

8/14/83 Kotzebue - Tribal Council mtg.
(long night)

- Full house. Hot as hell in here.
- Anger right from get-go.

Chairman Washington - trying to hold room together.
respected. People listened (mostly).
Good opening. Needed.

People don't
trust outsiders.
Especially us.

Chance - came out swinging.

- wants near-shore gravel. Now.
- infrastructure. Housing. Jobs.
- Fed regs = biggest obstacle. Not birds.
- applause lines. Knows the crowd.
- * - "Seagulls are not going extinct anytime soon, Barry."

His tone toward me = contempt.
Not a debate for him. A nuisance.

Dismissive.
Smug.
Doesn't get it.
Doesn't care.

What's not being said out loud:

- Gravel = development = more people, more change,
less control for villages.
- Once it's gone, can't get habitat back.
- Research seen as first step to lockdown.
- Maps = power. In wrong hands, dangerous.

Community
wants say in
what happens
to their land.

Things I learned / picked up:

- Low flights are a BIG issue. Need to rethink
our approach. Even if legal, it's not okay.
- Fear of ~~seagulls~~ is real. ~~seagulls~~ sensitivity
needs better protection.
- Some think we're here to clear the way
for gravel companies. Have to fix that.

Trust deficit.
Have to earn it.
Every time.

Good voices tonight:

- Elder from Kivalina - "Maps become problems once
they leave the community." True.
- Young hunter from Deering - sharp. Not afraid
to challenge both sides.

Next time -
need more time
for community
to talk among
themselves.

Personal note:

This work matters. These colonies are irreplaceable.
But if we don't change how we do things,
we'll lose the chance to protect them.
Have to listen more. Talk less.

Science means
nothing without
respect.

Ideas / follow-up:

- Community-based monitoring?
- Share drafts of any reports before publishing?
- Meet in villages, not just in Kotzebue.

Long road
ahead.