



Resolution Summary 2007 SWAMC Annual Membership Meeting

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Resolution 07-05

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urging the Alaska State Legislature to establish past service liability accounts for PERS/TRS; to support full funding of future PERS/TRS rate increases; and to develop a sustainable statewide retirement system

- WHEREAS, the State of Alaska created the Public Employees Retirement System/Teachers Retirement System more than 40 years ago to provide a pension system for state employees and participating municipal and school district employees; and**
- WHEREAS, many cities and boroughs have participated in PERS for decades; and**
- WHEREAS, the basic premise of a defined benefit pension plan is that employer and/or employee contributions are invested by the plan administrator in accord with sound actuarial principles so that adequate funds are available for retiree pensions and health care benefits ; and**
- WHEREAS, due to inaccurate assumptions, rising health costs, historical understatements of system liabilities, declining interest rates and other factors, PERS and TRS are both vastly under-funded by more than \$8 billion on a statewide basis; and**
- WHEREAS, in response to the funding shortage, the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB) has recommended unmanageable increases in the employer retirement contribution rates for cities, boroughs, and school districts for FY08; and**
- WHEREAS, such fiduciary increases could have severe economic impacts on Alaskan communities and villages already suffering the consequences of lost revenue sharing, high energy costs, unstable resource returns, and out-migration: and**
- WHEREAS, the effects of the system’s under-funding are felt throughout all corners of the state, from the offices of State government to university halls to small fishing villages; and**
- WHEREAS, local governments and school districts were not to blame for the retirement system shortfalls; and**

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WHEREAS, the State has superior resources to fund such obligations, in comparison with many municipal governments and school districts,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the 25th Alaska State Legislature to make the PERS/TRS crisis one of their top priorities when they convene in January 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors urges the Legislature to work with municipalities, school districts, and the university system to develop improved means of communication and feedback that can facilitate local participation in the PERS/TRS system in a manner that is both affordable and fair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors urges the Legislature to establish past service accounts for PERS and TRS with funding that will pay for a reasonable portion of the employers' past service cost liability.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of January, 2007.

Signed:



Glen Gardner
President

Attest:



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referral(s): Full Membership
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt: Linda Freed
Second: Ernest Weiss
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07-06

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of funding for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Matching Grant Program

- WHEREAS, harbors represent critical transportation links, hubs of waterfront commerce and economic development, and areas of protection for ocean-going vessels throughout Southwest Alaskan coastal communities; and
- WHEREAS, during the past 10 years, an increasing number of harbors have been transferred from state ownership to municipality responsibility ; and
- WHEREAS, the harbors were in poor condition at the time of the transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and
- WHEREAS, consequently, when local harbormasters took over the budgeting for their facilities, they inherited a major financial burden that their local governments could not afford ; and
- WHEREAS, Senate Bill 291 created the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program to provide a one-time 50/50 matching grant for municipal harbor facilities, to be administered by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities; and
- WHEREAS, the program funds major maintenance and capital improvements to harbors by using a portion of the watercraft fuel tax and the state's share of the fisheries business tax; and
- WHEREAS, the \$10 million in Harbor Grant funding was excluded from Governor Palin's proposed FY08 capital budget; and
- WHEREAS, the Grant Program would stimulate the economies and help create safer and more-functional harbors in Southwest Alaskan coastal communities,
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Governor and the 25th Alaska State Legislature to restore funding to the Municipal Harbor Facility Matching Grant Program in the FY08 capital budget; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors encourages the SWAMC Legislative Delegation to support the Municipal Harbor Grant Fund in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Southwest Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of January, 2007.

Signed:

Attest:



Glen Gardner
President



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referral(s): Infrastructure Committee
Report from Infrastructure Committee: Do Pass
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt: Linda Freed
Second: Ernest Weiss
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07 - 07

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of the Establishment of a Renewable Energy Fund for Alaska.

