

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
May 7 and 8, 2026
Valdez, Alaska

Members Present

Robert Archibald (<i>via videoconference</i>)	City of Homer
Amanda Bauer	City of Valdez
Robert Beedle	Cordova District Fishermen United
Mike Bender	City of Whittier
Mike Brittain (<i>via videoconference</i>)	City of Seward
Wayne Donaldson	City of Kodiak
Lois Epstein	Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition
Mako Haggerty (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Kenai Peninsula Borough
Luke Hasenbank	Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Jim Herbert	Oil Spill Region Recreational Coalition
Elijah Jackson	Kodiak Village Mayors Assn.
David Janka (<i>via videoconference</i>)	City of Cordova
Ailie Johnson	Chugach Alaska Corporation
Melvin Malchoff	Port Graham Corporation
Dorothy Moore	City of Valdez
Michael Vigil	Chenega Corporation & Chenega IRA Council
Aimee Williams	Kodiak Island Borough
Kirk Zinck	City of Seldovia

Members Absent

Nick Crump	Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Angela Totemoff	Tatitlek Corporation & Tatitlek Village IRA Council

Committee Members Present

Matt Melton (<i>via videoconference</i>)	OSPR Committee
Max Mitchell	POVTS Committee
Cathy Hart	IE Committee
Sarah Allan (<i>via videoconference</i>)	SA Committee
Tom Kuckertz	TOEM Committee
Katie Harrison	TOEM Committee

Staff Members Present

Joe Lally	Director of Programs
Brooke Taylor	Director of Communications
Hans Odegard	Director of Administration
Ashlee Hamilton	Director of Finance
Jennifer Fleming	Executive Assistant
Danielle Verna	Project Manager
Roy Robertson	Project Manager
Linda Swiss (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Project Manager
Jeremy Robida	Project Manager

John Guthrie
 Amanda Johnson
 Robbin Capers
 Maia Draper-Reich
 Nelli Vanderburg
 Peter Casey
 Suparat Prasannet

Project Manager
 Project Manager
 Project Manager
 Outreach Coordinator
 Project Manager Assistant
 Project Manager Assistant
 IT / Administrative Assistant

Ex Officio Members Present

LCDR Kahi Kaaua
 Heather Parker (*via videoconference*)
 Steve Weeks
 Ytamar Rodriguez
 Tammias Brown (*via videoconference*)

U.S. Coast Guard MSU Valdez
 Oil Spill Recovery Institute
 Bureau of Land Management
 Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
 Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources

Others Present

Klint VanWingerden
 Mike Day (*via videoconference*)
 Alyssa Sweet (*via videoconference*)
 Diana Bouchard (*via videoconference*)
 Kristen Shake
 Teresa Melville
 Kara Kusche
 Mollie Dunkin
 Sarah Moore (*via videoconference*)
 Mo Radotich
 Anna Carey
 Allie Ferko
 Kathy Shea (*via videoconference*)
 Mike Donnellan (*via videoconference*)
 Kristina Arsenault
 Andrea West
 Chris Merten
 Andrew McNamara
 Tim DiPietropolo
 Stephen Cooley
 Marshall Blankenship
 Nick Abraham
 Mark Curtis
 Carolyn Crawford
 Peter Laliberte
 Tom Griffiths (*via videoconference*)
 Jerry Warrick (*via videoconference*)
 Elise DeCola (*via videoconference*)
 Joe Levesque, Esq. (*via videoconference*)
 R. Jed Ullrich, Esq.
 Capt. Chris Mitchell (*via videoconference*)
 Katherine Hanson (*via videoconference*)
 Gene Therriault (*via videoconference*)

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
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 USCG MSU Valdez
 Polar Tankers
 Alaska Tanker Company/OSG
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 Alaska Tanker Company/OSG
 Hilcorp
 Hilcorp
 Fairwater
 Fairwater
 Santos
 Teekay Tankers
 Marathon
 Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC
 Landye Bennett Blumstein, LLP
 Landye Bennett Blumstein, LLP
 Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA)
 Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA)
 PWSRCAC Legislative Lobbyist (State)

C.J. Zane (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Blank Rome, PWSRCAC Legislative Monitor (Federal)
Genevieve Cowan (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Blank Rome, PWSRCAC Legislative Monitor (Federal)
Roy Jones (<i>via videoconference</i>)	PWSRCAC Legislative Monitor (Federal)
Anne Schaeffer (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Prince William Sound Science Center
Mary Anne Bishop, Ph.D. (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Prince William Sound Science Center
Austin Love	City of Valdez
Tom Crestodina	Author
Alia Giolitti	Public
Bryan Bailey (<i>via videoconference</i>)	Public

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council was held May 7-8, 2026, at the Civic Center in Valdez, Alaska. Vice President Amanda Bauer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on May 7, 2026, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A roll call was taken. The following 17 Directors were present at the time of the roll call, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Robert Archibald (*via videoconference*), Amanda Bauer, Robert Beedle, Mike Bender, Mike Brittain (*via videoconference*), Wayne Donaldson, Lois Epstein, Mako Haggerty (*via videoconference*), Luke Hasenbank, Jim Herbert, Elijah Jackson, David Janka (*via videoconference*), Melvin Malchoff, Dorothy Moore, Michael Vigil, Aimee Williams, and Kirk Zinck.

Introductions and brief Directors' reports followed.

President Archibald apologized for not being able to travel to this meeting, but he would be on videoconference for the entirety of the meeting. He also acknowledged the absence of Executive Director Donna Schantz in order to attend her son's college graduation out of state.

Director of Communications Brooke Taylor introduced and welcomed Tom Crestodina, the author and illustrator with whom PWSRCAC partnered on the book "Protectors of Prince William Sound." Taylor said staff is excited about the book's release. She said that Crestodina had been engaged with outreach events starting with the elementary school the previous day and then at the reception the previous evening where many involved with the Council were able to meet him. Taylor outlined the other opportunities the greater Prince William Sound community would have to meet Tom and have him sign their copies of the book.

Valdez Mayor *Pro Tem*, Austin Love, welcomed the Council to Valdez and thanked everyone involved in the reception the previous evening. He provided some updates on things occurring at the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT), including the excellent SERVS fishing vessel training held in Valdez for those who participate in the SERVS fishing vessel fleet and the switchover to the new firefighting foam at the VMT, which is almost complete. He expressed appreciation to all those who work diligently on the tankers and at the VMT to keep the oil out of the water. He reported that the Valdez City Council is working on comments to the c-plans and the secondary containment issues at the East Tank Farm, as is PWSRCAC, and the Valdez council will be very interested in the results of the testing of the secondary containment liner when the results are available. He congratulated Tom Crestodina and PWSRCAC on the recently published book "Protectors of Prince William Sound" as an excellent educational tool. He thanked the new volunteer members on PWSRCAC for their commitment to the Council's work.

1-0 AGENDA

Vice President Bauer presented the agenda (green colored sheet) for approval.

Michael Vigil **moved to approve the agenda.** Melvin Malchoff **seconded.** There were no changes or amendments, and the agenda was approved as presented.

4-1 PWSRCAC DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

As outlined in the briefing sheet (Item 4-1) in the meeting notebook, the Board took up the annual seating of member representatives for those seats expiring at this meeting. Secretary Jim Herbert read the names of those Directors nominated for appointment to the Board for the next two years.

Jim Herbert **moved to confirm the appointment** of the selected representatives for each of the member entities listed for two-year terms expiring at the May 2028 annual meeting, as follows:

Luke Hasenbank	Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Michael Vigil	Chenega IRA Council/Chenega Corporation
Ailie Johnson	Chugach Alaska Corporation
David Janka	City of Cordova
Dorothy Moore	City of Valdez
Mike Bender	City of Whittier
Robert Beedle	Cordova District Fishermen United
Aimee Williams	Kodiak Island Borough
Lois Epstein	Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition
Melvin Malchoff	Port Graham Corporation

Robert Beedle **seconded** and **the motion passed** without objection.

1-1 MINUTES

David Janka **moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of January 22-23, 2026.** Elijah Jackson **seconded** and **the minutes were approved as presented.**

1-2 MINUTES

Michael Vigil **moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of March 19, 2026.** Jim Herbert **seconded** and **the minutes were approved as presented.**

1-3 MINUTES

Mike Bender **moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of April 8, 2026.** Melvin Malchoff **seconded** and **the minutes were approved as presented.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

INTERNAL OPENING COMMENTS – PWSRCAC TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**OIL SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE COMMITTEE (OSPR)**

OSPR Committee Chair Jim Herbert reported on the activities of the committee since the last Board meeting:

- Staff continues to update the OSPR Committee on Area and Regional planning efforts. All of Alaska's Area contingency plan contents are in the process of being reorganized to match the framework used by the USCG in the rest of the country. The Arctic Western Alaska Plan was completed in December 2025. The Prince William Sound Plan is anticipated to be finished next.
- The committee was kept updated on the progress of the re-formatting and renewal of the Prince William Sound Tanker Plan, which is now shared among a total of nine plan holders (previously four). The new format will consist of three volumes – Regulatory, Scenarios, and Technical Manual – similar to the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT) Plan. Initial comments and requests for information on the Prince William Sound Tanker Plan renewal were submitted on March 31, 2026. The current plan expires at the end of January 2027. The committee has also been following the progress of Alyeska's secondary containment system hydro-test project.
- OSPR reviewed and accepted various drill/exercise reports and voted to recommend Board acceptance of the Annual 2025 Drill Monitoring Report. That presentation is on this agenda for the following day.
- OSPR has been kept updated on various weather-related projects, including repair and maintenance on the Port Valdez weather buoys and the Council's Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska weather stations, and upcoming relocation of the buoy formerly stationed at the Duck Flats.
- OSPR has received updates on the Copper River Delta and Flats vicinity GRS development project. The project started in early 2025, and involved a series of workgroup meetings with various agencies and other stakeholders, and some field work conducted in Cordova. The project is finished and there will be a presentation on this topic later today.

TERMINAL OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE (TOEM)

TOEM Committee Chair Tom Kuckertz reported that in addition to its interest in the Terminal Operations Program, the TOEM Committee is actively participating in the development of the following board-authorized projects: Review of Tank Bottom Processing Best Practices; Water Quality Review of VMT; Air Quality Review of VMT; Timeline of VMT Tank Repairs and Inspection Intervals; Review of VMT Cathodic Protection System Testing Protocols; and with the OSPR Committee Maintaining the Secondary Containment Systems at the VMT.

Kuckertz provided more information on some of the most active projects and the Terminal Operations Program since the last Board meeting:

- **Maintaining the Secondary Containment Systems at the VMT.** TOEM has been involved in reviewing and providing input on possible inspection methods for the secondary containment liner at the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). PWSRCAC and TOEM appreciate that Alyeska has provided Revision 2 to the VMT East Tank Farm Secondary Containment System Rationale and Acceptance Criteria for Hydro-Test and has been providing weekly status updates on the project as part of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's confer process.

