



**STAFF REPORT  
MAY 20, 2015**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:**

Current assets are a little over one million dollars, earning a very small return on investment. The savings are all very liquid and ready for the Board to decide how it wishes to proceed in terms of investments that might garner a higher return with the accompanying assumption of risk.

Key Bank (SSL -- AMLIP funds that are very liquid):	\$ 196,122.44
Key Bank Savings	\$ 260,533.41
Wells Fargo Checking	\$ 71,837.33
Wells Fargo Savings	\$ 205,647.10
Wells Fargo -- 30 day CDs	\$ 300,002.30
<hr/> <b>Total</b>	<hr/> <b>\$1,034,142.58</b>

**PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:**

Regional Energy Planning:

All projects are moving from Resource Assessment and Outreach to Solutions for the high cost of energy. Following a successful model from Southeast Alaska, staff is confirming community priorities and outlining steps required to move those goals forward. This process is community driven, with the expectation that moving projects forward largely needs to be lead by local stakeholder, due to the anticipated reduction in State funding.

- **Aleutian/Pribilofs:** Draft reports have been created for each community, organized into the 13 project categories outlined in the Energy Roadmap. Staff is in the process of calling communities to confirm what activities have been conducted towards achieving stated goals, and prioritizing projects. The next stage will be to work with technical advisors and project managers to provide direction necessary to achieving tasks in a structured approach.
- **Bristol Bay:** SWAMC and the Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) co-hosted the Bristol Bay Energy Summit on May 4 in Dillingham. Laura Vaught, Energy Intern, worked closely with Lawrence Sorensen BBNA on the logistics of trying to fly a representative from most of the 31 communities in for the Summit. About 25 communities were represented at the meeting. Presentations were made by Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) regarding the energy planning process, energy efficiency, alternative energy technologies, and examples from around the region of services provided by AEA. Presentations were also provided by representatives of Marsh Creek, Siemens, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and electric utilities from the region. AEA was happy with the event and it helped advance the energy planning project. This meeting begins the end of Phase II of the Bristol Bay Energy Plan and Phase III, which will involve finalization of community energy improvement priorities and technical review by AEA will begin shortly.
- **Kodiak:** SWAMC hosted the first of three annual Committee meeting in Kodiak on April 28. As understood by both SWAMC and AEA, the committee and follow up at the Kodiak Rural Forum (attend by Sara Fisher-Goad, AEA Director) exceeded expectation for participation and feedback. Ultimately, the success in Phase III of the Energy Plan will depend on SWAMC's ability to coordinate technical responses on submitted energy priorities and communities to confirm and follow through with given feedback and continued participation in the Energy Committee. SWAMC and the Kodiak Energy Plan are further along than other districts, so this presents the challenge of determining the best path forward, but the benefit of setting course for others to follow.

Business Retention & Expansion

The State Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Economic Development (DED) strongly encouraged use the State BRE survey form after it had first allowed SWAMC to develop its own draft. The explanation for the change in DED's position was based on advice from the BRE software contractor, Executive Pulse, and the desire for uniformity for the BRE survey statewide. With the approved survey, Brianna Dym continued the process of contacting and coordinating with potential partners for the BRE survey effort and conducting interviews with businesses located in Anchorage with business interests in SWAMC's region. Carol Wren with the Bristol Bay Native Corporation and Annie Fritze with BBNA appear two of the most promising partners going forward. Brianna began doing preliminary planning for travel to communities in the SWAMC region for BRE survey work including: Adak, Dillingham, Sand Point and King Salmon.

### Membership & Network

The BRE planning and outreach activities above involved networking and contact with SWAMC members.

### Workforce Development

Hope Broecker made Junior Achievement presentation in Anchorage schools as part of her workforce preparedness program. Programs under development is to create and manage a STEM related calendar of activity. Efforts continue to fund workshops to improve soft skills and provide career visioning for enter level positions.

### Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Initially, SWAMC had drafted a Scope of Work to support the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) in their endeavors to coordinate a partnership and manage the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) grant to support manufacturing entities in Alaska. However, on May 1st MAP director Cullenberg informed SWAMC that they would not be applying for the MEP Funding Opportunity due to difficulties finding balance between the rigid operating requirements of both the University of Alaska and NIST, and instead suggested SWAMC take the lead on applying for the lead in the proposed Manufacturing Alaska Extension (MAKE). SWAMC hired a grant coordinator, Ellen Tyler to support grant submission, due on June 1st.

### **NETWORKING/MEETINGS:**

- April 27 -- Griffin and O'Brien Meeting with Walt Kallenberg (contractor) and Alan Baldvieso of Alaska Energy Authority regarding Absorption Chilling (using recovered heat) project.
- April 28-29 -- OBrien traveled to Kodiak, to host the Kodiak Energy Committee (Koniag Building) and present findings to the Kodiak Rural Forum (Kodiak College), in coordination with Jed Drolet and Sara Fisher-Goad of AEA.
- April 29 -- Griffin and Vaught participated in teleconference meeting with BBNA and Information Insights to finalize plans for Bristol Bay Energy Summit.
- May 1 -- Griffin and O'Brien attend Regional Energy Planners Meeting at AEA.
- May 1 -- Griffin and Vaught participate in final planning teleconference with BBNA and Information Insights for Bristol Bay Energy Summit
- May 1 -- Griffin and O'Brien meet with Paula Cullenberg with University of Alaska Fairbanks, Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program regarding partnering with SWAMC in the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program.
- May 4 -- Griffin co-hosts Bristol Bay Energy Summit in Dillingham.
- May 12 -- Griffin and O'Brien participate in MEP teleconference scoping meeting with various potential partners.
- May 13 -- O'Brien and Broecker met at SWAMC to discuss the VISTA Workforce Scope of Work.
- May 14 -- Griffin and Dym attend Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) training sponsored by the University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Corporate and Professional Development
- May 15 -- Griffin attends annual ARDOR meeting hosted by Division of Economic Development
- May 19 -- Obrien, Griffin and Ellen Tyler met at SWAMC to discuss MAKE Application.
- May 20 -- OBrien and Katy Conway, AEA met at AEA to discuss the Kodiak Energy Plan - Phase III Scope of Work, as it relates to achieving energy efficiency goals, and setting course for other regions to follow in that regard.