

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Assembly meeting to order by teleconference on January 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Chris Babcock	Present
Carol Foster	Present
Warren Wilson	Present
Josephine Shangin	Present
Paul Gronholdt	Present
Brenda Wilson	Present
Denise Mobeck	Present

Advisory Members:

Dailey Schaack, Cold Bay	Present
Samantha McNeley, Nelson Lagoon	Present
Tom Hoblet, False Pass	Absent

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

Roxann Newman, Finance Director  
Jacki Brandell, Finance Assistant  
Tina Anderson, Clerk  
Anne Bailey, Administrator  
Mary Tesche, Assistant Administrator  
Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director  
Charlotte Levy, Assistant Natural Resources Director  
Glennora Dushkin, Administrative Assistant  
Laura Tanis, Communications Director  
Emil Mobeck, Maintenance Director

Adoption of the Agenda:

Hearing no changes or additions, the agenda will stand as written.

Community Roll Call and Public Comments on Agenda Items:

All Assembly and staff were participating by teleconference from their individual locations, for the purpose of following the mandates of social distancing and protecting the public health. Also broadcast on KSDP radio.

The Communications Director, Laura Tanis, will read any Public Comments submitted by e-mail.

There were no public comments.

## PRESENTATIONS

Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc. (EAT) (Paul Mueller):

EAT CEO Paul Mueller, reviewed the vaccination schedule for the region, based on availability of the vaccine. The vaccines shipped to sites on January 8, Akutan on January 7. Large sites have a tiered criteria. 65 years of age and over are first, and essential workers 50 years and older; and small sites will be open to general population residents. Health care workers and first responders have been vaccinated. We will continue to work to get more vaccines into the region and notice will come out on the next group at large sites for next round.

Continuing to do testing. Continue to wear face masks, social distance and stay in your bubble, to keep the virus low incident rate maintained. EAT continues to follow the local city recommendations for testing people coming into the communities. He thanked the AEB staff and mayors on effort to keep our region healthy.

Mayor Osterback asked whether you can get the vaccine, if you have tested positive for COVID-19. Mr. Mueller said CDC guidelines say you are safe with antibodies for 90 days, but won't turn people away that wish to get vaccinated.

Mayor Osterback asked after you have your second vaccine, should you continue to wear a mask. Mr. Mueller said yes, you can still transmit the virus if it's in your respiratory droplets to those that may not have been vaccinated. So, follow same CDC guidelines.

PAUL said ANTHC opened vaccine up to all ages, and asked why EAT has not. Mueller said it is due to availability of vaccine. ANTHC had a higher rate allocated to them. We will follow that model when we get more inventory. EAT only has a certain amount allocated to us and is trying to get that increased to open for age 18 and above.

CHRIS noted his appreciation for EAT staff getting the vaccine out. He suggested reiterating that the vaccine is free. He asked if any side effects have been seen. Mr. Mueller said no out-of-pocket cost, if you have insurance you may see some office visit cost billed. He said no one has had any adverse reactions other than soreness of arm. EAT has not done round two yet in our region, so can't speak to that, but will notify if that changes. He said we are using Moderna vaccine in all communities except Akutan, where Pfizer vaccine is being used.

WARREN feels there is misconception with some people and elders about the safety of the vaccine. They have questions as to what the vaccine does. He suggested more information addressing concerns and providing a better understanding on how the vaccine prevents lung issues, putting their minds at ease. Mr. Mueller said EAT has had a lot of conversations with concerns on what the vaccine does and people waiting to see what happens to those that receive the vaccine. People are seeing now that it's not making anyone sick and are now calling to get on vaccine lists. This is not a

vaccine with a live COVID virus, it is new technology. It does not stop you from spreading the virus but it stops clinical symptoms, efficacy is 95% or above.

