

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Assembly meeting to order by teleconference in each community on August 13, 2020 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
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:

BRENDA moved to adopt the agenda with additions and second by JOSEPHINE.

Additions:

- New Business, Cod and Chignik Salmon Disaster Funding (Paul)
- New Business, Procedures of Handling E-Mails. (Paul)
- New Business, Conversation on Telecommunications (Chris)

Conflict of Interests:

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

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.

Minutes, July 9, 2020 Assembly Meeting Minutes:

MOTION

CHRIS moved to approve the July 9, 2020 Assembly Minutes and second by CAROL.

Hearing no objections, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Financial Report – June:

MOTION

BRENDA moved to approve the June Financial Report and second by DENISE.

Administrator said June Financial is end of FY2020. Revenue above anticipated amount. Expenditures less, largely due to less travel expenditures due to Covid-19.

Helicopter and terminal, exceeded our expectations. Helicopter paying on time. The terminal leases exceeded what we thought and under budget for expenditures.

Administrator requested an amendment to line item, an invoice for attorney expense in FY20, to be included.

AMENDMENT

PAUL moved to amend line item E 20-867-168-850, change year-to-date amount to \$120,213.98 and month-to-date amount to \$7,050. Second by JOSEPHINE.

DISCUSSION

Administrator said this is an invoice for payment for attorney fees for prior litigation for FY20 expense that didn't get processed in the fiscal year.

ROLL CALL ON AMENDMENT

YEAS: Warren, Brenda, Paul, Carol, Josephine, Chris, Denise. Advisory: Samantha, Dailey.
NAY: None

PAUL noted his concern about possible low July and August raw fish tax revenues.

ROLL CALL ON MAIN MOTION

YEAS: Denise, Warren, Josephine, Brenda, Chris, Paul, Carol. Advisory: Samantha, Dailey.
NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED

June Investment Report:

Report in packet. Administrator said permanent fund balance, as of yesterday, is \$41,697,000.

PAUL asked what the highest amount we have had in the permanent fund. Administrator will get back to him later as she does not have that information available.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Resolution 21-05, Assembly submitting a harbor facility grant application to the State of Alaska, DOT/PF in the amount of \$3,560,000 for the Sand Pt. Harbor Float A Project. *(Typo was corrected on Resolution amount to \$3,560,000.)*
- Resolution 21-06, authorizing the mayor to negotiate and execute an agreement with BDO USA LLP to provide professional auditing services for FY2020, in an amount not to exceed \$68,250.
- Resolution 21-08 authorizing the mayor to negotiate and execute a contract with DOWL to provide professional engineering, project management and construction management services to AEB in the amount of \$25,000.

MOTION

CHRIS moved to approve the Consent Agenda and second by BRENDA.

Administrator said Resolution 21-05 is for a harbor facility grant application to the State of Alaska DOT/PF in the amount of \$3,560,000 for Sand Pt. Harbor Float A Project.

On May 8 AEB submitted a Federal Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant for both Sand Point and Akutan harbor float projects, cost to complete both is \$19.8M. \$15.8M federal funds requested, \$3.9M AEB match.

We intended to submit two separate State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant application projects for both Sand Point and Akutan, requiring a 50% match. Unfortunately, doing both would exceed \$5M limit. So, opted to do Sand Point harbor float project with a \$3.5M match. Grant was submitted August 3 and Resolution 21-05 is additional support for the DOT/PF grant application.

Administrator said, if we get the funding, the schedule would go out to bid as early as next year. If funded, the project is shovel ready.

Resolution 21-06 authorizes the mayor to negotiate and execute an agreement for audit services. Administrator recommends extending contract to BDO for auditing services for FY20. Additional cost of \$10,000 put in for unanticipated expenses. BDO will not be travelling to King Cove and will do audit virtually through a porthole, if approved.

Resolution 21-08 authorizes the mayor to negotiate and execute an agreement with DOWL. In July 2015 AEB entered into a two-year contract with DOWL, with the additional 3-year renewal. On June 22, Administration issued an RFP, and received five proposals. They were reviewed by a committee that determined DOWL the most qualified respondent. Recommend issuing a contract for September 1 through August 31, 2022 with an option to renew for a 3-year period.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Josephine, Denise, Brenda, Paul, Chris, Warren, Carol. Advisory: Samantha, Dailey
NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCES

Emergency Ordinance 21-02, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly issuing a Declaration of Disaster Emergency in response to Covid-19 – to be in effect until October 11.