- WHEREAS, an adequate, reliable, reasonably priced and safe supply of electrical energy is necessary for Alaska's basic infrastructure, and economic and technological development; and
- WHEREAS, Alaska possesses vast amounts of renewable energy resources in the form of wind, geothermal, biomass, solar, tidal, wave and hydro power; and
- WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature established the Alaska Energy Policy Task Force in 2003 to review and analyze the state's current and long term energy needs; and
- WHEREAS, the Task Force found that one of Alaska's long term energy needs is to "identify and evaluate long term fuel resources," and recommended that the state should "increase the proportion of renewable in long term fuel sources;" and
- WHEREAS, the cost of fuels such as natural gas and diesel that Alaskans rely on in large part to generate electric power and heat is steadily rising; and
- WHEREAS, residents in rural Alaska pay far more for electricity than residents who live on the Rail belt energy grid; and
- WHEREAS, there is virtually no fuel cost associated with renewable energy resources; and
- WHEREAS, other states and nations are working successfully to develop their renewable energy resources; and

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WHEREAS, the continued competitiveness and stability of the state's economy requires that the legislature consider national and international trends towards renewable energy development; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy technology development promotes both industry investment and job creation; and

WHEREAS, clean, renewable energy has many environmental and health benefits; and

WHEREAS, locally produced renewable energy has many security benefits; and

WHEREAS, modern, affordable, and efficient renewable energy technologies now exist; and

WHEREAS, It is in the public's interest for Alaska to develop its zero fuel cost renewable energy resources.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference support a Renewable Energy Fund for Alaska to be established as a separate fund to finance new utility-scale renewable energy projects in Alaska with grants and loans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fund should be funded by general appropriations so that Alaska can leverage a portion of today's oil and gas wealth into a renewable energy industry that can and will provide perpetual benefits to Alaskans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference membership this 26th day of January, 2007.

Signed:

Attest:



Glen Gardner
President



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referral(s): Energy Committee
Report from Energy Committee: Do Pass
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt: Linda Freed
Second: Ernest Weiss
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07-08

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of full funding for the U.S. Census Bureau for Fiscal Year 2007

- WHEREAS, a healthy federal statistic system is one key to local job creation, and the U.S. Census Bureau is central to this statistical system; and
- WHEREAS, state and local analysts use census figures to assess the economic health of their areas and craft development strategies accordingly; and
- WHEREAS, state and local governments decide where to put roads, schools, and public safety officers on the basis of these data; and
- WHEREAS, most importantly, billions of dollars in federal funds are directed to states and localities according to census figures; and
- WHEREAS, in 2007, the Census Bureau will be pursuing tasks to prepare for the 2010 census, implementing the full-scale American Community Survey (ACS), and carrying out the 2007 Economic Census as required by law; and
- WHEREAS, the Census Bureau requires a budget sufficient to see that these tasks are successfully performed; and
- WHEREAS, a budget cutback could lead to the elimination of coverage of "group quarters" in the ACS, a segment of collected data very important to Southwest Alaska ; and
- WHEREAS, with this part of the population missing from the data, local governments and businesses of the SWAMC region will lack a clear understanding of the trends, resources, and needs of their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges Senators Ted Stevens and Lisa Murkowski and Congressman Don Young to support the full funding level requested by President Bush for the U.S. Census Bureau for Fiscal Year 2007.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska
Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of January, 2007.

Signed:

Attest:



Glen Gardner
President



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referral(s): Full Membership
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt: Linda Freed
Second: Ernest Weiss
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07 - 09

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of Renewable Energy, Fuel Reduction, and Economic Stabilization and Enhancement Act of 2007 (REFRESH Act) and Improved Passenger Automobile Fuel Economy Act of 2007.