JOSEPHINE asked how many days apart for second dose with the Pfizer vaccine. Mr. Mueller answered 21 days. She asked if people can receive the second dose in Anchorage. Mr. Mueller said the only guarantee for second dose is in Akutan where it is allocated so need to be at originating site for second dose. She asked what happens if you miss that second dose. Paul said there is a leeway period of 4 days. He would have to seek medical advice on the question beyond that, but believes you may have to start over. 21 days for Pfizer and 28 days for Moderna, for second dose.

DAILEY said once vaccinated how long does the vaccine last. Mr. Mueller said no hardened science on duration or livability in your system, at this time. When more information becomes available, he will keep communities updated.

Trident Seafoods (Shannon Carrol, Dave Abassion, Jeff Wellsborne):

During Trident's presentation Jeff Wellsborne said they will be focusing on service, efficiency, quality, and bringing value to all their products.

Shannon Carrol said with A Season coming up, they will continue to follow their robust COVID protocol. A 14-day quarantine is required in Anchorage and test prior to bringing staff and workers out to the facilities. If there are any concerns on the protocols to contact them.

Dave Abassion said in Akutan they are currently busy processing the federal fixed-gear fishery on the north side. We are not operating in Sand Point due to low quotas, although will support most of the fishery on south side by tenders out of Sand Point, offloading in Akutan. We are expecting a busy season with Pollock and crab. Trawl P-cod, Bering Sea side is one of the shorter seasons coming up in February. Will be supporting the Gulf Pollock fishery same as last year. Hope to maintain safety and have successful seasons.

Mr. Wellsborne said Trident will maintain the COVID protocol put in place last year, getting people in region and into bubbles, making sure we continue to be operational. So far successful and will continue to work with everyone to maintain that safety. Open to any ideas to make it better.

Mr. Carroll said a kelp farm application has been submitted to the State for Left Hand Bay, near Sand Point and have been communicating with Assistant Natural Resources Director Charlotte Levy. DNR expects the project to be open for public comment next month. The gear would be in the water October until first of June, with no impact to commercial fishing or gear. If there are concerns during the public comment period, you can contact them.

Mayor Osterback said, in regards to mariculture, Levy will continue to work with Trident. If there are any problems or concerns he suggested Trident also communicate with Levy.

PAUL asked about the status of building a new plant or a remodel in Akutan. Abassion said we did preliminary research of what we want to do, but no start date, at this time.

**Silver Bay Seafoods:**

Director of Communications Abby Fredrick said Silver Bay has had success in 2020 in terms of COVID with zero cases last year. In 2021 will focus energy on facilitating vaccines for workers when available and to continue our mitigation effort similar in 2020 with open communications on their plan.

She said at the False Pass facility, their team has brought in a lot of new equipment and processes to increase the value of fish and ultimately the ex-vessel price for their harvesters.

King Cove store is open year-round, providing economic opportunities and supplies. In 2021 the store is expanding inventory and setting up to help facilitate orders for parts and supplies. In 2020 property was leased from City of Sand Point for a net storage facility for their fishermen.

She thanked AEB and City of False Pass for corroborating on the temporary dock project. They will be working with the team to ensure any modifications meet the needs of the public, fishermen and operations.

She said ADF&G preliminary salmon forecast looks excellent and have also seen some improvements in the salmon market trend. False Pass will open in June with increased staffing levels to prepare for the forecasted harvest. Hope to maximize opportunity for fishermen and looking forward to a safe and productive season.

Mayor Osterback said AEB will continue to work on the needed False Pass airport improvements.

PAUL asked if there are bottomfish plans for fleet. Ms. Fredrick said False Pass facility is not up and operating right now. Due to the risk of COVID felt the most responsible decision was to remain closed and as far as fall, the company hasn't made a decision on white fish yet. PAUL asked about tendering service. Fredrick said they are tendering fish right now.

Ms. Fredrick said she has enjoyed working with Charlotte Levy. She is an awesome communicator and an amazing partner to work with on the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Project.