MOTION

JOSEPHINE moved to approve Ordinance 21-02 and second by DENISE.

DISCUSSION

Administrator said the Assembly has already passed three emergency ordinances 20-07, 20-08, 21-01. Emergency ordinances only last for 60 days. If approved, will allow us to continue to do teleconferences. This will supersede the other ordinance and in effect until October 11, 2020.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Carol, Chris, Josephine, Brenda, Denise, Paul, Warren. Advisory: Samantha, Dailey
NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED

Introduction Ordinance 21-03, Amending Title 4, Elections to add provisions for increased voter accessibility:

MOTION

WARREN moved to accept Ordinance 21-03 and set for Public Hearing. Second by BRENDA.

DISCUSSION

The Clerk reviewed saying Introduction Ordinance 21-03 will allow Early Voting 15 days prior to the election to increase voter accessibility prior to Election Day. This will provide better social distancing and protect the public health, during this pandemic. The ordinance will also allow the clerk to appoint a high school student in good standing in a public, private or qualified home school program, 16 years old or older, and a U.S. citizen.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Brenda, Chris, Denise, Warren, Carol, Paul, Josephine. Advisory: Dailey Samantha,
NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 21-07, encouraging individuals to wear masks or cloth face coverings in public places during the Covid-19 pandemic.

MOTION

JOSEPHINE moved to approve Resolution 21-07 and second by WARREN.

Administrator said Resolution 21-07 encourages the public to wear a mask. Since AEB is a second-class borough we do not have the ability to mandate, in response to the pandemic. The AEB staff will also initiate a Face Mask Campaign to encourage people to wear a mask.

PAUL said the N95 masks are the best masks tested and asked if they can be purchased in AEB. Administrator does not know. She said AEB is purchasing more disposable masks with CARES Act funding.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Warren, Paul, Denise, Chris, Carol, Josephine, Brenda. Advisory: Samantha, Daily
NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 21-09, authorizing the mayor to negotiate and execute a MOA between the AEB and Akutan Traditional Council for the Akun boat harbor study (*wave barrier w/ dock*):

MOTION

DENISE moved to approve Resolution 21-09 and second by CAROL.

DISCUSSION

Administrator said AEB did enter into a Co-Sponsorship Agreement (CSA) with City of Akutan and State of Alaska DOT. Under the CSA the AEB committed to provide transportation between Akutan and Akun for 20 years. AEB first operated the hovercraft 2012-2014 and then the helicopter service. In 2019 Essential Air Service contracted with the helicopter service, Maritime Services. AEB participates by paying 50%, per agreement.

Efforts to look for more cost effective and sustainable transportation are ongoing to transfer passengers and cargo on Akun. AEB and Corps of Engineers initiated a study into the construction of a breakwater or wave barrier pursuant to Section 107 Small Navigation Projects Program. The project cost exceeded the Section 107 funding parameters and in December 2019 AEB terminated the project.

The best program to complete the study is under the Tribal Partnership Program (TPP). On March 2, 2020, the Akutan Tribal Council sent a letter to the Corps to participate as the sponsor of the Akutan navigation project, authorizing the TPP to investigate a breakwater and dock at Akun. On July 21, 2020, the AEB and Tribe were informed that the Corps had an opening to start a new study under the TPP, cost estimate \$2,516,000. Federal cost \$1.5M. Matching local cost is \$1.016M. The first \$484,000 of total cost will be 100% federal, all other costs will be cost-shared 50% federal, 50% non-federal. The study would have to be completed in 3 years. All involved agreed TPP is worth pursuing.

AEB responsibility is to take the lead on the project and to pay the \$1.016M non-Federal match amount. Tribe will be primary sponsor and will assist with work. AEB has a total of \$5,380,330 available that includes bond funds and Co-Sponsorship Agreement funds. Recommend authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a MOA between the Borough and Tribe, for the study.

PAUL noted clarification on resolution title that says harbor and doesn't include wave barrier and dock.

