

Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee
Managing Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019
1:30 – 2:30 PM
Webinar

Participants:

Mayor Joe Bereskin, Board Member
Mayor Frank Kelty, President
Shirley Marquardt, Vice President
Peggy McLaughlin, WSC Representative

Ex Officio:

CDR Justin W. Jacobs, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage (USCG)
Geoff Merrell, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Bart Buesseler, NOAA Office of Coast Survey
Miranda Westphal, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Jeanette Alas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

Others:

Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and Planning Group
Sara Nichols, Nuka Research and Planning Group

Call to Order

The ninth meeting of the AIWSC Managing Board was called to order at 1:33pm by President Kelty.

Motion Bereskin, McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion passes by non-objection.

Motion McLaughlin, Bereskin to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2019. Motion passes by non-objection.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Mr. Robertson reported that there is a little over \$50,000 left in the NFWF grant. The 501c3 IRS application has been approved, making the donations to AIWSC tax deductible. The next step will be for the Board to establish a bank account and set up a bookkeeping system. In the attached budget document, the attorney fees were associated with setting up the non-profit and the IRS follow-up. The travel and lodging line items were for Nuka staff to travel to and from Waterways Safety Committee (WSC) meetings, as well as some of the Committee members.

Committee Chair Report

WSC Chairwoman McLaughlin reported that the Waterways Safety Plan (WSP) is currently out for public comment (closes April 24) and is set to be finalized and approved at the May 1 WSC meeting. There have been many hours spent on the draft of the WSP by Workgroup members, particularly Leslie Pearson, David Arzt and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

Facilitators Report

Mr. Robertson reported that the Nuka Research staff has been busy planning for the upcoming WSC meeting on May 1, and developing drafts of the WSP for Committee and Public reviews. He has also been working on sustainable funding plans. There has been no progress on obtaining a Legislative appropriation of the Cruise ship Head Tax Excess Funds, which is to be expected, considering the current state of the Alaska State Budget. A discussion of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funds will be discussed later in the agenda. All agreed a sustainable funding plan is an important matter for the Board to consider, and there must be an earnest discussion and decision on soliciting contributions and setting up a structure. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Robertson and Custard will confer before the meeting.

Vacancies

Kelty reported that he obtained a commitment from Dustan Dickerson to serve on the WSC Stakeholder seat for Commercial Fishing Vessels <60 Feet. The group discussed the Cargo Ships vacancy – McLaughlin will reach out to her Boyang contacts for a representative.

Appointments

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| <p>Motion McLaughlin, Marquardt to appoint Dustan Dickerson to the seat (c) Commercial Fishing Vessels <60 Feet, Primary. Voice Vote, unanimous. Motion passes by non-objection.</p> |
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NRDA Funding Update

Robertson and Poe participated in a call with NRDA Coordinators and were told that in order to be considered for funds, the AIWSC will need to come up with a metric showing that the lack of a Waterways Safety organization would result in an increase of oil spill incidents. They will discuss further and keep the AIWSC in the conversation with the coordination team.

NFWF Grant Extension Letter

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the USCG have pledged to submit letters of support for extending the grant funding timeline.

Motion Bereskin, McLaughlin to approve the language in the draft letter from Frank Kelty to the National Fish and Wildlife Service (attached), requesting an extension of NFWF grant funds through the end of 2020. Motion approved by non-objection.

Pribilof Island Representation

No updates at this time, but it is an important issue to be resolved, and all agreed to continue to pursue their contacts for potential representatives, and revisit during the next meeting.

National Harbor Safety Conference (NHC)

The USCG has requested that there be an Alaska representative at the conference. All agreed that the representative should be from the Managing Board. Marquardt and McLaughlin volunteered.

Motion Bereskin, Marquardt to send an AIWSC Managing Board representative to the NHC, using grant funds. Marquardt will be the representative, McLaughlin will be the alternate. Motion passes by non-objection

Robertson will organize a call between the representatives, USCG and ADEC to discuss the details.

Review Agenda for May 1 Committee Meeting

The Managing Board report should present the likelihood of requiring Membership Contributions to sustain the Organization in the coming year. Acknowledgement will also be given to the volunteer hours associated with the WSP development and the great participation at the agency level.

Next Steps

Beyond the development and adoption of the WSP, the AIWSC consider the following item:

- Coordination with the Aleutian Islands Subarea Committee
- Review and implement Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment (AIRA) recommendations
- Bring in Adak/Shumagin/Pribilof representation

Review Action Items

- Funding workgroup will meet to discuss funding options
- Committee contribution and a funding structure will be added to the next agenda
- McLaughlin will contact Boyang for a Cargo Ship Stakeholder representative
- All will continue to pursue Pribilof representation on the Committee and/or Managing Board
- Robertson will organize a call to discuss the details of NHC attendance.

Next Meeting

Will be decided by “call of the chair” and be driven by funding developments or NHC attendance.

Adjourn

**Motion Marquardt, McLaughlin for adjournment. Motion passes by non-objection.
Meeting adjourned at 2:41pm.**

Meeting Materials:

March 7 meeting summary

Membership Roster

IRS Notification of 501c3 Status approval

NFWF Grant Extension Letter (Draft included as a separate piece for editing purposes)

NHSC Conference Information

Grant Funds – NHSC Travel Request

DRAFT AIWSC Agenda for May 1st