



**STAFF REPORT
APRIL 2014**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:

Conference was successful, profiting about \$23,458, including in-kind \$35,958.

EDA funds for fourth quarter processed, total distribution to date, \$75,000.

ARDOR funding re-administered, expecting distribution in the coming weeks of \$64,508.

Organization is flush with cash now, earning a very small return on investment. May want to consider diversifying into other funding vehicles to increase yields; the majority of funds are locked up until early 2015, which gives ample time to investigate options.

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Energy Planning

- *Aleutian/Pribilofs*: A contract has been signed with AEA to complete Phase II – Regional Feedback. These efforts will largely be completed in-house with assistance from Information Insights. Staff has been making one-on-one contact with stakeholders in the region to ensure that they have received and have access to the Phase I Resource Inventory, as well as ensuring that they complete the feedback survey that was put together with the help of Information Insights. The survey is available online on the Aleutian / Pribilofs Regional Energy Planning Website.
- *Bristol Bay*: We are continuing efforts on Phase II – Regional Feedback.
- *Kodiak*: We have signed the initial contract for the Phase I – Resource Identification and Assessment. We signed a subcontract with Information Insights to complete the Phase I report. We will present an update to the Kodiak Group through the Kodiak Rural Forum in late April.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

We have been working with Agnew::Beck on planning and drafting the CEDS document. The team identified priority areas from the Business Council Meeting. Richelle, and Molly and Shelly from Agnew::Beck have been working on data collection and analysis for the document and Shelly, Molly and Erik have been working on drafting the document.

Southwest Alaska Business Council

We will draft a strategy for continued engagement with the Business Community through the CEDS Process.

VISTA- STEM Program

STEM Coordinator Paul Oliva started on February 5th.

- Kodiak Family Science and Tech Night - On February 11th, Paul traveled to Kodiak for the Kodiak Family Science and Tech Night at Kodiak High School, an event started by SWAMC and later taken over by the school district. SWAMC's display included information about careers in aerospace and aviation from the Federal Aviation Administration and a hands-on demonstration on wind turbines from the Renewable Energy Alaska Project. Over 180 students and family members attended the event.
- Alaska Youth First FY15 Grant - On February 28th, we submitted a grant application requesting \$37,290 to implement a youth career skills training program, Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Development (SAVED), in our region. We plan to collaborate with Kodiak College, Kodiak Island Borough School District, UAF-Bristol Bay, and UAF- Interior Aleutians on this project. Funding for Alaska Youth First FY15 is currently on the legislative chopping block. In the event that funding for the grant does not make it into the budget, we still plan to implement the program on a smaller scale.

- Connect Alaska DCCED Proposal - On April 1st, we submitted a proposal, "SWAMC E-government Innovation Incubators" to Connect Alaska. For this \$50,000 contract we proposed to collaborate with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, and the Alaska Learning Network to expand the scope and increase the efficiency of e-government services in our region.

False Pass Tidal

Staff needs to follow up with Project Coordinator to finalize project.

2014 Annual Economic Summit & Membership Meeting

The 2014 SWAMC Annual Economic Summit & Membership Meeting was the most well attended SWAMC conference ever. A recap of the conference and links to speaker presentations with audio is available at <http://www.swamc.org/html/2014-conference.php>

Intern

Richelle Johnson, a UAA undergraduate Economics student, will be assisting on Energy and CEDS data collection and Conference Planning.

NETWORKING/MEETINGS:

- January 28 – 31: Obrien (and Varner) attended JEDCs Innovation Summit in Juneau, where Cluster Theory was the main topic of interest, with success stories from the Icelandic Model. Some indication that there is interest in Alaska to pursue cluster formation/investigation.
- February 7: Obrien met with Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius of Agnew::Beck at their Anchorage office to discuss CEDS Project.
- February 10: Obrien met with Givey Kochanowski and Pilar Thomas with the US DOE at the SWAMC Office.
- February 13: Obrien and Johnson met with Andy Baker, Peter Crimp and Jana Pierce (teleconference) to discuss Energy Workshop at the SWAMC Conference, at the SWAMC Office.
- February 18: Obrien met with Robert Venables, AEA contractor to discuss Energy Planning Project, at SWAMC Office.
- February 19: Obrien met with Ona Bruce and Denise Miners of Intelligent Energy Systems to discuss Conference presentation and energy planning, at the SWAMC Office.
- February 7: Obrien and Johnson met with Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius of Agnew::Beck to discuss CEDS Project, at the SWACM Office.
- February 21: Obrien met with James Dunn and Kord Christensen from TDX Power at the SWAMC Office.
- February 25: Obrien and Johnson met with Andy Baker, Peter Crimp and Jana Pierce (teleconference) to discuss Energy Workshop at the SWAMC Conference, at the SWAMC Office.
- February 27: Obrien and Johnson met with Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius of Agnew::Beck to discuss CEDS Project, at the SWACM Office.
- March 4-8: SWAMC Conference.
- March 11: Obrien met with Julie Dirks and Sharron Boyette of Atka and Solstice to discuss CEDS Development in Atka and regionally, at the SWAMC Office.
- March 17: Obrien and Johnson met with Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius of Agnew::Beck to discuss CEDS Project, at the SWACM Office.
- March 19: Obrien participated in the Annual Meeting of the Prince William Sound Economic Development District, hosted by Sue Cogswell at the Captain Cook.
- March 20: Obrien hosted a teleconference with Alice Ruby, (SWAMC/Dillingham), Robert Venables (AEA) and Melody Nibeck (BBNA) to discuss Bristol Bay Planning Project, Phase II.
- March 26: Obrien met with Ona Bruce and Denise Miners of Intelligent Energy Systems to discuss Energy Planning, at Arigato Japanese Restaurant.
- March 28: Obrien participated in the Local Grown, Producers Group Board Meeting, Teleconference.

- April 2: Oliva attended Alaska Ocean Observing System's Community Based Monitoring: Observing Alaska's Coasts and Oceans workshop.
- April 3: Obrien toured the Sheraton Hotel (Justin) to discuss 2015 Conference hosting.
- April 8: Obrien met with Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius of Agnew::Beck to discuss CEDS Project, at the Agnew::Beck Office.
- April 9-10: Obrien attended the NPFMC Meeting at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage.