

Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee
Managing Board Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2019
2:00 – 3:00 PM
Webinar

Attendees:

Mayor Joe Bereskin, Board Member
Captain Buddy Custard, Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor Frank Kelty, President
Shirley Marquardt, Vice President
Peggy McLaughlin, WSC Representative

Ex Officio:

Aaron Poe, ABSI
CDR Justin W. Jacobs, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage (USCG)
Geoff Merrell, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Jeanette Alas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Miranda Westphal, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

Others:

Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and Planning Group
Sara Nichols, Nuka Research and Planning Group

Call to Order

The eighth meeting of the AIWSC Managing Board was called to order by President Frank Kelty at 2:02PM.

Motion Marquardt, McLaughlin to approve the agenda with the addition of Pribilof Island Representation as item VI. b. Motion approved by non-objection.

Motion Marquardt, McLaughlin to approve the Minutes of October 30, 2018, as presented. Motion approved by non-objection.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

There is approximately \$56,000 left in the grant funds to be spent by end of June, 2019. It is proposed that the Board write a letter to the granting agency requesting an extension of 6 months, through to the end of the calendar year. It would be best to have support from ADEC and USCG in this request.

Committee Chair Report

Chairwoman McLaughlin reported that the Waterways Safety Plan is close to being ready for Committee review and after that, a 30-day public review to happen before April in order to be ready for formal adoption at the next in-person WSC meeting.

Facilitators Report

Mr. Robertson reported that Nuka Research staff have been working on the Waterways Safety Plan along with Leslie Pearson and David Arzt. This is a major accomplishment for the Organization. The 501c3 application is in the hands of the IRS and we are awaiting their approval. He will be working with Peggy on an agenda for the Spring WSC meeting, and has reached out to APIA on their availability to provide the meeting room for the group again.

As reported to the WSC at their November meeting, there is a National Harbor Safety Committee Conference in Houston this coming June. The USCG has expressed the importance of an Alaska representative attending to present the unique challenges faced by the Harbor Safety Committees in the State. Stephen Ribuffo, Chair of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee has volunteered to fill that position. The Port of Alaska will be funding his travel to the conference. A member of the WSC also volunteered to attend on behalf of the AIWSC but it is not clear if her organization will be paying for travel or not. The Board asked that this be put on their next agenda for consideration. Mr. Robertson will check with the granting agency to find out if travel to the conference would be an approved expenditure.

Committee Vacancies

The WSC still has no representative in the Cargo Operators seat, or the Commercial Fishing Vessels <60ft seat. President Kelty stated that he is aware of the empty commercial fishing seat and is still trying to generate interest amongst his network. Captain Custard requested that the roster include seat expiration dates going forward.

Sustainable Funding Plan

Mr. Robertson requested formal direction from the Board to pursue a grant extension from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) until the end of the calendar year, 2019.

There has been no forward action on the Excess Headtax Legislative Initiative due to the present situation of the State of Alaska's budget woes. Captain Custard is working an angle with friends and colleagues of Senator Micciche to try and get the initiative to the floor. With the current turmoil in the State it is unlikely that the funding request will gain much traction, and the conversation of membership contributions will have to continue at the Committee level. They were presented with this concept at the November meeting, but need to be made aware that this is going to be a likely necessity for the future of the organization.

Mr. Poe and Mr. Robertson will continue to pursue the NRDA funding opportunity as a means of supplementing the AIWSC. Earlier in the year, the Federal Government shutdown stymied their efforts.

It was suggested also that Bert Ray has some funding ideas.

Motion Bereskin, Custard to direct Mr. Robertson to write a letter to NFWF requesting an extension through the end of December, 2019, and to contact ADEC and USCG for formal written support. Motion approved by non-objection.

Pribilof Island Representation

Mr. Poe has reached out to Lauren Divine about creating a St Paul Stakeholder seat or having a representative serve as a member of the Managing Board. She planned to take it back to her Board for consideration. There has been no new progress on this. President Kelty will talk to them at their meeting in the Beginning of April.

Elect Board Officers

Motion Bereskin, Custard to nominate Frank Kelty – President, Shirly Marquardt – Vice President, Buddy Custard – Secretary/Treasurer. All accepted the nominations. Voice Vote, Unanimous. Board Officers approved.

WSC Meeting

The Spring meeting for the WSC will follow an email review of the Waterways Safety Plan and a 30-day public review after that. Sara will poll the Committee for an in-person meeting in Anchorage 4/29-5/3.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Include National Harbor Safety Conference on the next agenda and in the next packet.
- Include term expiration dates on the next Roster publication.
- Tim will check on travel funding to the Conference through the NFWF grant funds.
- Tim will draft a letter for Board approval to NFWF requesting a 12/31/19 extension on the grant funds.
- Buddy will pursue Micciche contact regarding the legislative headtax funds.
- Tim and Aaron will have a call with Sarah Allen regarding possible NRDA funds for the AIWSC.
- All will reach out to possible parties to serve on the AIWSC and fill some of the vacant seats.
- Frank will speak to his Pribilof associates to encourage involvement in AIWSC and Aaron will follow up with Lauren Divine.

Set Next Meeting

The Board will meet again briefly before the WSC Meeting. Sara will poll members for a date during the week of 4/22.

Adjourn

Motion Marquardt, Custard for adjournment. Motion approved by non-objection. Meeting adjourned at 2:53PM.

Meeting Materials:

1. October 30 meeting summary
2. Membership Roster
3. By-laws
4. Resolution 2017-03