- **Review of VMT Cathodic Protection System Testing Protocols.** The Mears Group continues its work to complete the Review of VMT Cathodic Protection System Testing project. Contractor Kevin Garrity has reviewed all the documentation provided by Alyeska and from PWSRCAC's document management system. He originally hoped to have a draft report ready for review in late January; however, a series of setbacks pushed the deadline back and the draft report has not yet been received. Once it is, TOEM and staff will review it carefully and bring a recommendation to the Board or the Executive Committee for approval.
- **Review of Tank Bottom Processing Best Practices.** TOEM has had two project team meetings since the January Board meeting to discuss and refine the scope of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for this project. The RFP is in the final stages of development and a set of potential contractors who are likely to meet the requirements of the RFP have been identified. The RFP will be released soon with a proposal submittal deadline of June 15.
- **Water Quality Review of VMT.** The release of the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for wastewater discharge has been pushed back to 2027, due to reprioritization of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation work schedules. The contractor for this project, Fjord & Fish Sciences, remains ready to analyze the permit when it is released.
- **Power Vapor Incinerator Replacement Project.** TOEM has been following progress on the replacement of two Power/Vapor incinerators, also called vapor combustor units, and staff are working with Alyeska to arrange a tour of the work that is on Alyeska's list of scheduled projects for this summer.
- **PWSRCAC Information Requests.** As of this meeting, all expected requests for information from Alyeska needed to support projects funded for FY2026 have been received.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE (IEC)

Committee Chair Cathy Hart reported for the IEC as follows:

- **Fishing Vessel Program Community Outreach.** A project team, made up of IEC members Aimee Williams, Trent Dodson, Jane Eisemann, and staff, developed a walking tour event format to deliver outreach and education about the SERVS Fishing Vessel Program to the Kodiak community. Alyeska/SERVS staff provided key information and input in the development and planning stages. Staff from the Council and Alyeska partnered to facilitate six tours of the SERVS' equipment stations on April 6 and 7. Outreach Coordinator Maia Draper-Reich also visited schools in Kodiak to give lessons about the SERVS program and oil spill cleanup. While in Kodiak, Executive Director Donna Schantz and Board Member Wayne Donaldson met with the Borough and City Mayors of Kodiak. IEC is thrilled to have finally brought this long-running outreach project to Kodiak and is grateful to Mike Day, Dennis Fleming, and all of the other Alyeska staff who helped make the Kodiak tours successful.
- **Community Outreach.** In February, IEC member Ruthie Knight and staff hosted a booth at the Alaska Forum. While there, Maia Draper-Reich and SAC member Davin Holen gave a presentation about the peer listener manual. In March, Board member Jim Herbert traveled to Seward to participate as a competition official for the Alaska Ocean Sciences Tsunami Bowl. Also in March, staff hosted booths at the Mariculture Conference of Alaska and the

annual Subsistence Memorial Gathering event. In April, Board Members Wayne Donaldson and Aimee Williams hosted the Council's booth alongside Maia Draper-Reich at ComFish Alaska in Kodiak.

IEC is excited to continue supporting outreach efforts in the upcoming months, including events such as the Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium and our annual Valdez Guides Training.

- **Youth Involvement.** There are 10 youth involvement contracts underway with the following contractors: University of Alaska Anchorage, Cordova School District, Alaska Coastal Observations & Research, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Kenai Mountains – Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Fireweed Academy Charter School, Kodiak Parks and Recreation, and Prince William Sound Science Center. Five of these contracts are on track to be completed by the end of the fiscal year, with the remaining five scheduled to be completed at the end of September.

A Request for Proposals is currently open for projects during the 2026-2027 school year. The deadline is May 22. Anyone interested in submitting a Youth Involvement proposal was encouraged to contact Draper-Reich for more information.

- **Communities in Focus Data Study.** Contractor Stellar Group recently completed the project to collect, organize, and summarize publicly available demographic data for Alaska communities affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The Stellar Group compiled the data into an interactive spreadsheet tool that can be filtered and sorted in a variety of ways. In addition, the contractor completed a memo explaining the data in the spreadsheet and documenting data sources.

The Information and Education Committee plans to use this data during their annual planning cycle to help them prioritize projects that increase public awareness of the Council's work. The spreadsheet and memo were accepted at the April 29 Executive Committee meeting. Those who needed more information about this project were encouraged to contact staff member Amanda Johnson.

- **Illustrated Prevention and Response System Outreach.** The committee is excited to welcome Tom Crestodina to this meeting as a part of the launch events for the Council's new book, "Protectors of Prince William Sound." There are several book launch events happening in Valdez around this meeting. Council staff and Tom will also be heading out to Tatitlek the following day (May 8) to launch the book there during the Peksulineq Festival. The committee would like to thank Tom Crestodina, the project team, and staff, as well as the industry partners that assisted with the content development for their hard work bringing this book to publication.

PORT OPERATIONS AND VESSEL TRAFFIC SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (POVTS)

POVTS Committee Chair Amanda Bauer reported on the committee's activities since the last Board meeting:

- **Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts.** The contractor for this project has been conducting interviews and surveys with both retired masters and pilots in North America and international participants. The contractor has requested a slight extension to the project

in order to add more interviews after presenting at the West Coast Pilots Conference in Anchorage in April. A presentation on the Phase 3 final report will be made at the September Board meeting.

- **PWS Tanker Reference Guide.** An outline for the guidebook has been created and content is being developed. A project team will be formed soon to further develop the initial draft.
- **Tanker-Mounted Thermal Imaging Camera.** The project manager reached out to the Prince William Sound tanker companies to gauge their interest in installing a WhaleSpotter camera on one of their tankers with the goal of learning about the frequency of whales in the tanker traffic lanes and reducing the risk of vessel whale strikes. The committee is still awaiting a decision from one of them but is developing a plan to move forward even if the tanker companies decline. As a back-up, the Alaska Marine Highway System seems open to installing a camera on the ferry Aurora. This would provide valuable data about the frequency of whales in the tanker traffic lanes and in the middle of Prince William Sound.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Committee Chair Sarah Allan (via videoconference) acknowledged and thanked SAC Co-chair Wei Cheng for filling in at the January Board meeting, and also thanked PWSRCAC Project Manager Danielle Verna who will be missed when she leaves Council staff later this summer.

Allan went on to report on SAC activities since the last Board meeting:

- **Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Project (LTEMP).** Field work for 2026 LTEMP sampling is scheduled to begin in mid-May with the deployment of passive sampling devices (PSDs) at the Valdez Marine Terminal, Jackson Point, and Gold Creek. These samplers will be retrieved in mid-June along with collection of mussels and sediment samples for chemical analysis from four sites in Port Valdez.

Dr. Morgan Powers of Fjord and Fish Sciences is collaborating with staff and SAC to draft a manuscript on the LTEMP program and data to submit for peer reviewed publication. Morgan will be giving a talk on LTEMP at the Lowell Wakefield Symposium in Kodiak in early May.

- **Transcriptomics.** Dr. Liz Bowen and colleagues at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have been working on the transcriptomic analysis of blue mussels collected from LTEMP sites in previous years. Dr. Bowen recently provided an update to the committee on the progress of the project and anticipated outcomes. The final report is expected to be presented at the September Board meeting. No additional samples will be collected for transcriptomics analysis this year.
- **Winter Marine Bird Surveys.** Staff from the Prince William Sound Science Center completed their surveys of birds and marine mammals in September and November 2025. Dr. Mary Anne Bishop will be presenting these findings to the Board later today and SAC is recommending this report for Board acceptance.
- **Peer Listener Manual.** In February, Outreach Coordinator Maia Draper-Reich and SAC member Davin Holen gave a well-received presentation about the Peer Listener Manual at the Alaska Forum as a part of a session titled "Compassion in Crisis."

- **Marine Invasive Species Internships.** Interns for 2026 have been selected for Kodiak and Whittier, and they completed their first round of monitoring in early May. The Council is still seeking 2026 student interns for Valdez and Cordova. Information about students who may be interested should be referred to Danielle Verna of Council staff.
- **Dispersants.** SAC continues to stay updated on the topic of dispersants. The committee recommended renewing project 9550 to address any dispersant-related projects that may arise during FY2027. Additionally, they have proposed a project to analyze the chemistry and toxicity of Dasic EcoSafe OSD, the new dispersant that is outlined in Alyeska's contingency plan and stockpiled in Anchorage. Finally, Director of Programs Joe Lally will be attending an oil spill dispersant workshop at the OHMSETT facility, June 2-4, 2026, sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute (API).
- **Ballast Water Treatment Efficacy.** The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center has been contracted to collect and analyze ballast water samples from tankers arriving at the Valdez Marine Terminal. They will be collecting those samples May 25 – June 16, 2026.

INTERNAL OPENING COMMENTS – PWSRCAC BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES

BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (BGC)

Committee Chair Luke Hasenbank reported for the BGC on its activities since the last Board meeting:

- There have been no pressing issues needing immediate committee attention, so the committee has not met since the January Board meeting.
- The committee plans to review and discuss the Board bylaws at the end of the year to determine if any updates need to be made.
- BGC would encourage any Board members interested in joining the committee to reach out to staff or share their interest during agenda item F – Annual Board Committee Appointments on Friday.
- Finally, as is done annually, the Board, staff, and committee volunteers will soon be asked to review and sign the Council's Code of Conduct. This is a good exercise to be reminded of the importance of individual working relationships, including those with industry and regulators. All those required to sign this document were asked to look out for an Adobe Sign document from staff in the coming weeks and were asked to complete this important documentation as soon as possible.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wayne Donaldson reported for the Finance Committee on its activities since the last Board meeting.

- **Review of Financial Statements (Six Months Ending December 31, 2025).** The committee conducted a thorough review and discussion of the financial statements for the six-month period ending December 31, 2025. This included a review of expenditures and overall financial position. Committee members did not identify any significant issues or areas of

concern, and are satisfied that the organization's financial position remains stable and consistent with expectations at this point in the fiscal year.

- **Review of Fiscal Year 2027 Draft Budget.** The committee reviewed the draft FY2027 budget, which is presented to the Board under Item I of this agenda. Director of Finance Ashlee Hamilton provided a detailed overview of the budget during the mid-April Finance Committee meeting and again at the Budget Workshop held on the May 1. These presentations included key assumptions, projected revenues, planned expenditures, and any notable changes from prior years. After discussion and consideration, the Finance Committee recommends the Board adopt the FY2027 budget as presented.
- **Budget Modifications (FY2026)**
The committee reviewed the proposed FY2026 budget modifications listed under Item 3–7 of the consent agenda. These modifications primarily involve adjustments that would return unallocated or excess funds to the contingency reserve. The committee supports these changes and voted to recommend Board approval. If approved, the contingency fund balance is projected to increase to \$264,112.
- **Employee Compensation Study.** The committee received multiple updates regarding the employee compensation study conducted by Valliant Consulting Group. After reviewing the findings and considering current financial conditions, the committee recommends maintaining the existing compensation structure at this time. The committee noted that the study indicates employees are being compensated fairly and that the current structure remains appropriate. However, the committee also recommends revisiting the matter with a potential follow-up study in mid-FY2027, contingent upon the organization realizing excess net assets after completion of the annual audit.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (LAC)

Committee member Dorothy Moore reported for the LAC since the last Board meeting:

Federal Issues:

- **Federal Legislative Visit to Washington, D.C.** Based on all that is going on in the country with the conflict in Iran and the partial government shutdown impacting all Department of Homeland Security agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, and at the advice from PWSRCAC legislative monitors, LAC made the decision to postpone the trip to Washington, D.C., that was scheduled for March until sometime in the fall. PWSRCAC staff and LAC continue to work with PWSRCAC's legislative monitors to determine the best time for this trip to occur.
- **Government Accountability Office Review.** In June last year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released their report reviewing regulatory oversight at the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). Recently, the Department of the Interior concurred with two of the GAO's recommendations in the report, namely the re-establishment of the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO) website, and the re-establishment of a working group with the goal of updating the JPO operating agreement and roles and responsibilities matrix. This includes addressing potential gaps in regulatory oversight. LAC will continue to monitor these issues.

