

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Regular Assembly Meeting to order by videoconference in each community on March 14, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Brenda Wilson	Excused
Jim Smith	Present
Chris Babcock	Present
Dailey Schaack	Present
Josephine Shangin	Present
Paul Gronholdt	Present
Warren Wilson	Excused

**Advisory Members:**

Samantha McNeley, Nelson Lagoon	Present
Tom Hoblet, False Pass	Present

Quorum was present.

**Staff Present:**

Anne Bailey, Administrator  
Talia Jean-Louis, Assistant Administrator  
Glennora Dushkin, Administrative Assistant  
Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director  
Charlotte Levy, Fishery Analyst  
Beverly Ann Rosete, Borough Clerk  
Jacki Brandell, Finance Director  
Seward Brandell, Accounting Clerk

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Chris moved to Adopt the Agenda, second by Josy

Hearing no objections, the Agenda will stand as Written.

**COMMUNITY ROLL CALL AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

The communities of King Cove, Sand Point, Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon and the Anchorage office were participating by videoconference. Also broadcast on KSDP radio.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**MINUTES**

February 8, 2024 Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

**MOTION**

Chris moved to accept the February 8, 2024 Assembly Meeting Minutes, second by Dailey

Hearing no correction, Minutes will stand as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

January 2024 Financials

**MOTION**

Josy made a motion to approve the January 2024 Financials Report and second by Chris

Administrator Bailey said this is the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the fiscal year. Few things to highlight is the Interest revenue received in January is \$146K. It has far exceeded our original expectation, which is good news. However, the Raw Fish Tax we received in January is \$174K, this is about 64.8% of the previous 5-year average. Year to date the amount is \$1.7M which is about 65-66% of where we typically are. And this is a reflection of what is actually happening in the Fisheries right now. We are tracking along fine on expenditures except for a few items that are a little higher than expected mainly due to inflation.

Paul asked Anne for confirmation if the Raw Fish tax is through January 31<sup>st</sup>. Administrator Bailey said yes.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Chris, Dailey, Jim, Josy, Paul, Advisory: Samantha, Tom

Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

June 2023 Audited Financials

**MOTION**

Jim made a motion to approve the June 2023 Audited Financials Report and second by Josy

Administrator Bailey said this is the final version of the FY2023 budget. Now that the audit has been completed, this shows the actual cost for FY2023. A few items to point out is the differences between what was presented last July and what is presented now is the revenue from the State for the Harbor Bond Debt Reimbursement and the PERS on-Behalf were not previously recorded. There were journal entries removing the School District account from the general ledger, an ordinance was passed separating the Borough's account from the school district. There are small differences in salaries in Administration, Finance, and Natural Resources as well as some changes to North Pacific accounts. There were operating transfers between funds to zero out as part of the year end process to close the year. Adjustments are also made to PERS, Depreciation and Amortization and some other revenue adjustments in Fund 41 due to Southwest Governments.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Jim, Josy, Paul, Chris, Dailey Advisory: Tom, Samantha  
Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Paul asked if we are still using an outside accountant to help with the audit. Administrator Bailey said, yes, we are using Espelin and Associates to assist with the audit.

*INVESTMENT REPORT*

APCM January 2024 Investment Report

*CONSENT AGENDA*

**MOTION**

Chris made a motion to bring the Consent Agenda to the floor second by Josy

Paul made a motion to remove Resolution 24-34 out of the Consent Agenda. Chris agreed, second by Josy.

- **Resolution 24-28**, Approving Certain Unincorporated Communities, and their Respective Native Village Council and/or Incorporated Nonprofit Entity for Participation in the FY25 Community Assistance Program

Administrator Bailey said this is something we do annually essentially, the Alaska Statute requires the Assembly of the Borough or municipality to adopt a resolution identifying Unincorporated communities located within the municipal boundaries that the Assembly determines the community assistance eligibility criteria. We have one community that qualifies for this, which is Nelson Lagoon.

