



**STAFF REPORT  
FALL, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE:**

Organization is flush with cash now, earning a very small return on investment. May want to consider diversifying into other funding vehicles to increase yields. Budget is referenced to FY14draft budget. Foraker has received updated Budget, and we hope to provide updated September financials reflecting Budget passed September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Current assets have exceeded one million dollars.

**PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:**

Regional Energy Planning

- *Aleutian/Pribilofs*: SWAMC submitted Phase II requirements for AEA review. AEA has requested that we merge the Phase I & II reports. In addition, we are in discussions about including a baseline data collection, similar to BB where we would assess energy use in public buildings.
- *Bristol Bay*: AEA is reviewing the submitted scope and we are awaiting a contract any time. Once the contract is in place we will begin scheduling outreach and site visits to the Bristol Bay Region; with 27 communities and many dozens of stakeholders; this will be a large effort. In addition, we will coordinate efforts with the BBEDC funded Baseline Data Assessment.
- *Kodiak*: AEA has approved our Phase I – Resource assessment, which SWAMC released on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Kodiak Rural Forum. Phase II – Stakeholder Feedback is underway with a contract in place with AEA, and Subcontract in place with Information Insights to facilitate some of the technical components. Staff has identified and contacted about 30 community, regional and industry stakeholders to represent the Steering Committee which will help identify objectives to address at the January 27<sup>th</sup> Kodiak Energy Summit. The first Steering Committee meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Energy Intern

Working through University of Alaska network, which has previously been successful, staff identified potential applicants, screened for interviews and conducted interviews. Laura Vaught was hired and begins on October 13<sup>th</sup>, with an initial focus on merging the Aleutian Phase I & II reports, and facilitating outreach efforts for the ongoing Kodiak and expected Bristol Bay Energy Contracts.

SWAMC Work Plan

Staff resolved the EDA FFY13 Planning Grant, relieving us of the need to pursue an additional contract. SWAMC is now current with the existing budget, moving forward on projects of importance. Board had advised staff to develop a proposal for an Economic Geography & Data Analysis project, although now that we are relieved of obligations to pursue this project immediately, staff has proposed delaying the project until we better understand the data inputs, including public data collected through CEDS process, Energy Planning findings, BRE findings and coordination with NMFS *Southwest Alaska Economic Study*. At that time, we will be better positioned to develop an appropriate scope of work.

Business Retention & Expansion - Member Engagement

Staff has submitted a draft Application to the State, Division of Economic Development, which is tentatively approved, based on final Board approval of project scope. Staff is scheduled to conduct BRE training the first week of November.

VISTA- STEM Program

VISTA Volunteer Paul Oliva has moved on. Staff is collecting applications to fill the VISTA position, to make a final selection and agreement to hire by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline; for placement sometime in January or February.

Membership

Hard copy Thanks You letters and a third invoice has been physically mailed. 45% of our targeted 91 members have contributed \$30,039. Towards the end of October, staff will begin calling outstanding members.

Workforce Development

SWAMC was unsuccessful in our bid for grant to host workshops with regional college campuses. Staff will follow up with AWIB, who were impressed with this organization's efforts; developing a plan and follow leads for moving forward.

Quality of Life and Substance Abuse

SWAMC needs to determine how we address this complex issue. Reducing demand for poor behavior, through job placement and community engagement as a deterrent and preferable alternative, are being investigated as a strategy this organization can deploy. This will be a Conference issue, and will require further effort.

Conference

Conference Committee was established; need to review draft agenda and begin Sponsorship outreach.

**NETWORKING/MEETINGS:**

- September 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, Yancey traveled to King Salmon/Naknek to coordinating the site visit for University of Alaska's BRE training program, making contacts with local government and local industries; participated in BRE outreach & investigation
- September 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, Obrien & Yancey attend Reclaim Alaska, Substance Abuse Summit
- September 17<sup>th</sup>, Obrien participated in SWAMC's release of our Kodiak Energy Plan Phase I – Resource Assessment, via teleconference
- September 17<sup>th</sup>, Yancey participated in the Kodiak Rural Forum, where she presented SWAMC's Kodiak Energy Plan, Phase I – Resource Assessment, and discussed other important issues with Kodiak stakeholders
- September 19<sup>th</sup>, Obrien met with ED applicants and Tim Pearson
- September 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, Board Retreat
- September 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, Obrien attended AEA's Rural Energy Conference in Fairbanks
- October 1<sup>st</sup>, Obrien presented on SWAMC Workforce Development initiatives
- October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Obrien interviewed Laura Vaught for the Energy Coordinator Intern position
- October 7<sup>th</sup>, Obrien met with Devany Plentovich & Allen ?, AEA staff to discuss SWAMC's contribution to a Waste-to-Ice project
- October 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, Obrien called and emailed 30 members of the newly formed Kodiak Steering Committee, including community, regional and industry stakeholders
- October 10<sup>th</sup>, Obrien attended the NPFMC to follow Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management