State Issues:

- **PWSRCAC Legislative Visit to Juneau.** Dorothy Moore and Joe Lally traveled to Juneau in mid-April, along with the Council's state lobbyist, Gene Therriault, and met with approximately 20 legislators regarding our two main legislative priorities: the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) Division's budget, and two bills that support the establishment of an Alaska Invasive Species Council. While in Juneau, the group also met with the U.S. Coast Guard Arctic District Commander and Chief of Prevention, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and were provided a tour of the Marine Exchange of Alaska.
- **State Budget Implications Related to SPAR.** LAC continues to track the State of Alaska budget, specifically the funding for SPAR. In recent years, SPAR has received an annual infusion of undesignated general funds (UGF), but this year the House Finance Committee proposed a funding switch of approximately \$1.9 million of UGF dollars to come out of the SPAR Prevention Account, and also a \$10 million one-time draw from the Prevention Account AND an additional roughly \$12 million (also from the Prevention account) to fund three tank farm repair projects in villages along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. PWSRCAC sent letters to the members of the House Finance Committee and all Senate members in an effort to prevent these diversions such that the funds would be retained in the Prevention account for use by SPAR. LAC continues to keep a close eye on this issue.
- **Alaska Invasive Species Council:** LAC continues to monitor and support the two bills that would establish an Alaska Invasive Species Council. PWSRCAC recently provided invited testimony in support of SB 174 in the Senate Finance Committee on April 27. If these bills do not move forward and pass in this legislative session, they will need to be reintroduced entirely in the next one.

State and Federal Affairs Update:

The Council's state and federal legislative consultants will be providing a more in-depth report tomorrow morning on developments and prospects in Juneau and Washington, D.C., related to PWSRCAC's priorities.

Committee member Mako Haggerty added that the committee has been working on support for a refined fuels surcharge, as well as support for an Alaska Invasive Species Council.

Lally reported a recently received update from Gene Therriault that Senate Bill 174 (Sen. Dunbar's invasive species bill) was going to hearing that day, so the Council should hear the outcome of that soon. As to the SPAR budget/funding, Lally clarified that \$12 million from both the capital and operating budgets are being considered to be withdrawn from the Prevention Account. So, the impact to the SPAR budget moved the timeline for going into deficit from the early 2050s, to 2030-2031, which is why the Council is so concerned, and why the SPAR budget was a primary discussion point between Council representatives and legislators during LAC's recent visit to Juneau.

In response to an inquiry from Lois Epstein, Joe Lally reported that if an opportunity for public comment should open up on SB 174, PWSRCAC staff will work with its lobbyist, Gene Therriault, to get its comments in support and those of its member entities into the record.

(Break: 9:53 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.)

EXTERNAL OPENING COMMENTS – PWSRCAC EX OFFICIOS

ALASKA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (ADEC)

Ytamar Rodriguez, ADEC's Interagency Coordination Manager for the Spill Prevention & Response (SPAR) Division – Prevention, Preparedness & Response (PPR Program), reported on ADEC/SPAR/PPR activities since the January Board meeting. (SPAR Director Teresa Melville was also in attendance at this time.)

- **Staffing.** ADEC's Central Region has hired Mo Radotich as an Environmental Program Specialist IV in Valdez to fill the position previously held by Melissa Woodgate and has also hired Allie Ferko as an Environmental Protection Specialist III.

SPAR currently has a 1.5% vacancy rate, which is a positive accomplishment from recent years, and it is perhaps the lowest vacancy rate of all state divisions. The management team has worked hard to improve employee retention.

- **Outreach & Training:** CISPRI changed its name to Alaska Response Corp (ARC) on January 1, 2026. The SPAR Prevention Preparedness and Response Program (PPR) has been working with plan holders to make the administrative side of the transition as easy as possible to address this name change.
- **Contingency Plan Updates:** Fairwater Tankers has been approved to bring in a spot charter – Maritime Glory – which SPAR inspected on May 5, 2026.
- **Geographic Response Strategies (GRS).** Rodriguez thanked the Council and particularly PWSRCAC Project Manager Jeremy Robida for all the work on the Copper River Delta and Flats GRS project which is now complete. SPAR looks forward to PWSRCAC's submittal to the GRS subcommittee for review. In terms of the GRS project, SPAR has a scientific support coordinator who has been working hard on the utilization and quality control of the GRS that ADEC has for the state. He has been able to complete 100% of all the GRS for Cook Inlet and is up to 58% completion on the Prince William Sound GRS, so shortly Prince William Sound will be completely digitized and quality controlled.
- **Upcoming Exercises.** Upcoming exercises are available on ADEC's website. The most current one will be the Fairwater Tankers full scale exercise in Valdez the week following this Board meeting.
- **Notable Spill Responses:** There were no major crude spills in the PWSRCAC area. There were minor home heating oil spills in Tatitlek, Cordova, and Valdez.
- **Home Heating Oil Spill Cleanup Program.** Rodriguez highlighted the new SPAR program which funds cleanup of home heating oil spills that occurred after September 1, 2025, on an owner's property. It provides \$13,000-\$17,000 for remediation of those spills, depending on location. He brought with him for distribution an information flyer and applications for the program for anyone interested. He also had free floating keychains and lip balm sticks with the oil spill reporting hotline. He encouraged dissemination of the information on the program within PWSRCAC communities.

- **Oversight.** ADEC inspected seven vessels that came into Prince William Sound in 2026, with priority given to spot charters. Planning is underway for the Fairwater exercise the following week.

Nine Prince William Sound crude oil shippers' contingency plans were submitted in January with public comments closing March 31. ADEC has received its review and the comments and is making preparations to request additional information.

For the Valdez Marine Terminal Plan, ADEC continues to work with Alyeska on their secondary containment liner evaluations at the VMT.

- **Update on ADEC/SPAR financials and budget.** Two separate developments have put SPAR's financials and budgeting in a precarious situation: The settlement of the Flint Hills lawsuit of \$24 million has been split \$12 million each by the Alaska House and Senate and is being diverted for other purposes.

The other issue is that SPAR has been funded in recent years with approximately \$2 million annually from undesignated general funds (UGF) and there is currently a proposal to eliminate that UGF funding.

These two actions would potentially put SPAR's budget in a deficit of \$26 million. If both occur, SPAR will be underfunded in 2027.

That concluded Rodriguez' prepared report. He then took questions from the Board.

Wayne Donaldson asked if the funds are siphoned off as proposed would it mean layoffs of staff from SPAR. Director Teresa Melville stated that layoffs are not something they are considering at this point. They would look at other means, such as repurposing employees under different funding sources, cutting back on field work or travel. She noted that SPAR already runs a tight team and there is not a lot of "fluff" in the budget, so layoffs would really be a last recourse.

Lois Epstein asked where the water is coming from for the secondary containment system (SCS) testing and whether any tracing compounds are being used in the testing. Alyeska's VanWingerden stated the water comes from the natural impounding of rainwater in the dike cells when they close the drains. They have contingencies of deluge systems if need be, but they anticipate getting the water from rainwater as the primary source. Epstein raised the uncertainty of the measurements without the precise measurement of the water going into the dike cell. Van Wingerden stated that Alyeska is actively working collaboratively around the sensitivity of the equipment that it is using to measure changes. The intent of the test is how Alyeska can practically and quickly show and have confidence that the liners are doing what they are supposed to be doing. The hydraulic test is really about that, and Alyeska's ability to practically and quickly execute these tests. As to the use of tracer compounds, VanWingerden stated Alyeska has considered that, and it is not off the table, but it is not something that they have pursued at this time. The primary concern being the optics of using a tracer compound and if there was a leak the ability to contain it and pick it up without having a plume in the port.

Robert Beedle voiced support for the home heating spill cleanup program and asked if there was a similar preventative program to help property owners replace aging heating oil storage tanks,

particularly in light of their increased cost. Director Melville stated that there was not such a program at the present time, noting that the replacement/cleanup program is a pilot program in its first year, but many people have asked the same question and if funding could be found for a preventative program it is something ADEC would like to do.

In response to a question from Jim Herbert, Director Melville stated that as far as she is aware there are no functional changes or changes to the mission of ARC from that of CISPRI. It is simply a change in name only.

Also, in response to a question from Jim Herbert, Director Melville addressed \$450,000 in the budget for the home heating oil cleanup program which she said will be carried over each year until it is depleted.

Herbert asked Director Melville if she had information about a possible gold mine being started upriver of Gold Creek and if permitting for such a venture would be SPAR's responsibility. He pointed out that PWSRCAC was considering positioning a weather buoy at Gold Creek, and would not want to proceed further if it was going to be a site where there may be a lot of contaminants and traffic around the creek. Director Melville stated that SPAR would not do the permitting of the mine but would be responsible for monitoring it for contamination, and if there is contamination then SPAR would work with them to mitigate that. Melville said she will look into this and get back to the Council.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG)

LCDR Kahi Kaaua reported on the activities of the USCG since the January Board meeting:

Kaaua asked for everyone's patience while MSU Valdez, and USCG generally, ramps back up to clear the backlog of issues that resulted from the longest federal government shutdown in history. The National Maritime Center is working through the backlog of the merchant mariner credentials and endorsements, and if mariners are getting close to the expiration of their credentials they should seek waivers until their credentialing comes through.

He reported that USCG was able to execute all its exempted functions during the shutdown and therefore was able to do all operational requests for inspections. MSU Valdez went to Cordova to do the commercial fishing exams this spring, as well as facility inspections, and was able to do anything that was a requirement for inspection per regulation. Now that the shutdown has been lifted, they are able to resume non-exempted functions, such as speaking engagements and outreach. To that end, on Friday (May 8), the Station Valdez senior leadership will be going to Tatitlek to participate in the Cultural Heritage Festival. LCDR Kaaua said the unit is excited to show a presence and be there for the community.

Other items to report were:

- The Area C-Plan has gone through USCG review and is awaiting final review by Julie Liford-Parker with ADEC. The hope is to get it signed before CDR Rousseau departs in June and her replacement takes over. LCDR Kaaua thanked all review participants for their comments and commended the team effort it took to get it over the finish line.

- The Valdez Fly-In and Air Show will take place that weekend (May 8-10), and depending on availability an asset from Kodiak will be involved. He was also pleased to announce that USCG helicopters will be running operations out of Cordova for the spring and summer.
- Shippers exercise: MSU Valdez was getting ready for the Fairwater Tankers shipper's exercise the following week.
- Change of Command: The change of command ceremony from CDR Sarah Rousseau to her replacement CDR Matt Meacham will take place in Valdez at the Kelsey Dock in June. CDR Meacham is coming from MSU Morgan City in the Gulf of Mexico where he was the Executive Officer. He is originally from Soldotna, Alaska, and is excited to be returning home and back into the community here.

Kaaua then took questions from the Board:

Robert Beedle said he hoped the helicopters will stay in Cordova for the summer to assist with the USCG aids to navigation. He also emphasized the importance of the Rescue 21 system. He pointed out that, once again, there was nothing on the Copper River Delta and Flats area and there is a need to expand the system to that area. Kaaua assured Beedle he would take back his concern to Captain Culpepper of the Anchorage Sector where calls for rescue are handled.

Mike Bender thanked USCG for fixing the VHF equipment. He asked if there would be a buoy tender maintenance tour prior to the winter months to address maintenance issues with the buoys that PWSRCAC is most concerned with (i.e., Buoys 80 and 81 and 60 and 61 at Hinchinbrook Entrance). Kaaua stated that MSU Valdez works closely with NOAA to ensure the Hinchinbrook Entrance buoys stay operational and will provide help if a cutter is available, but buoy issues and maintenance scheduling are handled by the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) under NOAA. Kaaua said he did not have information on a buoy tender tour at that time but would find out and report back. .

Beedle further explained the frustrating situation of the buoys being under the NDBC but having to wait for availability of a USCG cutter to set buoys that get loose or need maintenance.

Jim Herbert pointed out that the OSPR Committee has a project funded for this coming fiscal year to put a wind meter at Seal Rocks and said any support USCG may be able to give this project would be appreciated since USCG will also benefit from the placement of the meter.