- **Resolution 24-29**, Accepting the Financial Statements, Required Supplementary Information, Supplementary Information and Single Audit Reports for Year Ended June 30, 2023

Administrator Bailey said the Borough hired BDO to audit financial statements for the year ending June 2023. BDO completed the audit and in their opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Aleutians East Borough, Alaska, as of June 30, 2023. Last meeting the BDO made a presentation on this, and this is just the formal acceptance. There are some finding which were outlined in the packet as well as the corrective action plan for each findings.

- **Resolution 24-30**, Urging the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to Amend Alaska Statute 29.60.800 Raising the Maximum Harbor Facility Grant Fund Award to \$7,500,000 per Eligible Project

Administrator Bailey said Senate Bill 291 established the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program on July 1st, 2006 in which the total amount of grant money made available to a municipality was limited to not exceed \$5,000,000 in a fiscal year. The Municipal Harbor Facility Grant is the single most significant funding tool available to the Borough to plan, maintain and recapitalize port and harbor infrastructure. What we are

supporting here is for the Legislature to raise the cap, currently it is only set to \$5M per project to \$7.5M which will help the communities and the Borough to complete the projects.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: *Josy, Dailey, Jim, Paul, Chris*, Advisory: *Samantha, Tom*  
Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Ordinance 24-03**, Amending Title 6, Chapter 6.08, Section 6.08.030 of the Aleutians East Borough Code of Ordinances

**MOTION**

Josy made a motion to approved Ordinance 24-03, second by Chris

Administrator Bailey said APCM recommends amending Title 6, Chapter 6.08, Section 6.08.030 of the Borough Code of Ordinances to amend the Borough's authorized investments. The main changes are included in the agenda statement shown in red. Section 6.08.030 A (5); to add "or the National Credit Union Administration." And on Section 6.08.030 A (7), remove "Prime commercial" and replace it with "Commercial" and switch A1 and P1 as they are flipped incorrectly.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: *Chris, Dailey, Paul, Jim, Josy* Advisory: *Tom, Samantha*  
Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance 24-04**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a sublease within the Cold Bay Terminal for volcanic hazard mitigation

**MOTION**

Chis made a motion to approved Ordinance 24-04, second by Dailey

Administrator Bailey said The Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) currently has equipment located in the Cold Bay Terminal to monitor volcanic activity throughout the state and mitigate impacts from volcanic eruptions. In 2020, the Borough and AVO were working on formalizing an agreement for their equipment in the Cold Bay Terminal and then COVID occurred, and the discussion halted. In February 2024, AVO contacted the Borough and expressed a desire to enter into an agreement for a portion of the Cold Bay Terminal Building for the purpose of providing volcanic hazard mitigation services. AVO has equipment located in the terminal and they are facing a telecommunication problem and would like to request permission to install additional equipment in the terminal to resolve it. The Aleutians East Borough Code Section 50.10.060 provides that "disposal of real property may be by sealed bids, outcry auction, lottery, first-come, first-served, negotiation, or such other method as the assembly may provide in the resolution authorizing the disposal." On February 11, 2021, the Assembly approved Resolution 21-30 authorizing the Mayor to dispose of real property at the Cold Bay Terminal by negotiation to entities that house equipment related to air-to-ground communications, ground station support to commercial airlines and/or weather data collection. Upon final approval by the

Assembly, Ordinance 24-04, would authorize the Mayor to begin negotiations with AVOS for a sublease within the terminal. If the Ordinance is introduced, the public hearing will be held at the April 11, 2024 Assembly Meeting.

Paul commented that they will have a separate meter, he assumes. Administrator Bailey said, they will not. The only separate meter is for FAA and the old National Weather Service area, the rest have no meter on their own.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Paul, Jim, Dailey, Josy, Chris Advisory: Tom, Samantha

Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 24-31**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a services agreement with BDO to provide professional auditing services to the Aleutians East Borough for Fiscal Year 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$97,500

