



SWAMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2020

- I. **Call to Order** ----- 9:10 am President Swain
 - A. **Roll Call** ----- Marquardt
 - yes Mary Swain, yes Paul Gronholdt, yes Rebecca Skinner, _____ Myra Olsen, yes (10:08) Alice Ruby, _____ Glen Gardner, _____ Terry Haines, yes Laura Delgado, yes Dennis Robinson, yes Joe Sullivan, yes (9:24) Dennis Muller
- II. **Approval of Agenda** ----- Swain
 - Skinner makes motion to approve, Robinson seconds, no objections, agenda approved.
- III. **Consent Agenda** ----- Swain
 - A. BOD Meeting Minutes October 15, 2020
 - Robinson makes motion to approve, Sullivan seconds, no objections, minutes approved.
- IV. **Governance & Policy** ----- Swain
 - A. *Revised August 2020 Financial Statement* – Marquardt notes that FS was revised to fix a numerical typo. Robinson moves to approve, Skinner seconds, no further discussion, no objections, revised FS approved.
 - B. *September 2020 Financial Statement* – Marquardt noted that the FS indicates a negative balance in SWAMC’s checking account. The balance is not actually negative, rather, the FS shows it as negative due to accounting principles. The explanation provided by SWAMC’s accountant is that in order to show the restricted cash (grant funds received in advance), she reduces the balance in the checking account by the amount of the restricted cash. The board discussed whether this could be shown on the FS differently, whether Foraker Group provide a simplified FS so that it can be better understood and discussed by the Board while still meeting accounting regulations, perhaps in narrative form. Staff agreed to discuss these concerns with accountant prior to next month’s meeting. Robinson makes motion to approve, Skinner seconds, no further discussion, no objections, FS approved.
 - C. *Broadband Contract* – Marquardt explains staff’s process defining the Scope of Work for the Broadband sub-contract with Harold Johnston of Alaska Tribal Broadband (ATB), under SWAMC’s broader EDA Supplemental grant. Staff reviewed the SOW closely to ensure that deliverables were a tangible plan for each community to follow whether they received the 2.5 GHz tribal spectrum or not and whether their middle mile connection will be fiber optic cable or satellite. Confirmed that SWAMC’s attorney reviewed and approved contract language. Board members expressed concerns regarding timing of Alaska tribes receiving their tribal spectrum license. There are some overlapping geographic areas, causing delays as FCC confirms with each tribe. A board member noted that the Scope of Work should have been attached to the packet since it is referenced therein as Exhibit A. Board members discussed whether the budgeted amount would be adequate to cover all items in the SOW. Marquardt provided an overview of the status of EDA funds for this contract. Sullivan makes motion to approve Broadband contract with Exhibit A incorporated, Delgado seconds, no further discussion, no objections, contract approved.
 - D. *Mariculture SOW/Contract Update* – Marquardt provided update on project – staff has not yet received a finalized SOW of contract from AFDF. Project will focus on furthering mariculture as a new economic opportunity for SW Alaska with local jobs. It will broaden existing work by AFDF and Alaska Sea Grant with a focus on new product development and processing pilot project(s), plus education and outreach. Board members expressed optimism and interest in mariculture opportunities for their regions in SW.

Work Session – Robinson makes motion at 10:22 am to go into Work Session, Delgado seconds, Board moves into work session to cover the following topics:

1. *Annual Conference Agenda items and timing*
2. *Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan*
3. *Legislative Priorities*

Sullivan makes motion at 12:20 pm to end Work Session, Muller seconds, Board resumes regular Board Meeting



V. Management & Program Issues ----- Marquardt

- A. *Annual Conference Agenda items and timing* – Robinson makes motion to hold SWAMC’s annual Economic Summit & Membership Meeting March 4-5, 2021 as a virtual conference, Gronholdt seconds, no further discussion, no objections, motion passes. Conference Committee established consisting of Skinner, Ruby, Sullivan, and Swain, with Gronholdt available as needed.
- B. *Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan* – No motion taken.
- C. *Legislative Priorities* – Board agreed to retain list of SWAMC’s 2020 Legislative priorities (provided in memo) as-is with the following amendments: Add #10 – Support reasonable tax-balanced budget; Revise #5 to read “Ensure funding and allocation of resources for ~~present level of~~ service for the Alaska Marine Highway System”. Removed the words “present level of”; and Add new priority that asks Legislature to not put unfunded mandates on local communities such as school bond debt reimbursement and community jails. Robinson makes motion to retain and adopt the 2020 Legislative priorities as amended for 2021, Ruby seconds, no further discussion, no objections, motion passes.

VI. Staff Report----- Marquardt

Board members had Staff Report for review. Marquardt provided overview of some individual items and items not included in the Staff Report.

VII. Executive Session to discuss Executive Director’s Annual Evaluation

Board entered Executive Session at 12:45 pm. Board exited Executive Session at 2:10 pm. Ruby makes motion to accept the Executive Director’s evaluation discussed and financial item discussed while in Executive Session, Robinson seconds, no further discussion, no objections, motion passes.

VIII. Board Comments / Other Business

IX. Adjourn-----Muller moves to adjourn, Sullivan seconds, meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm by President Swain