Director of Programs Joe Lally expressed appreciation for CDR Rousseau's support of the Council's mission, as well as oil spill prevention and response. He invited everyone to sign the artwork at the back of the meeting room that will be presented to CDR Rousseau to thank her for her support and work with PWSRCAC during her command in Valdez.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Steve Weeks reported BLM lost several personnel over the past year through retirements. Another round of retirements was just announced, but his Office of Pipeline Monitoring has not lost any more people in that announcement and staffing has not changed. However, throughout other areas of BLM Alaska people have left and these are people that his office depends on for support for other things his office does, such as permitting on the pipeline and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and review, and it cannot be done within his small-staffed office. A lot of that work is being outsourced to the Glennallen or the Central Yukon field office, and now these things

are being pushed to the Anchorage office too because the staff has become so small that they are having to combine some of these interdisciplinary teams in order to have the right people doing the right job. He emphasized that the office is still functioning, but some of the responsibilities are getting pushed around. BLM recently conveyed some BLM lands within the utility corridors north of the Yukon to the State of Alaska this past week. Weeks said he did not know what that will mean for his office -- whether BLM is still going to be doing inspections on the pipeline up in that area or whether it will be the State of Alaska now because it is no longer BLM land. He stated his office could still do it under the right-of-way grant as written, but Weeks simply did not know that at this point.

Weeks went on to report that his office is still participating in drills (except shipper drills) and still doing joint inspections, and they will be present when the otter hospital is set up in August. They are also working on a new website in accordance with the recommendations in the GAO report.

The Native hire program position with BLM is still vacant, but when the annual report comes out, it will be reviewed by somebody within BLM at that time.

An updated/new Joint Pipeline Office website is under development. It was one of the recommendations that came out of the GAO report. The website will have links to the individual agencies with contact information for the right people for different aspects within the JPO.

OIL SPILL RECOVERY INSTITUTE (OSRI)

Heather Parker reported that OSRI's Board worked with its scientific and technical committee and selected four new projects to fund in FY2026:

- A trajectory analysis modeling product for Alaska.
- A remote version of NOAA's Science of Oil Spills course. OSRI will be working closely with them to make sure that OSRI aligns with what they are already doing but it will allow an online version for people to take those courses who cannot get to them in person.
- An updated oil spill risk analysis in the Bering Sea with the latest information about traffic and different changes in ice patterns, etc.
- A project to evaluate different types of sensors that look for oil in sediments. It will look at some Prince William Sound beaches that still have some oil in them.

Parker reported that OSRI is in the process of its annual funding cycle where they are starting to receive and solicit study ideas that they can then consider for possible funding next year. There is not a formal process for that, but anyone interested was invited to contact Parker via email (hparker@pwssc.org). It does not have to be a full proposal, but rather a concept document outlining a proposed project with a rough cost estimate. It does, however, have to align with OSRI's missions and goals. OSRI's five-year research plan is online which outlines its focus areas.

Jim Herbert pointed out that PWSRCAC's OSPR Committee has been trying to work on an update for trajectory modeling around the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). He encouraged OSRI staff to interact with PWSRCAC's Project Manager John Guthrie to see if there are areas where OSRI and PWSRCAC could work together and pointed out some of the issues PWSRCAC has had in working with NOAA on that particular issue.

ALASKA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ADNR):

Tammas Brown (via videoconference) reported in lieu of Anthony Strupulis for the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office and stated that the JPO agencies meet regularly and have discussions and also meet regularly with Alyeska. She reported that the Executive Council Joint Pipeline Agreement is currently being revised with changes applicable to the current JPO structure pursuant to the GAO report recommendations, and the JPO website is also being revamped by the BLM in accordance with the GAO recommendations.

Brown confirmed that the JPO been involved in the vapor upgrades at the VMT and offered to follow up with more detailed information and report back to the Council at the request of Jim Herbert.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

No report.

ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME (ADF&G)

No report.

ALASKA DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (ADHSEM)

No report.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)

No report.

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

No report.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

No report.

EXTERNAL OPENING COMMENTS – TAPS SHIPPPERS, OWNER COMPANIES, PILOTS**ALASKA TANKER COMPANY (ATC) & HILCORP**

Stephen Cooley, Technical Superintendent with Alaska Tanker Company, made a combined report of ATC/OSG/Hilcorp activities since the January Board meeting:

- ATC had a good year in 2025, with zero spills and no significant adverse incidents.
- The Alaska Class vessels trading for Hilcorp have made 19 voyages so far in 2026, carrying approximately 20 million barrels of Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude. Hilcorp is predicting 56 voyages for a total of 59 million bbl to be carried out this year. There are no plans by Hilcorp for exporting any of this cargo.
- The Alaskan Explorer is still trading between the U.S. Gulf and the East Coast and the Overseas Houston is trading for Marathon in Valdez, Cook Inlet, and the U.S. West Coast. The Overseas Boston is trading for BP on the U.S. West Coast.
- Significant events for ATC in 2026 will include the Alaskan Legend finishing up on its Life Cycle Upgrade (LCU) project. Currently the first engine is underway and ATC is looking to

commission it within the next two weeks. The Alaskan Legend will be dry-docked for its special survey in July and August in Korea, at which time work will continue with the LCU project, finishing three of the four engines, and commissioning that one on the way back to the U.S. West Coast. It will have its CAIP survey, tank inspections, and propulsion upgrades at that time, and automation upgrades that ATC has done on its other vessels.

- Cooley noted that ATC is seeing significant efficiency improvements with these LCUs -- approximately 13.6% fuel efficiency per metric ton per nautical mile when they are optimizing the engines at 85%. ATC has begun to install some new fuel meters to the inlet and outlet of the engine that look at the density and the temperature in real time. This will give ATC an accurate track of the vessel's fuel consumption. ATC is also trying to improve its efficiency by cleaning its hulls every 2-2.5 years when they go to dry dock and recoat them, and then every six months trying to polish the propellers, which helps with the efficiency and fuel consumption.
- The Overseas Boston will be dry-docking later this fall in South Korea as well for an intermediate hull survey and a CAIP survey with the installation of various improvements to improve fuel efficiency.
- Other projects to improve fuel efficiency involve a variable injection (PMIVIT) which helps improve fuel efficiency on the main engine, silicone hull coating on some vessels, which helps with fuel efficiency and speed, and then OSG and ATC are constantly working on voyage optimization with weather routing, and loading the engines to their optimal 85%, whether that means speeding up or slowing down or bringing more engines online -- whatever it takes to try to maintain their load to 85% to get the best fuel efficiency.

POLAR TANKERS

Andrea West thanked everyone involved with the reception and the Crestodina book launch the previous evening.

She reported Polar Tankers had moved 32 loads, totaling 25.5 million bbl of ANS crude to the U.S. West Coast, and Polar continues to emphasize safe operations and training, which includes its bridge resource management course scheduled for later this year.

The Polar Enterprise is heading to South Korea for routine regular dry-dock maintenance and is expected back in mid-summer. The Polar Resolution will head to dry dock in mid-August and return in late fall.

FAIRWATER TANKERS

Carolyn Crawford and Mark Curtis reported a great first year for Fairwater Tankers.

Crawford reported a good first quarter 2026, loading 6.2 million bbl and completing a total of 17 voyages, with no lost time injuries, no spills or loss of containment.

She reported Fairwater is looking forward to participating in the Smithsonian water ballast study.

Mark Curtis spoke of his concerns with the continuation of the Jones Act waiver, put in place at the start of the U.S. war with Iran. He pointed out it was supposed to be a short-term measure, but his fear is that the continuation/extension of the waiver will mean the end of the Act and its protections.

He emphasized that U.S. jobs are at stake and, in his opinion, it is unfair for the extension of the waiver to continue. He asked the Council to add its voice in opposition to continuation of this waiver.

SANTOS

Peter Laliberte reported that Santos' Pikka Project was just about to start up, with the first loading expected in July. They expect to have to produce a million barrels first and have it in the pipeline before it can bring a ship in to load.

MARATHON

Jerry Warrick reported via videoconference that Marathon brought approximately 1 million bbl of ANS crude from Valdez over to its Kenai refinery. The Kenai refinery shut down on April 19, and is not scheduled to be back up and running until May 16. Crews are working as quickly as they can to get it back to full operation.

Marathon will hold its annual worst-case drill in Cook Inlet at its KPL facility this year. Warrick was currently in Anchorage working with ARC (formerly CISPRI) doing a deployment at the Ship Creek site.

REPSOL

Kevin Pike reported via videoconference that Repsol is 49% owner of the Pikka Field with Santos, and that project should be up and running soon, as previously reported by Santos' Peter Laliberte. After Santos' first load, Repsol will take the second load. It will be selling its crude oil in Valdez, not shipping it out. Pike explained that Repsol has an arrangement with an existing shipper which already ships oil to the West Coast and Repsol will be selling its crude to them prior to loading. The buyer would be the owner of the oil at that point and they would be the responsible party under their own c-plan.

TEEKAY

Tom Griffiths, TeeKay's Director of Projects, was not in attendance but submitted a statement which Amanda Bauer read: *We have the c-plan approved which covers all of our vessels. No scheduled calls in Alaska at this time but we are ready. We will be in Alaska next week and look forward to seeing you then.*

SOUTHWEST ALASKA PILOTS ASSOCIATION (SWAPA)

Captain Chris Mitchell reported via videoconference that SWAPA's current staffing is 17 pilots, 13 of whom are fully qualified, and one of the deputies is expected to become fully qualified by the end of the year. There are six trainees currently and they are doing their best to complete their training. The government shutdown impacted that training significantly and created a lot of frustration.

A new pilot boat for Prince William Sound has been commissioned, similar to the Emerald Island, in response to the uptick in marine traffic. The new pilot boat should provide redundancy in the fleet and ensure there are no delays in service. The expected completion of the boat is first quarter 2028.

The cruise season has already started. Prince William Sound cruise ships are up about 14% from 2025. He reported SWAPA is keeping an eye on anything in the state that is LNG related and also the Ambler Mine project which is a project that could affect SWAPA's needs in the future when ore is expected to be shipped out of Anchorage.

In response to a question from Amanda Bauer about whether SWAPA will keep the two existing pilot boats in Prince William Sound, Mitchell reported that that is the current plan. They will probably keep them in Valdez as backup boats for when other vessels are being serviced.

APPROVAL OF THE 2027 BUDGET

Director of Finance Ashlee Hamilton presented the FY2027 budget for approval.

This proposed budget reflects the Finance Committee's best estimate of revenues, expenditures, and reserves for the upcoming fiscal year based on current contract expectations and conservative financial assumptions. On the revenue side, the committee is projecting \$4,463,630 from the Alyeska contract. In addition, the committee anticipates approximately \$85,000 in interest income, calculated using a conservative estimated rate of 1.9%. This brings total projected revenues to \$4,548,630. On the expenditure side, total operating expenses are budgeted at \$5,544,397. This includes a full scope of planned operational needs for the year. The committee also included a contingency allocation of \$75,000 to provide flexibility for unforeseen needs, as well as a capital budget of \$25,000 for planned capital expenditures. Based on these figures, the committee projected an estimated net asset rollover of \$1,095,767.

Wayne Donaldson pointed out that on page 86 in budget book there is historical budget information that compares the FY2027 budget to the prior 10-year history for anyone interested.

Jim Herbert pointed out that the Finance Committee looks hard at all these numbers.

Jim Herbert **moved to adopt** the FY2027 budget as presented during the Budget Workshop on May 1, 2026, with total expenses of \$5,544,397 and a contingency of \$75,000. Mako Haggerty **seconded** and **the FY2027 budget was adopted** without objection.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTION OF OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Vice President Bauer announced that it was appropriate to take nominations for Officers and Executive Committee Members-at-Large for the coming year and opened the floor for nominations.

For President: Aimee Williams nominated Robert Archibald.
There were no other nominations for President. Nominations were closed.

Vice President: Michael Vigil nominated Amanda Bauer.
There were no other nominations for Vice President. Nominations were closed.