**MOTION**

Josy made a motion to approved Resolution 24-31, second by Jim

Administrator Bailey said on January 16, 2023, the Borough issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified audit firms to audit the Borough's financial statements for FY23 and FY24, with the option to continue the contract for the next three subsequent fiscal years. RFP responses were due on February 16, 2023. We received two proposals and BDO held the highest overall score and was selected. BDO conducted the FY23 audit and we would like to now enter into a contract for FY24. BDO's costs for the FY24 audit work is \$84,000, which excluded travel expenses, out of pocket expenses, and any unexpected work that may be needed due to audit findings. An additional \$13,500 has been added to the price to allow for those costs, totaling \$97,500 as the not-to-exceed amount for the FY 24 contract. BDO anticipates that preliminary FY24 audit work will be in April 2024 with a planning meeting, followed by four to five months of work that may include travel to King Cove. This schedule is subject to change.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Paul, Josy, Jim, Dailey, Chris Advisory: Samantha, Tom

Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution 24-32**, Endorsing the Army Corps of Engineers Recommended Plan for the Akutan Harbor Navigational Improvement Study

**MOTION**

Chris made a motion to approved Resolution 24-32, second by Dailey

Administrator Bailey said in July 2021, the Borough, Akutan Tribe and the Army Corps of Engineers signed a Tribal Partnership Agreement to conduct an Akutan Harbor Navigational Improvements Study. The Corps has now begun its final Agency Technical Review of the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental

Assessment. This milestone represents the culmination of nearly three years of cooperation and collaborative efforts and marks the near completion of the Feasibility phase of this project. On February 22, 2024, the Corp has requested the Borough's formal endorsement of the Project Team's Recommended Plan, which is included in the packet. Administration received a letter dated March 7, 2024 a decision and anticipated deviation from the recommended plan with regards to the temporary material placement area. Within the current *Recommended Plan*, it states that the Corps analyzed and are putting for the recommendation that any materials generated during construction of the project be temporarily kept north of the project site across the salmon stream. This plan was developed in September 2023 upon a recommendation from the Native Village of Akutan, however in January 2024 the Corps was told that this would not be a preferred location and that we should consider the Akutan Airport Quarry Site instead. At this time the Corps does not have the necessary time or funding to explore this potential site, so the District of Alaska made the decision to keep the current location as part of the Recommended Plan but intends to analyze the alternate site during Preconstruction, Engineering and Design. These types of decisions, or deviations are typical. The purpose of the feasibility report is to prove that there exists a feasible project, and not for the purpose of producing a complete design.

Paul asked if this is for Akun, Administrator Bailey said yes. Paul asked how much it will cost the Borough, Administrator Bailey responded, the Borough paid over a \$1M, that was appropriated by the Assembly a couple of years ago. The last payment was made this week and a portion of that was split with the State. As of now we do not have any more monetary obligations.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Josy, Paul, Chris, Dailey, Jim  
Advisory: Tom, Samantha  
Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution 24-33**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, Native Village of Akutan, Aleutians East Borough and the City of Akutan regarding the Proposed Navigation Improvements at Akutan Harbor, Akun Island, Alaska

**MOTION**

Chris made a motion to approved Resolution 24-33, second by Jim

Administrator Bailey said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE), the Native Village of Akutan, and the Aleutians East Borough partnered on a Feasibility Study to investigate potential navigation improvements at Akutan Harbor, Akun Island, Alaska. The Feasibility Report recommends constructing navigation improvements at Akun Island. During the study, Areas of Potential Effects in regard to historic preservation were identified on Akun and it was determined that the recommended navigation improvements are likely to have an adverse effect during the project. Due to the uncertain location of subsurface cultural materials, the Corps and the State Historic Preservation Office concluded that it would be appropriate to develop a Programmatic Agreement to identify stipulations to resolve specific adverse effects that may occur during implementation and undertaking. The Borough, Native Village of Akutan, City of Akutan, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Akutan Corporation, the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, the Aleut Corporation, the Museum of the Aleutians and Dr. Haliehana Stepetin were invited to participate in the development of the Programmatic Agreement as a concurring party. The Agreement outlines the area of potential effect; monitoring; phased identification; data recovery; discovery and notification; timing and submittals; annual reporting requirements, professional standards, dispute resolution, amendments, public

objection, termination, mutual agreements and understandings; applicable laws and duration. The Corps will need to have this document completed by March 29, 2024 so it can be appended to the Final Integrated Environmental Assessment & Feasibility Report by the April 2024 deadline. This agreement does not commit the Borough to construct the facility.

