



**STAFF REPORT
NOVEMBER 2012**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:

We were finally able to make our first EDA drawdown in mid-November. That puts us in good financial shape overall, and I even took a portion of that and topped off our Wells Fargo High Yield Savings (a misnomer) account over \$500,000, quite a luxury for a non-profit of our size.

We have exceeded our FY13 membership goals in dollars by about 9%. More importantly, we added 11 new members from FY12.

Sponsorship letters have been mailed out so hopefully we will get cash rolling in soon there too.

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

2013 Conference

Things are rounding into form as we have almost all speakers and panels confirmed and we are starting preparations for a one-day energy workshop as well. The community/processor discussions should be a great addition to the program.

Regional Energy Planning

We finally signed a contract with Andy Baker to do the Aleutians/Pribilofs plan. We are collecting documents now and he will start visiting communities the beginning of December. The Bristol Bay plan is taking shape with data collection and GIS mapping of resources and infrastructure.

Economic Geography of SW Alaska Update

Staff met with Northern Economics on November 19 to discuss the update and add new indicators if deemed feasible.

Broadband Report and activities

The report of the Regional Applications for a Digital Economy (RADE) project is complete and should be printed within a week. We will share with policymakers, agencies, leaders, and Statewide BB Task Force. DCCED even asked us to write a case study for the State's BB report about the needs and challenges of our region. We have also been in heavy communication with a few satellite providers about the costs of providing faster, better service to SW Alaska.

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

Cameron met with representatives from Junior Achievement Alaska to begin planning JA lessons in Southwest, and also met with the Federal Aviation Administration's education office to get an aviation education program "off the ground." Cameron visited the Anchorage Public Library's Teen Underground, a potential model for innovation centers in libraries. Cameron submitted a proposal to the OWL Library network to see if they can get a community interested in serving as a pilot innovation center. We have funding for that.

LNG for SW Alaska

We thought it was a successful tour of the LNG plant during the Board retreat and we have been following up with gathering data on our region for what a conversion to NG would look like. We have had discussions with Northern Economics about running some numbers.

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 since the Board retreat.