Secretary: Wayne Donaldson nominated Jim Herbert.
There were no other nominations for Secretary. Nominations were closed.

Treasurer: Melvin Malchoff nominated Mako Haggerty.
There were no other nominations for Treasurer. Nominations were closed.

Members-at-Large: Jim Herbert nominated David Janka.
Robert Beedle nominated himself.
Jim Herbert nominated Aimee Williams
Mako Haggerty nominated Lois Epstein. Epstein declined.

There were no other nominations for members-at-large. Nominations were closed.

There being no contested nominations, Vice President Bauer called for any objection to seating the officers and members-at-large nominees at this time by general consent. **Hearing no objection, all nominees were approved and seated to their respective office by general consent.**

(Lunch Break: 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

ALYESKA ACTIVITY REPORT

Klint VanWingerden, Alyeska's Vice President of Operations & Maintenance, recapped Alyeska/SERVS' 2026 activities at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

VMT Operations:

- Operations:

	<u>2026 (as of 3/31/2026)</u>
○ Tankers Loaded	53
○ Tankers Escorted	53
○ Barrels Loaded	41,821,750
	<u>Since start up</u>
○ Tankers Loaded	23,966
○ Tankers Escorted	15,297
○ Barrels Loaded	18,311,370,945
- Safety (TAPS): (2026 1Q)

○ Days away from work cases	1
○ TAPS Combined Recordable Rate %	0.24
- Environment (Valdez): (2026 1Q)

○ Spill Volume (Gallons)	4.07
○ Number of Spills	3

Fishing Vessel Availability by Port (1Q 2026):

<u>Port</u>	<u>Tier 1</u>	<u>Tier 2</u>
Valdez	27	11
Cordova	23 (+5 Rapid Resp.)	118
Whittier	7	15
Seward	0	25
Homer	0	47
Kodiak	0	36
Totals	62	252

2026 (1Q) Contingency Plan Activities:

- January 29, 2026: Submitted PWS Tanker C-Plan 5-year renewal application.
- March 31, 2026: PWS Tanker C-Plan Comment Review Period Ended.

2026 (1Q) Training & Exercises Completed:

- Cordova Unannounced Rapid Response Vessel Call-Out.
- VMT Training Exercise.
- IMT Notification Test.

- Otter Vet Tech Training – Anchorage.
- Wildlife Vessel of Opportunity (VOO) Training - Cordova.

Major Maintenance Projects Completed in 2025:

- Berth 4 Foam System Transition.
- Ballast Water Treatment B Header Inspection.
- Tank 5 Internal API 653 Inspection.
- In Line Inspection (ILI) of Crude Oil Branch Lines to Tank 5.

Major Maintenance Projects – 2026 Reef Island Power Improvements.

- Work on the new deck and setting of propane tanks.
- Installation of new generators.

Topic of Interest – VMT Projects – Summer 2026

- **Major Maintenance**
 - Install two new vapor combustors.
 - Remove TK08 dead leg near headers.
 - Replace corroded boiler exhaust piping (36”) on Power Vapor Flue Gas Piping.
 - Upgrade VMT Distributed Control System (DCS) hardware – Hardware replacement due to obsolescence.
 - Repair B4 corroded conduit during berth outage.
- **System Integrity – Inspections**
 - Berth 4 Crude ILI using self-propelled robotic inspection tool.
 - Ballast header inspection: B4 to West Manifold.
 - D-2 pressure vessel internal inspection (Power Vapor).
 - TK93 external coating repairs (roof focus).
 - Underwater dive inspections.
- **Other Activities:**
 - CVEA Tie-in - Working final details of control and coordination with local utility.
 - Camera upgrades across site for security and ops.
 - Hydrant excavations and replacements.
 - Fire system programs – Valves, piping repairs, isolations.
 - Protective Relay Upgrades for all distribution.

Topic of Interest – Snow Blower Pilot Program:

- **Timeline:**
 - November – Snowblower on Tank Top Pilot Risk Assessment.
 - December – Procedure update and materials procurement.
 - January – Pilot program testing initiated.
- **Testing Scope:**
 - Conducted on Tanks 6, 7, and 8 (out of service).
 - Four snowblowers deployed per tank.
- **Operational Performance:**
 - Heavy snowfall in January, overwhelmed snowblowers and the crews returned to traditional scooping method of tank top snow removal.

- Snowblowers were tested periodically during season for tank top snow removal, unfortunately snowfall amounts and weather patterns did not present an ideal opportunity to perform testing for the pilot program.
- Snowblowers were less effective in wet and heavy snow.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Further testing and evaluation may be needed to determine if snowblower use is an appropriate path forward.

Alyeska Cyber security

- **Protecting the Trans Alaska Pipeline System**
 - Regulatory Compliance and Governance.
Alyeska maintains defensible, compliant, and auditable cybersecurity controls.
 - Protecting IT and OT Environments.
Layered defenses and continuous monitoring secure both IT and operational control systems critical for pipeline safety.
 - Cybersecurity as Enterprise Risk.
Cyber threats impact safety, operations, reputation, and national energy security, requiring enterprise-wide management.
 - Collaboration and Skilled Workforce.
Partnerships with agencies and investment in trained cyber professionals ensure resilient defenses for TAPS.
 - Examples of Alyeska Cyber Awareness Campaign.
 - Defenders of TAPS. A Guide to Cybersecurity.
 - Safety Tips for Keeping TAPS Secure.

Tanker One Plan

- Alyeska has taken administrative charge as of January 7, 2026.
 - A pre-application was completed on January 7, 2026.
 - It is a top priority for Alyeska to maintain compliance.
 - Intent is to create a unified and streamlined prevention and response system covering initial response to final cleanup and to build a comprehensive approach that aligns with all laws and regulations.

VanWingerden added the following comments to supplement his power point report presentation:

- The one day away-from-work case was a slip and fall on some ice while an employee was entering the Kenai Peninsula College on work business. The injury was a fractured ankle.
- The spills volume is the total of three small spills, none were crude oil to water (4.07 gal coolant spill from contractor bus at VMT, AFFF from fire engine, transmission fluid from hose).
- All major maintenance projects for 2025 were completed.

- API 653 inspection on Tank 5 and ILI of crude branch lines completed. Alyeska is working through tank bottom processing which is complicated. There may be more efficient ways to get tank bottoms cleaned and Alyeska is always evaluating this. They are applying lessons learned to make it as efficient as possible.
- The fire foam transition to the Universal Green product was completed at Berth 4 and Berth 5, and Alyeska continues to evaluate its use in other areas. Currently, there is not an alternative product available to the spider foam that is released to suppress a fire internally in the tanks. The AFFF product would still be used in that instance, but Alyeska continues to look at those and other areas as solutions present themselves.
- The work on Reef Island will continue and will be wrapped up this year.
- 2026 will be a busy year for maintenance projects and the installation of two new vapor combustors, etc., and system integrity inspections.
- Cybersecurity. Cybersecurity is managed as an enterprise-wide risk at Alyeska. It has layered both IT and OT defenses. Alyeska has to ensure it is in compliance with the constantly changing regulatory requirements and the constantly changing threat vectors that evolve at a rapid pace. Alyeska actively collaborates with the federal agencies to make sure it is protecting the critical national infrastructure that Alyeska stewards anytime they see anything at all. For perspective, he pointed out that the number of attempts that are made on Alyeska's network is in the thousands a day and therefore Alyeska is very tuned in to what those threat vectors are and actively manages them on a daily basis. Alyeska has a very scripted process to follow so if there is a penetration of some kind, it immediately escalates. They have a very experienced analyst and an entire cybersecurity team that are very skilled at building those countermeasures and maintaining them and watching for the changing threat vectors. VanWingerden also pointed out that the difference between their IT and OT is that they "air gap" their OT system. Therefore, the control system that is responsible for operating and responding to pipeline changes (i.e., Operations Control Center) and all that remote control is completely "air gapped" from the outside and it is kept tightly controlled. The biggest threat Alyeska has is internal, such as the misuse of thumb drives, for example. He pointed out Alyeska is almost to the point that they do not even have USB drives anymore. There are a couple of controlled cases for that, that the team manages, but Alyeska takes the internal risks seriously and tries to eliminate the human error and minimize the risk. The cybersecurity team sends out team-generated phishing emails to test and educate employees and they have regular communications that go out to the workforce to make sure that they are aware of what to look for and how to flag and report them.
- Tanker One Plan. The intent of the transition of the Prince William Sound Tanker C-Plan to Alyeska is to create a unified and streamlined prevention and response system covering initial response to final clean up. Alyeska is actively working the plan details to build a comprehensive approach that aligns with all laws and regulations, and they are working to solidify a number of options that formalize those responsibilities and requirements. They will continue to work closely with the regulators and proceed based on agency feedback. Executing the plan requires a disciplined and collaborative approach as well as adequate time for Alyeska to coordinate and gather clear owner support. Success will depend on structured enrollment agreements, compliance, and alignment of existing commercial agreements and federal response plans. With these in place, the plan offers regulatory and

operational advantages for Alyeska, its owners, and its operators. Alyeska is looking forward to working this collaboratively going forward so they have the right readiness and response team available to work should the worst happen again. They spent a lot of time on prevention. Nobody wants to see an issue happen, but how Alyeska responds is absolutely critical. Drilling is absolutely critical, and especially as Alyeska works through transitions of what that operational control looks like. The intent is how they do the clean-up most efficiently, should the worst happen, to minimize the impact to the environment. Nobody wants to see a spill happen, but we need to be prepared for it as well.

This concluded VanWingerden's report. He then took questions from the Board.

Robert Beedle asked about the underwater dive inspections. VanWingerden explained they were inspections of the pilings and moorings at the berths. Following the inspections, mitigation measures such as wrapping and other corrosion mitigation measures were added. Alyeska contracts with a diving agency that inspects all of its underwater equipment. A lot of it is annual but their systems integrity team determines the frequency.

David Janka confirmed with VanWingerden that the Universal Green firefighting foam was only for fires at the berths, and the spiders inside the storage tanks would continue to use the PFAS foam at the present time for fires inside the tanks. VanWingerden explained the difference in application and delivery methods of the two foams and why each had its specific use. They have enough stockpile of the Universal Green foam at present to cover two tanks.

In response to a question from Lois Epstein about spot charters, their destinations, and changes as a result of the Iran war, VanWingerden said he did not have information about a specific tankers' destinations as those decisions are not something Alyeska is generally involved in. However, the Tanker One Plan is trying to streamline the process of spot charters so that the vetting and the execution of how tankers and shippers get into and become a part of the plan is seamless. He said he does anticipate more spot charters in the future.

Amanda Bauer added that the shipping companies are really good about reaching out when spot charters are coming in and going out, and PWSRCAC gets that information in advance.

In response to additional questions on cybersecurity, USCG's cybersecurity expert, Kristina Arsenault, addressed the Board. She reported that the Coast Guard is in the process of rolling out cybersecurity policies over the next two years. It has been a slow and gradual implementation to make sure that there is plenty of time for education, outreach, and milestones to be achieved. She has been working closely with Alyeska's cybersecurity team and throughout the process, in terms of their own internal training metrics of what notification procedures should look like, basically trying to marry up to the new standards as they come online.

Mako Haggerty asked about the responsible party under the Tanker One Plan. Van Wingerden stated that the obligations reside under the Tanker One Plan. As far as executing the cleanup activities, Alyeska is responsible for cleanup from start to finish and would be the steward of the process. As far as financial support, that would be part of the plan.

Elijah Jackson asked VanWingerden if he could provide information (who to contact, etc.) on how to dispose of the AFFF fire suppressant foam that many of the communities on Kodiak have stored in

drums and need to dispose of. VanWingerden will follow up with Jackson outside of the meeting with information on the entity that Alyeska uses.