**New Peter Pan Seafoods (Robert Gilliam and Barry Collier):**

Rob Gilliam, the chairman and CEO of McKinley Capital in Anchorage is representing the new owners of Peter Pan. He said the Gilliam family has been active in the Bristol Bay fishery and clean water issues, opposing Pebble Mine. His goal is to listen and to be good partners in neighborhood.

Barry Collier said the new company is an Alaskan LLC, owned by Rodger May of Northwest Fish, Renewable Resources Group, and McKinley Capital Management. He said he is a long-time employee under the old Peter Pan owned by Nichiro-Maruha. He said the support, energy, and focus from the new owners and dedication they have to the Alaska resources, fishermen and customers is matched by no one. Roger May is an extremely dynamic and successful business investor providing a platform for future growth. Northwest Fish will be integrated into Peter Pan

Seafoods. Northwest Fish will be adding value to the product in Alaska and outside Alaska to create more value in the product and hopefully better price to fishermen.

He said old Peter Pan was successful in the COVID protocol and will be following the same protocol again, quarantining employees two weeks in Anchorage prior to travelling to sites.

He added Mr. Gilliam's energy in this process hasn't been matched by anyone and the rest of the owners are excited about the future of Peter Pan. If there are concerns, they can be sent to him, Mike Simpson, or John Hickman at Peter Pan Seafoods.

Mr. Collier said the new owners did not purchase two assets, one in False Pass and one in Bristol Bay. Those remain part of Maruha-Nichiro group.

WARREN said he manages the airport in King Cove which needs an upgrade. He said Peter Pan flies product out of Cold Bay and asked if Peter Pan would be willing to join in with city and AEB to upgrade the runway to accommodate larger aircraft. Mr. Collier said highest priority is to increase fresh shipments out of Alaska, and transporting fish to Anchorage is a complicated process. He said they are willing to talk about what it would take to make it easier to fly fish out of King Cove.

PAUL asked about the status on Aleutia agreement on crab PQS. Mr. Collier said the Aleutia agreement is a custom processor agreement. The crab quota stayed with Maruha-Nichiro, but Peter Pan has a long-term lease agreement for the crab, to continue to custom process in King Cove, and hope to look at purchasing in a few years.

**Conflict of Interests:**

Mayor Osterback asked for any potential **Conflict of Interests** to discuss. There were no conflicts on agenda items.

**Minutes, December 10, 2020:**

**MOTION**

BRENDA moved to approve the December 10, 2020 Assembly Meeting Minutes and second by CHRIS.

Hearing no more **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Financial November, 2020:**

**MOTION**

JOSEPHINE moved to approve November Financial Report and second by CHRIS.

Administrator Anne Bailey said November financials tracking along as should be. Salary lines are lower due to CARES Act funds used for time spent on COVID issues. We have received 70% of the 5-year average in raw fish tax. Raw fish tax revenues at 81% of what we typically get in November.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Josephine, Denise, Paul, Warren, Chris, Carol, Brenda. Advisory: Dailey, Samantha.  
Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

November Investment Report:

Administrator Bailey said Permanent Fund balance value presently is \$44,573,000. Higher than what is recorded in the November report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCES

Emergency Ordinance 21-08, issuing a declaration of disaster emergency in response to Covid-19.

**MOTION**

BRENDA moved to approve Emergency Ordinance 21-08 and second by CAROL.

Administrator Bailey said this is another emergency ordinance which extends the emergency order in response to Covid-19. In effect for 60 days until March 14, 2021.

**ROLL CALL.**

Yeas: Carol, Chris, Josephine, Brenda, Paul, Denise, Warren. Advisory: Samantha, Dailey.  
Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 21-28, authorizing the mayor to amend the term of the Helicopter Services Agreement with Maritime Helicopters, Inc. to March 31, 2021:

**MOTION**

BRENDA moved to approve Resolution 21-28 and second by DENISE.