Mayor Osterback said it is going to be a wave barrier with a dock for a ferry and size is yet to be determined. It is not a full blown boat harbor but a safe haven for a ferry to go in.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Paul, Warren, Carol, Chris, Denise, Brenda, Josephine. Advisory: Samantha, Dailey.
NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 21-10 approving the Aleutians East Borough's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding Program Allocations in the amount of \$3,723,853.74.

MOTION

JOSEPHINE moved to approve Resolution 21-10 and second by WARREN.

DISCUSSION

Administrator said at the May 28 Assembly Meeting, the Assembly approved Resolution 20-66 accepting Coronavirus Relief Funds in the amount of \$3,723,853 from Alaska Dept of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED). AEB submitted to DCCED the grant agreement. As requested, the Administration has reviewed how other communities are distributing funds (in packet).

Resolution authorizes the Mayor to appropriate the CARES Act funds as outlined in Exhibit A (in packet), to prepare the forms and instructions for allocations, and when necessary to re-appropriate funds between the programs, if necessary.

\$2.3M is allocated for emergency assistance and economic stimulus, for residents.

DISCUSSION

CAROL said people are impacted today and feel we need to help as soon as we can. Staff did an excellent job of putting this together.

CHRIS said he supports also. Feels we need to act on this immediately to get funding out to people.

PAUL feels there should be more public input on ways to distribute the money. None have been allocated to fisheries.

MOTION TO TABLE

PAUL moved to table until next week and second by JOSEPHINE.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Paul, Josephine, Denise. Advisory: Samantha.

NAY: Carol, Chris, Brenda, Warren.

MOTION FAILED

AMENDMENT

PAUL moved to remove \$1M from emergency assistance and economic stimulus amount of \$2.3M, to be added into a new category, Fisheries Emergency Assistance.

MOTION DIES LACK OF A SECOND.

BRENDA supports getting money out to constituents, as soon as possible.

PAUL will support even though he disagrees with portions of it and has concern about public involvement and fisheries.

Mayor Osterback said when we considered the \$2.3M for a stimulus grant program, we felt to be fair we needed to figure out a formula to benefit everyone. When divided out, it is not that much. We felt to better serve the people of the AEB was to help out on household bills. Paperwork required will provide checks and balances for funds and to get out to the residents as fast as we can and fairly as we can. The fishermen will also benefit on an even basis with everyone else. The government has programs for vessel owners and we are trying to fill in the gaps not to make anyone financially whole.

DENISE said she agrees and is in full support for community members and there are programs out there for fishermen not accessible to community members. She supports moving forward, as quick as possible.

DAILEY supports what is before the Assembly. There are other programs for fishermen. What is lacking is help for fishermen to find and apply for what is available. Mayor Osterback said Laura Tanis and Natural Resources Dept has provided information and links to websites, including KSDP interviews on programs fishermen can apply to.

CHRIS said fishermen can also apply for the stimulus funding and feels this will benefit all AEB residents.

JOSEPHINE supports allocation in Attachment A, but would like further discussion on the \$2.3M stimulus amount.

Administrator suggested a work session to review the \$2.3M Emergency Assistance & Economic Stimulus Program process.

No further discussion.

ROLL CALL ON MAIN MOTION

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

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 21-11, authorizing the issuance of a General Obligation Refunding Bond of the Borough to Refund All of a Portion of the Principal Installments of an Outstanding General Obligation Bond of the Borough; Authorizing the Execution of Certain Documents in Accordance Therewith; and Pledging the Full Faith and Credit of the Borough to the Payment Thereof.

MOTION

CHRIS moved to approve Resolution 21-11 and second by CAROL.

Administrator said the AEB issued the 2010 Series B in 2010 GO Bond through the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority (AMBBA) for Akutan Airport.

AMBBA is recommending refunding the 2010B Series Three Bond with estimated savings of \$200,000. The estimated savings amount might change between now and closing date and AEB will have the option to not move forward. Recommend approval.

ROLL CALL

YEAS: Carol, Paul, Josephine, Chris, Denise, Warren. Advisory: Samantha (lost Brenda and Dailey)

NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Cod Fishery Update:

Ernie Weiss said NMFS surveys are done in odd years. 2017 surveys showed Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod decreased in biomass, so Total Allowable Catch (TAC) decreased by 80%. Requested the Governor to declare a federal cod fisheries disaster. The comment period ends tomorrow on proposed disaster money distribution plan, which is different from AEB recommendation.

