



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE  
BOARD MEETING**

March 21, 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**  
Layton Lockett, Paul Gronholdt, Dan O’Hara, Alice Ruby, Dan Clarion, Louise Stutes, Trevor Brown, Glen Gardner & Joe Sullivan; quorum established.
  
- III. Approval of Agenda** ----- **Stutes**  
Motion to approve agenda called by Layton Lockett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glen Gardner; with no objections agenda approved.
  
- IV. Consent Agenda**----- **Stutes**
  - A. Board minutes for February 20 & 23, 2013  
Motion to February minutes called by Layton Lockett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glen Gardner; with no objections agenda approved.
  
- V. Policy and Program Issues** ----- **Varner**
  - A. SWAMC Support of SB54: Scallop Program Extension – *Jim Stone, Alaska Scallop Association*  
Varner explained that Jim Stone from the Alaska Scallop Association was on line with us to request support for the passage of SB54; board member Sullivan brought this issue to our attention. SB54 narrative has been provided in your board packet, in addition to a letter by Stone that was emailed on Monday, 3/18. Sullivan provided a brief history of the Alaska scallop fishery, and how the difficulties of managing an open access fishery lead to vessel based limited licenses program. The concern over extending SB54 is that this is the only fishery managed by vessel based limited entry system, as opposed to individual limited entry. Failure to pass SB54 would result in the closure of the scallop fishery in State waters. Stone provided a more detailed narrative of the scallop fishery and key reasons for developing a vessel based limited entry system, the primary reason for which was there were more fisheries participants than owners, so developing an individual limited entry system would increase participation in the fisher. The outcome was a vessel based entry system that allows for partnerships to own the vessels that execute the scallop fishery. Stone explained how the scallop vessels are based out of Kodiak and Unalaska, and provide a positive economic impact in the SWAMC region. Gronholdt explained how the issue was controversial due to the vessel based limited entry

ownership program, which is different than all other state programs; and due to the controversy he would not be supporting the issue, and suggested that SWAMC moves forward with caution to avoid undue scrutiny. Sullivan requested that Stone address Gronholdt's concerns, and agreed that caution over controversial issues is the appropriate response. Stone explained the "Mr. Big" incident, and that to execute the fishery multiple ownership stakes were required to mobilize capital; precluding the State's ability to create an individual limited entry program. Stone explained that Homer's Representative Seaton is the bills primary opponent, and that passage of SB54 has otherwise broad support. Obrien offered that a more non-controversial method of addressing the issue at hand might be to simply focus on keeping the fishery open through support for SB54.

Sullivan moved to submit a letter supporting SB54; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruby. Speaking to the motion, he agrees that there is legitimate controversy over the issue, although there is no benefit to closing the fishery, which is what happens if the legislation expires. The legitimate discussion as to the appropriate management model for this fishery should thus ensure, while maintaining this important fishery. "We do not want to close the fishery while this discussion takes place." A neutral position for the SWAMC Board would be to support SB54, and have a discussion of management tools at a future date, after allowing the fishery to continue. Gronholdt asked Sullivan if he has ties to the Alaska Scallop Association. Sullivan replied that he has in the past, but is currently not representing the group. Layton Lockett motioned to Call the Question; with no objections the vote was called. The Board voted 8-yes & 1-no with Gronholdt casting the No Vote.

President Stutes directed staff to draft a letter of support the adoption of SB54, which can be distributed by email to the Board for comments and confirmation.

#### B. Gulf Bycatch / Catch Shares Letter

Varner explained that Gulf Bycatch/Catch Shares is something Gronholdt brought to the Board's attention as an important issue at the last Board meeting, and suggested that the Board could draft a general letter about the importance of community protections when drafting management plans that will affect fisheries resources allocation. One suggestion was to follow the general form of the Letter drafted by Kodiak to the Council; this letter was provided in the Board packet. Stutes clarified that the Board's comments would address the parameters affecting community protections, not the specifics of any one catch share program. Gronholdt pointed out that the Council has changed the topic from Catch Shares to Bycatch reduction, and further that he believes the letter passed by Kodiak is appropriate for the SWAMC Board. Brown agreed. Stutes asked whether any Board members opposed a general letter supporting community protections in any future management programs. Sullivan agreed, but wanted to make sure that the Board had the option to review the letter before it is submitted. Gronholdt agreed.

Sullivan made a motion for the Staff to draft a letter in support of community protections in any future federal management programs; 2<sup>nd</sup> by O'Hara. Clarion offered that Staff also include any resolutions passed by other local governments. Sullivan also requested staff to send the Council

Motion, which outlines concerns and what they are trying to achieve. Stutes pointed out the importance of not only weighing in, but providing comments prior to any Council action.

The Board Voted 9-y, 0-n to draft a letter supporting a community protections letter.

**VI. Governance Issues**

A. SWAMC Resolution 13-13: Authorized Signatories

Varner pointed out that this is a housekeeping issue due to Board movement, which adds Treasurer Layton Lockett and removes previous members Lamar Cotton and Kara Sandvik. Sullivan moved to adopt resolution; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lockett. Resolution passes.

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

A. February 2013 Financial Statements

Varner provide the financial report. The Conference exceeded our budgeting expectations, due to greater sponsorships and attendance, despite more expenses. A motion to pass the Financial Statements was made by Brown; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lockett. Financials approved.

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

**IX. Board Comments / Other Business**

O'Hara requested the date of our next meeting. Varner noted that the Board was going to schedule meetings on an as needed basis. A brief discussion agreed that the April meeting was not necessary, and suggested a May meeting. Stutes suggested that the Community Protections discussion happen at the May meeting, as opposed to email correspondence.

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

**Next Meeting**  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013