



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
BOARD MEETING**

May 15, 2014 at 9:30 am
Call-in information: 888.550.5602
Passcode: 2722 0305

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order** ----- **Ruby**
Meeting called at 9:42
- II. Roll Call** ----- **OBrien**
Layon Lockett, Shirley Marquardt, Paul Gronholdt, Alice Ruby, Cynthia Berns, Glen Gardner, Jr; Quorum established
- III. Approval of Agenda** ----- **Ruby**
Gronholdt requested adding Tustumena Resolution under Policy and program Issues. Gardner moved to approve amended agenda. Lockett seconded. No objections.
- IV. Consent Agenda** ----- **Ruby**
A. Board Minutes April 17th, 2014
Lockett moved to approve minutes. Berns seconded. No objections.
- V. Governance Issues** ----- **OBrien**
- A. CEDS Draft & CEDS Committee Meeting
- O'Brien stated that the usability of the CEDS needs to be upgraded. He has shared a draft document with the board and hopes to get the rest of the chapters out by late next week with a revised version of the background, the SWOT analysis, and the Business Council for the partnerships section. We need to give everyone time to review and then the CEDS committee (the board) will have to approve per EDA requirements. A meeting will be hopefully held the week of June 1st. A target of June 10th was set for creating a final document to be approved by the board and posted online by June 15th.
- B. Office Staffing
- Sonya Senkowsky will be offered the Executive Director position, her acceptance is pending.
 - O'Brien stated that he has investigated hiring a temporary office assistant and is considering a recent economics graduate from UAA to be hired full time, May 17 – September 5 at \$18 per hour.
 - Gronholdt moved to approve hiring of a temporary office assistant to help out over the summer. Gardner seconded. No objections.
- C. Alaska Business Week
- The Alaska Chamber is holding Alaska Business Week in Fairbanks for high school students. O'Brien would like to offer students from SWAMC's region some flight vouchers that PenAir and Era provided as part of their sponsorship. He would also consider using airline miles to purchase a ticket. He proposed providing three tickets total if there is interest. Lockett expressed his support for the idea, saying that it is an excellent use of the tickets.
 - Gardner moved to approve using flight vouchers to fly students to Fairbanks. Marquardt seconded. No objections.
- D. SWAMC Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- O'Brien stated that UAA is investigating a new Manufacturing Extension Partnership, as the last one was unsuccessful. He feels that SW Alaska has a powerful manufacturing cluster and sees the possibility of UAA making a recommendation to have SWAMC as a component of an

Alaska MEP. SWAMC would potentially receive a portion of the federal grant and take on new tasks and responsibilities.

- It is important to note that the grant is made on a cost-reimbursable basis.

E. AFDF Ocean Ranching

- O'Brien requested that the board pass a resolution, Board Resolution 2014-06, to express general support for AFDF ocean ranching.
- Gronholdt requested clarification on the species of shellfish. O'Brien said the state statutes are well defined. They include all naturally occurring bivalves, plus the addition of Pacific oysters.
- Berns asked if this obligates SWAMC to anything fiscally. O'Brien said that it is just a political piece stating that SWAMC supports the initiative.
- Berns moved to approve the resolution. Gronholdt seconded. Discussion: Ruby expressed concern that the word "farming" has a negative connotation. Gronholdt suggested changing shellfish to bivalve and oysters, so people know it is not addressing the farming of crabs of other not included species. Lockett expressed concern that the resolution was too wordy. O'Brien stated that with the lack of shellfish farming in SW Alaska makes our region one that would benefit greatly. Gronholdt proposed amending the resolution to change the wording to personalize it more to the Southwest. O'Brien will amend and distribute final version to the board.

F. 2015 Fall IEDC Sponsorship, \$1,000

- IEDC is holding its annual conference in Anchorage next year. O'Brien feels that a token sponsorship of \$1,000 is appropriate. Sponsorships will open up at a later date, as the conference date is still over a year away.
- Lockett said a sponsorship of this kind is something that can be easily incorporated into the budget.
- O'Brien said SWAMC is currently a member of IEDC and recently renewed their membership.

G. Bill Pay

- Gronholdt moved to pass Board Resolution 14-07, to allow usage of the Wells Fargo Bill Pay System. Gardner seconded. An amendment was made to strike language authorizing O'Brien specifically to only "a certified Wells Fargo account manager." Ruby expressed concern about accountability and board liability and said more formal policy language should be added in the future. O'Brien noted that receipts and invoices will be provided to Foraker before issuing checks. Resolution passed with no objections.

VI. Policy and Program Issues ----- Ruby

A. SWAMC Executive Director Search

B. Policy Language

- Ruby said that resolution policy language should be made ready to adopt by the Board retreat. Marquardt said she supports using language similar to other conferences.

C. Tustumena Replacement Resolution

- Gronholdt moved to adopt Board Resolution 14-08 regarding the Tustumena replacement. Lockett seconded.
- Gronholdt has been investigating different option for the M/V Tustumena's replacement. Resolution is a request that DOT investigate increasing vehicle speed and capacity, as well as exploring alternatives to the elevator system. The current Tustumena makes 13.8 knots, with the proposed making 15-16. Other options are available with higher speeds. A ferry in BC makes over 20, for example. Current vehicle capacity is 36, proposed is 52; others in existence hold over 100. Marquardt suggested contacting the Alaska Marine Highway and the Captain instead of passing a resolution suggesting a bigger vessel, as she does not feel that a vessel that large is necessary for remote Alaska. Gronholdt reiterated

that the resolution is simply a polite request to explore options to ensure that the new ferry is the best vessel available for the money.

- Marquardt suggested that it would be appropriate to wait until the June meeting and public comment period.
- Board voted to adopt the resolution with Marquardt opposing.

VII. Financial Report ----- OBrien

A. April 2014 Financial Statements

- 1st ARDOR Payment \$32,254.17
- Long list of receivables will be removed by the end of May.
- By October, the outstanding membership dues will be purged.
- Lockett moved to approve, Gardner seconded. No objections.

VIII. Staff Report -----Staff

- Alaska Youth First funding was reduced by the legislature, so all applicants will have to resubmit with a greater focus on outcomes.
- Oliva traveled to Kodiak Island communities, Akhiok, Old Harbor, and Port Lions to teach Junior Achievement in April.
- Connect Alaska would like to highlight the innovation center in Kodiak for an article. It was considered a success and will be shared nationally.
- Johnson is working on grant reporting and will be finished soon. She is leaving SWAMC at the end of the month.

IX. Board Comments / Other Business

- The board thanked Johnson for her hard work during her time at SWAMC.

X. Adjourn ----- Ruby

Next Board Meeting

TBA @ 9:30am