Paul asked how much this will cost. Administrator Bailey responded, this is part of the study we paid for, this programmatic agreement. There is some money attachment if it goes into construction and if it goes over a certain amount.

**ROLL CALL**

Yeas: Jim, Chris, Josy, Dailey, Paul  
Nay: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution 24-34**, Approving the projects and initiatives identified on the Borough Strategic Plan

**MOTION**

Jim made a motion to approved Resolution 24-34, second by Dailey

*Administrator Bailey said the Aleutians East Borough (Borough) conducted a Planning Work Session on January 10 and 11, 2024, to review projects and initiatives that would be included on the Borough's Strategic Plan. Assembly members and staff were in attendance and actively engaged in conversations about the Borough's role in community projects. The result of those conversations is the draft Borough Strategic Plan for March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025. Mayor Osterback, staff, and PGS consultants defined which projects would be part of the Borough's strategic plan based on the information shared to the Assembly during the work session. Many of the projects identified on the plan are currently being pursued or actively being completed. The plan also defines project leads, quarterly project outcomes, and year-end targets. This will ensure accountability and transparency through the next year of project activities. The plan is intended to be a living document and subject to modification by the project leads. Modifications could include changes in personnel or moving certain project components to a different quarter. PGS will hold a 6-month review with the Assembly to report on progress and to make any major modifications.*

Tom asked if a plan or design for the False Pass airport is coming out this 2024 or 2025. Administrator Bailey clarified if he is asking about the designed for the work that has been approved by DOT, said if that is what Tom is talking about, she is not sure about the timeline exactly. They said about 2027-2028 is when the construction will be aligned in their AFAB process. Tom proceeded to ask if that design is an extension of the existing runway. Administrator Bailey responded no, right now there is no intension of extending the runway.

Mayor Osterback added that they will address the problem with the creek at this phase. Administrator Bailey said we will keep pushing for it.

Paul asked if the projects that has a lot of red dots last Strategic planning was incorporated on this plan that we are working on. Administrator Bailey responded no, said that what Paul's referencing is the red and green dots and what projects should move forward and projects that we should consider halting in regard to finances and that is the Akun Breakwater and King Cove Access Road. Neither of those projects are on here. There is still some works that we have to do on those projects because we are currently involve especially the Akun Dock Breakwater, we are finishing the feasibility study which we already committed to. The King Cove







Jim asked Dailey if she has a plan on going back home this summer. Dailey responded that is still up in the air.

#### REPORTS AND UPDATES

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

**King Cove Access Project:** The King Cove Group continues to work with the Department of Interior's (DOI) staff to make progress on the SEIS. On March 4, 2024, the US Fish & Wildlife, DOI staff and members of the King Cove Group met to discuss the land exchange and what King Cove Corporation (KCC) lands would be transferred to the federal government in exchange for federal lands. The group discussed how the USFWS prioritized parcels for the land exchange and ultimately the KCC verbally offered a reasonable portion of their ANSCA lands in exchange for the 500 acres needed for the road corridor. This offer will be transmitted soon in writing to Secretary Haaland along with the stated conditions that KCC reserves its rights to further modify or withdraw from this offer. Once the letter is sent KCC expects a prompt response to their offer and conditions.

**False Pass School:** We've done a ton of maintenance. The Borough has completed electrical work on the water heater and the air handling unit in False Pass. Both of the projects will be charge to the LATCF funds.

**Sand Point Pool:** Renosys and DOWL arrived in Sand Point on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 however, their equipment and baggage did not arrive until Sunday, February 18, 2024 and they did not complete their work until Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Therefore, we had to initiate a change order in the amount of \$5,500.00 since their trip had to be extended. Therefore, the new costs for Renosys' work was \$25,359.00, which has been charged to the LATCF monies. WE do have DOWL on site and supervise the work. LONG, while onsite for a different project, assisted the pool manager with some of the plumbing issues while they were onsite to work on the boilers. The pool manager has installed the new hydrostatic valves. She filled the bottom of the pool with water and will check the levels upon her return to Sand Point. There was also a boiler work that was done in Sand Point.