WHEREAS, The growing concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere is a great concern that must be addressed in order to prevent or quell global climate change, and

WHEREAS, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we can help curb this destructive trend which will adversely affect the economy, environment and wildlife of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the high cost of the current fuel-based heating and electricity precludes many communities from financing renewable energy projects locally, and

WHEREAS, improved energy efficiency will provide environmental and health benefits by reducing emissions as well as economic benefits to small communities by reducing consumption, and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senate Bill 298 will provide financial incentives in the form of grants as well as tax credits for renewable energy production, specifically appropriating funds for geothermal, tidal and hydro generation, and

WHEREAS, the aim of Senate Bill 298, in conjunction with U.S. Senate Bill 183- a proposed increase in fuel standards for passenger cars- is to reduce daily oil consumption by approximately 5 million barrels and prevent the emission of 530 million tons of carbon dioxide by 2025

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports the passage of US Senate Bills 298 and 183 to provide long-term incentives for energy providers, business, and consumers to reduce greenhouse emissions through renewable energy production, improved fuel efficiency, a reduction in automobile traffic, and improved corporate automobile fuel economy (CAFE) standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports the passage of United States Senate Bill 183 to increase the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) of automobiles to 40 miles per gallon within a decade, invests in alternative and renewable energy and promotes greater efficiency of energy use in the transportation sector; and

Section 1. Directs SWAMC staff to support the passage of these two vitally important pieces of legislating to reduce greenhouse emissions and reduce their effects on global warming; and

Section 2. Applauds the United States Senate and specifically Senators Murkowski and Stevens for their efforts address global climate change and encourages our elected officials to pass Senate bill 298 and 183 into law; and

Section 3. Encourages Southwest Alaskan communities, businesses, and organizations to support these bills and make additional efforts to reduce Alaskan greenhouse emissions.

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Section 4. Directs SWAMC staff to further encourage our elected officials to provide funding for wave, biomass, and wind power-generation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this the 26th day of January, 2007.

Signed:

Attest:



**Glen Gardner
President**



**Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director**

**Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referral(s): Energy Committee
Report from Energy Committee: Do Pass
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt: Linda Freed
Second: Ernest Weiss
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007**



Resolution 07 - 10

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference calling for the improvement of data collection and reporting for the Seafood Harvesting Labor Sector.

- WHEREAS, commercial seafood harvesting is an important sector of the Alaskan economy and a major part of the economic base for Southwest Alaska, and
- WHEREAS, a large percentage of the labor force in commercial seafood harvesting is not represented in state or federal labor data, and
- WHEREAS, multiple agencies in the State of Alaska and the U.S. government are responsible for gathering, processing, and reporting data used to regulate and manage commercial seafood harvesting, and
- WHEREAS, incomplete, inaccurate, or incompatible information on the commercial seafood harvesting sector, across jurisdictions and agencies, hinders the efforts of government agencies, economic development organizations, and the private sector to understand, cooperate, and resolve issues impacting the sector, and
- WHEREAS, this lack of labor information hinders the ability of individual participants in the harvesting sector to access and participate in state and federal programs available to other workers, and
- WHEREAS, this lack of labor information precludes timely intervention and response by individuals, the fishing industry and government when the number and quality of seafood harvesting jobs are being adversely impacted by declining fishery values, increased foreign competition, or changes in fishery policies and management, and
- WHEREAS, elected leaders, fishery policy makers, and fishery managers are asked to make key decisions and policies that impact the seafood harvesting sector absent information about the history and impacts those decisions and polices may have,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference:

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Section I. Urges fisheries organizations, fishers, regulators, managers and other fisheries stakeholders throughout Alaska to review, comment and act on SWAMC's report entitled, "Improving Seafood Harvesting Labor Data, and

Section II. Urges Governor Sarah Palin to issue an Executive Order empowering the Fisheries Cabinet to work with SWAMC and other stakeholders to implement preferred improvements to seafood harvesting labor data collection and reporting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference call on all stakeholders in the commercial seafood harvesting sector to contribute to the success of this initiative through contributions of time, expertise, resources, and collaboration.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this 26th day of January 2007.

