



**STAFF REPORT
AUGUST 2013**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:

As of Monday we have 47 paying members thus far and have hit approximately 58% percent of our Membership budget at \$26,000 in dues. There are still a few big checks to come in and we will continue to reach out to those who have not paid and should be members. It really is a process chasing members all the way through November or December.

ARDORs are working diligently this interim to make sure we will have a good bill ready to pass early next session. No EDA funds yet. I have applied for the grant but it usually takes until December before funds arrive.

Financial review will start at the end of August and I expect it completion before any Board retreat in late October.

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Energy Planning

Aleutian/Pribilofs: Subcontractor is working through the draft version of the plan and we have some draft community profiles and resource options. Work started very slow with this sub but things have really picked up in the last 3 weeks with a new person coming on board. A full draft report should be ready by the first week of September.

Bristol Bay: We are waiting to hear back from a few stakeholders to see how to move forward into Phase II with AEA. There are funds available for a regional stakeholder summit and further analysis, things have just been put on hold in August with a couple folks on vacation. If folks would like to see a draft let me know.

Kodiak: We have signed the initial contract for the Phase I work and hope to have a subcontractor on board soon.

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

Mickey Morelli came on board last week as our new VISTA and she's already integrated well and met a lot of new people to work with.

Energy-to-Ice Feasibility

SWAMC has signed a services contract with AEA to investigate the feasibility of using Nushagak Electric generator 'waste' heat during the summer months (when it's not going to the schools) to make ice for the fishing fleet in Dillingham. A similar project is in place in Kotzebue and in Homer and the Bristol Bay project will test the feasibility in the SW region. This project stemmed from an old idea and a discussion SWAMC had with AEA about a year ago. We have hired the subcontractor to do the feasibility study, with hopes of having something to work with for the next RE Fund application period if a project seems viable.

False Pass Tidal

SWAMC also signed a contract with AEA to manage the False Pass Tidal Site Characterization report. This project involves sea floor mapping to further test the tidal resource and instrumentation for tidal energy. We have a subcontractor in place and have processed a couple invoices for them as their field work wraps up and they begin the reporting and data processing stages.

Economic Geography Update

Staff sent a letter to Northern Economics that due to our current budget constraint we will have to approach the study update at a later time.

NETWORKING/MEETINGS:

Varner attended the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit in Anchorage July 16-18.

On July 23 Varner met with Jim Gamble, ED of the Aleut International Association, to find out more about the org and explore partnership opportunities.

Cameron went to Old Harbor the last week of July to help with an Environmental Sciences camp put on by the tribe, something we hope to be involved with next year as well.

Varner participated in a Southeast Conference ferry discussion teleconference on July 30 to seek their support for SW ferry issues.

Varner met with AEA staff on July 31 to discuss all three regional energy contracts we have.

Along with several other SW communities and Legislators, Varner attended a Rural Alaska LNG workshop on August 7 in Anchorage.

On August 12 Varner and Morelli attended *Workforce Development in Northern Regions - A Week of the Arctic Event*.

Varner met with AEA staff on August 13 to discuss all three regional energy contracts we have.

Varner attended a Board meeting of the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development on Aug 14. Varner is VP.

Varner met with the new DCCED Division of Economic Development Director Joe Jacobson on Aug 15. Varner also met with John Walsh, SW lobbyist, that day to discuss SW Alaska LNG demand aggregation demand.

Varner set up and attended a meeting with TAC, APIA, and visiting DOE/Office of Indian Energy representatives on Aug 17 to explore project options for the Corp and the region.

Varner met with Kim Halverson on Aug 20. He was hired by the Legislature to do a report on successful economic development regions and organizations and wants to profile SWAMC in the book. This exercise apparently happens every 4-5 years.

Varner attended a Department of Energy roundtable on August 21 in Anchorage.