



**SWAMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Post-Conference Board Meeting**  
**March 7, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.**

**I. Call to Order ----- 9:09 a.m. President Swain**

**II. Roll Call**

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

Also in attendance was Board Member-elect Joe Sullivan, SWAMC staff members Marquardt and Vaught, and former SWAMC staff member Griffin.

**III. Approval of Agenda ----- Swain**

Ruby moves to approve, Skinner seconds. Amendments made to agenda: Add item to discuss unfilled Kodiak Associate seat (make A on agenda and move all else down); Add H – Aviation Working Group; Add I – Discuss SWAMC bylaws. Agenda approved as amended.

**IV. Governance Issues**

- A. Kodiak Associate Seat** – SWAMC staff will provide a notice of the Board seat vacancy to the region. This is an opportunity to attract more Kodiak associate members. A 30-day notice period is required to collect candidacy declaration forms. Selection is contingent on SWAMC membership.
- B. Ratification of Board Election** – The results of the election of Board Member are as follows:  
 Aleutian/Pribilof Municipal Seat for two-year term – Glen Gardner, Jr.  
 Kodiak Municipal Seat for two-year term – Terry Haines  
 Bristol Bay Municipal Seat for two-year term – Myra Olsen  
 At-Large Seat B by election of the Membership for two-year term – Joe Sullivan  
 Robinson moves to ratify the results of the election/selection of Board seats as selected by Caucuses and election by Membership (At-Large), Skinner seconds, no objections, election ratified.
- C. Election of Officers** – Ruby made a motion to retain the Officer seats as-is for the next year, Robinson seconds, Officer seats are retained.
- D. Action on Resolutions** – In Membership Resolution FY20-01, the Board discussed changing the wording put forward on the floor by Gary Hennigh from “alternative energy” to “renewable energy”. Board and staff discussed whether the hydro maintenance costs that King Cove is experiencing can be included in their PCE subsidy calculation. Marquardt stated that she would reach out to Tim Grussendorf from Senator Hoffman’s office to see what, if anything, the Senator is pursuing on PCE. Gardner made a motion to approve Membership Resolutions FY20-01 through 06 as a group, Skinner seconds, Resolutions are approved unanimously. SWAMC staff agrees to post the passed Resolutions on the website and send to legislators and other relevant recipients.
- E. Conference Debrief** -- There was informal discussion and comments from the Board as follows:  
 Having the panel of Legislators last was good to keep people at the conference. Suggestion for staff photos to be included in the packet so that attendees recognize them. Having a timer was good to keep speakers on track. Do more photo slideshows and add more time for networking. Next year put Membership Meeting right before lunch again so that have flexibility in the schedule. It was valuable to have the Board members introduce the panel speakers at the 2019 conference, do that at 2021 conference. The conference room temperature was better this year (too cold last year). Giving the exhibitors time to introduce themselves to the audience was good – it encouraged people to visit their tables.  
 There needs to be clearer differentiation between the 2 types of associate members: non-profit and for-profit. There are 2 membership types (municipal and associate), but 3 payment categories (municipal, for-profit, and non-profit). The distinction needs to be made clearer on the website and on the membership list printed in the conference packet.  
 Maybe invite a panel of processors to present next year (PSPA could help with this), where they could talk about new things they’re doing. However, they all tend to be very closed lip and don’t want to divulge too

much that could give their competitors an advantage. Trident has presented on their marketing strategy in the past. SWAMC has had robotics presentations for advanced manufacturing topics. Sullivan stated he has a contact at Silver Bay Seafoods and will reach out to gauge their interest. BBRSDA as well. A marketing report would be good: Where fishing is going, how the world looks, etc. Delgado and Sullivan expressed support for this. Room and board for employees no longer able to be used as a tax credit – could SWAMC talk to legislators on processors behalf about this? Encourage more processor attendance at conference – this indicates their engagement in the region as business owners.

Staff should follow up with communities and ADF&G on their planning with the processors regarding coronavirus – the Dunleavy administration has so far left communities out of the process. This impacts them greatly but they aren't being included in the discussions. So far, some processors seem to be addressing this on the Seattle level, but the local level issues can't just be put on the Boroughs and Cities shoulders.

