

Aleutians East Borough
Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Special Assembly Meeting to order by videoconference in each community on July 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Roll Call for Elected Officials

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Brenda Wilson	Present
Jim Smith	Excused
Chris Babcock	Present
Paul Gronhold	Present
Tom Hoblet	Excused
Josephine Shangin	Present
Warren Wilson	Present

Advisory

Samantha McNeley	Present
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A quorum was present.

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION	Brenda made a motion to adopt the agenda.
SECOND	Chris seconded the motion.
	Hearing no objections, the agenda will stand as presented.

Community Roll Call and Public Comments on Agenda Items

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

Conflict of Interest

Mayor Osterback asked for any potential conflict of interest to be discussed. There were no conflicts on this agenda.

Minutes

- May 22, 2025, Special Assembly Minutes

MOTION	Chris made a motion to accept the May 22, 2025, Special Assembly Meeting Minutes.
SECOND	Brenda seconded the motion.
	Hearing no objections, the minutes will stand as written.

Financials

- Finance Director's Report

Finance Director Brandell reviewed her report. She pointed out that the audit was in its final review process. FY2025 is closing at the end of June, and the FY2026 budget has been input into the accounting system. The payroll quarterly reports have been submitted. Routine tasks are operating smoothly.

- May 2025 Financials

MOTION Josy made a motion to approve the May 2025 Financials.

SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey said that the Raw Fish Tax for May 2025 came in at about \$23,232, which is extremely low. This is about 14% of the 10-year average. Interest Revenue is still coming in at a good rate. Finance is wrapping up the year, and we will have the full year report soon.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Brenda, Paul, Josy, Chris, Warren Advisory: Sam.

MOTION CARRIED

Nays: None.

Investment Report

The May 2025 report from APCM is in the packet.

Consent Agenda

No items on the Consent Agenda.

Public Hearings

No items on the Public Hearings.

Ordinances

No items on the Ordinances.

Resolutions

- **Resolution 26-01**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the Aleutians East Borough and the City of King Cove regarding maintenance of the King Cove Access Road during Fiscal Year 2026

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-01.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul asked if this is already included in the FY2026 budget.

Administrator Bailey said, Yes, this is already covered by the FY2026 Budget.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Chris, Warren, Josy, Paul, Brenda. Advisory: Sam.

MOTION CARRIED

Nays: None.

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- **Resolution 26-02**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the Aleutians East Borough and the City of King Cove regarding the reimbursement of expenses associated with the King Cove Access Project for FY 2026

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-02.

SECOND Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Paul, Warren, Josy, Chris, Brenda. Advisory: Sam.

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-03**, Recognizing the Alaska Municipal League for its ongoing support and services to municipalities throughout the State of Alaska

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-03.

SECOND Warren seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrative Clerk Dushkin reviewed the resolution.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Warren, Josy, Brenda, Paul, Chris. Advisory: Sam.

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-04**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Aleutians East Borough for the Akutan-Akun Transportation Link

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-04.

SECOND Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Warren thanked the administration for handling the Akun link and for approaching the DOT to get some funding.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Brenda, Paul, Warren, Chris, Josy, Advisory: Sam.

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-05**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 5 of the Co-Sponsorship Agreement with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the City of Akutan

MOTION Chris made a motion to approve Resolution 26-05.

SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Chris, Paul, Josy, Warren, Brenda. Advisory: Sam.

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-06**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract agreement between the Aleutians East Borough and Professional Growth Systems for strategic planning services in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.

MOTION Warren made a motion to approve Resolution 26-06.

SECOND Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Josy, Paul, Warren, Brenda, Chris Advisory: Sam.

MOTION CARRIED

Nays: None.

Old Business

New Business

- Borough Administrator Contract

DISCUSSION

Mayor Osterback stated that the administrator's contract is up for renewal, and he plans to extend it. The new contract will start on July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028.

Brenda thanked Anne for her continued diligence and her amazing work.

Mayor Osterback said he appreciates having Anne as the administrator. He thinks she's doing a great job, and he is happy to have her for another 3 years.

- Strategic Plan Quarter 1 Update

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the Strategic Plan Update. The Vision Navigation chart displays the items that have been completed for Quarter 1.

Reports and Updates

- **Administrator's Report**

King Cove Road. On May 23, 2025, the Aleutians East Borough submitted a Surface Transportation Reauthorization Request form to Representative Begich requesting funds for the King Cove-Cold Bay Road. A meeting will take place on July 11, 2025, in regard to the land exchange.

Cold Bay Clinic. This project is 99.9% complete and will close out on September 31, so we are in the process of trying to close the project out.

