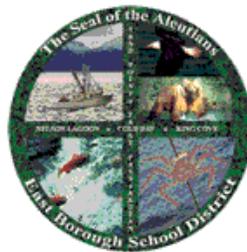
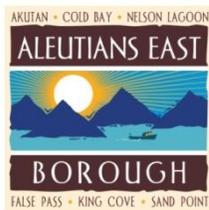


In the Loop



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

GCI Seeks Support from AEB Fishing Communities for USDA Grant

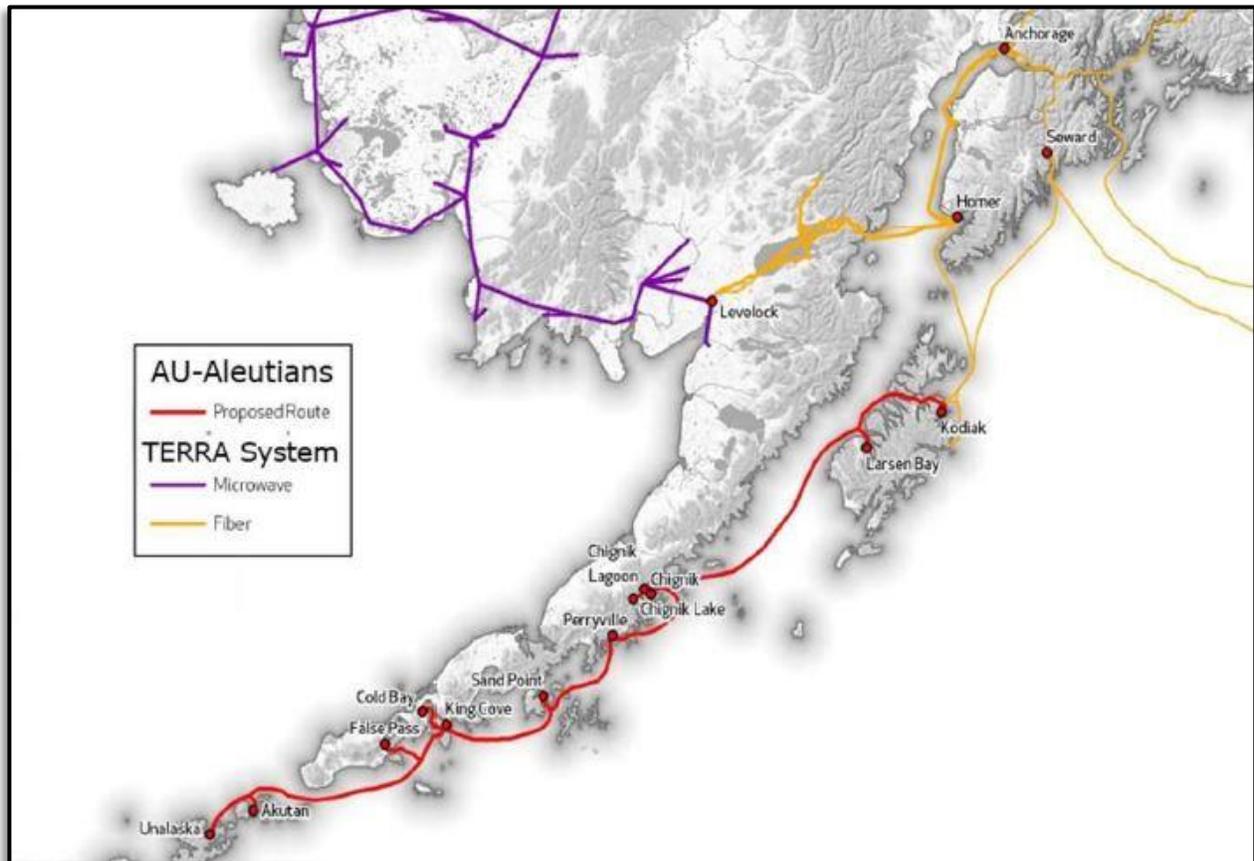
GCI is seeking letters of support from Aleutians East Borough (AEB) commercial fishermen and communities in its quest to pursue a grant that would help fund the extension of its fiber optic network project. During an AEB Assembly meeting on January 9th, GCI Rural Alaska Marketing Manager Jenifer Nelson provided an update on the [project](#) that would involve an undersea cable spanning 900 miles from Kodiak to Unalaska with several stops in communities along the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain.

“So we are moving forward with seeking funding through the USDA from their RUS (Rural Utilities Service) Re-Connect Grant,” said Nelson. “Getting some additional funding to support the project will really help to move the needle in terms of making that a reality.”

If approved, the grant could help with GCI's goal to provide high-speed internet to Unalaska, Akutan, False Pass, Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point and several other Alaska Peninsula communities. GCI would also upgrade its cellular service.

Nelson said the first round of the of the USDA grant was heavily favored towards farmers and farm country. GCI then obtained further clarification on the application rules.

“Fishermen are seen as an agricultural means in the eyes of the USDA,” said Nelson, “so being able to show that this project supports fishing and the communities that are supported by fisheries is going to be important for us to be able to illustrate.”



Nelson said the USDA has a form for commercial fishing permit holders, community members and businesses to fill out.

“It basically states that a project like this would improve your communities and businesses,” she said.

The grant is due March 13th, so GCI is planning to gather forms and letters of support during the first part of February. Nelson said in the meantime, GCI will schedule additional teleconferences and will mail out instructions on how the affected communities can provide support for the project.

“We’re under a close timeline,” she said, “so we’re really going to hit the ground running to get all of the supporting documents that we need to get the application submitted in time and move forward with the project.”

AEB Administrator Anne Bailey Discusses Major Projects, Borough Initiatives During Recent Strategic Planning Session



AEB Administrator Anne Bailey

The Borough has worked on and accomplished several major projects during 2019, to help fulfill its mission of providing education, fisheries support, capital improvement projects and governmental services. During last month’s strategic planning session, Aleutians East Borough Administrator Anne Bailey said one of the most notable achievements is having a successful strategic plan for Year Two.

“We have accomplished a lot on this plan,” she said. “It’s still viable. It still holds us accountable, and it’s enjoyable for us to see the accomplishments.”

In addition, Bailey said throughout the process, adjustments have been made as needed.

“Projects change, and we adapt,” she said. “We’ve been able to represent that through our plan. “This has been very successful.”

Advocating on behalf of commercial fisheries and diversification of natural resources in the region are two important ongoing initiatives. This includes continually monitoring changing regulations on the federal and statewide level that occur via the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Notable accomplishments include a grant awarded to the Borough for \$531,000 from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to continue the western Gulf of Alaska trawl electronic monitoring (EM) project for 2020-2021.



Various kelp species collected near Akutan

Diversification includes the lead role the Borough has taken in mariculture. Alaska Sea Grant and the Borough are partnering on a project to launch a pilot kelp farm near Sand Point, with the assistance of a \$99,800 grant from National Sea Grant, which is part of NOAA.

“That’s a huge accomplishment, and a substantial amount of grant money in this day and age with dwindling funds, so that’s a huge kudos to the Natural Resources Department,” Bailey said.

Other locations in the Borough are also being considered for kelp farms, such as Akutan and False Pass

“We are well-represented in the fisheries with Natural Resources Director Ernie Weiss on the Advisory Panel at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and Assistant Natural Resources Director Charlotte Levy, who was recently appointed to the Trawl EM Committee.

One of the most comprehensive AEB projects includes advocating for the Akun dock and breakwater. Bailey said at first the Borough project fell under the Army Corps of Engineers’ Continuing Authority Program.



Renovations for the AEB terminal building in Cold Bay have been completed, which include the installation of the ticket counters and the conveyer belt.

“After the Corps conducted their initial feasibility study, it came back with the project costing anywhere between \$29 million to \$52 million, which is a big price tag,” she said. “That pushes us over the cap for that program, which has a limit of \$10 million. So now we’re revising how we’re going to go about getting this done because this is an important item for the Borough.”

Bailey said the Borough is working closely with the City of Akutan and our lobbyists in Washington, D.C. The AEB, City of Akutan and the Akutan Tribe are looking into the tribal

partnership program to help move the project forward.

Building a new health clinic in Cold Bay is another high priority, which includes construction of a 3,744-square-foot facility. Eastern Aleutian Tribes contributed \$250,000 for this project, and the Borough picked up the remaining tab of \$4,637,000.

“We’re hoping to get this done in 2020 - 2021 at the latest,” Bailey said.

Another important Borough project includes completing renovations for the AEB terminal building in Cold Bay. The ticket counters and



The electrical work has been completed, and chairs inside the terminal building have been assembled for future use of airline passengers.

conveyor belt have been installed, chairs have been assembled and electrical work have been completed. Both airlines serving the region, Ravn Alaska and Grant Aviation, have signed subleases.

“This has been a long process, and it’s exciting to have it done,” said Bailey.

Other projects and initiatives include:

- Continuing advocacy for the road leading from King Cove to the Cold Bay Airport.
- Monitoring the state budget and impacts on the Borough, including that of the Alaska State Marine Highway, PERS, etc.
- False Pass Harbor House: The Borough anticipates the design portion of this project will be completed in April.
- Completing repairs to the Nelson Lagoon dock this summer.
- Deferred maintenance on school facilities within the Borough.
- Policy and procedure consistency.

