



**STAFF REPORT
MARCH 16, 2015**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:

Current assets are a little over one million dollars, earning a very small return on investment. As Certificates of Deposit (CD) mature, staff have placed them in a Wells Fargo 30-day CD, and will gather them together for Board consideration on investments that may increase yields. Staff closed the Alaska USA and Everbank accounts; funds should be deposited in Wells Fargo prior to February Board Meeting. A 30 day CD has been established at WF to house the two closed CDs and one of our WF Savings Accounts, which will still provide the organization with over \$200,000 of operating reserves. This option provides the flexibility and time necessary to investigate investment options. The following is a breakdown on various accounts as presently invested in matured or soon to mature Certificates of Deposit:

Alaska USA (Matured 12/18/2014; Closed 2/13/15 and transferred to WF CD):	\$ 100,700.90
EverBank (Matured 1/30/2015; Closed 2/13/15 and transferred to WF CD):	\$ 100,604.01
State Farm Bank (Matured on 3/13/15 and in process of being transferred to WF CD):	\$ 100,762.34
Key Bank (AMLIP funds that are very liquid):	\$ 196,117.94
Key Bank Savings	\$ 260,527.11
Wells Fargo Checking	\$ 152,749.88
Wells Fargo BizMarket Savings	\$ 45,222.35
Wells Fargo HY Savings	\$ 58,190.04

Financial information from the 2015 Conference will be reported and discussed separately.

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Energy Planning

- **Aleutian/Pribilofs:** Griffin met with TDX Power and Adak City Manager Layton Lockett regarding TDX proposal to AEA regarding a small hydroelectric project for Adak. The proposal has been transmitted to AEA and we are waiting to hear back on whether it will be funded.
- SWAMC organized a half day Aleutian/Pribilof Energy Summit in Anchorage on March 3. It was well attended with about 25 persons in attendance and it was well received. Erik O'Brien and Laura Vaught organized the meeting.
- **Bristol Bay:** Planning and information gathering continued for the Regional Energy Plan for Bristol Bay area. This effort continues to be closely coordinated with the Bristol Bay Native Association and involved the planning and logistics for 4 sub-regional meetings to be held as follows: Iliamna -- March 23, Chignik Lagoon -- March 24, King Salmon/Naknek -- March 25, and Dillingham -- March 26. Griffin also conducted telephone interviews with the communities of Pedro Bay, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Port Alsworth, Perryville, Pilot Point, and Koliganek regarding energy use and potential alternative energy options.
- **Kodiak:** Following the first Energy Committee meeting staff has been working to better understand the programs and resources available to facilitate community and regional priorities. This will be a larger and broader project than was originally intended, which will likely morph into its own mini project across all three of SWAMC's Energy Plans, and further, should be valuable for other regional energy committees throughout the State. SWAMC is currently receiving support from AEA and REAP.

2015 Economic Summit and Membership Meeting

The week prior to the 2015 Conference was marked by activity of all staff working on finalizing and printing resolutions, confirming and reminding speakers, finalizing the conference program, preparing biographies of speakers/presenters, drafting introductions, preparing meeting packets and name badges, organizing the silent auction, finalizing meeting arrangements with the Hotel Captain Cook, and preparing agendas for pre-conference and post-conference Board meetings. O'Brien and Griffin also worked on presentations to be delivered at the Conference. All SWAMC staff worked very hard to be ready for the over 200 attendees.

The SWAMC staff worked throughout the three-day conference to stay on schedule, make adjustments as needed, and put on new events like the silent auction.

The week following the conference involved collecting and processing surveys and other feedback regarding the Conference, collecting money pledged for the Silent Auction, and sending out resolutions to the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Alaska Legislators, the Governor, and targeted State officials. We also sent thanks out to sponsors, vendors, and speakers.

Business Retention & Expansion

Griffin helped organize and attended a pre-conference meeting regarding the BRE program hosted by the Division of Economic Development within the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

Membership & Network

Memberships continued to come in leading up to the Conference. Staff sought proxies from municipal members who did not register for the Conference, but it did not produce great results. There was no problem getting a quorum for the Membership Meeting as we had 17 of our 23 municipal members in attendance with a proxy from the City of Old Harbor.

Workforce Development

Part of the Conference was devoted to Workforce Development with some excellent presentations new ways to get noticed by potential employers, occupational certifications and endorsements, development of soft skills. Hope will begin working on other Workforce Development activities we will report on those efforts in the future.

Quality of Life and Substance Abuse

Quality of Life and Substance Abuse issues were also covered at the Conference with a panel to address the subsistence lifestyle and cultural enrichment. Another panel looked at the new marijuana issues that come from its legalization, violence, and prevention and wellness.

NETWORKING/MEETINGS:

- February 23 – O'Brien hosts a planning team teleconference to discuss the Conference Energy Workshop.
- February 26 -- Griffin participates in planning meeting for Department of Energy workshop scheduled for Dillingham March 26-27.
- March 3 -- Griffin participates in Business Retention and Expansion training session.
- March 3 – O'Brien and Vaught support Aleutian/Pribilof Energy Summit. Griffin attends.
- March 4-5 -- All SWAMC staff attend, present, and support 2015 Southwest Alaska Economic Summit and Membership Meeting.
- March 9 -- Staff host a teleconference, including the Dillingham College Campus, BBNA, AEA, DOE and Information Insights to facilitate regional participation in DOE's Dillingham Energy Workshop, March 26-27.
- March 11 -- Griffin and O'Brien meet with Adak City Manager Layton Lockett and Kord Christianson and John Lyons of TDX Power regarding electrical generation and distribution improvements in Adak.