



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-01**

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SECURE FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING FROM ALASKA OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AND URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO SHARE THESE REVENUES WITH ALASKAN COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, Alaska's Washington D.C. delegation is attempting to push through an amendment that would give Alaska and other coastal states a significant cut of any offshore oil and gas revenues; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates there is between 25 to 27 billion barrels of oil in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, in addition to deposits in other offshore areas of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the federal government currently collects rent on leases in the Outer Continental Shelf whether they are producing or not and collects royalties in areas where oil and gas production is occurring; and

WHEREAS, the Interior Department shares some of that income with states, including Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska receives no money on oil produced offshore; and

WHEREAS, pending Congressional amendments would request Alaska receiving 37.5% of royalties on offshore production; and

WHEREAS, if Alaska had the same 37.5% revenue sharing from offshore oil and gas development as it applies to the Gulf of Mexico, our state would have received \$900 million from the 2008 federal offshore lease sale for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's coastal communities, impacted by development in the Arctic, will realize impacts on their services, roads, hospitals, airports, etc., in addition to potential environmental and cultural impacts; and

WHEREAS, as the State is supportive of receiving money based on offshore oil and gas development within their jurisdiction, the municipalities of Alaska also are supportive of a portion of the lease money being shared with local governments impacted by oil and gas exploration and development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior will have a lease sale for the Chukchi Sea in 2016 and the Beaufort Sea in 2017 and other offshore lease sales could be imminent over the next decade.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference strongly supports efforts of the Alaska Congressional Delegation to secure federal revenue sharing from Alaska offshore oil and gas development and urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass legislation to share these revenues with Alaskan communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:



Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-02**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ADDRESS THE LONG-TERM ENERGY NEEDS OF ALL ALASKANS WITH A STATEWIDE ENERGY PLAN AND SUPPORT THE ENERGY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE IMMEDIATE AND NECESSARY RELIEF TODAY.

WHEREAS, the high and volatile price of energy remains a pervasive and serious issue for families, small businesses and communities in the Southwest Alaska region; and

WHEREAS, the price of Alaska North Slope Crude oil has resumed its upward trend since 2010 with an average price close to \$100 per barrel; and

WHEREAS, the State benefits greatly from the high price of Alaska North Slope Crude oil yet negatively impacts the majority of rural communities and what they pay for energy; and

WHEREAS, in June 2010 House Bill 306 was signed into law declaring a state energy policy recognizing the state's economic prosperity is dependent on available, reliable and affordable residential, commercial, and industrial energy; and

WHEREAS, the State is in need of a comprehensive statewide energy plan that addresses the long-term needs and provides affordable energy to all of its citizens; and


WHEREAS, preserving the services our ecosystems provide to our communities and regions should also be valued when developing energy plans and projects; and

WHEREAS, energy assistance, alternative energy and energy efficiency policies and programs can provide support and some relief while a long-term solution is being considered.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference calls upon the Governor and Legislature to take immediate steps to address the need for a statewide energy plan, and supports the policies and programs that provide the immediate and necessary assistance for today: The Power Cost Equalization Program, Energy Assistance Programs, Bulk Fuel and Power System Upgrade Programs, Alternative Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs, Weatherization, Rebate and Energy Loan Programs.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:



Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-03**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT REVENUE SHARING
PROGRAM CURRENTLY IN PLACE AT A *MINIMUM* \$85 MILLION LEVEL.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska Constitution contemplate strong and vibrant local government units exercising maximum local control; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference commends the Governor and the Legislature for approving and funding the Municipal Revenue Sharing program which established a \$60 million annual revenue sharing program; and

WHEREAS, local governments are experiencing significant financial pressure resulting from inflation, high energy costs and a faltering economy; and

WHEREAS, remote and rural communities have to barge in fuel, and at time fly it in, making the cost of fuel range between \$6 - \$12 per gallon, including in many communities of Southwest Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the cost of fuel drives up the expense of almost everything in rural Alaska, from food to basic business operations, which weakens local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, a stronger rural economy helps Alaska's economy as a whole; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, annual Revenue Sharing was \$141 million, at a time when the price of oil was approximately \$20 per barrel; and

WHEREAS, allocating \$85 million in annual Revenue Sharing in its current form is vital to the health of Alaskan communities in providing essential local services and/or keeping property taxes down; and

WHEREAS, it is uncertain that the 2012 calendar year revenues, generated under oil tax surcharges (AS 43.55.011 (g)), will be sufficient to fund the annual deposit to the Community Revenue Sharing fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Governor and the Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to maintain the annual \$60 million Revenue Sharing payments for the fiscal years 2014 and beyond, as a vital component of the state Operating Budget.

