



**STAFF REPORT  
AUGUST 2012**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:**

ARDOR funding hit our bank account at the end of July, but we're still waiting for the EDA grant agreement to arrive and funding could take another month or two after that. That is based upon last year's experience. EDA are slow and unpredictable, and worse yet they admit that.

Memberships have flowed in at a good pace so far, and we have several new members this year and other groups that have not been members for years. As of August 15<sup>th</sup> we had 74 paying members and at 92% of the FY budget for membership dues (\$38,850/\$42,000).

We'll work with Mikunda Cottrell at the end of this month to start the FY12 Financial Review process.

**PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:**

Regional Energy Planning

SWAMC signed the contracts with AEA at the beginning of August and received the contracts back with their signatures on Aug 16<sup>th</sup>. I hope to start the subcontracts before the end of the month.

Broadband Grant

Our broadband contractors Community Technologies Advisors have produced a draft of the broadband plan and it's available on our website or at <http://swakbroadband.com>. Depending on funding availability the broadband team hopefully will visit a couple of SWAMC communities in early fall to get more on-the-ground feedback, and we'll wrap up the project before winter. The draft has produced several comments from those involved in the Advisory Group process

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

Cameron went to Juneau to participate in the Rocket Camp they have there to see if it is something we could try to offer in Kodiak. He's working with school administrators to get the Ocean Sciences curriculum into several schools. And he is designing a budget on KidWind and Energy Smart (energy education) classes to see if we can get those offered in schools. Energy education seems like a good outcome of this project.

Kenai LNG Facility Tour

We plan to reschedule for October and have a commitment from the plant manager that they are happy to host a group up to 30.

Value of Fish / Working Waterfronts Project

Erik was scoping this project and identifying partners, including MCA, ASMI, and UFA. He'll resume once he returns from fishing.

**NETWORKING/MEETINGS:**

Varner participated in a July 24 Foraker Focus Group to offer suggestions on how the organization can work better with the non-profits they serve.

Varner attended an Alaska Marine Policy Forum on July 25, hosted by the Alaska Ocean Observing System and Alaska Sea Grant.

Varner attended an ARDOR planning session on July 26.

Varner and Dean attended a Broadband Training and Listening Session on July 27 conducted by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy, to learn about the transformation of universal service to the Connect America Fund.

SWAMC hosted a Broadband Advisory Group teleconference on July 30.

Varner participated in a webinar on New Market Tax Credits on July 31 to learn about this fairly new and underused financing tool.

Varner and Dean met with a KIVA.org representative on August 1 to learn about their Kiva ZIP program that offers 0% micro loans (\$5000) to small businesses in Alaska. They are following the crowdfunding model.

Varner participated in the Statewide Broadband Task Force Meeting on August 1.

On Aug. 2 Varner met with ViaSat representatives and a couple other folks involved in the State BB Task Force to learn about the new satellite service (12Mbps down/3Mbps up) now offered in certain parts of Alaska (only N. Kodiak in the SWAMC area). We wanted to see if they could expand service to the rest of SW Alaska when they launch their next satellite in a couple years. We are planning a follow-up meeting with the company and with LT Gov Treadwell to try to make it happen.

Varner attended the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment Peer Review Panel Meeting on Aug 7 and 8.

Varner participated in a DOE/NREL Alaska Geothermal Regulatory Roadmapping workshop on August 9.

Varner attended a Legislative hearing on August 14 that featured a presentation by Meera Kohler of AVEC and a rep from Marsh Creek as they explained the North Slope gas/All-Alaska intertie project. This project would utilize the HVDC technology that we heard about at the last SWAMC conference.

Dean attended the Northern Energy Science and Technology Fair on August 15.

Varner met with Calista/Nuvista representatives on Aug 15 to learn about their regional energy planning processes and for Chikuminuk Lake hydro project possibilities in Bristol Bay.

Varner attended a meeting on August 16 dedicated to the National Oceans Policy, hosted by the Institute of the North and a Senator from WA state. Later that day he also participated in a workshop exploring the possibility of a Bering Strait Management Authority that would act as a port authority for infrastructure, communications systems, and other considerations in future Arctic/Bering Sea planning. This is in concept stage but appears that Rep. Herron will introduce legislation on the idea.

Varner attended a Clean Energy Cluster meeting on August 17.

Varner met with Connect Alaska and Connected Nation folks to discuss SW / rural broadband on August 20.