

# Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee

## Managing Board Meeting Summary

October 30, 2025, 10:00 am – 11:00 am AKT

### Managing Board Members:

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

### Ex Officio Members:

Nadine Kochuten, ABSI  
BMC Stephen Braun, USCG  
LT Brett Woodward, USCG

### Others:

Sierra Fletcher, Nuka Research  
Haley Griffin, Nuka Research

### Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The October 2025 meeting of the AIWSC Managing Board was called to order at 10:02 am by President Captain Buddy Custard. Captain Custard designated this meeting as the Board's annual session, and all members concurred.

**Motion Shari Coleman, Martha Grabowski to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved by non-objection.**

### Approval of Meeting Summary of May 15, 2025

**Motion Martha Grabowski, Peggy McLaughlin to approve the May 15, 2025, meeting summary minutes. Motion approved by non-objection.**

### Financial Report

Captain Custard reported a current balance of \$5,228 in the Committee bank account, with \$13,200 in accounts payable to Nuka Research and \$15,180 in receivables from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA). The Board expects to settle outstanding invoices and return to good financial standing with Nuka. The next Nuka invoice will be issued in January 2026, at which point Captain Custard will invoice APIA. As a subawardee under APIA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program contract, the AIWSC was required to obtain a UEI number, though a full SAM account was deemed unnecessary after discussing with APIA. Captain Custard also coordinated with the finance officer at Alaska Chadux Network to ensure proper financial reporting procedures. Chadux will cover the \$360 annual cost for these services as a donation, providing additional oversight and transparency in case of audit.

### Facilitator's Report

Haley Griffin reported that since the May meeting, Nuka Research represented AIWSC on SWIFR coordination calls with APIA, ABSI, ACSPI, and other partners, maintained the AIWSC website, and supported work group meetings for updates to the Waterways Safety Plan (WSP). Funding from APIA will allow the AIWSC to support work under the SWIFR grant through continued engagement of committee members and formation of a work group to provide input on the development of a sustainable materials management plan and vessel transport in the region. A presentation has been prepared to familiarize members with the SWIFR project and facilitate discussion at the upcoming committee meeting.

Nadine further explained that APIA and partners are working to assess regional waste volumes and their locations. Many tribes already receive EPA IGAP funding; this project aims to consolidate existing data to inform future action towards waste reduction and management. The Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island (ACSPI) is developing a survey tool through its Indigenous Sentinels

Network (ISN) app to collect waste management data. The Aleut Corporation, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, and the community of Atka are also engaged in related efforts, alongside the Aleut International Association's (AIA) Solid Waste Management initiative in Arctic communities. The next phase will focus on gathering tribal and community input and involving industry partners – including AIWSC members – to identify opportunities and resources for regional waste transport.

Sierra Fletcher noted that the WSP will not be approved at the committee meeting, as several sections are still under revision. With the Committee engaging on the SWIFR project, she suggested a new section could also be added to the WSP during future reviews to address waste generated by vessels and potential mitigation strategies.

### **Ex Officio Member Roundtable**

LT Woodward requested to coordinate with Nadine about the SWIFR project as it relates to ongoing USCG activities in the region. He also reported USCG personnel presence at the F/V *Great Pacific* response and that operations are being managed as normal despite the government shutdown.

### **Old Business**

Captain Custard will follow up with William Wright from the International Group of P&I Clubs, who had previously expressed interest in joining the AIWSC but hasn't responded to recent outreach.

### **Committee Seat Appointments**

The Board reviewed Jordan Boghosian's member application. Like Captain Steve White, Jordan is with the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK), meaning both the primary and alternate members come from the same organization. Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Coleman, and Ms. Grabowski all supported the appointment, noting MXAK's key monitoring and tracking role in the region.

**Motion Shari Coleman, Peggy McLaughlin to approve Resolution 25-06 appointing Jordan Boghosian to the alternate Vessel Monitoring & Tracking seat. Motion approved by non-objection.**

### **Bylaws Review and Amendment**

#### Article IV, Section 2 – Membership

The Board discussed revising the residency requirement for Board members. Ms. Coleman proposed that a majority of Board members should be Alaska residents, rather than setting a specific number. Ms. McLaughlin agreed, noting this language would allow the Board to maintain flexibility. Members concurred to specify that Board members must be at least 18 years old, may reside in or outside Alaska, and that the Board shall include Alaska residents. Ms. Kochuten stated her preference for a majority-Alaska resident Board, and members affirmed this commitment for not only the Board but the Committee as well.

#### Article IV, Section 4: Term of Office

The Board agreed to maintain three-year terms, with members subject to re-election at the end of each term. Board members undergoing appointment will recuse themselves from their respective votes. Ms. McLaughlin emphasized the need for clear procedures on appointments and replacements. Ms. Coleman concurred. Ms. Grabowski recommended regular role reviews to ensure accountability. With a two-thirds vote, the Bylaws amendments were approved, pending briefing of Mayor Joe Bereskin.

**Motion Martha Grabowski, Shari Coleman to approve the 2025 Bylaws amendment. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **Review Draft Nuka Research Work Authorization Renewal**

Sierra Fletcher reported that Nuka Research's work authorization remains unchanged in cost and scope for 2025-2026. Ms. McLaughlin expressed no concerns but suggested aligning the contract

period with the fiscal year. She also recommended setting a formal budget for the AIWSC in the future. Ms. Grabowski concurred, stating that having periods of performance longer than one year will help minimize the number of contract renewals. Captain Custard proposed extending the contract to December 31, 2026, and all members concurred.

**Motion Martha Grabowski, Peggy McLaughlin to approve Nuka Research’s Work Authorization renewal to the AIWSC for 2025-2026. Motion approved by non-objection.**

### **Closing Comments**

Captain Custard expressed his appreciation to Nadine, Stephen, and Brett for their ongoing support of the AIWSC.

### **Review Action Items & Next Steps**

- Captain Custard will recontact William Wright regarding the Primary P&I Clubs seat.
- Ms. Coleman will sign Resolution 25-06.
- Captain Custard will sign Nuka Research’s work authorization contract.
- Ms. Griffin will:
  - Update and distribute the AIWSC Bylaws.
  - Update and distribute Nuka Research’s work authorization contract.
  - Update the website.
  - Notify Jordan Boghosian of his appointment.
  - Send Resolution 25-06 to Ms. Coleman for signature.
  - Draft Resolutions 25-07 (Bylaws Amendment) and 25-08 (Work Authorization) for Board review and signature.
  - Prepare and distribute a draft meeting summary.

### **Set Next Meeting**

The next Managing Board meeting will be scheduled for early to mid-January 2026; the exact date and time will be confirmed.

### **Adjourn**

Motion Shari Coleman, Peggy McLaughlin to adjourn the meeting at 11:07am. Meeting adjourned.

### **Meeting Materials:**

1. Committee Roster (updated May 20, 2025)
2. Meeting Summary – May 15, 2025
3. Committee Vacancy Application (1 attachment)
  - a. Resolution 25-06 – Committee Appointment
  - b. Jordan Boghosian, Alternate Vessel Monitoring & Tracking
4. AIWSC Bylaws – 2025 Proposed Revision (draft)
5. Nuka Research Work Authorization 2025-2026 (draft)