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
- **Forward Operating Location (FOL) - Barrow, AK**
  - Command and Control: USCG District Seventeen
  - 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**, and 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
  o The Port of Kodiak is **Alaska’s largest fishing port**.
  o The Port of Kodiak is home to more than **700 commercial fishing vessels**, including many of Alaska’s larger trawl, longline and crab vessels.
  o Kodiak has more than **650 boat slips and three commercial piers** that handle vessels up to 1,000 feet.
  o 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
  o **Well Managed Sustainable Fisheries**
  o **Federal Fisheries**: zero to 200 miles pollock, cod, rockfish, flatfish, halibut
  o **State Fisheries**: near shore – salmon, herring, cod, rockfish, crab

• Processing
  o Kodiak is the only commercial fishing port that has a **year round** resident processing labor force.
  o Of the top 20 employers for the Kodiak Island Borough, **eight are seafood processing companies**.
  o 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
  o Seafood is the major source of revenue for Kodiak municipalities:
    o **$1,649,275 in severance taxes from commercial fishing and timber industries in 2011** (97% from fisheries)
    o **$1,050,000 raw fish tax in 2011**
    o Tax benefits due to economic activity such as property taxes and sale taxes

• Benefits to Kodiak
  o Stabilize the residential processing work force by filling times of year with low processing volumes – particular May and June (reduce unemployment)
  o Remove the processing conflict with salmon
  o Bring more fish on shore
  o 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
  o Phone Calls
    ▪ More regional communication
    ▪ Look at opening calls
  o WIR has historically being in Public land but...
    ▪ Broaden issue set for WIR
    ▪ Region rep should feed info from NACo board back to WIR
  o Regional Rep should write monthly report to western members, and then he should report to WIR.
  o WIR/PCSC joint calls tend to limit debate to public lands issues
  o WIR should communicate to Regional rep to executive committee on priority development
• WIR President should be regional rep
  o Change bylaws to make WEIR president 2 year term
  o 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
  o Diversion issues
  o Tie water capacity to economic development- Columbia River
    ▪ Lorinda Wichman
  o Antiquities Act Reform
  o Resources in general= timber/mineral/extraction
  o Farm bill
  o Tribal land in trust issues
  o EPA buffers- pesticide application
  o Production tax credit-renewable energy
  o Economic development through easing federal regulations on federal lands.
  o PEIS- Oil shale- UT, CO, WY
    ▪ Search for legislative solution to defend oil shale EIA
  o Feds taking over state water rights in the name of conservation
  o Planning Rule- impacts-
  o Future of PILT/SRS
    ▪ Educate on the difference between PILT as an entitlement and SRS/Refuge as a revenue sharing
  o PILT Formula
o  Solid Waste-Fed regulations
  o  Coal Exports
  o  Freight Rail Issues
  o  ESA
  o  Army Corp Issues
    ▪  Ports and Harbor Jobs in AK
  o  Arctic Issues
  o  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
  o  Shell exploratory wells
    1.  Executive Order to establish ..... group on AK permit coordination
      a.  DOI Department Secretaty Hayes is leading effort
    2.  White House Prohect for Alaska
      a.  Arctic research= state, university, feds, etc..
      b.  Effort to consolidate date
      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 2\textsuperscript{nd}

   - Lesley; Gordon- approve assessment
   - Lorinda; Darron- approve financials
   - Gordon; Clint- $5k to NFCSC
Gordon; Lorinda- $5k to NESARC

Approval of minutes
  o Technical changes by Jerome (see changes)
    ▪ Gordon C
    ▪ George W

WIR Travel Policy
  o Cover hotel- minimum hotel night and flight
    ▪ Fall NACo board meeting
  o 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 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
    o Federal forest Management Bill prospects??
      ▪ Won’t happen if administration doesn’t change
      ▪ Greg Walden has been a good leader
    o Community Forest trust concept= Labrador
      ▪ Need to get behind one bill
    o Can we use house appropriations to surgically control spending to control federal actions?
      ▪ Yes- Mike Simpson is key
    o 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