Archibald asked if the Tanker One Plan would address how to deal with a tanker outside the 17 nautical mile limit in the Gulf of Alaska, and asked Van Wingerden to explain the Gulf of Alaska Agreement that addresses this scenario. VanWingerden did not have that information, will find out, and report back.

Jim Herbert complimented Alyeska on the Train the Trainer presentation at the fishing vessel training that was given to the TCC subject matter experts. He said he also made a point at the captains' meeting to ensure those present were made aware of the work TCC and Alyeska did to get the permanent exemption for fishing vessels in Alaska to participate in training.

Herbert asked for more information on the upgrades at Reef Island and why they are important. VanWingerden explained that the Reef Island equipment is communications equipment. Alyeska is doing upgrades to the power reliability and the battery backup so if there is a loss of power, the improved backup battery allows them more time to get out there to fix it when inclement weather precludes response by helicopter.

Herbert also asked about contingency plans for when Berth 4 is out of service for several months for its major overhaul, leaving Berth 5 as the sole operating berth. VanWingerden reported that his team had coordinated work ahead of time, and they are taking time to get Berth 5 absolutely ready to take on the role of the sole loading berth.

Haggerty asked if other agencies were using Universal Green at the present time. VanWingerden confirmed that it is being used elsewhere and said Alyeska is working with other agencies to test its effectiveness, noting it is an off-the-shelf product that is becoming more widely used.

ADEC's Ytamar Rodriguez stated that SPAR's contaminated sites program has a disposal reimbursement program that he can address with Elijah Jackson on how to dispose of product. Information is also available on ADEC's website.

Wayne Donaldson inquired whether the cybersecurity team is able to trace the origin of the attacks. VanWingerden confirmed that they can, but he did not have that information.

In response to Donaldson's inquiry about whether the Tank 5 tank bottoms residue is tested, VanWingerden reported that it is tested for environmental factors, but not for corrosivity. The biggest factor has been the wax buildup on the sidewalls and in the bottom of the tanks as the volume of throughput has lessened and the temperature of the throughput has cooled over time. They are not seeing anything that would indicate an acceleration in corrosion over time. Donaldson asked where the tank bottom materials are being incinerated. VanWingerden said the process has evolved over the years. For Tank 5, Alyeska had a bottoms processing plan in place and it went to a centrifuge that pulled out as much of the fluid from the wax, so mostly solids were incinerated. That material gets put into super sacs and hauled off as hazardous waste.

Donaldson asked which tanks would be included in the secondary containment testing. VanWingerden stated it is Alyeska's intent to test all of them because they want a test that they can prove to ADEC that the liners are effectively protecting groundwater, which is the core need. They also want to build confidence with everybody who has a vested interest that these liners are in good

shape and they are doing what they need to do, and they want to prove that quickly. The hydro-test positions Alyeska to be able to do that in a more timely fashion, and in a more comprehensive way as well.

David Janka inquired if there is a standard marine radar on Reef Island and, if so, who uses it. Van Wingerden did not have that information but would find out and report back.

Amanda Bauer asked VanWingerden to share the snow blower data with PWSRCAC.

CONSENT AGENDA (3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9)

There were nine items on the consent agenda for Board consideration. Briefing sheets for each item and their corresponding attachments were included in the meeting notebook.

- **3-1 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PWSRCAC CHECK SIGNERS**
Adoption of the resolutions provided by First National Bank Alaska to update the list of authorized individuals to sign checks and conduct financial transactions on PWSRCAC's account.
- **3-2 APPROVAL OF FY2027 CONTINGENCY PLAN CONTRACTOR POOL**
Authorization for an individual contract with Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC, for professional services with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved for Project 6510 - Contingency Plan Reviews in the final FY2027 budget, and delegation of authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with selected consultants.
- **3-3 FY2027 LTEMP CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION**
 - Authorization of individual contracts with Pace Analytical Services and Fjord & Fish Sciences, with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2027 LTEMP budget (Project 9510) for contract expenses, and delegation of authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants; and,
 - Authorization for contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2027, as approximately \$20,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2026.
- **3-4 FY2027 MARINE BIRD WINTER SURVEY CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION**
Authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a sole source contract with the Prince William Sound Science Center to conduct project 9110 – Marine Bird Fall and Early Winter Surveys in 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$81,224.
- **3-5 APPROVAL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MONITOR RETAINER**
Authorization for a retainer agreement with Blank Rome Government Relations, LLC, to work as the Council's Legislative Monitors in Washington, D.C., in the amount of \$62,000 starting in FY2027.
- **3-6 APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF VESSEL MOUNTED THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA**
Authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a purchase agreement with WhaleSpotter, Inc., for a single vessel-mounted thermal imaging camera in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

- **3-7 APPROVAL OF FY2026 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**

Approval of the FY2026 budget modifications as listed on the provided sheet, with a total revised contingency in the amount of \$264,111.90.

- **3-8 FY2027 MISCOMMUNICATION IN MARITIME CONTEXTS CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION**

Authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a sole source contract with Sky Island Language Learning Research to conduct project 8520 – Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts Phase 4 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

- **3-9 FY2027 TANKER UNDERWATER NOISE RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION AUTHORIZATION**

Authorization for the Executive Director to provide a research contribution to the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the amount of \$76,818 to conduct project 8540 - "Analyzing underwater acoustic noise using hydrophones in the vicinity of Hinchinbrook Entrance."

Robert Beedle **moved to approve the consent agenda (Items 3-1 through 3-9) as presented.** Dorothy Moore **seconded.** There was no discussion and the **consent agenda was approved as presented.**

4-2 REPORT ACCEPTANCE: COPPER RIVER DELTA AND FLATS VICINITY GRS DEVELOPMENT

Project Manager Jeremy Robida and Elise DeCola of Nuka Research & Planning Group, LLC, presented this agenda item which asked for Board acceptance of the report titled "Copper River Delta and Flats GRS Development" by Nuka Research & Planning Group, LLC, dated March 2026, as meeting the terms and conditions of contract 6540.25.01, and for distribution.

As outlined in the briefing sheet under Item 4-2, the Copper River Delta and Flats (CRDF) vicinity is biologically diverse, highly ecologically sensitive, and deserving of pre-incident response planning. Efforts were made in the late 1990s to plan for an incident, but those resources are dated, cumbersome in length, not operationally practical for responders, and no longer readily accessible. This project funded a workgroup process to develop new and modern geographic response strategies (GRS) for this area. Nine GRS and an area-specific Tactics Supplement were developed through the workgroup process and provided to ADEC. The project has been completed and the OSPR Committee recommended its acceptance by the Board.

DeCola presented an overview of the report, a copy of which was included in the meeting notebook under Item 4-2, along with the briefing sheet.

Robida pointed out an amendment that needed to be made to the report because the "Avensa" website referenced at the bottom of page 20 of the report to which the local maps and charts had previously been posted by Pinnacle Geo was no longer operational. That reference will be deleted and replaced with "locally produced charts."

Robida said the next steps for the CDRF GRS development would be to make minor edits to the Tactics Supplement in light of the Avensa changes, deliver the finalized materials to ADEC by the end of May, obtain the Prince William Sound Area Committee approval of the workgroup-built materials, and continue to give the completed project further visibility.

On behalf of the OSPR Committee Jim Herbert commended Elise DeCola and Jeremy Robida on their excellent work on this project. He said the committee was surprised at how much collaboration went on among the participants, and especially the local people in Cordova.

Jim Herbert **moved to accept** the **amended report** titled "Copper River Delta and Flats Geographic Response Strategy Development" by Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC, dated March 2026, as meeting the terms and conditions of the contract, and for distribution to the public. *[Amendment: To strike the reference to "Avensa" at the bottom of page 20 and insert "locally produced charts."]* David Janka **seconded** and **the motion passed** without objection.

(Break: 2:45 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.)

4-3 REPORT ACCEPTANCE: MARINE BIRD FALL AND EARLY WINTER SURVEY

PWSRCAC's Dr. Danielle Verna introduced a report for Board acceptance titled "Marine Bird Winter Surveys in Prince William Sound" by Mary Anne Bishop, Ph.D., and Anne Schaefer of the Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC), dated February 2026.

In September and November 2025, staff from PWSSC conducted surveys of marine birds in and around the Prince William Sound tanker escort zone and the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). The report describes the methods and findings of those surveys and provides recommendations for continued monitoring. This was the second of four proposed years of surveys during the fall and early winter.

Dr. Bishop and Anne Schaefer presented the report via videoconference and were available to answer questions. A copy of the report and a briefing sheet on the project were included in the meeting notebook as Item 4-3. At its meeting on March 17, 2026, SAC recommended Board acceptance of the report.

Following the report presentation, Bishop and Schaefer took questions from the Board.

Jim Herbert made a couple of suggestions:

- In the figures showing bird density and distribution by species, he would like to see the total number of animals in the survey in the different diameter dots. He said this is relevant given the numbers that are shown in the other tables.
- The report shows nine species were heavily affected by the Exxon Valdez spill and by the last report three were still distressed. Then the winter data shows the marbled murrelet dominate in the winter months. He suggested this information be updated also.
- A camera on board to take pictures could assist with more specific identification within species.

Schaefer pointed out that the information of decline/increase in specific species was compared to the 2014 report from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council which was the last time an evaluation was done of injured/recovering species. Schaefer added it was her understanding that the EVOS Trustee Council was planning to update the 2014 assessment of injured and recovered species soon.

Dorothy Moore **moved to accept** the report titled "Marine Bird Winter Surveys in Prince William Sound" by the Prince William Sound Science Center, dated February 26, 2026, as meeting the terms and conditions of the contract and for distribution to the public. David Janka **seconded** and **the motion passed** without objection.

As an aside, Amanda Bauer acknowledged Danielle Verna's pending departure from staff. Dorothy Moore said how much she valued Verna's knowledge and her ability to explain complex scientific subjects in easy to understand laymen's terms.

For the Good of the Order – an explanation of PWSRCAC's transcriptomics project

Moore asked Verna to provide the explanation of the science of transcriptomics and an overview of PWSRCAC's transcriptomics project.

Transcriptomics is an up and coming science looking at the genetic response in an organism to some sort of stressor. PWSRCAC is interested in the impacts of an oil spill on marine organisms. Since the April 2020 spill at the Valdez Marine Terminal, PWSRCAC has been collecting mussels within Port Valdez and also across its LTEMP sites to see how or if those mussels, looking at the genetic material in their tissues, are responding to some sort of stressor in the environment. This work has been in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). That transcriptomics data is complementary to the chemistry data that PWSRCAC has been collecting for a long time with LTEMP.

PWSRCAC is now in its 33rd year of LTEMP. The chemistry data tells the researcher what is in the environment and how it is concentrating in the tissues, and the transcriptomics shows the genetic response of that exposure. So, the studies are complementary to one another. The other important thing to note is transcriptomics is a science that is developing right now, and PWSRCAC is at the forefront of that and the funding that PWSRCAC has put towards transcriptomics in the past six or seven years, in Verna's opinion, has been really valuable. However, how those organisms are being changed and how that translates into a physiological response in the organism is still uncertain.

Verna anticipates that at the September Board meeting Dr. Bowen from USGS will be able to share the results of the transcriptomics analysis she is doing on mussels collected at all of the LTEMP sites. From there, the Council can decide whether it wants to continue putting funds into that project, or wait and give the science a chance to catch up and see where it goes from there. Verna pointed out that Sarah Allan on SAC is very well versed in transcriptomics. Verna said Allan's advice will be key to how SAC, and ultimately the Council, decides to move forward, or not, with that line of research.

