

WIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FALL MEETING
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH, AK
OCTOBER 3-5, 2012
MINUTES

WIR President, Mayor Selby called the meeting to order, and welcomed the Board to Kodiak.

President Selby called the roll. Members present were:

- Alaska:
 Hon. Jerome Selby, Kodiak Island Borough

- Arizona:
- California:
- Colorado:
 Hon. George Wilkinson, Alamosa County

- Hawai'i:
- Idaho:
 Hon. Gordon Cruickshank, Commissioner, Valley County

- Montana:
 Hon. Lesley Robinson, Commissioner, Phillips County

 Hon. Mike Murray, Commissioner, Lewis and Clark County

- Nevada:
 Hon. Lorinda Wichman, Commissioner, Nye County

- New Mexico:
 Hon. Walter Armijo, Commissioner, Sierra County

- North Dakota:
- Oregon:
 Hon. Tim Josi, Commissioner, Tillamook County

- South Dakota:
 Hon. Clint Farlee, Commissioner, Ziebach County

- Utah:
 Hon. Daron Smith, Commissioner, Millard County

- Washington:
- Wyoming:

Ex officio board members, and staff present were: Mr. Mark Ward, Utah Association of Counties, Ms. Kathie Wasserman, Alaska Municipal League, Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties; Mike McArthur, Association of Oregon Counties; and Ryan Yates, NACo.

October 4, 2012

8:35 a.m. Welcome

Pat Branson, Mayor, City of Kodiak, AK

Gary Stevens, President, Alaska State Senate

8:50 a.m. Patrick Stalensol- Alutiiq History

- Overview of the Alutiiq natives of Alaska
 - Linguistically related to 'Aleuts' and 'Eskimos' – 'Esk Aleuts'
 - Last migration to North America – probably by boat
 - Adapted to life on the coast and lived on Kodiak for at least 7,500 years
- Photos and visual presentation available by powerpoint presentation

9:30 a.m. Gary Wheeler, US Fish and Wildlife Service

- US FWS
 - Mission – Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
 - Purposes
 - To conserve fish and wildlife populations in their natural diversity, including Kodiak brown bears, salmonids, sea otters, sea lions, marine mammals, and migratory birds;
- [Powerpoint Slides available]

10:00 a.m. Captain Jerry Woloszynski, US Coast Guard

- **U.S. Coast Guard, Arctic Shield-2012**
 - Forward Operating Location (FOL) - Barrow, AK
 - Command and Control: USCG District Seventeen
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 - Aviation at Barrow Airport: ERA's Cape Smythe Hangar
 - Communications Trailer: Near Navy hanger on the old Navy Airstrip
 - MOA for ANG Armory/Recreation Center in Barrow
- **U.S. Coast Guard, Base Kodiak**
 - Over 1,000 CG Active Duty and Civilians
 - Base covers 21,000 acres

- Over 1 million square feet of office space
- 406 Housing units and 139 Barrack rooms
- Largest Morale Program in Entire CG
- Golf course, Movie Theatre, Bowling Alley, Gym, Pool, CDC.
- CG Police Dept with 24 full time personnel
- CG Fire Dept (32 personnel) that serves CG Base and Airport
- Fueling pier connected to 5 million gallon fuel farm
- Steam plant, Water Treatment Plant, Sewage Treatment Plant
- We make our own water (500K gal/day) and treat our own sewage (600K gal/day)
- Air Station
 - Four HC-130 Aircraft
 - Five HH-60 Helicopters
 - Four HH-65 Helicopters
 - Homeland Security / Domain Awareness
 - High Seas Drift Net (HSDN)
 - ALPAT (WHEC/WMEC support)
 - SAR Standby
 - Cordova
 - Cold Bay
 - St Paul
- Kodiak Operations
 - Communications Station Kodiak
 - North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center
 - Marine Safety Detachment Kodiak
 - Aids to Navigation Team Kodiak
 - Pac Area and District 17 Detachments
 - Armory, Public Affairs, Legal Assistance
- Kodiak Services
 - General Logistics
 - Property/Finance
 - Port Services
 - CG Police
 - Facilities Engineering
 - Engineering and Management
 - Public Works
 - Environmental
 - Fire Safety
 - Procurement and Contracting
 - Chaplain
- Base Kodiak Tenants
 - FAA