2019 the TAC improved slightly. Federal government shut down had impacted surveys and Shumagin sections were cancelled in 2019. Analyst then projected that cod biomass was not enough to support a federal cod fishery but kept enough for a State cod fishery and bycatch. In February, the Assembly adopted a resolution requesting a 2020 Pacific cod disaster but have not gotten a response from State yet. Fishing has been good in the State cod fisheries. In June the Alaska Fisheries Science Center canceled 5 of the 6 surveys due to Covid-19, keeping only the long line survey. We expect 2021 surveys to include three vessels for the Gulf.

Groundfish Plan Team meeting in September, November; NPFMC meetings, in October and December.

Weiss suggested a letter, due tomorrow, reiterating AEB recommendation on cod disaster funding distribution plan.

Charlotte Levy said the existing stock assessments data may roll over to the new year with similar cod allocation to this year. However, the long line survey data will contribute to the stock assessment, which could get us a little more or shut down the federal cod fishery again.

PAUL said since deadline for comments is tomorrow suggested a final comment letter on the proposed distribution plan for the 2018 Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fishery disaster funding. Their proposed distribution has 30% for research and we suggested 10%; they suggest 40% for harvesters and we suggested 55%.

MOTION

PAUL moved that the Assembly direct the Mayor on behalf of the Assembly and residents to reiterate the points we made in previous resolution on proposed distribution plan. Second by CAROL.

HEARING NO OBJECTIONS, MOTION PASSED

Chignik Salmon Disaster:

PAUL feels AEB should be included in the Chignik Sockeye salmon fishery disaster declaration. Kodiak gets 15% of Chignik salmon fishery allocation and AEB gets around 7%, so if a disaster both other areas also suffer. Feels it should incorporate Cape Igvak and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) fishermen and supports a letter being sent to reconsider the distribution plan to include all fishermen impacted by this fishery disaster declaration.

Mayor Osterback asked if any of the Assembly oppose a letter. We participate at certain harvest percentages and they should also consider dispersing the funds at those percentages. Hearing no opposition, Weiss will follow through with a letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Cold Bay Terminal Operations:

Administrator said memo in packet is in response to Assembly Member Babcock's July 29th letter. The Borough resident's quality of life, health and safe and the ability to travel in the region is the utmost importance to us. In a matter of months, we have made massive tenant improvements to the terminal; have entered into three sublease contracts with airlines; have adjusted terminal layout to accommodate TSA; continue to deal with the challenges Ravn bankruptcy has created; and have made operational changes due to Covid-19 pandemic.

We are working on a solution that will satisfy itinerant air carriers (charter services) needs while staying within our legal confines. AEB has a land lease with the State of Alaska and per the lease is unable to assign, sublet, grant any use to any entity without the State consent.

We have subleases with Grant Aviation, Alaska Airlines and Corvus Airlines (Ravn). Corvus has not operated in facility and have an outstanding balance due. Mayor talked to New Ravn and they are planning to operate out of the terminal but status of sublease is still being discussed.

Passengers are required to pass through TSA for screening. Per TSA, a law enforcement officer travels to Cold Bay and is stationed at check point while screening occurs.

Long term is to have TSA equipment on site to expedite the screening process and process passengers quicker. We are still reviewing building layouts to accommodate TSA and to make sure there is usable space for all other airlines and passengers during the days TSA is not operating. Security goes into play 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after an Alaska Airlines flight. TSA is also requiring re-keying areas of security.

There are numerous itinerant air carriers in the region. AEB included charter services in discussions at the very beginning about subleasing in facility and none of them responded with interest in leasing space.

In the process of drafting a permit or similar document that will need State and Assembly approval. However, until an agreement is in place, itinerant air carrier passengers must use front entrance unless they make other arrangements with the signatory air carriers. Alaska Airlines, head of operations, confirmed they are willing to transport Alaska Airlines passengers with disabilities, but no access will be granted on ramp to anyone other than Alaska Airlines passengers arriving and departing.

Another option is for carriers to work with DOT/PF to transport passengers by vehicle. Long term is to get permit type document in place; or install a man-door closer to terminal for easier access to front door, to be discussed with TSA and DOT/PF first; or charter services sublease similar to existing airline tenants.