Signed:

Attest:



Glen Gardner, Jr.
President

Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Submitted by: Board
Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referred to: Fisheries Committee
Passed by Fisheries Committee: January 26, 2007
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt: Carvel Zimin
Second: Kara Sandvik
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07-11

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of promoting further studies in Wave and Tidal Resource Potential for the State of Alaska

- WHEREAS, a reliable and reasonably priced supply of electrical energy is necessary for Alaska's basic infrastructure, economic and technological development, and overall sustainability; and
- WHEREAS, the cost of diesel, which remains the primary fuel source used by rural Alaskans to generate electric power and heat, is unpredictable and will likely continue to rise; and
- WHEREAS, new and emerging technologies are increasing the renewable energy potential throughout the state of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS, renewable energy technology development promotes both industry investment and job creation; and
- WHEREAS, the continued competitiveness and stability of the state's economy requires that the legislature consider national and international trends towards renewable energy development; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, through Alaska Energy Authority, promotes and provides financial and technical support for communities to develop renewable energy, most prominently wind; and
- WHEREAS, having the longest coastline in the U.S., Alaska possesses vast potential for renewable energy in the form of wave and tidal power; and
- WHEREAS, there is currently a state-wide void in feasibility studies and technical and financial support given to interested communities for their potential wave and tidal resource viability.

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Governor, the 25th Alaska State Legislature, and the Alaska Energy Authority to provide additional funding for the exploration of tidal and wave potential studies to communities and businesses in Alaska.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this the 26th day of January, 2007.

Signed:

Attest:



Glen Gardner
President



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referral(s): Energy Committee
Report from Energy Committee: Do Pass
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt as Amended: Linda Freed
Second: Alice Ruby
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07-12

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of the Establishment of a “Bounty System” to Buy Retired, Energy-Wasting Appliances

- WHEREAS, the cost of petroleum products, which remain the primary fuel source used by rural Alaskans to generate electric power and heat in their homes, is unpredictable and will likely continue to rise; and
- WHEREAS, many Alaskans purchase new large household appliances to replace old and inefficient models, but retain both new and old appliances, both of which continue to draw power; and
- WHEREAS, this additional energy usage contributes to higher fuel bills and greater emissions; and
- WHEREAS, the government is in a position to offer financial incentives for consumers to retire or recycle these large appliances; and
- WHEREAS, a retired appliance buy-back project would aid in promoting efficiency and conservation as a step to lower energy costs in the state Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Governor, the 25th Alaska State Legislature, and relevant State agencies to explore funding options for a program to buy retired and inefficient large household appliances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges consumers to advocate for a bounty-system to buy retired and inefficient large appliances.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska
Municipal Conference this the 26th day of January, 2007.

Signed:

Attest:



Glen Gardner
President



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Reviewed by Board: January 24, 2007
Referral(s): Energy Committee
Report from Energy Committee: Do Pass
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt as Amended: Linda Freed
Second: Alice Ruby
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07-13


A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of sufficient funding to maintain an effective Alaska seafood marketing program through the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute conducts generic commodity marketing and promotion for the Alaska Seafood brand, and
- WHEREAS,** increased competition from foreign farmed salmon significantly devalued wild Alaska salmon in the past fifteen years, and
- WHEREAS,** international efforts to farm king crab, halibut and other fish stock that will compete with wild Alaska seafood continue to grow and gain market share in the world seafood market, and
- WHEREAS,** though the efforts of the Alaska Congressional Delegation funding for the Alaska Fisheries Revitalization Strategy, supplemental funding for marketing and promoting Alaska Seafood has helped to stimulate consumption, raise awareness and develop new market opportunities for wild Alaska salmon and other seafood products, and
- WHEREAS,** a consistent, competitively-funded Alaska Seafood brand marketing program is needed to effectively position and promote all Alaska seafood products in both domestic and international markets, and
- WHEREAS,** short-term sources of federal funding, which were used to fund to elements of the Fisheries Revitalization Strategy and elements of ASMI's enhanced marketing program, are longer available.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urge the Alaska State Legislature to provide sufficient funding for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to maintain an effective seafood marketing program on behalf of the harvesters, processors, and fishing communities of Alaska.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the members of
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of
January 2007.