AEB Mayor Alvin Osterback Highlights Priorities during Strategic Planning Session



Aleutians East Borough Mayor Alvin Osterback

Completing the Sand Point and Akutan harbor float systems are among the top priorities for Aleutians East Borough Mayor Alvin Osterback. During the strategic planning session last month, the mayor said the Borough may have come up with a way to bundle these two projects and fund them under the Port Infrastructure Development Program, part of the U.S. Maritime Administration. Mayor Osterback said he discussed this concept with officials in Washington, D.C. during a recent trip. It would take approximately \$6 million to finish out the Sand Point float system and another \$3.5 million for the Akutan Harbor.

“That would cut down on the mobilization and de-mob costs,” he said. “It would allow us to put the projects out to bid, bring in one contractor, go into one community, do the job, then go into the other community. So this is something new, and hopefully we’ll be able to try this to get these projects done.”

Mayor Osterback said he's also pleased that that the Essential Air Service pays for nearly half the cost of the marine link (helicopter service) between Akun Island and the City of Akutan, which has eased the Borough's financial burden. However, the ultimate answer remains building the Akun dock and breakwater (highlighted in the previous story). He said the Borough will continue to explore options for funding this project, which remain a high priority.

In addition, the mayor emphasized the importance of getting legislation introduced to [redefine limited entry salmon permits](#). This would allow a second name to be added to the permits. Among the goals of this bill would be to help curb out-migration of permits from rural Alaskan communities and to allow for the mentoring of young fishermen. Mayor Osterback has been working closely with Juneau lobbyist Mark Hickey on the language.

"Hopefully, we're going to have the bill introduced soon in both the House and Senate," he said.

The mayor also discussed deferred maintenance projects on Borough schools. Mayor Osterback said improvements raised during a building assessment of the Akutan School have almost been completed. The contractor still needs to return to Akutan to remove and replace a fan; provide new zone valves and thermostats, as well as test and balance the HVAC system. A major maintenance project on Sand



Completing the Akutan and Sand Point harbor float systems are two of the top priorities for AEB Mayor Alvin Osterback. Pictured above is the Akutan Harbor.

Point's school was wrapped up during the fall.

"The painting of the Sand Point School is complete, and windows that required replacement are finished," the mayor said. "We still have more work to complete, which includes repairs to ventilation systems for the pool as well as replacing all the doors at the school. That will be wrapped up during this fiscal year."

Mayor Osterback said the annual strategic planning sessions have



The Sand Point School following painting and window replacement.

guided the administration and staff with completing projects in 2019 while helping to continue that momentum into 2020.



Window replacement at the Sand Point School

“Besides the items on the planning list, the administrator and her staff have accomplished so much this past year, ranging from closing out old projects, updates to our employee handbook and personnel policy, to adjusting the payroll schedule and making it more manageable for the finance department.”

The mayor said the planning session process works because the Borough has buy-in from the AEB Assembly, staff and the communities that attend the annual meetings.

“As long as we continue to utilize this tool, as we have been, I will always support extending it each year,” he said.

He thanked the Assembly and staff for their hard work.

“It goes without question that the direction of the Aleutians East Borough is set by the actions of the Assembly,” the mayor said, “so on behalf of the administrator, staff and myself, I thank all Assembly members for their public service and their time. I also want to thank the administrator and the staff for their hard work in completing tasks that have been assigned to them.”

The Borough mailed out its annual report to boxholders in mid-summer 2019 detailing many of the AEB projects for Fiscal Year 2019 as well as current and future initiatives. Another report updating projects and priorities will be distributed this summer.

To view other presentations provided during the AEB’s December 2019 strategic planning session, click [here](#).

City of King Cove Partners with Nixle to Provide Real-Time Public Safety Advisories, Community Alerts

King Cove residents and those interested in keeping up with the community's public safety emergencies and city events can sign up with Nixle to get immediate notifications. The City of King Cove partnered with the software platform in mid-December. The community now joins the ranks of other cities and public safety organizations that also utilize Nixle, including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, the Alaska State Troopers, Kodiak and the Unalaska. So far, more than 100 subscribers are taking advantage of the King Cove public safety and community service communications.

"We all know the internet is very slow out here and not very reliable," said King Cove Fire Chief Chris Babcock, "so this is an opportunity to reach more people, and possibly even those at the cannery. Just about everybody out here has cell phones and relies on text messages."

The service provides everything from tsunami, earthquake, public safety alerts to weather advisories. Earlier this month, Babcock said those who signed up were already seeing the benefits.

"The National Weather Service can put out weather reports over Nixle, specific to King Cove, such as blizzard warnings that we were having," he said. "We can also put out travel advisories warning people to stay off the roads."