Add a question to the conference registration form so that people can indicate food allergies or restrictions. Request catering to leave salads etc. unmixed so that those with allergies can still eat around ingredients, ask about other options to address allergen issues. Would like more Symphony of Seafood items from ASMI next year.

- F. Dates for 2021 Annual Meeting** – For 2021, the Conference dates are currently booked as Wednesday and Thursday, March 3-4 with pre-conference board meeting the evening prior on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and post-conference meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A Thursday/Friday conference would be better – staff to check with the Captain Cook if Friday is available in 2021. Gronholdt moves, Sullivan seconds, the existing 2021 meeting dates are approved, no objections.
- G. Calendaring/Board Meetings** – Some Board members expressed preference for morning Board meetings. Board agreed on Thursday mornings at 9 am. Ruby moved to approve, Gardner seconds, approved unanimously.
- H. Aviation Working Group** – When the Board set priorities for the SWAMC staff during the strategic planning session in November 2018, air transportation was not as much of a challenge. Priorities need to be revised to include this item. Some not impressed by the conference presentation by Ravn. Ravn claimed to have a lot of no-shows from Medicaid passengers but some Board member stated that no-shows occur because Ravn is unreliable. Board wants to create an air transportation working group – Board members to identify what the WG can do so that not all on staff's shoulders. Ravn is canceling flights 2 days prior in Sand Point and other communities for reasons that couldn't have been known ahead of time. Ravn only has ten Dash-8's – using 3-4 per day on the Unalaska run affects their entire operation. Ounalashka Corp. is planning to get another service out there. Need the state to upgrade the master plan for the airport. They have support from the Congressional delegation. Other projects in Unalaska require reliable air transportation. Ravn's corporate structure is part of the problem. Grant Aviation lost their EAS contract for Egegik – went to Tanana Air. Aviation working group could harness the power and voice of the region – single conversation rather than all separate. Sullivan suggested that the processors be allowed to participate in WG – they tend to charter flights and not even rely on Ravn.  
Aviation Working Group members: Alice Ruby, Dennis Robinson, Laura Delgado, Glen Gardner, Myra Olsen, perhaps Layton Lockett. Alice Ruby to lead this effort. Olsen made the motion, Gronholdt seconds, Aviation Working Group created.  
Set of recommendations: 1 – Identify problems and priorities; 2 – Identify who needs to be involved and at what level. WG members get organized first and then invite airline and processor representatives to become involved. Facility maintenance an issue – dirty bathrooms, blocked emergency exits, and icy walkways to planes, have caused 2 broken legs and no gravel put down, reason from airlines is they are "short staffed". Involving processors is tough because they don't want to do anything that could potentially help their competition. WG to gather photos of issues and names/contact info of people who have experienced issues (broken legs) so that WG can confront Ravn. WG arms SWAMC with the tools to tackle this challenge. Write letters to document these challenges. Board agreed unanimously on moving forward in this manner.
- I. SWAMC By-Laws** – Board discussion on whether at-large seats are intended for Associate members only. That was the historical intention but has become unclear in recent years. Board discussed whether at-large seats should be filled by organizations that represent the whole region or larger. At-large seats

provide the opportunity to recruit a large presence: fish processors, banks, telecom associations, non-profits, aviation companies. Seems that at-large seats have become spillovers for regional seats in recent years – Board wants to get back to what the by-laws state and see the at-large seats be more regional in nature. For next year’s conference: outline the role and function of the at-large seats ahead of time so membership understands. Seat holder doesn’t need to live in the region but needs to do business there.

**V. Board Comments**

Board decided not to hold a regular March board meeting since they have met so recently. Board directed staff to provide a general letter of support for USDA ReConnect applicants as discussed at the February BOD meeting. Now is the time to ramp-up the focus on the FY21 membership drive. At the 2021 membership meeting, try to get the resolutions out ahead of time so membership has time to prepare.

**VI. Adjourn: Gronholdt made motion, Gardner seconds, meeting adjourned 11:06 a.m. by President Swain**