



**STAFF REPORT  
JUNE 2013**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:**

Staff submitted ARDOR and EDA grant closeout documents. The final ARDOR payment includes an additional \$11,300 (on top of \$6200 closeout funds) due to another ARDOR not applying for the funds the past two years. All ARDORs got a chunk of this unused funding, because it is the fair thing to do and because DCCED says they felt they needed to provide a bit of "bridge" funding to ARDORs while the pogrom funding is uncertain.

Membership forms will go out later this month. We are trying to get as many memberships as possible done online so we will provide current members with pre-filled forms. That is my hope with our IT guy.

We moved our server and backup to the cloud last week, using the cloud storage service Dropbox. We have been using this program in our office for a couple of years to share a good mix of files, and now we will migrate most of our server functions to this site. More and more small businesses and organizations are doing this, and it makes sense for SWAMC to make this switch. It will save us money, time, and provide a safe and secure platform for us to access our office files anywhere.

**PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:**

Regional Energy Planning

*Aleutian/Pribilofs:* Subcontractor is working through the draft version of the plan and should have something ready to present on 2-3 communities within two weeks.

*Bristol Bay:* We completed the draft 'plan' and sent to AEA for comments. Planning team has met with AEA management and their program managers are going through it to provide comments back to us before taking next steps.

*Kodiak:* We sent the scope of work to AEA last month to insert into a contract. Have a subcontractor on board.

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

Cameron worked with the public libraries in Dillingham and Kodiak to develop the Innovation Centers / Broadband Grant in each. Based on interest expressed at the conference's workforce panel, we began developing a mentorship and job shadowing program that introduces students to industries and careers in their area. Cameron applied for a Department of Labor AWIB grant to carry out the mentoring idea.

We have chosen a replacement for Cameron when he leaves August 9<sup>th</sup>.

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 will hire 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.

Other Grants

Our attempt to partner with the CDQs and ASMI on an EDA Manufacturing grant fell flat at the last hour, due to a number of reasons. It was a tough grant to put together, requiring lots of collaborating commitments and a large match in a short period. Erik put a lot of time into it before taking off for fishing, but perhaps it laid the groundwork for future funding opportunities. The grant was going to focus on deriving more value from fish waste utilization.

### 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 met with AML Board of Directors on May 16 to discuss ARDOR funding and get support for restoration of the program. AML followed up with letter to Gov.

Varner met with Lt Gov Treadwell on May 20 to discuss fiber broadband funding in Southwest Alaska, regarding the Quintillion project that could bring fiber from Shemya Island eastward to the Aleutians. We also discussed energy for the region.

Varner and Obrien met with leadership of the Old Harbor Native Corp on May 20 to gauge their interest in becoming an investor in the fiber project, possibly to link Kodiak Island to Unalaska. OHNC was one of the primary investors in bringing fiber from Kenai to Kodiak and the AAC Rocket Launch Complex.

Staff met with the US Dept of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology on May 22 while they were in Anchorage, to discuss the future of advanced manufacturing in Alaska and SWAMC possibly becoming a grantee on a manufacturing planning grant.

Varner travelled with AEA staff to Dillingham on May 28-29 to meet with BBEDC and Nushagak Electric Coop management for the ice making feasibility project. We also met with City staff to discuss the landfill, AEA is interested in some of the waste-to-energy potential that Dillingham is investigating.

Varner sat in on the Bristol Bay Partnership (all of the BB's) meeting on May 29 while in Dillingham.

Varner attended an ARDOR strategy session on June 5 to discuss moving forward with the program. All ARDORs were present and we held conversations with EDA, DCCED, and others.

Bristol Bay energy planning team met with AEA on June 6 to discuss the plan and next steps.

Varner attended an Alaska Partnership for Economic Development member meeting on June 12.

Varner met with DoT and DOWL Engineering on June 12 to discuss SW Transportation Plan Draft Phase I.

Dean and Varner met with DoL Career and Technical Education program manager to discuss a grant opportunity they have with CTE and workforce development.

Varner met with a manager of Wostmann and Associates on June 13. They did some of the data set analysis of a crew data project a few years ago with ADFG, and I think Wostmann wants to resurrect it (he is new and chasing new work). I told him the project still lies with ADFG and the Legislature passing some sort of collection mandate.

Staff attended some of the Adak seafood plant auction on June 18 that took place in Anchorage.

Varner attended a St. George Energy Project Technical Presentation that took place at the AEA Anchorage warehouse on June 18. St George is getting a new power plant, distribution system, wind turbines, etc. The parts recently arrived in Anchorage and this was their first attempt at putting them all together and testing the technical aspects of the project. A few stakeholders were invited to attend.