Covid-19 precautions taken is requesting masks be used in terminal; custodian is contracted to deep clean nightly and to do any other necessary cleaning; disinfectant sprayer ordered; purchased PPE equipment, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies; and using paper towel dispensers instead of electronic hand dryers, to prevent spread of virus in air flow.

A sublease amendment through state to allow concessions in terminal is in a 30-day public notice period, posted August 6. Once that is complete, it will go out to bid for vending machines, and things of that nature.

Strategic Planning Process Discussion:

Administrator said in 2017 the AEB has hired Professional Growth Systems to provide strategic planning services. Funds appropriated in the budget to continue beginning March 2021-February 2022. Due to Covid-19 we won't do a formal meeting. Cost is \$46,000. Requested direction on whether to move forward with planning.

After a discussion, the AEB will move forward with a virtual/teleconference strategic planning session.

Declaration of Disaster with requests for State Assistance:

Declaration of Disaster is in response to the 7.8M earthquake on July 21, 2020. There was some visible damage to City of Sand Point waterfront infrastructure and also Cold Bay city dock. Other impacts may have not been reported to us yet so this disaster declaration would encompass the entire AEB.

MOTION

CHRIS moved to approve the Disaster Declaration, second by DENISE.

CHRIS noted a section on a road in Cold Bay that may have had some earthquake damage.

ROLL CALL

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

NAY: None.

MOTION CARRIED

Procedures Handled by E-mail:

PAUL felt the e-mail sent to the Assembly was trying to circumvent an Executive Session not allowing Assembly input. He expressed his concern of having no Assembly opportunity to provide input and is not sure what the procedure is of e-mail informing us of what is going on and how it fits in with the Open Meetings Act, and the direction the Assembly is supposed to provide.

Mayor Osterback said we are operating in the parameters that the Assembly set. If there is any changes in the amount authorized by the Assembly, it would come back before the Assembly. He did have a conversation with the AEB attorney and it is possible for us to have an executive session telephonically or by video. If you feel an executive session is needed the Assembly can take action in the form of a motion and administration will figure out how to carry it out. At this time, nothing is being done as it is tied up in court and does not see a reason to call for one. If you feel we need one, it is the Assembly call.

PAUL said things might not have changed monetarily to budget items but there is also direction for staff and legal help to refer back to us from time to time. He recommends an Executive Session even if for an update on our position.

Mayor said if we had anything to bring forward we would, but Assembly has the right if they feel staff is not doing what they are directed to do.

Telecommunications:

Mayor Osterback said there was no direction as to where you want to go with this agenda item. We have talked to the carriers providing services out here, including GCI office in Washington D.C., on problems we are having out here, with no response.

CHRIS said services are poor all over the region and dealing with customer service is frustrating. Once the carrier lost FCC funding, cellular quality declined. He suggested drafting a resolution as to how disgusted we are with services.

PAUL suggested AT&T, GCI and Interior be placed on our next agenda and invite them to attend.

JOSEPHINE supports inviting them, but pointed out that we have had them at our Strategic Planning meetings to provide information on service upgrades being planned, which are not getting carried out.

DAILEY noted Cold Bay's poor cell service also.

Mayor Osterback will do an invite to the next Assembly meeting.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Administrator's Report in packet. Highlights below:

Covid-19 Update:

Six Covid-19 positive cases in the AEB.

CARES Act funding has been approved.

AEB Employee policy still in place and extended until Sept 30.

Continue to post on Facebook and website, and host weekly meetings with the communities and Eastern Aleutian Tribes.

King Cove Road Update:

U.S. Secretary of Interior still considering an appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. State of Alaska and King Cove Corporation may also file an appeal if the Secretary does not do so.

King Cove Delta Creek Erosion Reconnaissance Project:

In March, project delayed due to Covid-19. July 22, AEB executed a revised scope of work for the project to include a charter plane from Anchorage to King Cove to complete work with more field staff and shorter field time, without having to go into town. DOWL completed the work August 7. The increased cost to be included in the CARES Act funding.

False Pass Harbor Litigation:

June 29 the house passed the WRDA bill, but unfortunately, it did not include the language that waives the Borough's cost-share for legal damages from litigation between Army Corps and Kelly-Ryan on False Pass Harbor Project. Other possibilities in the works.

School Bond Harbor Bond Debt Reimbursement:

Sent letter to Governor advocating to reinstate the bond reimbursements to municipalities.

