



**STAFF REPORT
NOVEMBER 2013**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:

We hit our budget goals for membership a few weeks ago, and a few more memberships will probably trickle in through the new year, especially if the Business Council takes shape.

ARDORs are working this interim to make sure we will have a good bill ready to pass early next session. No EDA funds yet. We have applied for the grant but it usually takes until December before funds arrive.

The financial review started earlier this month and I expect completion before the Board retreat in late October.

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Energy Planning

Aleutian/Pribilofs: A full draft report is complete and under review by AEA and the A-Team. We will put it in the hands of communities next for their specific feedback.

Bristol Bay: We have an amended contract from AEA and we are on Phase II of this process, after delivering our draft report to them. We have partnered with BBNC to present at their December Village Leadership Workshop in Anchorage to introduce the BB plan and get input. That will take place on December 5.

Kodiak: We have signed the initial contract for the Phase I work, which staff completed internally. We have two subcontractor proposals and will identify the sub by early next week.

Southwest Alaska Business Council

There is information in this month's packet. We have made a lot of progress since the Retreat and rounded out the list of participants. We plan to have some regional indicators (a la SW Geography Study) associated with this project, and will work with a facilitator to ensure a good meeting.

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

Mickey Morelli left last week to attend law school in Georgetown. At least we pick some smart ones! That will probably be for the best, as we should be able to get a new VISTA on board in January and start fresh again and apply lessons we took from Mickey's time.

Energy-to-Ice Feasibility

Subcontractor is putting together this report, should be done by end of this year.

False Pass Tidal

We have a subcontractor in place and have processed a couple invoices for them as their summer field work has wrapped up. They are in the reporting and data processing stages and expect to complete the site characterization study in December. This work will present the most appropriate location for a sea-floor tidal generator.

NETWORKING/MEETINGS:

Obrien contacted most of the Business Council between October 28th- November 8th.

Obrien attended ASMI's All Hands on Deck annual gathering on October 29th.

Varner and Obrien met discussed data collection with Mike Fisher of Northern Economics on October 31st.

Varner and Obrien met with Shelly Wade of Agnew Beck, November 5th to discuss Business Council facilitation.

Varner attended a bit of the Alaska Miners Association convention on November 6 in Anchorage.

Varner met with the WesPac team in Anchorage on Nov 8 to discuss getting more regional customers in the loop and aggregating demand.

Varner met with the Bristol Bay Energy Working Group on Nov 8 to discuss in-region investment opportunities for BBNC regarding energy projects.

O'Brien had lunch with John Woodruff, VP Icicle Seafoods on November 11th.

O'Brien joined MTAB Board members in discussions with Railbelt legislators about the importance of the Marine Highway system and need for replacement funds for the M/V Tustumena.

Varner attended a "Competitive Energy Roundtable" on Nov 12 sponsored by Sen McGuire. The meeting focused on Independent Power Producers in Alaska and giving them more market access to providing utility grade electricity. We have several IPP models in SW Alaska, but there are caveats with these activities and it is good to see the State exploring them.

Varner attended the MTAB meeting in Anchorage on Nov 13.

Varner met with AEA Planners to discuss our three regional energy plans on Nov 14.

Staff met with our Bristol Bay Regional Energy planning Technical Team on Nov 14 to discuss and prepare for the BBNC presentation on December 5.