PWSRCAC ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The following volunteers were recognized for their milestone years of service to the Council:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 5 years: | Nick Crump, representing Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.
Angela Totemoff, representing Tatitlek Corp. and Tatitlek Village IRA Council.
Elijah Jackson, representing Kodiak Village Mayors Assn. |
| 10 years: | Davin Holen, SAC Committee member.
Luke Hasenbank, representing Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.
Melvin Malchoff, representing Port Graham Corporation. |
| 20 years: | David Goldstein, OSPR Committee member. |

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was scheduled on the agenda to discuss PWSRCAC technical committee member appointments as outlined in the briefing sheet 4-4 in the meeting notebook.

Mike Bender **moved to go into executive session** to discuss the technical committee member appointments as outlined in Item 4-4. Aimee Williams **seconded** and **the motion passed** without objection.

The Board entered executive session at approximately 3:40 p.m. The following were asked to join the Board in executive session: The current chairs of the technical committees; the PWSRCAC management team, consisting of Director of Programs Joe Lally, Director of Communications Brooke Taylor, Director of Administration Hans Odegard, Director of Finance Ashlee Hamilton; and staff members Scientific and Environmental Monitoring Project Manager Dr. Danielle Verna and Executive Assistant Jennifer Fleming.

RECESS: The open session recessed at approximately 3:47 p.m. to reconvene the following day.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

CALL BACK TO ORDER

Vice President Bauer called the meeting back to order at 8:30 a.m. on May 8, 2026. A roll call was taken. There were 18 Directors present at the time of the call back to order: Archibald (via videoconference), Bauer, Beedle, Bender, Brittain (via videoconference), Donaldson, Epstein, Haggerty (via videoconference), Hasenbank, Herbert, Jackson, Janka (via videoconference), Johnson, Malchoff, Moore, Vigil, Williams, and Zinck.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Bauer reported that the Board had discussed the technical committee member appointments in executive session, as outlined in the briefing sheet under Item 4-4 in the meeting notebook, and was ready to take action.

- **4-4 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS**

Dorothy Moore **moved to appoint** the technical committee members to two-year terms on their respective committees, as follows:

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Sarah Allan	Renewal
Davin Holen	Renewal
Joel Kopp	New

Note: The committee consists of nine members including renewals.

Directors on SAC: Dorothy Moore, Wayne Donaldson.

Terminal Operations and Environmental Monitoring Committee (TOEM)

Kevin Berry	Renewal
Matt Cullin	Renewal
Katie Harrison	Renewal
Amanda Bauer	Renewal
Mike Brittain	Renewal

Note: The committee consists of nine members including renewals.

Directors on TOEM: Amanda Bauer, Mike Brittain.

Oil Spill Prevention and Response Committee (OSPR)

Dave Goldstein	Renewal
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Tim Robertson Renewal

Mike Bender Renewal

Note: The committee consists of eight members including renewals.

Directors on OSPR: Robert Beedle, Mike Bender, Jim Herbert, Mike Brittain.

Port Operations and Vessel Traffic Systems (POVTS)

Richard Frost Renewal

Robert Archibald Renewal

Amanda Bauer Renewal

Note: The committee consists of five members including renewals.

Directors on POVTS: Amanda Bauer, Robert Archibald.

Information and Education Committee (IEC)

Ruthie Knight Renewal

Kate Morse Renewal

Note: The committee consists of eight members including renewals.

Director on IEC: Aimee Williams.

Michael Vigil **seconded** and **the motion passed without objection.**

[This concluded the report on the executive session.]

4-5 STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Director of Programs Joe Lally introduced a videoconference update by the Council's state lobbyist, Gene Therriault, and Washington, D.C., legislative monitors Genevieve Cowan, C.J. Zane, and Dave Jansen from Blank Rome Government Relations, as well as legislative monitor Roy Jones, on developments and prospects in Juneau and Washington, D.C., related to PWSRCAC's legislative priorities.

Lally opened this information item by thanking those who assisted with the Council's legislative issues, including:

- PWSRCAC's Legislative Affairs Committee who met every two weeks since the start of the state legislative session.
- Gene Therriault, the Council's state legislative lobbyist, for all of his support provided to PWSRCAC and LAC during the legislative session this year. Most recently, Gene Therriault played a vital role in the legislative visit to Juneau where he, Dorothy Moore, and Lally met with over 20 legislators to discuss the Council's concerns regarding the ADEC/SPAR budget and the Prevention account, as well as the two invasive species bills currently in the legislative process. Gene Therriault has made the decision to retire after this legislative session and PWSRCAC has put out a request for proposals for a lobbyist/legislative monitor with the deadline for proposals towards the end of May.
- Blank Rome Government Relations in Washington, D.C., the Council's federal legislative monitors, including C.J. Zane, Genevieve Cowan, Dave Jansen, and the rest of the Blank Rome team that does a great job supporting the Council. Blank Rome's assistance provided valuable support of the exemption that covered Alyeska/SERVS' contracted fleet of local vessels in spill prevention and response activities, the non-operating individual (NOI)

merchant mariner credential exemption issue, appropriations for NOAA and the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) funding for maintaining the weather buoys in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska, and they also helped with securing letters of support from the three Alaska Delegation members for the Council's recertification with the Coast Guard.

- Roy Jones, the Council's longtime federal monitor, for his continued support of PWSRCAC's mission, federal priorities, and concerns.

Lally then turned the floor over to Gene Therriault for the state legislative update.

State Update

- **ADEC/SPAR Budget.** Therriault reported there were two main areas PWSRCAC was watching this year (i.e., the operating budget and the funding that comes through the ADEC SPAR Division Prevention account in support of SPAR activities). PWSRCAC's interest is to make sure that the state spill prevention and response function within the ADEC budget is well funded so there is a functioning entity for PWSRCAC to interact with. Monies are gathered up through a couple of generating mechanisms and those monies go into that Prevention account. The Legislature then appropriates out of that Prevention account to cover the SPAR budget. PWSRCAC has been monitoring the balance and advocating for sufficient funds in that fund to cover SPAR's function. A couple of things happened this year that could significantly alter SPAR's funding, to wit:

A refinery spill in the North Pole area (Flint Hills) resulted in a litigated cash settlement of \$24 million being deposited into the Prevention account. That was the good news. The not-so-good news is that \$24 million appeared when the Legislature was actively searching for every extra dollar to balance the budget. (The Governor had proposed a status quo budget.) The result was the Legislature reaching into the Prevention account and using some of those funds for things other than supporting the SPAR budget. On the House side, they used an additional \$12 million from that \$24 million to swap out some general fund dollars from the SPAR account and then also made a one-time deposit from the Prevention account into the general fund to make those dollars available for other spending. It appears at this point that the Senate has rejected that proposed expenditure of \$12 million – and that is a good thing. PWSRCAC will be monitoring this as the operating budget goes through its Conference Committee to make sure those suggested expenditures are rejected.

Adding to that, the Senate, in the capital budget, proposed spending \$12 million on three bulk fuel storage tank facilities in rural Alaska. As Therriault explained, there is the potential that both \$12 million uses from the Prevention account would happen and the \$24 million that went into the Prevention account would be fully consumed in this one year. Therriault further reported it appears things are moving forward so that the \$12 million appropriation in the operating budget will be rejected, but it is most likely that the \$12 million for the bulk fuel storage in rural Alaska upgrades is likely to go forward since it is a use of funds to prevent spills in rural Alaska. In Therriault's opinion, ultimately there will be status quo funding for SPAR, and just the \$12 million for these storage tank upgrades in rural Alaska will be used from the Prevention account. So going forward, the Prevention account does get the benefit of at least an additional \$12 million from the Flint Hills settlement going into that fund for future use.

- Alaska Invasive Species Council. House Bill 191 and Senate Bill 174 would establish an Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and Game. PWSRCAC has been very supportive of this legislation over a number of years. The Senate bill has advanced to the full Senate floor, was up for final consideration on the Senate calendar that day, and will advance to the House. At this point, the House version is in House Finance and that is where the Senate bill will be referred. Therriault reported he had spoken to Senator Dunbar's staff and confirmed that they are working with the House sponsor, Rep. Himschoot, to move that legislation to final passage. Final passage is unsure at this point, but getting the bill out of the Senate shows its chances of ultimately passing are much improved with the Senate action this week.
- Surcharge on ANS production. In his tax package, the Governor proposed an additional surcharge assessed on oil produced on the North Slope and transported off the North Slope. Therriault reported it does not impact any of PWSRCAC's operations nor the money going into the Prevention account. It is a separate surcharge that is patterned after "the split nickel" of the 470 Fund funding mechanism, where four cents goes to the Prevention account and one cent goes into the Response fund. This proposal by the Governor is to generate money that would be used for maintenance of infrastructure along the pipeline corridor, primarily targeted at maintenance of the Dalton Highway north of Fairbanks. It is something PWSRCAC is monitoring.

In response to a question from Jim Herbert, Therriault confirmed that there is a fiscal note attached to the Invasive Species Council bills (HB191/SB174) that could put that legislation in jeopardy of a veto by the Governor. For the first year, the total is \$84,000, and then after things are set up it is approximately \$58,000 going forward, primarily for additional staffing to coordinate the function and sharing of information. If the legislation passes, Therriault believed PWSRCAC would want to involve itself in encouraging the Governor to sign it.

Jim Herbert asked for clarification of the disbursement of the \$24 million Flint Hills settlement monies. Therriault explained that the full \$24 million has been appropriated into the Prevention account. What is in play as of that moment is if there will be additional expenditures out of the Prevention account this year. Therriault said he believed that ultimately roughly \$12 million will be appropriated for the three bulk fuel storage facilities in rural Alaska, and that will leave an additional \$12 million deposited into the Prevention account, which will increase its ability to support the SPAR function in the next few years.

Mako Haggerty thanked Gene Therriault for his expertise and guidance and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Federal Update:

C.J. Zane led the federal legislative report (via videoconference) on behalf of Blank Rome Government Relations and was joined by Genevieve Cowan and Dave Jansen, also via videoconference. He commended Gene Therriault for his monitoring of state issues for the Council and wished him well in retirement, and he thanked PWSRCAC staff Joe Lally and Donna Schantz for their assistance.

The key issues Blank Rome is tracking for PWSRCAC on an ongoing basis are:

- Recertification. They worked with PWSRCAC staff to get the Alaska Congressional Delegation's support of the Council's recertification by the USCG.
- Vessel Of Opportunity (VOO) exemption. They worked hard to forge a coalition of entities that worked with Alaska's congressional Delegation to get the exemption enacted that was needed for the Alyeska/SERVS contracted fishing fleet. Going forward, Blank Rome will do its part in Washington, D.C., as well at USCG Headquarters, to make sure its implementation goes smoothly.
- NOAA/National Data Buoy Center funding. At the request of Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a \$5 million appropriation for the NDBC was included in the Commerce Appropriations Bill for FY2026. Blank Rome is following this appropriation to make sure there are no hangups getting the funding released.
- Non-Operating Individuals (NOI) Merchant Mariner Credentials. The requirement that non-operating individuals (NOIs) have mariner credentials is suspended and will not be enforced. However, it leaves open the question of liability -- if something were to go wrong -- even though there is a suspension of enforcement. At PWSRCAC's direction, Blank Rome will be forming a working group (similar to the Vessel of Opportunity working group) to push for a permanent exemption for non-operating individuals.

Blank Rome has been working with Sen. Sullivan and his staff, with the Commerce Committee staff, and with the House staff, and they are all confident that the NOI provision will be included in a Coast Guard bill to be introduced in the Senate.

Alaska's Sen. Dan Sullivan has been pulling together items for an additional Coast Guard bill for FY2027 and beyond. Blank Rome's Dave Jansen reported that there is some interest in this because there have been solicitations from the staff of the ranking member on the Commerce Committee (Sen. Maria Cantwell) asking for provisions that could be included. It appears that there is genuine potential that another Coast Guard bill could be introduced soon. There does not appear to be a lot of interest by the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee, as they are more preoccupied with other issues. But if the Senate can move ahead, and if Sen. Sullivan and Sen. Cantwell can reach agreement on language and have the Commerce Committee pass and report out a bill to the full Senate, that will provide avenues for the Senate either adding it as an addition to the National Defense Authorization Act, moving another Coast Guard bill as a standalone bill, or perhaps another reconciliation bill. It is Blank Rome's understanding that the NOI language will be included by Sen. Sullivan on that bill. Blank Rome will continue to monitor.