- Navy Seals (Spruce Cape)
- State of Alaska DOT (airport)
- Borough of Kodiak (Peterson school)
- Fish & Wildlife
- State of Alaska (Buskin Beach State Park)
- National Weather Service
- Base Economics
 - Salaries – Over \$100 Million per year
 - Construction per year = \$15 million
 - Operating Budget for Base – Over \$30 million
 - Electricity, Fuel, Vehicles, Contractors, Galley, Commissary, Firehouse, Police, Dutch Harbor Support, Housing Maintenance, etc...
 - Medical and Dental
 - Moving/shipping/storage (300+ families per year)

10:45 a.m. Chris Long, NOAA - The National Marine Fisheries Service in Alaska

- **NOAA's Mission:**
 - Science, Service, and Stewardship.
To understand and predict changes in **climate, weather, oceans, and coasts**,
To **share that knowledge** and information with others, and
To **conserve and manage** coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.
 - **NOAA's Vision of the Future:**
 - Resilient Ecosystems, Communities, and Economies.
Healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies that are resilient in the face of change
- **NMFS**
 - Responsible for stewardship of living marine resources
 - Federal waters (3-200 nm offshore)
 - Fisheries
 - Protected marine species
 - Mammals
 - Endangered species
 - The habitat and ecosystem they depend on
- Climate issues in the Arctic
 - Understand what there is to protect before we need to protect it
 - Baseline data
 - Abundance of fish and shellfish
 - Connections between the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas
 - Used to develop and refine management plans for these species

11:30 a.m. Julie Bomey, Groundfish Data Bank

- Port of Kodiak
 - The Port of Kodiak is **Alaska's largest fishing port.**
 - The Port of Kodiak is home to more than **700 commercial fishing vessels**, including many of Alaska's larger trawl, longline and crab vessels.
 - Kodiak has more than **650 boat slips and three commercial piers** that handle vessels up to 1,000 feet.
 - According to the Department of Labor, there were **789 active permit holders and 2,571 crew members** who contributed to Kodiak's fish harvesting sector in 2010.
- Fisheries
 - Well Managed Sustainable Fisheries
 - Federal Fisheries: zero to 200 miles pollock, cod, rockfish, flatfish, halibut
 - State Fisheries: near shore – salmon, herring, cod, rockfish, crab
- Processing
 - Kodiak is the only commercial fishing port that has a **year round** resident processing labor force.
 - Of the top 20 employers for the Kodiak Island Borough, **eight are seafood processing companies.**
 - Kodiak's processing plants employed approximately **1,806 people in 2011** and had a **combined payroll of over \$72 million.** Seafood processing accounts for 30% of Kodiak's workforce (second after Coast Guard/Government)
- Tax Benefits
 - Seafood is the major source of revenue for Kodiak municipalities:
 - \$1,649,275 in severance taxes from commercial fishing and timber industries in 2011 (97% from fisheries)
 - \$1,050,000 raw fish tax in 2011
 - Tax benefits due to economic activity such as property taxes and sale taxes
- Benefits to Kodiak
 - Stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes – particular May and June (reduce unemployment)
 - Remove the processing conflict with salmon
 - Bring more fish on shore
 - Slow the fishery so more valuable products can be produced

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

- Presentation of the uniqueness of Alaska communities
- Pictorial overview Alaska Boroughs, cities, and villages

Western Regional Rep Ideas & Discussion Issues

- Western Regional Rep
 - Phone Calls
 - More regional communication
 - Look at opening calls
 - WIR has historically being in Public land but...
 - Broaden issue set for WIR
 - Region rep should feed info from NACo board back to WIR
 - Regional Rep should write monthly report to western members, and then he should report to WIR.
 - WIR/PCSC joint calls tend to limit debate to public lands issues
 - WIR should communicate to Regional rep to executive committee on priority development
- WIR President should be regional rep
 - Change bylaws to make WEIR president 2 year term
 - WIR elect Western Regional rep would serve on both WIR and NACo Executive committee
 1. NACo change rules allowing 1 year term for WIR president
 2. WIR 1st Vice President and President serves 2 year Region Rep
 3. WIR elects WIR region rep from its membership

Top Policy Issues in the West

- National Forest Management Options
- Water Issues
 - Diversion issues
 - Tie water capacity to economic development- Columbia River
 - Lorinda Wichman
 - Antiquities Act Reform
 - Resources in general= timber/mineral/extraction
 - Farm bill
 - Tribal land in trust issues
 - EPA buffers- pesticide application
 - Production tax credit-renewable energy
 - Economic development through easing federal regulations on federal lands.
 - PEIS- Oil shale- UT, CO, WY
 - Search for legislative solution to defend oil shale EIA
 - Feds taking over state water rights in the name of conservation
 - Planning Rule- impacts-
 - Future of PILT/SRS
 - Educate on the difference between PILT as an entitlement and SRS/Refuge as a revenue sharing
 - PILT Formula

