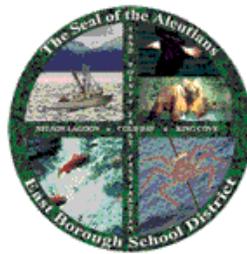
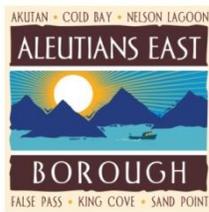


In the Loop

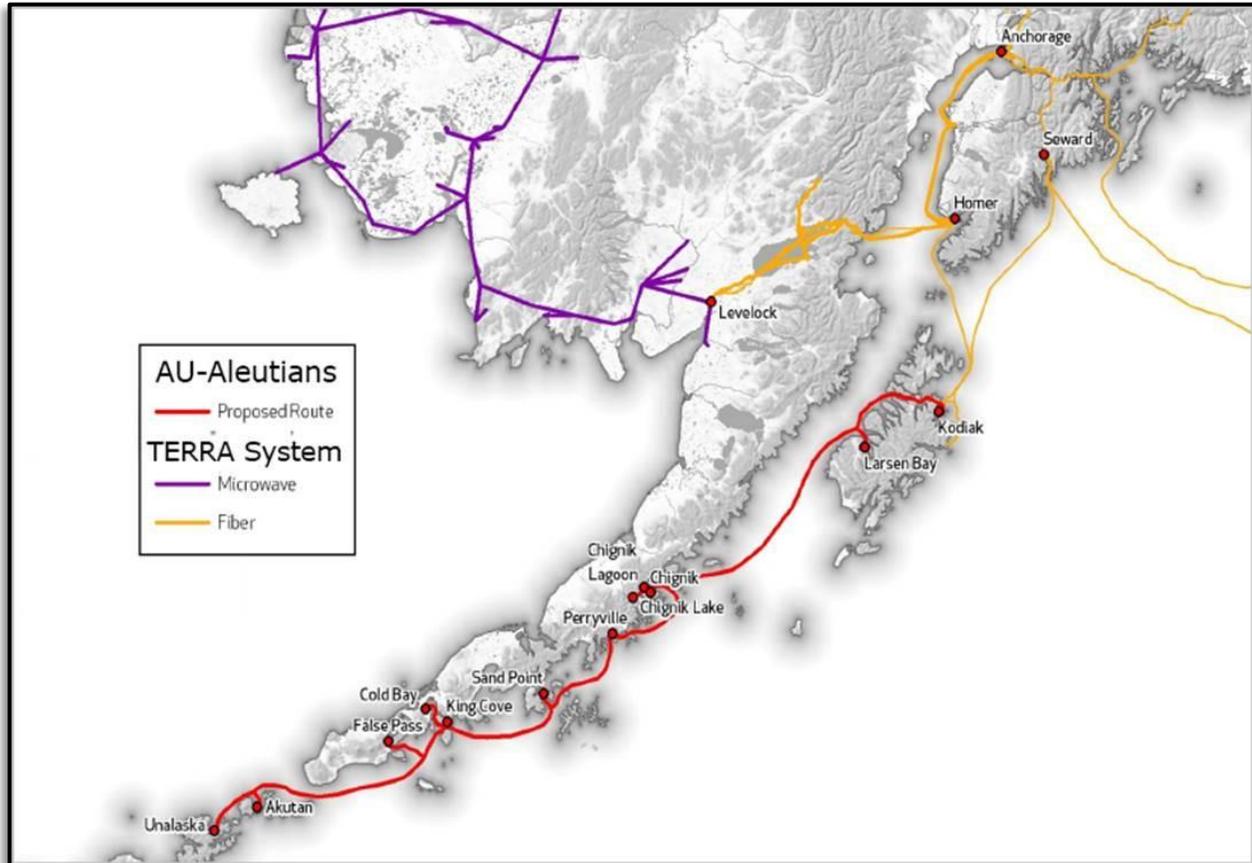


Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

GCI Hopes to Obtain Grant Funding for AU Aleutian Fiber Optic Project from USDA

GCI is pursuing a grant with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in hopes of obtaining the necessary funding and approval to extend its fiber optic network via an undersea cable from Kodiak to Unalaska. The project entails several stops in communities along the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain. The fiber optic cable would span roughly 900 miles. The grant program called Re-Connect, is administered by RUS Rural Utilities Service. It issues grants, loans or grant-loan combinations to for-profit and non-profit entities, tribes, municipalities and cooperatives. If approved, the grant could help with GCI's project to provide high-speed internet to Unalaska, Larsen Bay, Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville, Sand Point, King Cove,

Cold Bay, False Pass and Akutan. GCI also plans to upgrade its cellular service. Products offered in the connected communities would be similar to those in other fiber-connected communities, such as Kodiak.



At this point, the \$60-million project is on hold because of the high price tag to fund the fiber optic network. GCI has already invested nearly \$5 million into the project, which includes completing a large portion of the permits required. GCI is still working on the business case, which has been made more difficult due to uncertainty in the Rural Health Care program and the potential that may also create uncertainty in the e-rate program for schools. Obtaining a grant from the USDA’s Rural Utilities Service could help to propel the project forward. GCI is about to head into round two of the grant program.