Cold Bay Terminal. Boiler Maintenance: A bid request was sent to 5 mechanical contractors. By June 6, 2025, two quotes were received from Cool Air and LONG. The Borough has decided to contract Cool Air since their quote was considerably cheaper than LONGs and an agreement for these services was executed on June 30, 2025, for \$10,202.50. We are also still in negotiations with Grant Aviation and Aleutian Airways for new rates.

Cold Bay Dock. On June 2, 2025, the State of Alaska completed the bid opening for the Cold Bay Pile project. Heko Services, Inc submitted the lowest bid for \$217,700 and will be conducting the work in Cold Bay this summer. Western Marine Construction is scheduled to arrive in Cold Bay July 8, 2025, to begin fender pile repairs. It is anticipated to take 3 to 4 days to complete the project.

Sand Point Harbor Float. WMC is planning to arrive in Sand Point on July 13, 2025, with the hopes of beginning construction on July 15th or 16th and being done by October 2025.

Sand Point School DEED Grant. UIC arrived on-site in June 2025 and is in the process of conducting demolition of the site. On June 20, 2025, the Borough and UIC executed Change

Order No. 2 that deducted \$263,753 from Additive Alternate 1 – Additional Doors, Frames, and Hardware. This change order removed the wireless door hardware from the project. We anticipated the project to be mostly completed by August and final completion in October.

School Items: King Cove School Water Systems Repair Project: The Borough entered into a contract with Ameresco for an amount not to exceed \$595,125. Demolition has started, and they have found some additional problems. A change order has been placed in the amount of \$147,000. This is already covered, so no additional money needs to be appropriated.

Akutan School Water Heater: This project has been completed, and while on-site, they also looked at the boilers. It was determined that some boilers are so old, and we are looking at replacing them.

6-Year Capital Improvement Plan: Completing a 6-Year Capital Improvement Plan is required by the State of Alaska Department of Education for Capital Improvement Projects. A draft plan for FY2027-FY2032 has been drafted and reviewed by the Superintendent, DOWL, the Borough, and SERRC. This will be presented to the School Board for approval, and then SERRC will submit an application to DEED for funding.

Chris commented that the project at King Cove School is moving along fast and looks really good. He asked if the hot water was not in the original contract.

Administrator Bailey said yes, that is part of the change order.

Mayor Osterback commented that it is important for each community to have its harbor master attend the harbor master conferences. There is a lot of information, as well as funding opportunity information, that is being presented at those conferences.

- **Natural Resources Department Director's Report**

Alaska Peninsula Salmon. The ADFG South Peninsula salmon pre-season meeting was held in Sand Point and virtually via Teams on May 30th. Link to the Presentation slides from the meeting is included in the packet, and the Audio is archived by KSDP. At the meeting, ADFG staff found an error in the published South Pen July fishing calendar, and it has been corrected. We also found out that all salmon are to be retained by purse-seine gear, contrary to what was first announced. June 2025 South Pen salmon harvest was below average. Orzinski River sockeye escapement is the highest to this point since 2016, and the Nelson River is having the best escapement of sockeye and king salmon in many years.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The June meeting of the Council was in Newport OR. Council time and resources were a main topic of discussion during the NMFS report and during staff tasking; both the Alaska Regional office and the Alaska Fishery Science Center have lost employees and funding. Final Action on agenda item C3 Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition brought in the majority of public comments and testimony. I submitted a comment letter and was the only testifier to both the AP and Council on agenda item D1 AFA Program Review, to talk about the potential loss of pollock processing in Akutan. The AP motion requested staff to expand on the importance of pollock to dependent communities in the next review, and the Council motion concurred. Staff will also make some revisions regarding pollock communities in the final version of this review. The December agenda is over-booked with items to complete, and so the Council adopted a

motion to not address Cook Inlet salmon, and rather to force Secretarial action. Still unknown is when the Council will take final action on Chum Salmon Bycatch in the pollock fishery. The October meeting, originally scheduled to take place at the Egan Center, will now be held virtually only on Zoom, due to funding uncertainty.

Boards of Fisheries and Game. Board of Fisheries Proposal Books for the 2025/2026 meeting cycle will be available in either August or September. The Board of Game will hold a Special Meeting July 14-15 at the Coast Inn to attempt to comply with a court order that has barred ADFG from intensive management of Mulchatna caribou herd by predator control of brown bear.

AMHS M/V Tustumena. According to the AMHS, the Tustumena replacement vessel RFP for vessel construction will be published this September.

Alaska Peninsula 2025 Oil & Gas Lease Sale. The bid results for the Alaska Peninsula Areawide 2025 Oil & Gas Lease Sale were posted June 11, 2025, is the 11th year with zero bids submitted for the lease sale.