**Sand Point School DEED Grant:** The DEED project is underway. DOWL/ECI have completed the 35% design. I just recently gave them permission to continue with the 65% design and also to engage contractors through the CMGC process. While in Juneau, DEED gave permission for the Borough to allow DOWL to proceed with the 65% design. We are still waiting on the supplemental funding request to see if we could get additional funds to complete the work. On February 29, 2024, the Alaska's Education Board sent a \$500 million wish list for construction and maintenance to law makers and the SP School project was included.

**Cold Bay Terminal:** The cold Bay terminal work has been completed, this included repairs to doors, internal wall finishes, windows, and heater.

**Other:** Administration submitted a CAPSIS request to the State Legislature for the Sand Point School Major Maintenance Project. In February 2024, Mayor Osterback, Lorie Pierce and I went to Juneau and attended AML. We also attended meetings with the Department of Conservation; Department of Education; Fish & Game; the Coast Guard; Senator Hoffman, Representative Edgmon and the Department of Transportation. The meetings went well. There was a lot of headway made on the PFAS issue in Cold Bay.

Paul commented that there was a sewer problem at the Sand Point School. Initially they cannot find someone who can fix it. City of Sand Point crew showed up on Monday to help.

##### Assistant Administrator's Report in packet. Highlights below:

**Healthy & Equitable Communities (HEC) Grant:** On February 20, 2024, The Borough purchased an additional morgue for the Cold Bay Clinic with the additional grant funds available. The Borough now has \$52, 217 that can be used to complete the shipping delivery to Nelson Lagoon, or AEB could propose another project to address COVID-19-related health disparities. On March 6, 2024, The Borough contacted the State of Alaska to propose using the remaining balance to address COVID-19-related health disparities by purchasing fixed

equipment for the Cold Bay clinic which includes adult exam table, pediatric exam table and decontamination shower/eye wash station, unfortunately it was denied. However, the funding can be used to improve the air quality as air quality improvements would decrease exposure to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, while also protecting patients and staff from inhaling volcanic ash or wildfire smoke.

**Akutan School: Repairs and Maintenance:** On January 31<sup>st</sup>, we submitted a request for proposals through the Borough's construction term contractors to solicit repairs and maintenance for the Akutan school. This proposal will address the exterior back stairway and landing, windows, securing exterior crawl space hatch, and a general walk-through of the school interior and exterior to identify recommended repairs. Two proposals were received. A report was submitted to DOWL and ECI for their review to ensure we address as many repairs as possible. As of yesterday, the Borough choose Kuchar Construction to complete the work.

**Akutan Hanger: Heat Restoration:** During our travel to Akutan, Anne and I met with Trident's electrician to address the repairs needed to restore the heat in the Akutan Hanger. it was determined we would purchase a portable heater that would be directed toward the helicopter whereby the Trident electrician would also install the proper circuit breaker, plugs, receptacles, etc. To make this work properly. Frontier Supply confirmed they had received the portable heater and parts required for the heat restoration. They anticipate to have the parts shipped to Akutan no later than the week of March 10, 2024. Recently there has been issues with the generator, so I've been working with trident, Maritime and Tacoma Diesel to get some of those repairs completed in Akutan.

**Sand Point School Boilers and Roof Repair:** On February 20, 2024, the superintendent notified the Borough there was a leak from the roof in the boiler room resulting in about 3 inches of standing water and soot. Boiler #1 was not working and boiler #2 had 2-3 gallons of water per day being released from the relief valve. They also determined sewage was coming from the boy's and girl's bathrooms adjacent to the boiler room. Drayton Newman patched the pinhole leaks in the roof above the boiler and kitchen. Later, with the help of the city, he was able to successfully drain the sewage clog. LONG Technology traveled to Sand Point to conduct repairs to reset the pressure of the boiler and conduct plumbing work. They successfully replaced the solenoids and now have the boilers running.

