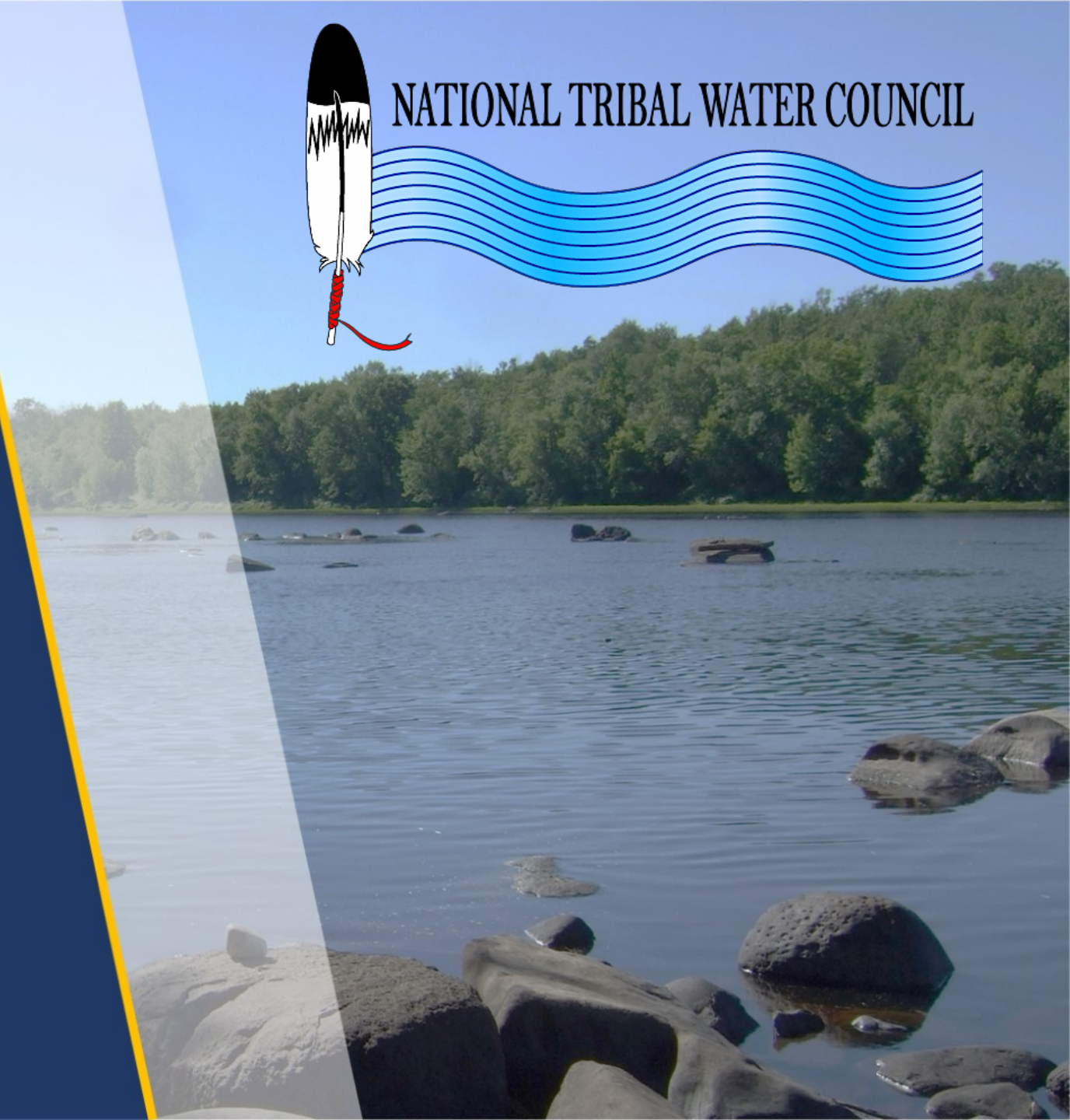


Information Sharing and Listening Session

November 20, 2019
Alaska Tribal Conference on
Environmental Management



NATIONAL TRIBAL WATER COUNCIL



In Remembrance of Daniel R. Chythlook

- Paug'yuk of Aleknagik
- Former member of NTWC
- Documented salmon on top of the Pebble deposit, including all small stream and salmon habitat areas; water quality sampling; establishing water level reservations on the Kuktuli River
- Developed Nushagak River Traditional Use Area Conservation Plan



May 15, 1958 – Aug 20, 2019

National Tribal Water Council



Who We Are:

- Technical and scientific body to assist EPA, federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Tribes, their associated tribal communities & tribal organizations, with research & information for decision-making on water issues and water-related concerns

What We Do:

