



**STAFF REPORT
JULY 2012**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:

We submitted year-end grant reports along with new EDA and ARDOR grant applications. I anticipate ARDOR funding to hit our bank account within a week (\$31,000), but who knows with EDA. They are slow and unpredictable, and worse yet they admit that.

Memberships have flowed in at a good pace so far, and we are receiving a couple new members each week. New members are included in this email. Thanks to a couple Board members for putting us in touch with potential members, you are on your way to earning a free dinner!

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

Broadband Grant

Our broadband contractors Community Technologies Advisors have held several Broadband Advisory Group meetings over the last 2 months. These meetings were comprised of “sectors” and represent a variety of stakeholder groups, well represented across the SWAMC region. The sectors have including education, business/economic development, health, government, social services, and safety. Thanks to a couple SWAMC Board members for participating in these calls and offering their opinions and experiences. The team 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 advisory groups will discuss our first draft of the plan in early August. You can get a sneak peek of a “Ladder of Sophistication” here to see what possibilities exist for more broadband usage in rural Alaska. <http://swakbroadband.com/toolkit/>

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

Cameron SWAMC’s VISTA volunteer - STEM Coordinator, has been busy building mini wind turbines (KidWind program) and attending Energy Education meetings to see about the possibility of integrating some of this curriculum into the SW region. He is still working with Kodiak School District in developing the ocean sciences curriculum, and will attend a rocketry camp next month in Juneau hosted by their STEM program to see if we can partner with them on offering a similar program to our area.

Kenai LNG Facility Tour

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

ARDOR Greenhouse Feasibility and Business Plans

We are working with the Copper Valley Development Association to perform some of the economic feasibility and business plan portions of their greenhouse study, especially when it pertains to CEA. CVDA has funding to do some of the technical greenhouse plans, but we have a lot of research and economic analysis to offer by way of controlled environment ag.

Regional Energy Planning

SWAMC has been working with Bristol Bay Native Association in the BB region and the “A Team” in the Aleutian/Pribilof region to submit regional energy plans to AEA. With both entities, we have worked together to give AEA a scope of work to start the contracting and procurement processes, so the ball is in their court. So far the relationships with the regional parties are going well, and we may approach a Kodiak entity soon about partnering for that region’s plan. Andy spoke to a Kodiak Rural Leadership Forum rep briefly about this but did not commit to anything just yet.

Arctic Shipping and the Aleutians

At the urging of Lt Gov Treadwell, staff reached out to DCCED to see what they have in mind for an Arctic ports study they are commissioning later this year. After a couple discussions (incl. one with Comm. Bell) and sharing some of our work with them, the Dept seemed interested in including a feasibility portion for an Aleutians Transshipment Port Analysis as part of their scope. This topic will be on the agenda for the trip to Iceland later this fall.

Value of Fish / Working Waterfronts Project

We have begun scoping the project and identifying partners, including MCA, ASMI, and UFA.

NETWORKING/MEETINGS:

Staff attended and presented to the Alaska Broadband Task Force meeting on June 20. They wanted an update on what SWAMC is doing with broadband planning.

Dean taught a Junior Achievement lesson on June 20 about entrepreneurship and globalization at Anchorage's Muldoon Boys and Girls Club in preparation to taking JA lessons to Southwest schools in the fall.

Staff attended the Alaska Rocket and Space Summit on June 21, hosted by the State Senate. Varner participated in an afternoon roundtable presentation to the panel regarding what we see as Alaska and the region's "readiness" to expand the industry. We commented on some of the infrastructure needs and education/engineering training that is necessary for the industry's growth. (AAC since became a member)

Staff met with a Seattle rep from Boeing's Energy Management division when he was in town on June 21. He was interested in what we see as renewable energy/new industry possibilities for the region.

Varner met with Joseph Davis of the State Broadband Task Force to communicate some of our concerns over rural representation findings in the process, specifically keeping satellite solutions as part of the big picture, and not just fiber optics.

Dean attended the National Marine Educators Association conference on June 25 through 28. He met with ocean science educators and found new resources to build into the mariculture curriculum.

Varner participated in an ASMI "Infrastructure & Seafood Exports" meeting on June 26. This meeting looked at the energy, air/marine infrastructure, and financing needs of the industry to further seafood boost exports.

Varner met with the Arctic Council Secretary's Chief of Staff (from DC) when she was visiting Alaska on June 28. We got the invitation from Rep Herron's office, specifically to talk about Aleutian Transshipment possibilities and renewable energy potential in the SW.

Varner attended an Alaska Energy Efficiency Partnership meeting on June 28.

Varner met with Andy Baker of Your Clean Energy on June 3 to discuss energy assessments for the Aleutian region.

Dean met with AMEP on July 6 to discuss giving students access to 3D printers, particularly in conjunction with KidWind.

Dean attended ACEP's AK Energy Smart curriculum workshop on July 10.

Varner met with Information Insights on July 12 to discuss the potential of a Bristol Bay and possibly Aleutian fuel buying coop. BBNA has some resources to study this idea.

Dean attended a Commonwealth North Energy Action Coalition meeting on July 13.