“It’s our intention to apply for a fairly large grant from the Rural Utilities Service,” said GCI Vice President Dan Boyette. “If successful, this would certainly help push the business case over the hump so that we could hopefully do this.”

Boyette said that staff members with the Rural Utilities Service are currently writing the rules for round two of the application process. He anticipates those guidelines will be available before the

end of this year. Based on that timeframe, GCI expects that the grant application would be due in April or May and grant awards would be announced in late summer of 2020.

“Let’s say we get that award in late summer or early fall of 2020,” said Boyette. “It would be at that time that we would make the final determination about the project. Hopefully, that would put us over the top and would make it so that this is something we can get started on right away.”

The other requirement to make this project a reality is ensuring that the business community will commit to purchasing service from GCI.

“That’s something that we’ve been working on with the business community and will continue that effort,” said Boyette. “We have received a lot of support from the business community throughout the Aleutians.”

Recently, GCI held a teleconference with the communities affected by the project. GCI has already obtained licenses from the FCC and from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to extend a fiber optic cable out to the Aleutians. Currently, GCI is working with DOWL Engineering on the permitting process to conduct pre-consultation and necessary research to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Marine Mammal Act and the Endangered Species Act. DOWL is also working on obtaining a wetlands permit from the Corps.

“The project affects a relatively small amount of wetlands – just under a tenth of an acre,” said DOWL environmental specialist Emily Creely. “In order for us to get the Corps permit, we need to show compliance with other federal laws related to environmental protection. There are three key federal approvals, and so far, we’ve received two of them.”

Creely said two of them are related to protection of endangered species and one is under the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The other falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Creely said DOWL is preparing a report, detailing the potential effects of the project on species such as the Northern sea otter, Steller sea lions, Steller’s eider and whale species.

“Both agencies concluded the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect these species,” she said. “They provided authorization that we had complied with the Endangered Species Act.”

In addition, DOWL assessed the potential impacts to fisheries, including groundfish, shellfish and salmon.

“The Corps is reviewing that report right now,” Creely said.

While obtaining the Corps permit, DOWL consulted directly with NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, USFWS, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the EPA.

“Once we conclude the cultural resources process, we will be able to complete our corps permit,” Creely said. “The next step in the permitting process is the fish habitat permit for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We will do that closer to the kickoff of the project.”

DOWL also started consultations on the question of impacts to history and archeology in the areas that could occur from project construction. Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent out letters to the communities that would be impacted by the project. DOWL cultural resources specialist Lucy Flynn O’Quinn said she believes DOWL will be required to execute an agreement document because of some of the construction techniques related to an undersea survey that GCI will conduct.

“Then we will have specialty underwater archeologists who will then be available to review it to make sure they’re not going to impact shipwrecks or unknown cultural resources that are underwater.

“When it comes to the surface, we have a pretty good idea of what’s up there,” Flynn O’Quinn said, “The (Corps of Engineers) letter is an opportunity to review and then respond if you have other concerns about other resources known to you that would impact those resources.”

As part of the project, GCI has conducted some initial engineering work to assess how long the fiber would be as well as the number of fibers required in a sheath. Boyette said GCI has also done some engineering for the additional onshore work that is needed in order to land the fiber optic cable in each of the communities.

“We have identified where we think we would like to land the fiber in each community and where we believe the beach manhole would be,” GCI Vice President Dan Boyette said. “We have also done the engineering on the initial shelters that would need to be built and located in each community.”

Overall, the project is a major undertaking with multiple hurdles to overcome before it can begin. Boyette said from a schedule perspective, the project would take a couple of years to finish.

“That two-year schedule would start whenever the business case gets approved,” Boyette said, “so roughly two full years from project start to the date we could turn up service.”



**Aleutians East Borough
Planning Session Agenda
December 10-11, 2019
Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
1131 East International Airport Road
Anchorage, AK 99518**

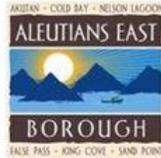
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction**
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Community Presentations**
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Community Presentations Continued**
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 pm. **Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Aleutians East Borough School District Presentation**
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **State of the State**
Mark Hickey, Borough Lobbyist
- 1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Break**
- 1:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Environmental Scan**

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

- 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **WELCOME**
Review of Day 1
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Borough Presentation – Update of Borough Plan**
Presenter: Anne Bailey, Administrator

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Borough Presentation Presenter: Mayor Alvin D. Osterback
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Presentation of proposed 2020 Strategic Agenda
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	2020 Strategic Agenda continued
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Review, adjust, and confirm the Strategic Agenda
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Closing Comments



ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

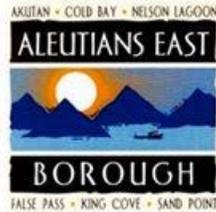
Proceeds to go toward sending two local fisher-
people, age 18-35, to the Alaska Young
Fishermen's Summit
in Juneau, January 21-23, 2020.