Assistant Administrator Report in packet. Highlights below:

False Pass Harbor House:

Design and revised cost estimate completed, bringing costs down to anticipated amount.

Cold Bay Clinic:

DOT has issued building permit for the clinic. Bid document for construction going out in October, which will include Covid-19 considerations in bid documents.

PAUL asked if there is a utility costs plan included, and if so requested it be sent to the Assembly. Tesche will look into send what she finds.

Communications Director Report in packet. Highlights below:

Essential Air Service (EAS):

Letter to USDOT on continuation of EAS funding for communities that currently have it, and requesting EAS for communities that don't, for instance , Cold Bay and Sand Point.

E-News:

Fish News and In-the-Loop continue to go out.

KSDP Radio Interviews:

Resource Director, Ernie Weiss set up interviews. First interview was ADF&G, Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker discussed how \$50M in fisheries relief CARES Act funding will be distributed.

Small Business Administration District Director John Veal discussed the Paycheck Protection Program And how fishermen can apply.

FY20 Annual Report:

Working on report to go out to box holders.

Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below:

Disaster Relief:

Links to COVID-19 related relief programs, available to fishermen, are in the report.

Alaska DCCED expanded a relief grant program, AK CARES Grant Program that became available to eligible fishermen August 6.

Board of Fisheries:

Last day to submit an agenda change request to be considered at the October Work Session.

Board of Fisheries is seeking comments by survey as to whether the Board 2020/2021 meeting cycle should include in –person meeting or virtual meeting.

NPFMC:

All meetings are virtual.

Received a proposal from a fishermen to possibly create a Western Gulf of Alaska allocation of Pollock, for smaller boats. If no objection, will pursue further.

BSAI Crab Discussion:

Right of First Refusal (ROFR) issue has come up, reviewed in report. Bristol Bay Red King Crab and Eastern Bering Sea Snow crab together have been about 18% of total fish tax revenue. All crab approximately 24% of fish tax revenue.

PAUL said some communities including Cordova declared a disaster area for salmon this year, are we considering the same. Weiss said some fishermen have suggested that and would be a direction from Assembly or Mayor. Mayor Osterback asked if we have enough numbers to know whether we can declare a disaster and requested Weiss to look into.

Assistant Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below:

WGA1 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program:

Closed out the WGA1 project. Did an analysis on EM vs. person observer data on hauls that overlapped for comparison. EM provides 100% monitoring and onboard observers, 30%; more data coming through with EM than we would get with observers; EM is able to monitor larger discard events producing data as reliable as observer; and observer vs. EM, cost is close. Data is as reliable as observer data. Money well spent and soon to hopefully move into an EM program, which will be more cost effective.

WGA2 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program:

First round of NFWF reports, link in packet. Trying to find ways to cut cost for fishermen, they pay a large fee for observers. This year trialing EM in plants to save on costs of observers in plants. Also implementing a machine learning system of counting and speciating of salmon. Due to Covid-19, working on an increased budget amendment for increased costs of observer holdover.

Silver Bay Seafoods will not be operating in False Pass this fall season.

Fishermen's Data Portal:

In report is image of actual road map of data portal itself giving an idea of flow of data to eventually become acceptable to fishermen. An example of salmon bycatch map, in packet, to show where fishermen can avoid, to keep fishing open longer.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

WARREN said, in regards to Covid-19, he has concerns about the schools opening up and hopes a plan is in place for protection. Mayor Osterback said they had a school board meeting recently and have set up a program to address the safety concerns.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Osterback said we held off on projects due to Covid-19. Projects are King Cove School repairs, Nelson Lagoon dock repairs, and building the new Cold Bay Clinic. We are trying to figure out how to do these projects safely. If we get the federal MARAD funding for the two shovel ready boat harbor projects, we will be starting up those projects. We hope to start reconnaissance work on Akun dock and breakwater. A lot of work ahead along with the delayed projects.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

City of Sand Point Administrator, Jordan Keeler, said the City of Sand Point also intends to pass a Declaration of Disaster due to the earthquake, during their re-scheduled Council meeting for Friday.

NEXT MEETING DATE

September 10, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

DENISE moved to adjourn and second by JOSEPHINE. Hearing no more, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.



Mayor Alvin D. Osterback



Tina Anderson, Clerk

Date: 9/10/20