- Visit to Washington, D.C. Blank Rome is working with PWSRCAC staff and LAC to determine the right timing for PWSRCAC's next visit to Washington, D.C. Possible items of discussion could include:
 - The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF). PWSRCAC may want to have a discussion with the Alaska Delegation with respect to the OSLTF, a way to protect it and, potentially, expand the uses of that fund (which is something the Alaska Delegation would be receptive to).

- Following up on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report and making sure that PWSRCAC gets as robust answers as possible to the questions. Zane pointed out that there has been some movement in terms of BLM embracing some of the recommendations, (e.g., moving forward with coordinating the JPO agencies), and Blank Rome can work with the Alaska Delegation to make sure those things are actually being carried through.
- Other issues coming soon:
 - Passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This could become a vehicle to which other items could be attached, including the Coast Guard bill Sen. Sullivan is working on.
 - A budget reconciliation 2.0. This is the mechanism by which under strict rules of the parliamentarian, legislation can move to the Senate with a simple majority vote instead of the 60-vote threshold.
 - Zane went on to list several nationwide funding projects that could be included in passage of the NDAA that were not specific to PWSRCAC's purview but were general in scope to Alaska's interests.

Following the update, the Board was given the opportunity to engage in questions:

Lois Epstein asked if PWSRCAC should look at the cybersecurity provisions of the recently passed Pipeline Safety Act for items that may apply to the Council's purview of ensuring safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and associated tankers. Joe Lally stated that PWSRCAC could look at the provisions in the Act as long as review stays within the organization's purview of the VMT and the tankers.

Jim Herbert asked about the expiration of the NOI exemption and whether there had been any reaction from the Coast Guard – pro or con. Zane stated the exemption would expire at the end of 2027, and they did not yet know what the Coast Guard's position would be at that time. He added that Blank Rome's focus had been on getting the NOI language introduced. He pointed out that the best way to obtain Sen. Cantwell's support of the bill would be to get a Washington State entity to request her support of the language (and Blank Rome is working on that) and to do this before they approach the Coast Guard for their weigh-in. Dave Jansen added that Blank Rome would check with the Commerce Committee and the Transportation Committee to see if the Coast Guard has sent up a request to correct the NOI problem and/or to extend further the exemption from enforcement.

Robert Beedle asked for the definition of an NOI. Zane stated that the definition is in the statute. But in layman's terms it means it is a person who is on board a vessel for a purpose other than something directly related to the operation, navigation, or running of the vessel (e.g., someone on board fixing something or a diver, technician, etc.). Zane will provide PWSRCAC/Beedle with a copy of the statute. As explained by Zane, this proposed legislation would make permanent the exemption from merchant mariner credentials for those individuals on board a vessel.

In response to a comment by Robert Archibald as to whether there are other states that have the same NOI issue as Alaska, Zane stated they were not aware of any but, regardless, they do think other states will support the permanent exemption.

Amanda Bauer stated that she would like the LAC and Blank Rome to look at the Jones Act temporary waiver that is currently in effect and its implications for Alaska if the exemption is extended. She said a letter or statement ready to go from PWSRCAC in support of the Jones Act would be helpful in case the Council had to act quickly. This would acknowledge Fairwater representative Mark Curtis' concern about an extended waiver that he voiced during the previous day's proceedings. Dave Jansen agreed that it would be helpful since he had seen statements recently from organizations urging extension of the waiver or even permanent repeal of the Act.

Lally thanked everyone for their input and he acknowledged that Roy Jones was present online. Jones said he was proud of the work Blank Rome Government Relations does for PWSRCAC and expressed appreciation for their ability to work with anyone on the Hill on a bipartisan basis.

(This was an information-only item; no action requested of the Board.)

4-6 REPORT ACCEPTANCE: 2025 ANNUAL DRILL MONITORING REPORT

PWSRCAC Drill Monitor Roy Robertson presented the 2025 Drill Monitoring Report which summarizes the drills and exercises attended by PWSRCAC staff in 2025. The report also includes areas of focus that Robertson recommended for future exercises.

A copy of the report was attached to the briefing sheet under Item 4-6. Staff requested Board acceptance of this annual report.

Robert Archibald **moved to accept** the "2025 Annual Drill Monitoring Report" for distribution to the public. Michael Vigil **seconded** and **the motion passed** without objection.

4-7 ANNUAL BOARD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The annual appointment to Board subcommittees was led by Executive Assistant Jennifer Fleming and Vice President Amanda Bauer. A briefing sheet was included in the meeting notebook as Item 4-7, which outlined each of the committee's functions. The following Directors volunteered to serve on each Board committee and **were confirmed by a motion made by Robert Beedle, seconded by Jim Herbert, and passed** without objection.

Finance Committee:

Mako Haggerty (Treasurer), Robert Archibald, Wayne Donaldson, and Jim Herbert.

Long Range Planning Committee:

Amanda Bauer, Aimee Williams, Elijah Jackson, and the five technical committee chairs.

Board Governance Committee:

Dorothy Moore, Mike Bender, Luke Hasenbank, Robert Beedle, and Ailie Johnson.

Legislative Affairs Committee:

Dorothy Moore, Robert Archibald, Mako Haggerty, Robert Beedle, Kirk Zinck, Elijah Jackson, and Lois Epstein.

(Break: 9:55 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.)

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Director of Finance Ashlee Hamilton thanked the Finance Committee for their oversight and guidance on the financials this past year, and she was appreciative of those willing to continue to serve on the committee for another year.

She reported that since the January Board meeting her primary focus had been the 2027 Budget which the Board approved the previous day. She thanked Project Manager Assistant Peter Casey for his assistance in putting together the budget book.

Other financial issues that she is working on and going forward into 2026 are:

- The payroll system continues to run smoothly and has proven to be a clear improvement over the Paychex system. It has made day-to-day payroll processing more efficient and reliable.
- She continues to explore an affordable budgeting solution that would allow the building of budgets in a more streamlined and user-friendly way, with less manual effort and better integration with PWSRCAC's other financial systems.
- Management and the Finance Committee have reviewed the final draft of the compensation study from Valliant Consulting Group. It is not being distributed broadly at this time due to its lack of clarity and some inaccuracies that could create confusion. However, it is available to any Board member upon request. While the organization's employee salaries are generally within market ranges and the total benefits package remains competitive, the Finance Committee's primary concern is that the consultants may not have fully understood the structure of PWSRCAC's compensation. As a result, some of the recommendations do not align well with the organization's approach and could introduce unnecessary complexity if implemented. The committee hopes to conduct a new salary study with a new contractor after the audit is completed, if there are excess net assets.
- Financial audit. This audit will be conducted by Porter and Allison, marking their third consecutive year serving as PWSRCAC's external auditors. In the coming weeks, Hamilton will work to ensure all documentation is complete, organized, and ready to support a smooth and efficient audit process.
- PWSRCAC recently signed up for a service called Stripe which will allow acceptance of electronic payments related to the Crestodina book project. Monies collected will be used to help support future distribution.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

A detailed written report from Executive Director Schantz was distributed as a laydown supplement to the meeting materials at the meeting. The report recapped key activities and issues of concern since the January Board meeting. Director of Programs Joe Lally offered to answer any questions on the matters in that written report.

[Lally supplemented the Executive Director's report with thanks and acknowledgments after the President's Report to the Board.]

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

President Robert Archibald thanked the Board for reappointing him as President for another year. He said he took great pride in this organization and felt grateful to be able to serve in the position for another year.

He recognized Gene Therriault for his efforts serving the organization as legislative monitor in Juneau, and Blank Rome Government Relations representatives in Washington, D.C., as well as Roy Jones who has been a constant supporter of the organization over the years.

He commented that the past year had been challenging for PWSRCAC. The political climate has definitely changed the tone of oversight agencies at the federal and state levels along with reduced budgets and manpower, and it appears ADEC and SPAR have been lucky to maintain a budget that will keep their workforce viable and operable.

PWSRCAC has been entrusted by the entities it represents to ask the tough questions. The Council conducts projects, seeking out leaders in the field to provide expertise and find credible answers. This not only answers PWSRCAC's questions, but also points out educated information to Alyeska and the regulators. This may come in the form of comments on plans, projects, and operations. He emphasized that PWSRCAC does not take this responsibility lightly and the organization seeks out the best in the industry. He hoped that PWSRCAC can come to resolution on some of these conversations it has with Alyeska and the regulators in the future, and resolve some of the differences that they have had with PWSRCAC over the years. It has been pointed out to him numerous times that direct and honest dialogue will have a positive result.

He reported that he and Executive Director Schantz worked on the contract negotiations with Alyeska, and the Council is now funded for another three years. He and Schantz were also working on Alyeska's request for a code of conduct agreement, and any suitable updates to the PWSRCAC Code of Conduct policy and documentation.

As has become Archibald's custom, he concluded his report with a quote from Teddy Roosevelt...

Here's to your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance of the sacred heritage for your children, for your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.

For the Good of the Order – Appreciation and Acknowledgments

Director of Programs Joe Lally supplemented the Executive Director's Report with the following thanks and acknowledgements to those who assist the Council and staff in its work:

- Author and illustrator Tom Crestodina and PWSRCAC's Director of Communications Brooke Taylor for the resounding success of the "Protectors of Prince William Sound" book project.
- The PWSRCAC project team, volunteers, and staff, as well as its port partners, including but not limited to Alyeska/SERVS, Polar Tankers, and the SWAPA Pilots for their contributions and support provided on the book. A big thank you to everyone that supported this successful project.
- Dr. Danielle Verna, PWSRCAC's Scientific Environmental Monitoring Project Manager for the last five years, is resigning to pursue other opportunities. Her last day will be June 30, 2026.

The position is currently being advertised and Danielle has agreed to work on a limited part-time basis to help with the transition once the new person is hired.

- Linda Swiss, PWSRCAC's Contingency Plan Project Manager has decided to retire in fiscal year 2027 after 23 years of service with the Council. Linda has also agreed to remain working until the transition to her replacement is complete. While it is not easy to see staff depart, the organization is fortunate that both Linda and Danielle are willing to assist with the transfer of knowledge and experience to their replacements to ensure their smooth transitions.
- PWSRCAC's Board of Directors for their continuous support given to the organization's five technical committees and staff that support the Council's mission of citizens promoting the environmentally safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and associated tankers.
- The volunteers that comprise PWSRCAC's five technical committees and the staff for all their work in developing and completing projects in support of the Council's mission.
- Ashlee Hamilton and the Finance Committee for all their hard work on the FY2027 budget that was approved at this meeting.
- PWSRCAC's ex officio members and port partners that support the Council's mission and who took time to attend this meeting and provide information and updates to the Board.
- Alaska Tanker Company, Hilcorp, and the PWSRCAC Board for sponsoring the reception on Wednesday evening. It was a great opportunity to network and talk with one another in a relaxed and informal setting.
- Alyeska for the comprehensive Valdez Marine Terminal tour. It was a great opportunity for PWSRCAC Board, committees, and staff members to ask questions and learn more about terminal operations. The tour also presented a valuable opportunity on water to observe the SERVS response vessels and equipment in action during an operational readiness exercise.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

(None.)

CLOSING COMMENTS

Directors were given the opportunity to make closing comments.

There were hails to new members, and thanks and farewells to those leaving the organization.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, and hearing no objection, **the meeting was adjourned** at approximately 10:50 a.m. on a **motion made** by Robert Beedle and **passed** by general consent.

Secretary