- Solid Waste-Fed regulations
- Coal Exports
- Freight Rail Issues
- ESA
- Army Corp Issues
 - Ports and Harbor Jobs in AK
- Arctic Issues
- Frivolous litigation

3:15 p.m.- Pat Pourchot- Department of Interior, AK Affairs

- AK= Unique and very large
- See AK ownership handout
- ANILCA
- Statehood
- ANSCA
- ANWR
- OCS development conflicts
 - Shell exploratory wells
- 1. Executive Order to establish group on AK permit coordination
 - a. DOI Department Secretary Hayes is leading effort
- 2. White House Project for Alaska
 - a. Arctic research= state, university, feds, etc..
 - b. Effort to consolidate data
 - c. Better informed decision making

3:40 p.m.- Schawna Thoma, Deputy State Director- Sen. Begich

Adjourn

October 5, 2012

9:00 a.m. Start/Stop/Continue Exercise

To Do:

1. State Roundtable at meetings
 - a. Identify top issues affecting counties in their state
 2. Business first, then presentations
 3. Add to research agenda
 - a. Lands in trust
 4. Gordon Motion to Adopt to priorities, Clint 2nd
- Lesley; Gordon- approve assessment
 - Lorinda; Darron- approve financials
 - Gordon; Clint- \$5k to NFCSC

- Gordon; Lorinda- \$5k to NESARC
- Approval of minutes
 - Technical changes by Jerome (see changes)
 - Gordon C
 - George W
- WIR Travel Policy
 - Cover hotel- minimum hotel night and flight
 - Fall NACo board meeting
 - Cover hotel at WIR conference
 - Motion: Lorinda, Gordon

Congressman Don Young – 11:00

- Support giving states the ability to petition to manage federal lands under state statutes
- Cutting budgets e to federal lands management agencies is difficult
- County cannot recover from depression without utilizing our natural resources which are our only true wealth
- Need to educate public
- WWII was won because we developed and used out resources
- House passed 22 energy and jobs bills- Senate killed them all
- Senate hasn't passed a budget in years
- Congress doesn't Cut deals anymore
 - Federal forest Management Bill prospects??
 - Won't happen if administration doesn't change
 - Greg Walden has been a good leader
 - Community Forest trust concept= Labrador
 - Need to get behind one bill
 - Can we use house appropriations to surgically control spending to control federal actions?
 - Yes- Mike Simpson is key
 - Not about environment, it is about Control
 - We are losing our freedoms as Americans

Discuss WIR SWOT Analysis Results

Strengths:

- 1) Passion for western way of life
- 2) Unified philosophy's throughout membership
- 3) Viewed by NACo members as authority on western issues
- 4) Dedication to education of other NACo members
- 5) Empowers western members to be more involved in NACo
- 6) Strong tradition and long history that provides dependability for members

- 7) Have dedicated staff in DC
- 8) Western counties work well together
- 9) Western organization that is directly tied to NACo
- 10) Willingness to take on tough issues

Threats:

- 1) Fiscal cliff
 - a. Limited funding for county officials to travel
- 2) Limited participation by WIR members
- 3) Allowing diminishing results or successes to impact effectiveness
- 4) Do we have relevant issues?
 - a. Perception by members of WIR being irrelevant

Weakness:

- 1) Lack of understanding by members of what WIR does
- 2) Perception that all we focus on are Public Lands issues
- 3) Loss of institutional knowledge / inability to reeducate new members
- 4) Website incoherency
- 5) Remote location of members
- 6) Lack of participation by certain WIR members (CA, ND, AZ, WY)

Opportunities:

- 1) Seizing opportunities for greater dialogue with opposition through collaborative governance
- 2) Better communication with new and incoming members of congress – early intervention
- 3) Participating in presidential transaction team
- 4) Mentoring our own county officials – communicating back to county colleagues
- 5) Link policy briefing papers to newly announced top priorities
- 6) Look into joint reception with LUCC / RAC etc
- 7) Mobilize on an issue by issue basis (i.e. SO 3310)
- 8) Look into joint opportunities with governmental organizations (WGA, NLC, Mayors, etc)

Adjourn