Administrator said AEB entered into a helicopter services agreement with Maritime helicopters, Inc. November 22, 2013 to January 31, 2019 to provide reasonable public access between Akun airport and Akutan. During that timeframe AEB spent \$5M per year. In 2019 USDOT agreed to cover 50% of the expenditures. Per Resolution 19-30, AEB agreed to pay the remaining 50% cost reducing the subsidy, agreement dates February 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020. In August, 2020 USDOT requested a new proposal for Essential Air Service (EAS) for Akutan. Grant Aviation and Maritime submitted a proposal. USDOT will enter into an agreement within the next 3 months and has extended the existing EAS through March 31, 2021. Recommend amending existing contract with Maritime to extend until a new agreement is before you for consideration.

JOSEPHINE asked if they applied for more than 50%. Bailey said no, and she anticipates USDOT will agree to pay the 50%.

WARREN asked if EAS will cover transportation with a vessel/ferry and whether the ultimate goal is to get away from Akun/Akutan transportation link.

Bailey said EAS is only for air transportation so will not carry over to vessel between the islands. We are working with the Corps of Engineers and Akutan Tribal Council through a Tribal Partnership Agreement to begin a feasibility study for a dock and breakwater on Akun. That process will take 3 years and then construction after that. USDOT is still willing to pay 50% saving the AEB a lot of money. AEB is required through the Co-Sponsorship Agreement to provide the transportation link for 20 years.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Brenda, Chris, Denise, Paul, Carol, Warren, Josephine. Advisory: Dailey, Samantha.

Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution 21-29, Assembly Selecting and Promoting FY2022 Capital Projects for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of its Residents:

**MOTION**

BRENDA moved to approve Resolution 21-29 and second by CHRIS.

Administrator said every year we bring a resolution similar to this with capital projects we are going to promote at the state.

- Requesting funding for Cold Bay dock feasibility study. \$150,000 secured and need an additional \$150,000.
- Requesting on-going State support for King Cove Access Project.
- Requesting State support for the Akun small dock and breakwater project.
- Requesting State support to update False Pass Airport Master Plan.

PAUL asked if there is any information on the False Pass Airport Master Plan from the State. Bailey said it is a state run airport so will fall on DOT, but AEB will help get the work done.

Mayor Osterback said with the increase in population and processors, the False Pass airport is an important project.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Warren, Carol, Brenda, Josephine, Denise, Paul, Chris. Advisory: Dailey, Samantha.

Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS *None*

NEW BUSINESS *None*

REPORTS AND UPDATES

**Administrator's Report in packet. Highlights below:**

**CARES Act funding:**

AEB has received the full \$3,7M in CARES Act funds from State of Alaska. AEB has expended approximately \$2.3M which leaves a balance of \$1.3M to be spent. \$766,000 is available for re-appropriation. In packet report is a summary showing yellow highlighted areas available to re-appropriate and blue highlighted are existing appropriations. The COVID Relief Bill signed by the President extended the deadline to expend to December, 2021.

CHRIS said the communities really appreciated the Food Distribution Program, of meat boxes and gift cards going out to the communities. He asked if any more funding will be coming to AEB in the CARES Act. Bailey does not know at this time.

Economic Stimulus Program: Ended December 4, 2020. Expended about \$460,000. Received 670 applications and 599 were paid in full. 31 applications partially paid and 34 applications denied, not meeting guidelines. Break down per community in packet report.

Non-Profits & Civic Organization Relief Program: 10 organizations received \$10,000, list in report.

Food Distribution Program: Program is now closed out and each household received a meat box and a \$1,500 gift card to a local grocery store or grocery retailer, if no local store available.

Telework Reimbursement Program: Offset Anchorage staffs additional telework expenses from working out of home.

KSDP Support: Grant agreement for CARES Act funds to complete upgrades to improve the capability to broadcast to all the communities.

Cold Bay Community Center Conversion: Grant agreement with city for conversion of the community center into a support annex/non-congregate shelter.

Air Purification Systems: Installed in King Cove and Sand Point Schools. Purchased smaller air purification systems for smaller sites.

