



**STAFF REPORT
SUMMER 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; the majority of funds are locked up until early 2015, which gives some time to investigate options. FY14 closed out with Revenue exceeding budget by 13% and expenses are below budget at 96%. SWAMC had current assets of \$985,987.

PROJECTS/OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Energy Planning

- *Aleutian/Pribilofs*: SWAMC submitted Phase II requirements for AEA review.
- *Bristol Bay*: SWAMC continues efforts towards establishing a Phase II – Regional Feedback.
- *Kodiak*: SWAMC completed Phase I requirements, awaiting AEA approval.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Southwest Alaska Regional CEDS draft report was completed June 30th and posted to website for 30 day (perpetual) review. EDA provided tentative approval, with closer assessment conducted at future time undetermined. Included in CEDS are detailed Work and Action plans defining organizational priorities for the coming 5 year period (updated and reviewed annually). Appendices of publically available datasets will facilitate member outreach and BRE assessment.

Southwest Alaska Business Council

Board has indicated that a new name is required. Staff would like to continue efforts to work closer with industry members, although a clear plan is not in place to conduct these activities.

VISTA- STEM Program

- Alaska Youth First FY15 Grant - SWAMC was not successful in our bid for workshops in coordination with Kodiak, Dillingham & Unalaska satellite campuses to provide soft skills support regarding personal presentation & career planning, resume writing and interviews skills. Project was defined as important by members; will readjust and investigate the best path forward.
- Met Towers Donated by CVDA - SWAMC arranged distribution of donated towers to Adak and Old Harbor.
- Alaska Manufacturing Extensions Project
- Alaska Library Mini-grant (DCCED)

False Pass Tidal

SWAMC received final payment for the False Pass Tidal project and the project was closed out.

Membership

Electronic Invoices were sent to membership on June 30th & again July 31st, with \$30,000 received, of \$45,000 budgeted.

- * **EDA Final Report and New Grant Application**
- * **ARDOR Close Out and FY15 Application**
- * **BR&E Workplan**
- * **Newsletters Ongoing, updated email list with new member info**

NETWORKING/MEETINGS:

- **Meetings with Agnew::Beck (CEDS) and teleconferences with Information Insights (Energy) (both of us)**
- June 4th: O'Brien participated in Bristol Bay Scoping meeting via teleconference
- June 9th: Yancey attended National Conference of American Indians, Modernizing Our Trust Relationship to Improve Economic Opportunities
- June 17th: O'Brien participated in Annual ARDOR meeting via teleconference, Yancey participated in person
- June 18th: Yancey attended State Department of Commerce Economic Development for Local Government Leaders Seminar
- June 19th: Yancey attended State Business Retention and Expansion Workshop
- June 25th: Yancey met with Shelly Wade (Agnew::Beck) to discuss CEDS finalization
- June 27th: Oliva attended Institute of Science and Economic Research Oil Tax Presentation
- June 30st: O'Brien participated in Bristol Bay Scoping meeting via teleconference
- July 15th, Yancey and Oliva attended Connect Alaska Statewide Broadband Summit
- July 23rd, Yancey participated in Alaska Marine Policy Forum via teleconference
- July 25th, Yancey attended Anchorage Mini-Maker Fair demonstrating additive manufacturing technologies and STEM applications
- July 28th, Yancey attended Angel Entrepreneurship and Investor Forum to investigate opportunities available for new businesses that encourage industry diversification in rural Alaska
- July 31st, Yancey attended Alaska Economic Development Corporation Pitch on a Train to discuss entrepreneurship and industry diversification opportunities for rural Alaska
- August 6th, Yancey and O'Brien hosted Business Retention and Expansion Meeting with University Center for Economic Development
- August 8th, Yancey attended AEA Regional Energy Planners Meeting
- August 8th, Yancey attended Bristol Bay Energy Planning Meeting
- August 9th, Yancey attended Alaska Renewable Energy Fair
- August 14th, Yancey and Oliva participated in AMTech Webinar via teleconference
- August 15th, Yancey and Oliva attended Prince William Sound Economic Development District's Whittier Museum Channel 2 Highlight with Sue Cogswell
- August 16th, O'Brien participated in Energy Planning Scoping meeting via teleconference
- August 26th, Yancey attended UAF Arctic Climate Webinar via teleconference
- September 2-5, Yancey, Katie, and Melissa with University Center for Economic Development visited King Salmon and Naknek for Business Retention and Expansion. Team introduced at Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Meeting.
- September 10-12, O'Brien and Yancey attended Reclaim Alaska: Substance Abuse Summit
- September 17th, Yancey and Jaimie with Information Insights presented Kodiak Energy Plan to Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum. O'Brien participated via teleconference. The Kodiak Transportation Plan, Municipal Report, and Legislative Update provided additional community information.