



Exploration field work continues in summer 2022.

Team Plans its 2022 Season

For summer 2022, the exploration team is planning a drilling campaign, and taking a broader look over the Tetlin lease area using stream sediment analysis. The total planned drilling is 13,000 feet in 15 to 20 drillholes. Contracting is underway for the exploration work. Current availability suggests that the start date will be mid-September and work is expected to continue through November.

If you are interested in working on the Manh Choh exploration program this year, please apply through manhchoh.com or in-person at our local Tok office (Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

The regional exploration work may be new to some of the team who were not involved in the early years. In mid- to late-June, a team of geologists and geotechnicians will work on collecting stream sediment samples in order to identify basins that are accumulating potential metal mineralization from the uplands. This type of sampling involves collecting sediment from streams, panning concentrates from those sediments, pH measurement and writing detailed descriptions of the basins. This analysis will help identify sites to be considered for further exploration. An analysis of previous stream sediment work has already

identified previously untested exploration targets. This first phase should allow the development of new areas to explore.

Additionally, the exploration team is planning to conduct gravity geophysics surveys in the areas around the deposits. Gravity geophysics is an exploration technique that we have had success with in Interior Alaska. It can identify dense metalliferous rock, like the Manh Choh ore bodies, and gravity data can also be useful for piecing together the subsurface geology to improve geologic maps for further exploration targeting.

Investing in Our Community

Manh Choh supported several local area programs and events during the first quarter of 2022:

- **Tok Wolverine Trap Club**, which teaches youth firearm safety and the sport of shooting traps. The Manh Choh project donation was used to purchase trap shooting supplies.
- **Tok Dog Musers Association**, which helped defray the costs of hosting the 66th running of the Tok Race of Champions and Tok Junior Race of Champions and supported trail and building maintenance. The races provide a safe and healthy activity for families to participate in and learn about culture, sportsmanship and how to maintain an active Alaska lifestyle.

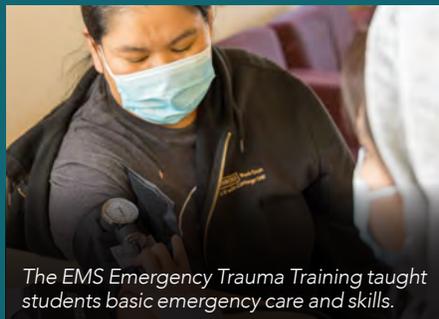


In March, we were pleased to support the Tok Boy's High School Basketball Team, which recently placed 3rd at the regional championships. Go Wolverines!

- **Tok Boy's High School Basketball Team**, which recently placed 3rd at the regional championships in March. Go Wolverines!
- We also teamed up with the **Tok UAF** campus to provide two in-depth courses to area residents. The first was an **EMS Emergency Trauma Training First responder class** that was completed by 11 Tetlin residents. The extensive course

was also completed by the Tetlin Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) and provided critical knowledge for the first responder. Students learned emergency care and the skills to provide first response care to patients. **This is the first time more than one person in the village has been certified and able to assist in medical situations.** This is a major milestone for the Village and will help the area respond quickly to emergencies in the area.

The second course offered was **"Professional Skills for the Job Hunt,"** which assisted students in choosing meaningful employment opportunities and helped them build their own employment profile. Nine Tetlin community members attended the class and walked away with a set of new skills and a new resume to help them pursue their career goals. High school seniors that are preparing to enter the workforce also enrolled in the class and took interest in the future employment opportunities that the project would present. Manh Choh's recruiter, Terri Jerue, attended as a guest speaker and spoke to students about job readiness skills and how to best prepare for interviews.



The EMS Emergency Trauma Training taught students basic emergency care and skills.

Congratulations!

EMS Emergency Trauma Training Students:

Byron C.
Catherine C.
Dinashay E.
Angelene I.
Anita J.
Ariel M.
Jonathan M.
Preston P.
James W.
Julie W.
Kiara Y.

Professional Skills for the Job Hunt Students:

Mason A.
Catherine C.
Joslyn D.
Germaine H.
Shania I.
Preston P.
Isaiah S.
Stanley T.
Bridgette Y.

