

Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee Special Managing Board Meeting Summary

January 27, 2025

10:00 am – 10:30 pm (AKST)

Board Attendees:

Captain Buddy Custard (USCG, Ret.), President
Peggy McLaughlin, Vice President/WSC Chair
Shari Coleman, Secretary/Treasurer

Nadine Kochuten, ABSI

MST2 Elizabeth Burges, US Coast Guard

Others:

Sierra Fletcher, Nuka Research

Haley Griffin, Nuka Research

Call to Order

The January meeting of the AIWSC Managing Board was called to order at 10:00 am (AKST) by Captain Buddy Custard.

Review of Documents from APIA for Potential Funding to the AIWSC

Captain Custard reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) sent by Karen Pletnikoff on behalf of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA), as well as a memo produced by Sierra Fletcher regarding potential funding. The subaward would provide the AIWSC with \$45,000 per year for three years, with some associated grant reporting requirements. Questions arose regarding the alignment of the AIWSC's mission with the project and requirements the AIWSC would be held to in terms of meetings, deliverables, and financial reporting.

One element listed in the MOA includes Reporting Requirements, such as audits, activity and progress reporting, and documentation of relevant data. Financial audits may not be required unless specific revenue thresholds are met, so Captain Custard will confirm whether the AIWSC has any audit requirements at the state or federal level. Ms. Pletnikoff will amend the MOA to reflect this change. Nuka Research will assist the committee in meeting the documentation and reporting requirements. Ms. Pletnikoff suggested that a write-up summarizing conversations, progress, and input from stakeholders would be a valuable deliverable in year 3 of the project.

The AIWSC's responsibilities will involve attending a kick-off meeting and quarterly meetings with APIA and the other two sub awardees: the Tribal Government for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island (ACSPI) and the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Initiative (ABSI). Each group will have its own role: ACSPI will collect and evaluate waste stream data at the community level, ABSI will conduct outreach and convene people at both community and regional levels, and the AWISC will bring together experts in marine transportation and industry to provide perspectives and input. These meetings will track the program's progress over the three year-period. Ms. Pletnikoff will amend the MOA to include these details.

The Qawalangin Tribe has also received a SWIFR grant and may also be involved in this regionally focused project.

Ms. McLaughlin and Captain Custard thanked Ms. Pletnikoff for thinking of the AIWSC to be a partner to APIA and expressed their appreciation for APIA's support. Ms. Pletnikoff stated that APIA is thankful that the AIWSC is willing to help the region make progress in removing waste and potentially dangerous materials from island communities.

**Motion Shari Coleman, Peggy McLaughlin to accept APIA's MOA with the discussed revisions.
Motion passes with no objection.**

Review Action Items & Next Steps

- Captain Custard will confirm that the AIWSC is small enough that it does not have any audit requirements and share this information with Ms. Pletnikoff.
- Ms. Pletnikoff will make changes to the MOA to remove the audit requirements and add reference to the quarterly meetings before returning the document to Captain Custard to be signed.

Adjourn

Motion Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Coleman to adjourn the meeting at 10:43am. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Materials:

1. 20250113 APIA AIWSC Subaward_DRAFT
2. 241212 Memo on potential subaward from APIA_DRAFT