



**STAFF REPORT  
DECEMBER 2013**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:**

Staff set up some CDs according to the Finance Committee and Board's direction on what to do with our large cash accounts. All activity came from our Wells Fargo High Yield Savings account, which had \$508,000 in at the start of December:

- \$100,000, 12 month CD through EverBank
- \$100,000, 12 month CD through Alaska USA
- \$100,000 25 CD through State Farm Bank
- \$150,000 transfer from WF to AMLIP accounts

EDA funds for two quarters finally hit our bank account last week. ARDORs are working this interim to make sure we will have a good bill ready to pass early next session.

BDO completed the financial review at the beginning of this month, and is part of the meeting packet. No red flags, things are in good shape according to the reviewers.

**PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:**

Regional Energy Planning

*Aleutian/Pribilofs:* A full draft report is complete and under review by AEA, communities, and the A-Team. The next steps will include having a regional advisory committee recommend projects and priorities from the report.

*Bristol Bay:* We have an amended contract from AEA and we are on Phase II of this process, after delivering our draft report to them. The team partnered with BBNC to present at their December 5<sup>th</sup> Village Leadership Workshop in Anchorage to introduce the BB plan and get input.

*Kodiak:* We have signed the initial contract for the Phase I work, which staff completed internally. We identified a subcontractor to work with on this report, Information Insights. They also worked on the Bristol Bay report.

Southwest Alaska Business Council

The first meeting of this group took place on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage. We had 14 regional business leaders attend a four-hour session, which was positive. Staff and Agnew::Beck presented a series of economic indicators and business survey results, which led to a long discussion and the beginnings of a work session on what it will take to improve the business climate in the region. We will have a short report summary of that day's proceedings prepared soon for the Council. They decided as a group to meet again around the March conference time and present some of their actions for membership. Board member Gronholdt represented the Board and Fishing Harvest sector.

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

We have a new VISTA identified to take over this project from Mickey. His name is Paul Oliva.

False Pass Tidal

The contractor is in the reporting and data processing stages and expect to complete the site characterization study in December. This work will present the most appropriate location for a sea-floor tidal generator. Staff connected with contractor last week and he expects to have invoice ready for us by the end of the year.

2014 Annual Economic Summit & Membership Meeting

Planning is proceeding with the conference. Agenda is 90% confirmed. We are talking to Conference Planners and receiving proposals to assist.

**NETWORKING/MEETINGS:**

The Finance Committee met on November 18 to discuss SWAMC's investment options.

November 19<sup>th</sup>, staff participated in a strategy discussion with other *ARDOR's* about the upcoming Legislative session and getting the program reauthorized.

November 19<sup>th</sup>, Obrien helped present at the Alaska Planners Association on: The Difference Between Planning and Economic Development.

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, Obrien participated in the RDC Conference and AML (jumping between pertinent meetings and panels).

Varner attended the Pacific Marine Expo November 20-22.

Staff met with Agnew Beck on November 26 to make Business Council preparations.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Obrien participated in the Alaska Local Grown, Production Working Group monthly teleconference. At this meeting he facilitated a meeting between the State and a fellow Copper Valley ED, *ARDOR*, about a mutually beneficial project to expand production at community scale. More to follow.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Obrien met with Dave Jarrett with Old Harbor Native Corporation about opportunity for linking Arctic Fiber/ Quintillion fiber into Kodiak to feed NW Market. Private partners will follow up as necessary.

November 25<sup>th</sup>, Staff met with Ken Weaver, new City Manager of St. Paul, for general networking and specifically about CEDS Development.

November 26<sup>th</sup>, Staff met with Agnew::Beck about facilitating efforts for Business Council.

Staff met with the BB energy team on December 2 to prepare for our BBNC Village Leadership Workshop presentations, which took place on December 5.

Staff interviewed VISTA candidates on the week of December 2 to start service at the end of January.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Staff received medical review, which has lead to reduced medical premiums.

Staff met with Information Insights on December 6 to discuss our upcoming CEDS rewrite for summer 2014. II will prepare a proposal to help SWAM develop that strategy.

Staff met with Darron Scott, CEO of Kodiak Electric Assoc, on December 9 to discuss on the Kodiak Regional Energy Plan can fit with KEA's future plans and add value.

Staff attended an *ARDOR/DCCED* strategy meeting on Dec 11 to determine our plan of action for getting a bill passed next session.

December 11<sup>th</sup>, Staff met with Agnew::Beck about facilitating efforts for Business Council.

Staff met with the new CEO of TDX Power, Kord Christianson, on Dec. 12.

December 12, Obrien attended Aleut Christmas Party for networking and social event.

December 13, Obrien participated in Rasmussen Foundation coordinated funders meeting to discuss National Fish and Wildlife Foundation granting in Alaska, and how to make the best use of funds.

December 16<sup>th</sup>, Staff and facilitators, Agnew::Beck held Business Council with 14 Southwest leaders of industry.