RAFFLE ITEMS:

- 1 CASE KING CRAB
- 1 CASE COD SHATTERPACK
- 4 CASES CANNED SOCKEYE SALMON

Tickets can be purchased at any Aleutians East Borough office.
Raffle drawing will be at the December 12, 2019 Assembly Meeting.

Tickets are \$10.00 each!



**Aleutians East Borough
Surplus Auction by Sealed Bid**

Pursuant to the Aleutians East Borough Code, notice is hereby given that surplus items are offered for sale. The date of the sale will be December 2nd, 2019 at 3:00 P.M. in the Borough's Anchorage Office located at 3380 C Street, Suite 205, Anchorage, Alaska.

Bidders are encouraged to inspect the items prior to the sale. The item is located in Cold Bay, Alaska as indicated on the bid item information sheet that is attached. The item can be viewed by appointment only through the designated contact. The item is offered for sale "as is," where is, and no warranties or guarantees of any kind are made or implied. The successful bidder will be required to remove the item within five (5) business days. The Borough reserves the right to reject any bid. Bid deposits of unsuccessful bidders will be returned within three (3) business days.

Auction Instructions

1. Write the item number and the amount of the bid on a piece of paper.
2. Only personal checks, money orders or certified checks will be accepted. NO CASH BIDS are allowed. Make checks payable to the Aleutians East Borough.
3. One bid per envelope. Include your name, address and telephone number **inside the envelope**.
4. Submit sealed bids to the Borough's Anchorage office by December 16th, 2019 by 3:00 P.M. Mail to:

Attn: Mary Tesche
Aleutians East Borough
3380 C Street, Suite 205
Anchorage, AK 99503

If you have any questions about the bid process, please contact Mary Tesche at 907-274-7559 or mtesche@aeboro.org. Questions about the bid items and/or to view the bid items, please contact the local contact on the attached bid item information sheet.

Posted December 2nd, 2019

Item #1

Item Description
Four (4) adjustable desk chairs
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #2

Item Description
One (1) Dell computer and Printer
Minimum Bid: \$25
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #3

Item Description
One (1) Metal 5' desk with Black Board
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #4

Item Description
One (1) Legal size file cabinet 3' 2-drawer
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #5

Item Description
Two (2) 9'x30" laminate particle board counter tops (new, never used)
Minimum Bid: \$50
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #6

Item Description
Eleven (11) 2'x6'x16' T&G cargo decking (new, never used)
Minimum Bid: \$100
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #7

Item Description
One (1) 3'x7' Vinyl window (new, never used)
Minimum Bid: \$100
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #8

Item Description
One (1) 36"x18"x24" Metal wall cabinet
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #9

Item Description
One (1) 4'x3' reader board
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #10

Item Description
Two (2) 40"x45" vent covers and vents
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #11

Item Description
Five (5) 4'X8'X1/2" OSB Plywood
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #12

Item Description
Three (3) 4'X8'X1/2" CDX Plywood
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #13

Item Description
Three (3) 2'x8'x5/8" CDX Plywood
Minimum Bid: \$10
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

Item #14

Item Description
Two (2) 12"x12"x3' aggregate waste bin
Minimum Bid: \$20
Location: Cold Bay, Alaska

To view any of these items, please contact Mary Tesche at (907) 274-7559.
Pictures can be presented at bidder's request.

Posted December 2nd, 2019

City Of False Pass

CITY OF FALSE PASS JOB DESCRIPTION CITY ADMINISTRATOR

APPOINTMENT	-	By City council
SUPERVISOR	-	City council
WAGE	-	Determined by City council
WORK SITE	-	City Office
HOURS OF WORK	-	M - F, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., attendance at City council and other meetings required may work additional hours & days as necessary.
CLASSIFICATION	-	Regular Full Time, the City Administrator however holds office at the pleasure and approval of the City council

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. High School graduate or equivalent
2. General knowledge of financial, bookkeeping and office procedures required.
3. Some ability and experience with computers preferably Word and Excel
4. Experience in dealing with the public, minorities and government agencies
5. Ability to supervise and work cooperatively with others.
6. Demonstrated ability to administratively manage and supervise projects and priorities.
7. Ability to prepare correspondence with all government, and non-profit agencies.
8. Ability to prepare and follow correspondence with all government and non-profit agencies.
9. Ability to prepare and follow budget.
10. Ability to work without supervision and manage personnel and managerial duties.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Day to day supervision of personnel of each department within the City and projects, as directed by the City council; attend all council Meetings and report to the city council at every Regular council meeting; work in conjunction with the city clerk/treasurer whenever necessary, to satisfy reporting requirements, grant applications, personnel recruitment, acquisitions, and budgets; act in the absence of the Bookkeeper; fulfill the necessary duties as City Clerk as needed; all other duties as assigned.

Interested applicants may send an email to: cityoffalsepass@ak.net

If you have news you'd like to share or if you'd like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



*Thank you for reading **In the Loop**. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an email to ltanis@aeboro.org. For more information about our communities, our people, and our fisheries, please visit us at www.aleutianseast.org and www.aebfish.org. For the latest news, find us on Facebook:*

[Link to AEB's Facebook page](#)

[Link to King Cove's Facebook page](#)

[Link to Cold Bay's Facebook page](#)

