



**STAFF REPORT
JANUARY 2013**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:

We have made mid-point drawdowns on our EDA and ARDOR grants, so we are sitting in a good cash position. Conference sponsorships have been a bit below expectations so far so we will hit the phones and go begging soon. **Any assistance the Board can offer is highly appreciated.** Thanks to a couple Directors who have stepped up on this. If there is any entity you want to reach out to let us know.

We have exceeded our FY13 membership goals in dollars by about 10% and added 12 new members from FY12.

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

2013 Conference

The conference as usual is starting to consume life as we know it these days, as speakers drop in and out of the program. We are doing our best to maintain, but the event should be a good one.

Regional Energy Planning

We have contracts with AEA in place to produce plans for the Aleutians/Pribilofs and Bristol Bay regions. Discussions are in place with Kodiak to consider SWAMC administering their regional plan as well. We have had several meetings with AEA about the plans recently, so we all are on the same page regarding deliverables and expectations. Staff will visit a couple Aleutians communities soon with Andy Baker to do some of the baseline work on the A/P plan. We will feature this topic more in depth at the February 20th Energy Workshop in conjunction with the conference.

Economic Geography of SW Alaska Update

Staff received a proposal from Northern Economics on January 15, up for Board consideration.

Broadband Report and activities

The report of the Regional Applications for a Digital Economy (RADE) project is complete, and we sent the hard copy document and accompanying Executive Summary brochure to 20 agencies and organizations. The project contained several valuable strategies and policy recommendations for improving access and adoption in the SW region, and will inform our broadband work going forward on behalf of the region.

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

Cameron distributed our Innovation Centers grant to hub community libraries in our region, and based on their response, will create another grant for smaller libraries. We received a grant from American Seafoods, which, thanks to cooperation with the Juneau Economic Development Council, allowed us to send underwater robotics kits to teachers in Lake and Peninsula Borough. Cameron worked with Kodiak Island Borough School District to start a Real World Design Challenge team and hold a workshop for elementary engineering education and a "family science night" in early February.

Naknek Electric Association Geothermal Project Debt Reimbursement

This is an issue from last Board meeting. Staff contacted NEA's manager twice regarding the questions and concerns the SWAMC Board had with supporting NEA's request, but we have yet to receive a response.

Fishing Projects

Erik is working on a few project ideas and we will let the Board know if anything develops from there. Rasmuson Foundation might be interested in funding some "innovative" fisheries approach studies.

NETWORKING/MEETINGS:

We have had several meetings and networking events lately. SWAMC is getting its name out there!