



**STAFF REPORT  
AUGUST 2013**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:**

*As of Monday we have 70 paying members thus far and have hit approximately 90% percent of our Membership budget at \$40,120 in dues. Several of our more 'traditional' members have yet to pay dues, especially a couple Municipal and Associate members, so it's a little troubling that we haven't received payment from them yet. Regardless, Erik and I will work over the next two months to get us to our \$46,000 budget goal and beyond.*

*ARDORs are working diligently this interim to make sure we will have a good bill ready to pass early next session. No EDA funds yet. I 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 met with AEA on a new budget and Scope of Work for Phase II (stakeholder feedback and engagement) and I expect to have an amended contract and amount from them soon so we can proceed. We have offered to partner with BBNC at their December Village Leadership Workshop to introduce the BB plan and get input, and they are open to that. We sent a proposed agenda to them this week.*

*Kodiak: We have signed the initial contract for the Phase I work, which staff completed internally. We hope to have a subcontractor on board within 2-3 weeks.*

- Investigating Energy App ideas - <https://dropoly.com/>

AmeriCorps VISTA- STEM Coordinator

*Mickey Morelli came on board last week as our new VISTA and she's already integrated well and met a lot of new people to work with.*

*Topic areas include:*

- *Mentorship Programs*
  - *Morelli will be working with Kent Berklund from AVTEC to coordinate "workforce skills" activities as a supplemental component to job shadowing*
  - *Morelli is waiting to hear from teachers in Unalaska regarding any current mentorship activities and their ideas on how they could be better organized*
- *Further Development of Innovation Center Concept*
  - *Morelli spoke with Brandon Babb regarding the streaming of his "Hacker Night" activities into southwest libraries*
  - *Morelli has been in touch with Kodiak and Dillingham libraries regarding the status and outcomes of the mini grants they received last year*
- *Student Scientists*
  - *Morelli is working with Ivan Hodes in Adak and Kirk Hardcastle (ACEP) to implement KidWind projects Mr. Hodes' classes*
  - *Morelli is working with Julie Matewyou to help develop independent study programs in Kodiak*

Energy-to-Ice Feasibility

*Subcontractor is putting together this report, should be done by November.*

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.*

#### ARDOR Reauthorization

Beginning to coordinate with other ARDOR groups, legislators, AML, and UAA Center for Economic Development to formulate a plan to reauthorize the program.

#### Business Council

Begun reaching out to potential co-chairs, organization of potential industry partners and meeting format. The Business Council is partially an extension of the SW Geography study so we have begun outlining what existing quantitative data we need, as well as qualitative data we wish to collect. Investigating crowd collecting software - [www.polleverywhere.com](http://www.polleverywhere.com)

#### Annual Conference

Began talking to potential speakers, filling out a draft agenda and shopping for *schwag*. Investigating crowd collecting software - [www.polleverywhere.com](http://www.polleverywhere.com)

#### **NETWORKING/MEETINGS:**

On 9/23, staff met with Quintillion and TelAlaska to discuss opportunities to link SW communities to a 32Tb Broadband link (largest bandwidth ever deployed).

On 9/24, staff held a teleconference with Ovus Net Zero, an ESCO (Energy Service Company), and their proposal to use creative financing, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to bring down the total cost of power at a community level.

On 9/24, staff met with Nils Andreassen to discuss proposed Business Council.

On 9/30, Obrien attended a meeting hosted by Senator Lesil McGuire and the Charter Halibut industry to discuss concerns with conservation issues, and those effects on their business model.

On 9/30, Obrien participated in the Kodiak Cod Advisory Committee teleconference.

On 10/2, staff held a teleconference with Robert Venables to discuss MTAB agenda, and Tustumena service and replacement.

Between 10/5-8, Obrien traveled to Philadelphia to participate in the International Economic Development Council annual meeting.

On 10/11 Morelli attended Commonwealth North's Energy Action Coalition meeting to hear from Tim Gallagher, HDR regarding Alaska's Energy Permitting Challenges.

On 10/11, Staff met with Cameron Dean to give a report on SWAMC's STEM Coordinator position.

On 10/14 Morelli traveled to Seward for a tour of the AVTEC facilities and to meet with Trish Hart and Andy Mezirow regarding workforce development programs in the Southwest.

On 10/15, Obrien participated in an AML Economic Development taskforce teleconference to discuss Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) software and reauthorization of the ARDOR program.

On 10/18, staff conducted an interoffice staff meeting.

On 10/18 Morelli attended Commonwealth North's Energy Action Coalition meeting to discuss Repsol's investment in Alaska projects from the perspective of an international oil and gas firm.