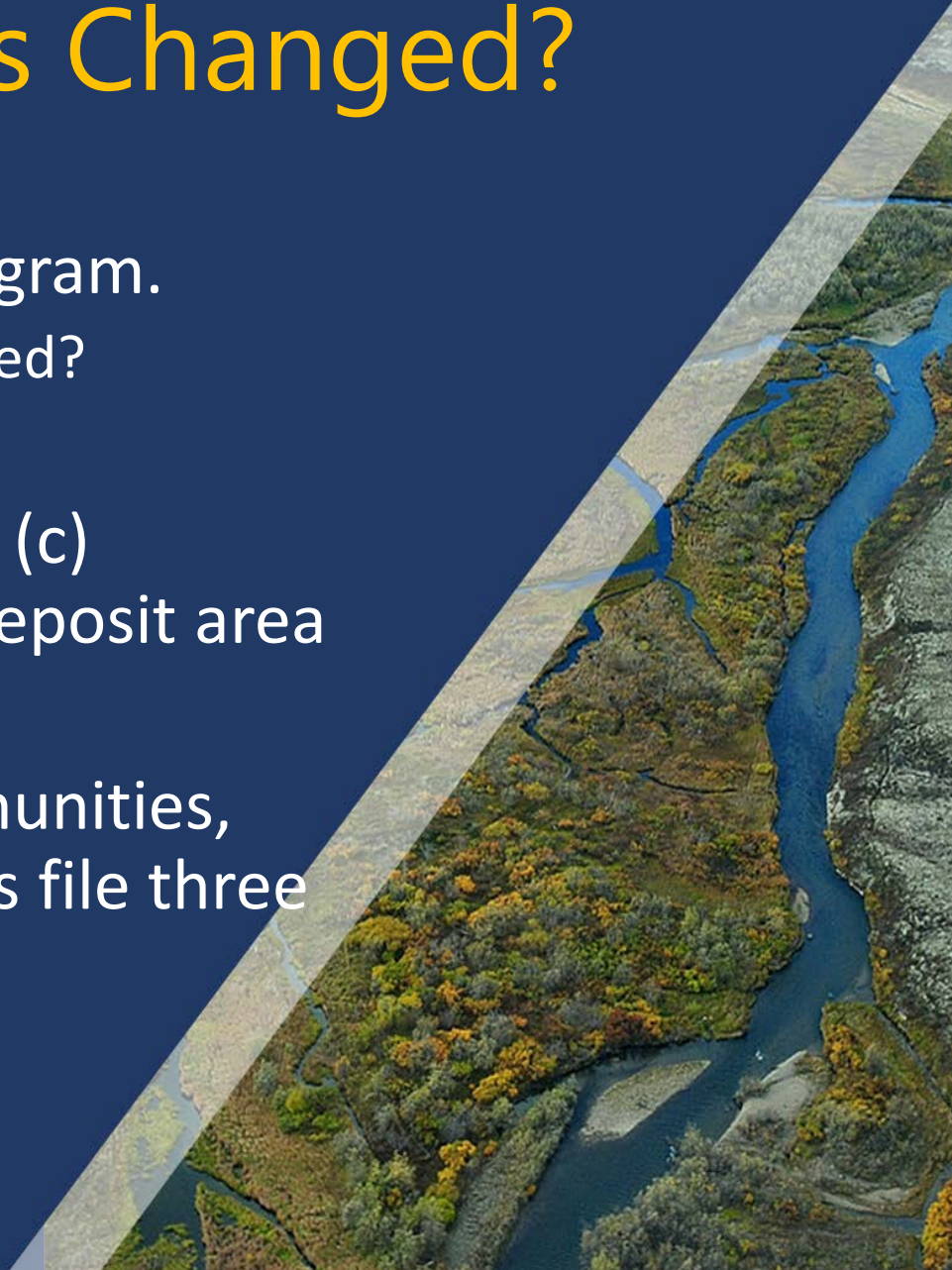
- Hold two in-person meetings annually, conduct monthly conference calls, and work to address priority water issues impacting Indian Country
- Information exchange and outreach
- Policy Response Kits (PRK)

Aug 2010: NTWC Attended EPA R10 Tribal Leaders Summit - Juneau

- Main purpose was to hear & listen to Alaska Natives (ANV) regarding their environmental issues/concerns.
- NTWC opposed the State of Alaska's 2008 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program application.
- NTWC requested EPA to exercise its authority under CWA Section 404(c) to protect water quality in Bristol Bay from the proposed Pebble Mine.

Nine Years Later – What has Changed?

- EPA approved Alaska's NPDES permitting program.
 - Are ANVs water/subsistence foods being protected?
 - Lack of or inadequate consultation with ANVs?
- 2019 – EPA withdrew its 2014 proposed 404 (c) determination to restrict use of the Pebble deposit area as a disposal site.
- Oct 2019 – Bristol Bay Watershed ANV communities, commercial fishermen & conservation groups file three (3) lawsuits challenging EPA withdrawal



Nine Years Later – What has Changed? (cont.)

- 2020 – Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) is scheduled to have completed EIS and Record of Decision – potentially issuing CWA Section 404 permit to Pebble Mine
- EPA can use its CWA authority to block Pebble Mine



Alaska Native Homes – Access to Safe Drinking Water & Wastewater Treatment

- EPA's ANV program - serving ~240 ANVs
 - Coordinates with Indian Health Service (IHS) sanitation facilities construction, the State of Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) & U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) - Rural Development
 - Committed to building drinking water/sanitation infrastructure for ANVs – is it working?
- Rural Alaskan Village Grants (RAVG) – USDA/DEC
 - Assistance goes directly to ANVs
 - Alternative solutions – Portable Alternative Sanitation Systems
- Requesting ANV input on proposed design & approach of EPA's 2020 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey & Assessment (DWINSA)
 - Survey results will determine EPA funding for tribes and ANVs
 - 2011 EPA (DWINSA) identified \$3.3 billion in capital improvement for DW needs for tribes & ANVs
 - 2019 IHS identified \$1.7 billion for Alaskan Native community infrastructure

Climate Change Impacts

- Largely ignored by federal agencies
- Disproportionately impacts tribal communities (especially ANVs)
 - Now and into the future
 - Changes to cultural, traditional & subsistence lifeways
- U.S. Senate Special Committee on the Climate Crisis
 - Request for testimony from tribes/ANVs on impacts of climate change
 - Started dialogue on potential solutions and adaptive responses
 - NTWC response letter to U.S. Senate Committees – Indian Affairs & Special Committee on Climate Crisis



Let's Hear From You

- Are there other pertinent issues or concerns unique to tribes and villages in Alaska not previously mentioned?

Thank you / Contact Information

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