2021 Recap: Community Impacts

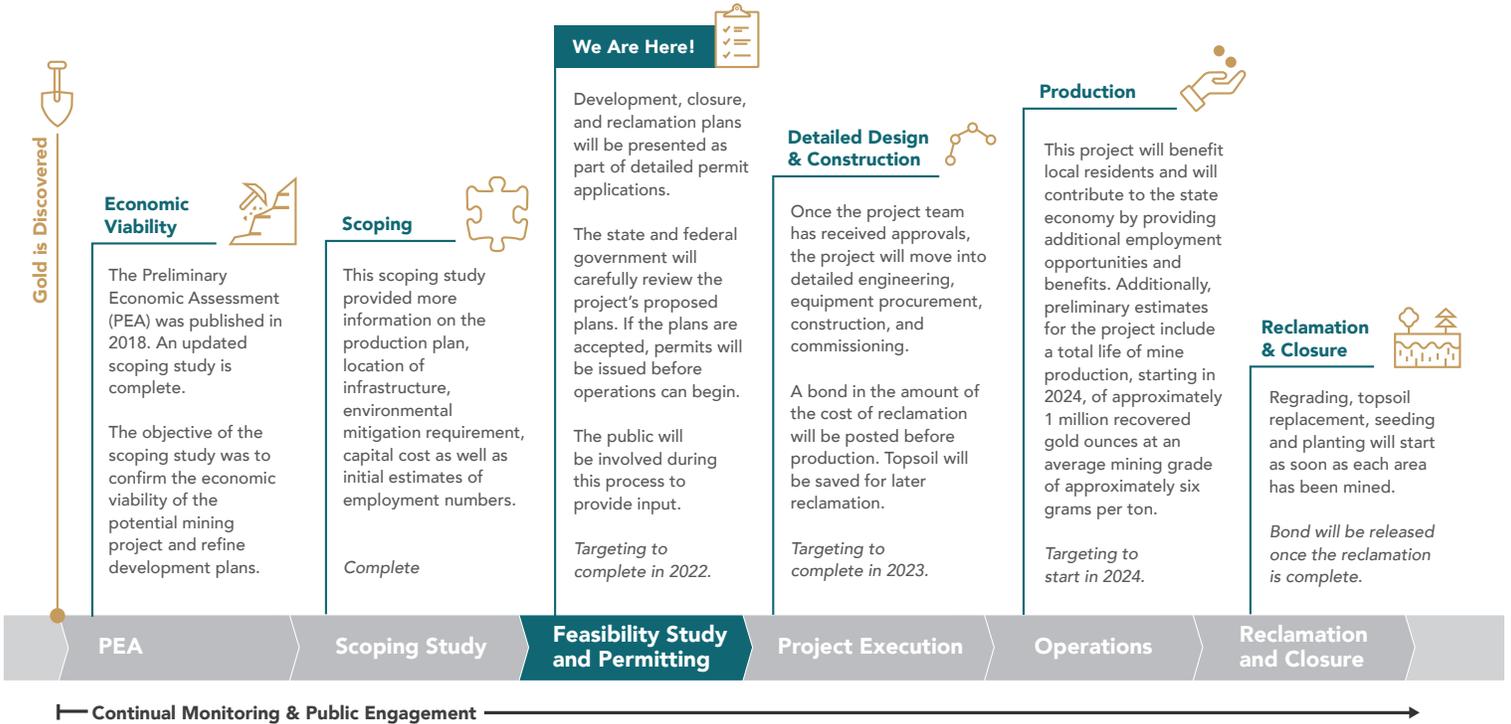
In 2021, Kinross Manh Choh invested over \$180,000 locally, supporting a dozen community programs in the areas of education, community activities and local development, cultural preservation and environmental sustainability. On average, each of these programs positively impacted 278 people (over 8,000 beneficiaries of programs we support).

We spent over \$1.5 million on local area goods and services, directly supporting over a dozen businesses in the Tok/Delta Junction area. In early 2022, Manh Choh renewed the community support agreement with the Tetlin Village.

Project representatives spent over 550 hours meeting with more than 2,500 community members over 200 times throughout the year; 32 of those engagements were open public meetings to discuss the project.

Spring 2022

PROJECT TIMELINE



Save the Date May Community Meetings:

Kinross leadership will soon be in an area near you. Please join us at one of the following meetings where you will hear about project updates. Times and dates are subject to change; go to manhchoh.com for current schedules.

Monday, May 16

Tanacross Community Meeting | 12 - 2:00 p.m. @ TBD

Tok Community Meeting | 5 - 7:00 p.m. @ Fast Eddy's

Tuesday, May 17

Northway Community Meeting | 11 - 1:00 p.m. @ Tribal Hall

Mentasta Lake Community Meeting | 5 - 7:00 p.m. @ Community Hall

Wednesday, May 18

Tetlin Community Meeting | 12 - 2:00 p.m. @ Tribal Hall

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Manh Choh
A JV with Contango ORE