**False Pass School Repair:** On February 27, 2024, LONG Technology traveled to the False Pass school to conduct repairs to the water heater. Their technicians have repaired the four (4) baseboard zone valves and demolished and replaced the water heater. The water heater is now up and running. They are going through the remaining punch list items as well as looking at troubleshooting the Air Handler Unit which was out of scope.

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

**Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game:** There are 2 seats that are turn out in June. John Wood said is undecided but definitely not chairing next year. I included link to the summary of action in my report. The most controversial proposal was 43 by the Fairbanks AC, that would amend the Cook Inlet Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan and cap Lower Cook Inlet hatchery pink salmon egg take level at 59 million eggs. The proposal failed 1-6 with just Stan Zuray supporting. There was a motion to reconsider the adopted proposal 136 that increased closed waters to commercial salmon fishing. The Board adopted a new policy on traditional knowledge (RC 248) and the Board also formed a new CFEC/Board Herring Revitalization Committee (RC 244). Board of Fish proposals for the next meeting cycle, including for the Statewide Shellfish meeting in Anchorage, in March 2025, are due April 10. Board of Game proposals for Central and Southwest Alaska, including game management units 9 & 10 within the Aleutians East Borough, are due May 1, 2024. There is a meeting this March on the Joint Board regarding Advisory Committees and Boards process proposals.

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council:** We are waiting for the governor's nominations to the Secretary, should be in March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Borough endorsed John Jensen to get his seat back and Lena Hoblet. The NPFMC meets April 4-9 at the Anchorage Hilton with agenda item C2 Chum salmon bycatch as the big topic. The on-time comment period for this meeting ends March 29. Also on the April agenda: D1 Amendment 80 Program review and D3 setting 5-year research priorities. The NPFMC made some history at their February meeting in

Seattle by not passing a motion recommending harvest specs for Cook Inlet Salmon, forcing Secretarial action for a federal salmon plan ordered by the court in place by May 2024. The Council is said to be exploring options for a tribal subsistence salmon fishery in the Cook Inlet EEZ. The Cook Inlet EEZ is one of 3 EEZ 'traditional net fishing' areas in the North Pacific salmon management plan – the other 2 are in Prince William Sound and in the South Peninsula. We are following this issue closely because the outcome in Cook Inlet will eventually impact South Peninsula fisheries. The Council also took no action on BBRK crab closure areas, instead requesting a discussion paper to look at gear innovations to reduce crab bycatch. The AP and Council ran out of time and didn't get to the scheduled AFA Program review work plan. I provided comments to the February eAgenda: under B9 related to the emergency petition for zero Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, and under D4 comment on the AFA program review.

**Fishery Analyst Report in packet. Highlights below:**

**Electronic Monitoring - WGOA4/EFP:** In response to the needs of one of our EM processors, the project coordinated to equip an additional 6 tender vessels with mobile systems and develop VMPs. NOAA has published the Proposed Rule for our program, and I am in the process of reviewing it and preparing public comments. Public comments will be accepted through April 5th, and NOAA will host a public hearing for stakeholders March 12th at 6pm. The link is in the report.

**Salmon:** I met with several Seiner's board members to discuss modifications to the adaptive management plan. Similar to 2023, I am assisting in the preparation and refinement of the adaptive management program and will support as needed in season.

**AFSC Cod Tagging Project:** There have been some adjustments to the upcoming winter charter. Due to below freezing temperatures, we are delaying the trip to March 17th and I will not be able to attend due to my upcoming annual leave. The project team will continue the charter without me and have secured my replacement. I finalized and submitted the most recent quarterly report and reimbursement invoice. We have been working to finalize the NOAA Process Report for the recent workshop and will provide it to the Assembly once approved.