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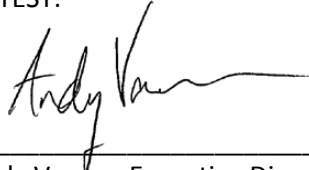
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:



Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-04**

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY2014 CAPITAL BUDGET.

WHEREAS, harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in Southwest Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska and the municipalities built these harbor facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has transferred most of its harbor facilities to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, consequently, when local municipal harbor masters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford, and

WHEREAS, in response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation, supported by SWAMC, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program, AS 29.60.800; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program provides state assistance in the form of a matching 50/50 grant for municipal owned harbor facilities, to be administered by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' administration process to review for eligibility, and to score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant since state funds may be limited; and

WHEREAS, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting cost in addition to 50% of the construction cost, sharing these costs with the State and creating local ownership; and

WHEREAS, completion of these harbor facility projects is all dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska’s Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the SWAMC representatives from the City of Kodiak in FY2008 , the Cities of Dillingham, King Cove, and Old Harbor in FY2009, the Cities of Port Lions and Sand Point in FY2012, and the City of Unalaska in FY2013 have greatly benefited by receiving previous grant awards from the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the SWAMC representatives from the Aleutians East Borough applied for a Tier II Municipal Harbor Facility Grant, which are pending full funding in the FY2014 capital budget; and

WHEREAS, four Alaskan coastal communities submitted FY14 grants totaling \$14,713,500, which if fully matched by the State of Alaska would result in over \$29 million of construction work that would stimulate local economies, create safer and more-functional harbors for the fishing fleets of Southwest Alaskan coastal communities, and create job opportunities for local residents, which is especially important in these times of economic hardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Membership of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges full funding of \$14,713,500 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska’s Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SWAMC Membership encourages the SWAMC Legislative Delegation to support the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

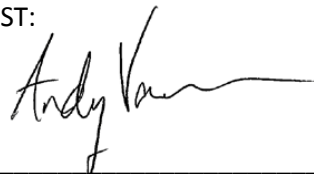
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:



Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-05**

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S PRELIMINARY FINDING RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SALMON; URGING FURTHER EXAMINATION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SALMON; OPPOSING AQUABOUNTY'S PETITION TO PRODUCE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SALMON; AND PROPOSING, IF AQUABOUNTY'S PETITION IS APPROVED, THAT ITS PRODUCT SHOULD BE LABELED AS "GENETICALLY MODIFIED."

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced the release of a draft environmental assessment and preliminary finding of no significant impact concerning genetically engineered AquaBounty *AquAdvantage* salmon; and

WHEREAS, Alaska, and specifically Southwest Alaska, has bountiful fisheries that provide wild, natural, and sustainable seafood; and

WHEREAS, Alaska seafood is naturally high in essential vitamins, including vitamin E, C, D, and A, and minerals, including zinc, iron, calcium, and selenium; and

WHEREAS, fish habitat in Alaska is less polluted than fish habitat in other locations; and

WHEREAS, fisheries are a vital component of the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the state's fisheries are managed to ensure that Alaska seafood continues to be the finest in the world for future generations; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, 95 percent of pacific salmon landings in the United States occurred in Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, 124,000,000 salmon were harvested in the state, for a value of \$505,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the FDA is accepting comments on the proposal to allow, for the first time, a genetically modified organism to be sold for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, the inevitable accidental release of transgenic fish into the wild could devastate native fish populations and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, citizens and public interest groups overwhelmingly oppose genetically engineered food and have submitted over 400,000 public comments opposing genetically engineered salmon; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has not conducted adequate testing to determine the long-term safety of consuming genetically engineered salmon; and

WHEREAS, the sale of genetically engineered salmon could imperil the state's fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans, United States residents, and several members of the United States Congress continue to have concerns about AquaBounty's proposal and the FDA's review of the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the FDA's review applies only to a limited set of production and rearing facilities and fails to consider the broader applications of this technology that would assuredly occur should final approval be granted.