Anyone who wants to sign up can do so by clicking on Nixle.com or via their cell phones. Those who prefer the cell phone option, can go to the message section of their phone and text 8887777 in the "to" section. Then text 99612 (King Cove's zip code) in the message section for advisories and hit send. Those who would also like to receive community alerts can use the same process, and text KingCove2020.

Babcock said Nixle allows him to set up groups of people, such as an EMS or a fire department group, for advisory notifications. Another group is set up for the King Cove Police Department

"We are also working on setting it up so people who want to send anonymous tips to the police department, whether it's related to drug activities or other criminal offenses, can do so," he said.

In addition, there's an option for those who speak Spanish, for example, to receive notifications in that language. The service isn't just for those who live in King Cove.

"People anywhere in the United States who are familiar with King Cove or have dealings with King Cove can receive these public safety advisories and community alerts," he said.

Recent examples of community notifications include letting people know the date of the Santa Parade as well as the Christmas Eve program held at the school.

Babcock said adding this important communication software was made possible thanks to funding from the City of King Cove, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and Eastern Aleutian Tribes. The first year, it costs \$3,600. Then every year after that, it's an annual cost of \$3,000.

"The key is to continue getting the support of those entities that we have supporting us right now," Babcock said, "and possibly get some other entities on board here to help to lower the cost of this project."

"It's just another tool to get the information out there," Babcock said. "It's quick, and it's easy. Everything comes right out of the police department. We're hoping that we can continue this program into the future."

Top-Secret Project Hula Airs on Toyko Broadcast Systems

By Michael *iqyaĵ* Livingston PhD,
APIA Cultural Heritage Specialist

On December 30th, Tokyo Broadcast Systems (TBS) aired a six-hour documentary on relationships between Japan, the United States, Russia and China from 1945 to today. The show began with a film from Cold Bay captured last November about Project Hula with assistance from Aleutian Pribilof Islands Associations (APIA's) Cultural Heritage Program. The documentaries are described as a combination of national news shows and PBS, and are very popular in Japan. The audience was anticipated to be about ten million viewers.



TBS Director Kaori Ikehara interviews Michael Livingston at Trout Creek with Pavlof Volcano in the background.

In 1945, the United States and Russia entered into a top-secret program called Project Hula. Most of Russia's military resources were focused on fighting Nazis in Germany, so they had few resources to fight aggressive Japanese soldiers in the Pacific. The U.S. Navy signed off to transfer 250

battle ships to Russia. Both countries agreed the best location for the training and secret transfer was Cold Bay due to a large runway, a protected harbor, and buildings at Navy Town where the training could occur. More than 15,000 Russian personnel were trained, and 180 ships were transferred. Several ships were used to attack the Japanese in the Kurile Islands south of the Kamchatka Peninsula, but WWII ended about that time. The top-secret project was declassified in the 1970s.

The remnants of Project Hula still in Cold Bay today include a stone chimney at the Russian Log Cabin and a gravel ramp at the mouth of Trout Creek. The film crew also captured footage of a steel cannon, Quonset huts (intact and flattened), whales breaching, Mount Baldy, Frosty Mountain, Pavlof Volcano, the Aghileen Pinnacles, and debris from a WWII garbage dump where items such as dog tags have been found. CEO Della Trumble granted a filming permit for King Cove Corporation land, and Aaron Mercurief got drone footage of Navy Town at Russell Creek. The filming provided cultural exchange opportunities which may lead to future positive relationships between APIA and the people of Japan.

If you have questions, please contact Michael Livingston at mikel@apiai.org or (907) 276-2700.

Alaska Marine Highway System's Draft Summer Schedule Out for Public Review

Public Teleconference Scheduled for Feb. 4th

The draft schedule for summer (May 2020 – September 2020) is out for public review, which proposes four Aleutian Chain runs by the M/V Tustumena (two in May and two in September).

A public teleconference is scheduled to hear additional comments and consider adjustments on **Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.** for Southwest and Southcentral schedules. The toll-free number to participate in the teleconference is **1-515-604-9000, access code 279613**.

Participants who would like to attend in person can do so by visiting the Alaska Marine Highway Ketchikan Central Office, 7559 North Tongass Highway.

Letters of support/written comments are due by Feb. 3rd, and can be emailed to: dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov or faxed to (907) 228-6873.

For more information and to review the proposed schedule, visit the following link:
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/share/schedule/considerations.pdf>

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.

To apply, send an email to: cityoffalsepass@ak.net



SWAMC ECONOMIC SUMMIT & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our 2020 SWAMC Economic Summit and Membership Meeting will be held on March 5th & 6th at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage.

We are still working on the Conference agenda. Be sure to check back soon!

To register for the **2020 SWAMC Economic Summit & Membership Meeting**, click visit the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/SWAMC/Conference-Registration>

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.





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

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

