



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE  
BOARD MEETING**

November 15, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.  
Call-in information: 888.550.5602  
Passcode: 2722 0305

**AGENDA**

- I. **Call to Order**----- **Stutes**  
Meeting called to order at 9:52am.
  
- II. **Roll Call** -----**Varner**  
Board: Layton Lockett, Shirley Marquardt, Michelle Ravenmoon, Alice Ruby, Trevor Brown & Louise Stutes - Quorum established; Dan O’Hara & Dan Clarion arrived late. Staff: Andy Varner and Erik Obrien
  
- III. **Approval of Agenda** ----- **Stutes**  
Board President Stutes called for a motion for Approval of Agenda. Motion called by Lockett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruby; with no objections agenda approved.
  
- IV. **Consent Agenda**----- **Stutes**
  - A. Draft Board minutes for September 19, 2013  
President Stutes called for a motion to approve Consent Agenda. Motion to approve Consent Agenda called by Marquardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gardner; with no objections agenda approved.
  
- V. **Policy and Program Issues** ----- **Varner**
  - A. Update on SW Business Council  
Varner provided an update on the Business Council planning process, and explain the outcomes are twofold, to identify recommendations to promote private sector activity, increase private sector membership, as a revenue driver for SWAMC, and show private sector engagement to the Legislature. Staff identified Shelly Wade, with Agnew Beck as facilitator, and UAA-CED to collect quantitative data. Estimated total costs: A::B - \$4500; CED - \$2000; Lunch and Overhead - \$1000 – Total \$7500. Obrien asked for Board suggestions to fill vacant seats: Ruby and O’Hara suggested Dave Lax, Southwest Construction, in Bristol Bay; Stutes identified Jim Graham from Brechan; O’Hara suggested Alaska Sportsman’s Lodge – Bear Trail Lodge, Nancy Lyons; Gardner suggested Patty Lakanoff in Unalaska for Tourism Sector. Ruby asked Staff to send financing of Business Council to Board in Email. Motion to approve called by Gardner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lockett; with no objections motion approved.

B. NEA \$2MM Dept Relief Letter

Varner explained NEA Debt Relief request to Governor, seeking support from SWAMC, and history of NEA financing trouble. This was similar to a request from last year. Stutes declared her reluctance for outright support for NEA's request. Lockett commended the clarity this letter offered over the previous request, but also remained reluctant to support the debt forgiveness request. Ruby suggested an avenue to support NEA, but not explicitly support debt forgiveness. Gardner expressed concern with the debt forgiveness request. Lockett expressed his opinion that SWAMC need to maintain a regional perspective for support. Ruby offered that SWAMC write to NEA to show empathy and appreciation for their efforts to maintain reasonable cost of power in the Bristol Bay region, but not suggest that we support debt relief. The Board broadly supported NEA's efforts as an organization, but not specifically mention the debt forgiveness; with no objections, Board advised staff to draft a letter to be reviewed by the Board and sent to NEA. Varner agreed, and noted that the situation could be identified in the Bristol Bay Energy Plan as well.

**VI. Governance Issues -----Varner**

A. 2014 Conference Items

Obrien provided a Conference update.

**VII. Financial Report-----Varner**

A. October 2013 Financial Statements

Varner covered financials. Varner wanted to hold a finance meeting to investigate higher yields for our cash accounts; Lockett, Stutes and Ruby agreed to meet.

**VIII. Staff Report -----Staff**

**IX. Board Comments / Other Business**

Marquardt offered thanks to Obrien for participating in the MTAB Legislative meetings, and to Varner for attending the MTAB meeting itself. Clarion mentioned he may not be receiving all the attachments (maybe due to file size).

**X. Adjourn ----- Stutes**

Board meeting Adjourned at 10:40am.

**Next Meeting**

December 19 @ 9:30am.