



**SWAMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16, 2020**

- I. Call to Order ----- 9:06 am President Swain**
- A. Roll Call ----- Marquardt**  
    yes Mary Swain, yes Paul Gronholdt, yes Rebecca Skinner, \_\_\_\_\_ Myra Olsen, yes Alice Ruby,  
    yes Glen Gardner, yes Terry Haines, \_\_\_\_\_ Laura Delgado, \_\_\_\_\_ Dennis Robinson,  
    \_\_\_\_\_ Joe Sullivan, yes Darren Muller
- II. Approval of Agenda ----- Swain**  
    Gardner moves to approve, Ruby seconds, no objections, agenda approved.
- III. Consent Agenda ----- Swain**
- A. BOD Meeting Minutes, June 18, 2020**  
    Ruby moves to approve, Gardner seconds, no objections, minutes approved.
- IV. Governance & Policy ----- Swain**
- A. May 2020 Financial Statement –** Ruby asked whether Denali Commission would allow the budgeted travel money to be re-budgeted given substantially less travel than anticipated. Marquardt confirmed that that can be done. No word yet on ETA for EDA Supplemental award. SWAMC’s application was submitted June 12 and expect word near the end of July. Gardner moves to approve, Ruby seconds, no objections, financial statement approved by roll call vote. All in favor.
- V. Management & Program Issues ----- Marquardt**
- A. EDA Supplemental Award update –** SWAMC is waiting to hear back from EDA on the status of our application. Nine ARDORs received an invite to apply, only one has heard confirmation of award so far. Currently just past the expected 30 turnaround time guaranteed by EDA so expect to receive notice soon.
- B. FY21 Membership Drive –** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty among southwest municipalities regarding CARES funding, SWAMC staff is waiting until August/September to begin FY21 Membership Drive. Staff plans to re-write membership letter and refresh outreach. Want to be able to show progress made in recent months with FORWARD program and other initiatives. Will send Membership letter to BOD to review.
- C. FORWARD –** SWAMC used funding from DCCED to contract with LiveStories to provide the FORWARD program which offers information and technical support to businesses looking for COVID relief programs. SWAMC contracted with Compass North to provide personnel support to field phone calls and emails from business owners. Staff has participated in 3 committee hearings to testify on feedback from businesses and roadblocks in the AK CARES grant program. Ruby asked whether FORWARD tracks use – Marquardt confirmed that it does track what businesses have created a profile and what funding resources they have clicked on. Keri with Compass North is also tracking this data.
- D. Communications Plan –** SWAMC’s communication strategy work is focused on FORWARD for now, and promotional outreach via email and Facebook. Focus will then shift to the membership drive and general SWAMC branding and communication strategy.
- VI. Staff Report-----Marquardt**  
    Staff has been focused heavily on COVID response work.  
    Also has been focused on the free 2.5 GHz broadband spectrum available to tribes and helping Harold Johnston of Alaska Tribal Broadband with outreach as the August deadline is quickly approaching. The large telecommunications companies are pushing back on the request for a deadline extension because they want to own it themselves and sell it back to customers. Many requests have been made to the FCC to extend the deadline to allow more tribes to access this “once in a lifetime” opportunity.  
    Staff has also been focused on keeping up to date with mariculture in Alaska and will put some EDA Supplemental funding towards this if awarded.  
    AK Can Do program winding down, have seen most usage from Sand Point. Staff will close out program at end of July or August.



#### **VII. Board Comments / Other Business**

Gronholdt – Ravn to fly into Sand Point 4x/week starting August 15 using Dash 8.

Several Board members expressed concern about whether SWAMC conference can be held in March, especially the annual membership meeting. Many people are overwhelmed with virtual meetings. A potential conference topic could be “what worked and what didn’t” in communities’ pandemic responses.

Board members inquired about fishermen being able to use their permits in place of business licenses to access CARES Act funds, in addition to the \$50 million of fisheries relief funds. SWAMC staff staying in the loop on this and will update as possible.

**VIII. Adjourn Time:** Muller moves to adjourn meeting, Gardner seconds, meeting adjourned at 9:53 am by **President Swain**