There is a special session called by the Governor starting August 2nd to talk about the Department of Agriculture and Education reform.

- **Fishery Analyst's Report**

Electronic Monitoring - GOA5/EFM. I have submitted the final financial and programmatic report, as well as the final reimbursement request and this project was finally closed out on 6/30 deadline. Overall, the Trawl EM project was a major success. It began as a pilot project in 2018 and operated under an Exempted Fishing Permit until its regulatory implementation in 2025 spanning 6 years, 5 separate NFWF grants totaling \$2.5M, and was ultimately achieved 100% voluntary participation by the entire WGOA pollock trawl fleet and processors.

AFSC Cod Tagging Project. This project is also coming to a close at the end of July. The project team is continuing to run the model for preprocessed tags in 2023/2024. We anticipate submitting the tech memos for publication for all fish from 2023-2024 by July. Once all tags are processed, I will compile a summary report for the Assembly and distribute to fishermen. I am in the process of spending remaining funds and paying invoices. I am currently working on the final report and reimbursement request, which will be available to the assembly at the August or September meeting.

Unimak Acoustic Telemetry Project. Our joint NPRB proposal with KMR and AFSC was successfully awarded for \$246,582 for the period of July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027. The AEB portion of \$135K will be used for charter contracting, salary, and co-development of a training manual for vessels contracted to do acoustic work. The project team has been working diligently to finalize the mooring design and complete supply purchases using PSMFC allocated to this project by the 7/31 deadline. The acoustic receiver moorings have been designed in consultation with experts and fishermen with experience in Unimak Pass. We have emphasized designing something sustainable for long-term/expanded use, can be conveniently deployed by fishermen/gear, and recycles old crab pots readily available in ports. We anticipate two field trips in September 2025 for deploying receivers and test transmitters on moorings/cod, and again in April 2026 for retrieval.

June Salmon Management. I worked with Chordata to make some small administrative changes to the portal prior to fishing. Overall, June was a very low volume year, and the fishermen are well-versed in using/managing the data portal. Two notable changes: 1) we

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added an option to allow drifters to document their stand downs, and I will be compiling those entries and adding them into the annual June management report, and 2) we adjusted the portal so the fleet can continue using it after June to track Chinook harvest only and removed data for other species, allowing the fleet to track harvest towards the EO Chinook cap.

Salmon Tagging Pilot. The project team successfully released 27 tags on chum salmon and 3 tags on Chinook during the test fishery from June 8-10, across 3 different vessels, all contacted through Fish and Game. We tagged 3 chum/set for 3 sets/day and worked with fishermen to have them identify > 25" TL chum. For tagged fish, information like length, genetics, and scales for ageing were collected. In addition to that, biological samples were also collected. Genetic and scale samples are being submitted to the ADFG genetics conservation lab/age lab. Most of the tags are starting to report, but it will take a couple of weeks to get all the data back. 4 physical tag recoveries were received. A draft report will be available in the next few months.

Board of Fisheries My primary focus will be publishing the cod tagging tech memos to ensure published data is available for reference during the October BOF cod meeting. I will also be preparing a summary report of the project for the cod project, as well as the salmon project, for the upcoming 2026 meeting.

Mayor Osterback asked how do you know that the tags were eaten by salmon sharks. Fishery Analyst Levy said the beauty of satellite tags is that they get depth, pressure, temperature, and light data. We know by temperature if it spikes from 7 degrees up to 18-26 degrees, tags are inside the salmon shark.

Assembly Comments

Josy thanked the administration for having a crew working at the Akutan School. There were a lot of things at the school that used to not work but are now functional.

Public Comments

Next Meeting Date

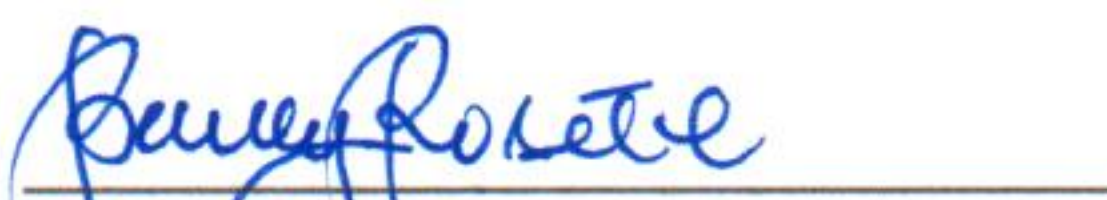
- August 14, 2025

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 PM.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST


Beverly Rosete, Clerk