**NPFMC:** The ADFG Commissioner announced at the recent UFA board meetings that he intends to create a stakeholder working group after the April Council meeting to discuss rationalize the GOA trawl fisheries. The group will convene GOA trawl fleets, processors and communities to develop a problem statement and alternatives with some consensus that the Council could work from if they were to revisit a GOA rationalization program. Pelagic Gear Definition/Innovation: the Council passed a motion on D1 Pelagic Trawl Gear establishing a purpose and needs statement and set of alternatives at the February meeting. The purpose of the motion is to realign the current pelagic gear definitions with regulations, update the language to remove outdated text and ensure the original intent of the definition is captured, and includes several sub options that target specific issues with the current definition and allow for innovations in bottom contact sensing. ADFG will convene a meeting with trawl stakeholders to discuss this issue further. HB 294 has been scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am.

Paul commented on Future Federal Rationalization program, every single one, have hurt the communities of the Aleutians East Borough in some ways.

Natural Resources Director Weiss commented that in SWAMC, he heard the Commissioner say, in the Rationalization Program, there is going to be a community set aside.

Fishery Analyst Levy added that her understanding that it is not necessarily true. From the Commissioner's perspective, will be something that needs to come from the stakeholder groups to discuss 3 of the major outstanding issues that did not get resolve at the last Gulf go around. There is not a resolution yet.

Mayor Osterback commented that Anne and him went to Juneau for AEB's visit to the different departments, talking about all out communities and things that we needed. I also attended a meeting with AML Board meeting. I also did face to face with legislators over the Harbor Bond Debt Reimbursement. I also testified to the Senate Education Finance Committee on monies for the schools.

#### *ASSEMBLY COMMENTS*

Chris commented that March 6, the Peter Pan Plant had a fire at around 12am. Thankfully the sprinklers system kicked on and kept it in the ceiling. They fought it for about 4 hours and finally extinguished it. What caught on fire is what they use in packaging Dungeness crab so it will not be going to affect their salmon. They are trying to get people here to do the wiring and the ceiling. It started from a fluorescent bulb that overheated. Kudos to the sprinkler system and to all the volunteer firefighters here in King Cove for responding quickly.

Jim commented that we should do something different for maintenance. Two year trying to fix the pool. Our administrators are going around looking for defaults. Is there someone we can get that can go around our facilities and actually know what they are seeing.

Mayor Osterback said that we have that, we hired an engineering firm that goes around and assesses all our facility. A lot of our facilities have never been maintained and we are trying to catch up. And with the pandemic that happened, everything was on a halt. With the plug up sewer line that happened in school, there is no way we could see that. Now we do have different companies that do all of the work, and they have expertise. We are also doing maintenance logs, setting up timelines. Talia has been going out in the communities and training school employees how to use and do maintenance logs and work orders.

Administrator Bailey added Jim is right and we are kind of reactionary right now in a lot of maintenance issue and one of the goals for this upcoming year is to hit this 80/20 maintenance plan, where 80% preventative like doing annual inspection and catching problems early and only 20% reactive. But Mayor Osterback is correct, there is a lot of things that are old. We have hired companies that are so helpful in getting us all caught up with maintenance. There are so much in all the schools and facilities that we are trying to maintain and get up to date and it is very expensive, so, we have to do it systematically. But we have addressed our emergent needs that were outlined in condition assessment that Mayor Osterback referenced and also the 1-year needs and I think we are almost done with the 5-year needs, so now we are approaching those 10-year needs. So we are slowly doing it. Our goal is to do 80/20 maintenance plan in the future.

Dailey asked when the generator in Nelson Lagoon is going to get ripped down. Natural Resources Director Weiss said he hasn't looked at that schedule yet. That project was being done by another agency.

Samantha commented that they are going to start putting the new power plant this fall and they are planning on installing it next summer.

Paul commented that we should discuss of moving the meeting to 1 pm.

Josy asked if the Assembly can be kept on the loop about the work with Attorney Joe Sullivan. Mayor Osterback responded, yes, you will be as we move forward with it.

#### *PUBLIC COMMENTS*

#### *NEXT MEETING DATE*

Regular Assembly Meeting April 11, 2024

*ADJOURNMENT*

Josy moved to adjourn seconded by Dailey. Hearing no more, the meeting adjourned 5:02 p.m.



Mayor Alvin D. Osterback

Date: 4/12/24

  
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Beverly Ann Rosete, Borough Clerk