Signed:


Glen Gardner
President

Attest:


Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Re-iterated by Membership: January 26, 2007
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt as Amended: Carvel Zimin
Second: Shirley Marquardt
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07 – 14

A Resolution in Support of Preserving the Cold Bay Flight Service Station


- WHEREAS, the weather in the Aleutian Islands and on the Alaska Peninsula is notoriously bad; and
- WHEREAS, travel in the region depends upon accurate and timely weather forecasts transmitted through the Cold Bay Flight Service Station; and
- WHEREAS, the Cold Bay Airport serves as an alternate airport for communities throughout the region; and
- WHEREAS, the FAA has tried for years to replace the FSS building in Cold Bay to no avail; and
- WHEREAS, the FAA has outsourced the FSS nationwide; and
- WHEREAS, the FAA has signaled its intent to close the FSS in Cold Bay and remote those services through its Kenai facility,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference calls upon Alaska’s Congressional Delegation to save the FSS in Cold Bay once again.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this the 26th day of January, 2007.

Signed:

Attest:


Glen Gardner
President


Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Requested by Membership: January 26, 2007

Membership Meeting:

Motion to Adopt: Linda Freed

Second: Tom Abell

Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007

Resolution 07-15

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of the Community Dividend Program

- WHEREAS,** Alaska has accrued a vast amount of wealth due to its natural resources located throughout the State, including those in the Southwest region; and
- WHEREAS,** it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to share a portion of this natural resource wealth with its communities in order to promote and enhance economic development; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska currently has over \$35 billion in the Alaska Permanent Fund and a budget surplus exceeding \$1 billion in this fiscal year; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska ceased all revenue share funding in 2003; and
- WHEREAS,** numerous other states share statewide revenues amongst their communities to provide local tax relief; and
- WHEREAS,** the elimination of revenue sharing had a significant negative impact on Southwest Alaska's villages, cities, and boroughs to provide essential services, thus creating further economic hardship; and
- WHEREAS,** the Community Dividend Program would provide Southwest Alaska communities with funding to develop essential infrastructure, offset exorbitant energy/fuel costs, reduce local taxes, grow the local economy, increase public safety, and help provide basic services and facilities for despaired communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference support the Legislature of the State of Alaska to enact the Community Dividend Program; and

Section 1. Encourages the Legislature and Governor to develop a long-term, sustainable community dividend by employing an endowment program, using Amerada Hess account earnings, oil revenue share, or a substitute management program to provide economic stability to Southwest Alaska's communities and to enhance public services and facilities in the region.

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Section 2. Encourages the Southwest Alaska Legislators to endorse the Community Dividend Program in order to enhance the economic prosperity and the quality of life of the Southwest communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the members of Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of January 2007.

Signed:



**Glen Gardner
President**

Attest:



**Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director**

**Re-iterated by Membership: January 26, 2007
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt as Amended: Carvel Zimin
Second: Kara Sandvik
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007**



Resolution 07-16

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of Administrative Boroughs

- WHEREAS, many rural communities in Southwest Alaska do not possess the sufficient tax base to support local government activities; and
- WHEREAS, unorganized regions of Southwest Alaska need a political impetus and a more efficacious means to receive financial incentives, organizational grants, and entitlements from the State; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed administrative boroughs would empower rural communities and create more local governments in vast unorganized regions of the Southwest by electing local leaders and advocating for aid projects; and
- WHEREAS, communities would gain increased influence and control over powers such as planning & zoning and education, as well as public safety, infrastructure, and economic development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference support the Alaska State Legislature’s efforts to organize more of rural Alaska into Administrative Boroughs; and

Section 1. Encourages Southwest communities to discuss and support the possible creation of new boroughs in order to provide more State financial assistance to local communities and unorganized regions; and

Section 2. Directs staff to work with the Southwest communities and the Southwest Alaska Legislative Delegation to provide increased local governance in the region.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the members of
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of
January 2007.