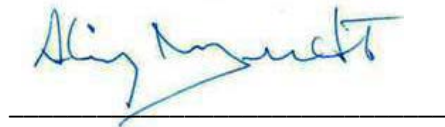
BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the United States Food and Drug Administration not to make a final decision regarding genetically engineered salmon until the United States Congress has fully examined the issue and the potential release of genetically engineered fish into the waters of the United States; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference opposes AquaBounty's petition to produce AquAdvantage Salmon, a genetically engineered salmon, a position SWAMC has held since passing Resolution 2011-03 in February 2011; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the petition is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, despite strong environmental and human health concerns, product labeling requirements should include the words "Genetically Modified" prominently displayed on the front of the product's packaging.

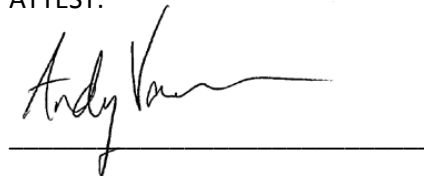
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:



Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-06**

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN THE M/V TUSTUMENA AT THE TOP OF ALASKA'S VESSEL REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE, AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO BEGIN THE DESIGN PROCESS OF A REPLACEMENT VESSEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) provides vital goods and services and a reliable transportation link to the 11 serviced communities of Southwest Alaska, stretching from Kodiak to Unalaska on the Aleutian Chain ; and

WHEREAS, the Tustumena vessel provides year-round service to the Kodiak area and makes the journey out the Aleutian Chain 10 times per year and continues to benefit the region economically; and

WHEREAS, the rough and exposed waters of the Aleutians can accelerate the deterioration of any vessel servicing the region; and

WHEREAS, the M/V Tustumena was built in 1964 is approaching its 50th year of service; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming apparent to the communities in Southwest Alaska who depend upon and travel on the M/V Tustumena that it is having an increase in serious maintenance issues and has been out of service since October 2012 and may not come back into service until June 2013, a period of eight (8) months; and

WHEREAS, the AMHS vessel M/V Kennicott also serves Southwest Alaska but cannot dock at many of the communities located in this area which depend upon ferry service; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Transportation Advisory Board, created in 2003 as a local planning and advisory body for the AMHS, has recommended the Tustumena as the top vessel in the queue of the State's vessel replacement fund; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature has appropriated \$50 million to the state's vessel replacement fund, but has not authorized spending from that fund toward another vessel; and

WHEREAS, design work on a ocean-class vessel that can navigate the waters of Southwest Alaska – and importantly the Aleutian Chain – and accommodate its unique port requirements needs to begin as soon as possible to accelerate the Tustumena replacement.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports maintaining the M/V Tustumena at the top of Alaska's vessel replacement schedule, and urges the Department of Transportation to begin the design process of a replacement vessel as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference requests that a collective effort by the legislators whose communities are served by the Tustumena work to identify capital


project dollars in this fiscal year to start a feasibility study on replacing the M/V Tustumena as soon as possible; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference strongly requests that the State of Alaska makes replacing the M/V Tustumena a transportation priority for the State of Alaska.

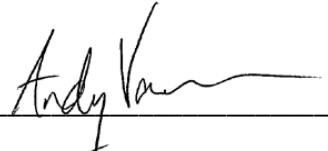
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



Shirley Marquardt, President



Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-07**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INDUSTRY AND UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
COLLABORATION TO IDENTIFY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF
FISHERIES, SEAFOOD AND MARITIME SECTORS**

WHEREAS, future workforce needs will require continued training and education to stay competitive; and

WHEREAS, helping to identify career paths and ladders to secure, rewarding, lifelong livelihoods will strengthen and smooth economic fluctuations in coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Fisheries, Seafood and Maritime sectors are vital industries of Alaska’s economy, and especially important to the viability of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, baseline workforce & industry data is required to develop an analysis of occupations to assess future needs and create a labor supply capable of meeting high-paying, high-demand occupations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urge the Governor and the Legislature to support the cooperative efforts of the Industry and University of Alaska to understand the current and future workforce needs of Alaska’s Fisheries, Seafood and Maritime sectors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:

Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF OIL
SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN SOUTHWEST ALASKA COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the waters of Southwest Alaska continue to be a bustling thoroughfare of fishing vessels and marine traffic, including increasing activity through to the Arctic; and

WHEREAS, local Southwest Alaska coastlines and fisheries are especially vulnerable to potential oil spills involving marine traffic; and

WHEREAS, the tug vessel Polar Wind carrying over 20,000 gallons diesel fuel, and the barge Unimak Trader packing over one million pounds of frozen seafood, both ran aground on Ukolnoi Island between King Cove and Sand Point Alaska on November 13, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Kulluk, a 266 feet diameter oil drilling barge carrying over 139,000 gallons of diesel, ran aground on Sitkalidak Island, near Old Harbor and Kodiak Alaska on December 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, local fishermen and vessels of opportunity were critical to supporting the USCG, DEC and other agencies' actions to perform successful salvage and oil spill response operations in these and other incidents; and

WHEREAS, fishermen and vessels in local coastal communities are strategically positioned to best facilitate clean up and to help with response strategies; and

WHEREAS, these and other marine accidents that have occurred in Southwest Alaska over the years indicate a need for ongoing local oil response capacity in coastal communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports programs and legislation that fund programs in local coastal communities to train residents in marine oil response.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd
Day of February, 2013.**

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Shirley Marquardt, President

Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF A
REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA THAT HONORS TRADITIONAL SOCIO-
ECONOMIC TIES IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION**

WHEREAS, the Southwest Alaska region is a diverse region with intricate socio-economic, traditional and cultural ties between communities; and

WHEREAS, the Amended Proclamation Plan, which served as the Interim Plan for the 2012 elections, dramatically changed the election map for Southwest Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Plan of 2012 senate paired House Districts 38-S and 37-S that are not contiguous, and stretch from the Aleutians to the outskirts of Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution, Article 6, Section 6 states that in legislative apportionment 'each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts'; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution, Article 6, Section 6 also states that in legislative apportionment, each house district should be comprised of a 'relatively integrated socio-economic area'; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Redistricting Board is required by a ruling of the Alaska Supreme Court to redraw the elections map for the 2014 elections, based on the 2010 decennial census and adhering to the Alaska Constitution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Board to formulate the new redistricting plan beginning with Southwest Alaska as a starting point, to accommodate the intricate socio-economic diversity and ties within the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference urges the Alaska Redistricting Board to formulate a redistricting plan for the 2014 elections that follows the Alaska Constitution and respects traditional and cultural ties in Southwest Alaska.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd Day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:

Andy Varner, Executive Director



**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 2013-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTING
FULL FUNDING OF THE WEATHERIZATION AND HOME ENERGY REBATE PROGRAMS AT
A LEVEL OF \$101.5 MILLION.**

WHEREAS, Alaska faces unprecedented energy challenges, including escalating energy costs and overdependence on foreign oil, especially in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, to help combat these high costs, the Alaska legislature created the Weatherization and Home Energy Rebate Programs to help make Alaska’s homes more energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC recognizes that our dependence on oil to generate our electricity, heat our homes and drive our vehicles results in extremely high energy costs, and has become a significant barrier to economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Weatherization and Home Energy Rebate Programs not only help Alaskan residents save money through lower fuel bills, but also put money back into the local and statewide economies by creating thousands of jobs, both direct and indirect, associated with the programs; and

WHEREAS, the Weatherization and Home Energy Rebate Programs are very successful in helping reduce residential energy costs and deserve a multi-year extension.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference respectfully urges Governor Parnell and the Alaska Legislature to continue fully funding the Weatherization and Home Energy Rebate Programs at \$101.5 million in Fiscal Year 2014, extended indefinitely, to meet the critical energy efficiency needs of qualified Alaskans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 22nd day of February, 2013.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

Shirley Marquardt, President

ATTEST:

Andy Varner, Executive Director