



SWAMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2019

- I. **Call to Order** -----2:08 pm by Vice President Gronholdt
- A. **Roll Call** ----- Griffin
 - _____ Mary Swain, yes Paul Gronholdt, yes (2:16 pm) Rebecca Skinner, yes Myra Olsen, yes Alice Ruby, _____ Glen Gardner, yes Terry Haines, yes Laura Delgado, yes Dennis Robinson, yes Darren Muller
- II. **Approval of Agenda** ----- Swain
 - Olsen moves to approve, Haines seconds, no objections, agenda approved.
- III. **Consent Agenda** ----- Swain
 - A. BOD Meeting Minutes, November 2019
 - Ruby moves to approve, Olsen seconds, no objections, minutes approved.
- IV. **Governance & Policy** ----- Swain
 - A. October 2019 Financial Statement
 - Ruby moves to approve, Olsen seconds, no objections, FS approved.
- V. **Management & Program Issues** ----- Griffin
 - A. Denali Commission Grant Request (Information only) – Griffin outlined the outcome of the ARDOR meeting on November 19: ARDORs were awarded \$75,000 each from the Denali Commission. This money is intended to be leveraged; SWAMC’s USDA grant demonstrates the leveraging requirement. The new ARDOR group is called the Alaska Regional Development Network (ARDN). Griffin outlined the initial budget that SWAMC came up with for this money; it can be amended if needed. SWAMC expects award after January 1; the funding covers calendar year 2020. One board member expressed concern about a lack of Bristol Bay representation in SWAMC’s projects list and that projects should reflect region-wide issues. Broadband and transportation discussions have been focused on the Aleutian region but Bristol Bay struggling as well. Another concern raised was one project deliverable listed as “retention of AMHS” – this deliverable is too big for SWAMC to take on. Additionally, SWAMC’s intention to develop a plan to improve air access in southwest Alaska is too ambitious – this is at the mercy of private industry. Workplan should be more regionally focused. SWAMC staff agreed to make tweaks to workplan to discuss at future Board meeting.
 - B. Unused Leave for Executive Director Griffin – Motion made by Ruby to pay Griffin \$3,000 for unpaid leave, Myra seconds, item approved by roll call. One board member commented that given that Doug was unable to take leave due to a staffing shortage with Erik Obrien out of the office during the summer season, SWAMC should be careful in the future when making exceptions to a regular work schedule for employees. The staffing shortage at SWAMC was an extenuating circumstance that should be noted on record, given that the Board’s decision to pay out some of Griffin’s unused leave conflicts with what was written in his contract.
 - C. Transition Approach for Executive Director Position – Griffin offered his availability to work as a contractor at \$50/hr to help new Exec. Director Marquardt and SWAMC staff with conference planning and Broadband – no more than 60 hours total. Marquardt agreed that it is in the best interest of SWAMC to have Doug available to help with SWAMC’s audit, Conference, everyday business, and leftovers of Broadband grant. Board members discussed whether Doug remaining an employee versus becoming a contractor was cleaner. The Board is concerned about the status of conference planning – a Conference planning committee needs to be established to begin lining up specific speakers. Marquardt agreed to provide a Conference planning status to the Board by the January meeting.
- VI. **Staff Report**
 - Griffin explained staffing plan over the Christmas holiday. Board member Robinson notified group of a tribal broadband meeting in Washington DC to cover 5G spectrum.
- VII. **Board Comments / Other Business**
 - This is Griffin’s last Board meeting – he thanked the Board for their commitment to the organization. Robinson provided an update on Makushin geothermal resource in Unalaska – Ounalashka Corp is now the resource owner



and are working full speed on getting power developed. On topic of conference planning – several board members expressed importance of getting speakers of the highest authority possible representing the State.

VIII. Adjourn: Muller moves to adjourn meeting, Ruby seconds, 3:08 p.m. adjourned by **Vice President Gronholdt**



Roll Call Item Unused Leave for Executive Director Griffin

 Mary Swain, yes Paul Gronholdt, yes Rebecca Skinner, yes Myra Olsen, yes Alice Ruby,
 Glen Gardner, yes Terry Haines, yes Laura Delgado, yes Dennis Robinson,
 yes Darren Muller