Signed:



Glen Gardner
President

Attest:



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Re-iterated by Membership: January 26, 2007
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt as Amended: Carvel Zimin
Second: Kara Sandvik
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007



Resolution 07-17

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supporting advancement of projects listed in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan and the alignment of these projects with Southwest Region projects included in the 2006-2008 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

- WHEREAS, the communities of Southwest Alaska need a sustainable public infrastructure sufficient to accommodate economic development and provide for an enhanced quality of life; and
- WHEREAS, the communities in Southwest Alaska support all efforts to accelerate the development of an integrated transportation infrastructure that expedites the movement of people and goods to, through, and out of Southwest Alaska thereby enhancing economic competitiveness; and
- WHEREAS, an effective transportation system is an essential component of fully realizing the economic value of Southwest fisheries resources, placing great importance on an efficient seafood supply chain to be included in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan; and
- WHEREAS, the development of transportation projects in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan has been continuously delayed over the years, causing these projects to fall behind schedule, and the misalignment of projects listed in the Southwest Plan with those listed for the region in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program; and
- WHEREAS, the communities in Southwest Alaska support prioritized projects in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan, an approved component of the Alaska Statewide Transportation Plan, and request the preservation of their prioritized projects and the alignment of these projects with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program; and
- WHEREAS, several factors at the state and federal levels have affected surface transportation funding for projects throughout Alaska, thus making it discouraging for many Southwest communities to receive aid for imperative transportation projects,


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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference advocate for accurate representation of projects listed in the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan and support the development of an updated Statewide Transportation Improvement Program that better aligns regional project lists with priorities set by communities in Southwest Alaska in the Southwest Transportation Plan; and

Section 1. Directs SWAMC staff to work with DOT, the Alaska State Legislature, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation to get the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan on target, resolve the transportation funding shortfall, and update the SWTP in the context of the seafood supply chain.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the members of Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of January 2007.

Signed:


Glen Gardner
President

Attest:


Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Re-iterated by Membership: January 26, 2007
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt as Amended: Carvel Zimin
Second: Kara Sandvik
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007

Resolution 07-18

A resolution of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference in support of fully funding the Power Cost Equalization Program for the fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

- WHEREAS,** The incredibly high cost of fuel is a financial burden everyone in Alaska must bear, and the most extreme hardships are felt by residents in small rural communities; and
- WHEREAS,** The Power Cost Equalization Program is intended to equalize the energy costs of rural and urban communities, but has been compromised in it's effectiveness due to critical under-funding of the program in recent years; and
- WHEREAS,** In recent years there has been a dramatic shift in the world fuel market, and while the negative implications of this shift have been wide-spread among the Alaskan people, the state's treasury has benefited greatly; and
- WHEREAS,** The increase in state coffers has enabled the State of Alaska to provide additional assistance to its residents in order to help them through financially uncertain times; and
- WHEREAS,** These collective efforts are proven and worthy means to distribute this much needed financial assistance to the people of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** Fully funding and endowing PCE will give rural Alaskans peace of mind for their electricity bills, and will allow citizens to manage and budget their resources better by assuring that their bills will be lower.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference support legislation to fully fund and endow the Power Cost Equalization Program for the fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

Section 1. The SWAMC Board of Directors urges the Governor and the Legislature for full funding and endowment of the Power Cost Equalization Program for the fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the members of
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Twenty-sixth day of
January 2007.

Signed:



Glen Gardner
President

Attest:



Wanetta Ayers
Executive Director

Re-iterated by Membership: January 26, 2007
Membership Meeting:
Motion to Adopt as Amended: Carvel Zimin
Second: Kara Sandvik
Motion Passed
Ratified by Board: January 27, 2007