Project postponement fund: Allocated funds for costs incurred for postponements due to COVID.

Payroll: Allocated funds for payroll expenditures for employees hours spent on COVID-19 related items.



Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.: Grant agreement to pay for modifications to Nelson Lagoon Clinic renovations necessary in regards to COVID.

Cold Bay Terminal: Purchased benches for outside terminal to encourage social distancing.

PAUL asked about the King Cove Access Project Group and whether there is a written explanation on the King Cove Work Group. Bailey said there is not, it is just a name to summarize all the entities involved with that project. PAUL feels there should be something in writing since referring to the Work Group all the time.

**Assistant Administrator Report in packet. Highlights below**

**Cold Bay Terminal:**

Finishing up the RFP for terminal concessions to provide vending machines.

Benches will arrive in February.

**Communications Director Report in packet. Highlights below:**

**AEB 2021 Calendar:**

Completed and mailed to region.

**Fish News:**

Sent out on December 31.

**Marine Highway:**

Working on discussion paper on the marine highway regarding the need to keep the AMHS intact and protected from further cuts. It will go with the online petition for Change.org. In the packet report is a link to the recommendations from the Reshaping Group, to the Governor.

**Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below:**

**Groundfish Winter Fisheries 2021:**

Table in packet report showing allocation by pounds, for cod and Pollock.

**Joint Boards of Fish & Game:**

Boards will meet to discuss what to do regarding upcoming meeting schedule, due to COVID.

**NPFMC:**

Meeting scheduled via webinar February 1-12.

**Limited Entry:**

AEB submitted comments on the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission proposed changes to regulations, and also attended the meeting. All the changes for additional emergency transfers to a person who acquires a permit by right of survivorship, designation or inheritance, were approved.

CAROL asked about the cod fishery disaster funds. Weiss will check to see where they are in the process.

**Assistant Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below:**

**Groundfish:**

Cod trawl is supposed to open on January 20, a very short 24-hour opener scheduled.

Pollock: 800,000mt allocated to cod for by catch. There may be no Western Gulf Pollock A season.

Electronic Monitoring WGOA2/EFP: EFP will be extended to 2022 and under regulation by 2023.

NFWF: Submitted Interim Programmatic Report to NFWF. Report link in packet report.

Pre-season meeting: Scheduled tomorrow to discuss changes and Salt Water is working on a YouTube training for fishermen for eLog and data portal use.

AFSC Cod Tagging Project: \$300,000 approved for project and planning to go ahead with the project in mid March.

**Mariculture:**

Kelp mariculture project is now State approved. Working with Administrator to get insurance/bond requirements to finalize lease. Resuming preparations for field work and getting mariculture back up this year.

**Fishermen's Data Portal:**

Have now received direct access to elandings with processors. Most of AEB vessels will be delivering Pollock in Kodiak, so working with processors to get kiosks installed in their plants for A season trial. Kiosks used to download the log book data, location positions and depth of gear. The fleet is currently learning how to use e-logs.

Net Gain Alliance Short Film: Interviewed for a short film interviewing people around the country regarding data modernization to fishing fleets, to improve the data collection and how it's used in regulatory management.

**Maintenance Director Report:**

False Pass School: Ordered new circulating pumps, replacing obsolete pumps.

Akutan School: Bid went out for contractor to go to Akutan to replace pumps no longer working and obsolete.

School Fire Inspections: Completed for False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point.

Deferred Maintenance: Working on list for upcoming summer maintenance, if allowed with COVID.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Appreciates the work employees have accomplished. Amazing amount of projects are in the works and work load has shifted and things are getting done.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

DAILEY thanked AEB for all the work done, due to COVID.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments received.

NEXT MEETING DATE

February 11, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

CHRIS moved to adjourn and second by BRENDA. Hearing no more, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.



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Mayor Alvin D. Osterback



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Tina Anderson, Clerk

Date: 2/11/21