

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
May 2 and 3, 2024
Valdez, Alaska**

Members Present

Robert Archibald	City of Homer
Amanda Bauer	City of Valdez
Robert Beedle <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Cordova District Fishermen United
Mike Bender	City of Whittier
Mike Brittain	City of Seward
Nick Crump	Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Ben Cutrell	Chugach Alaska Corporation
Wayne Donaldson	City of Kodiak
Mako Haggerty	Kenai Peninsula Borough
Luke Hasenbank	Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Jim Herbert	Oil Spill Region Recreational Coalition
David Janka <i>(via videoconference)</i>	City of Cordova
Melvin Malchoff	Port Graham Corporation
Dorothy Moore	City of Valdez
Bob Shavelson <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition
Angela Totemoff	Tatitlek Corporation & Tatitlek Village IRA Council
Michael Vigil	Chenega Corporation & Chenega IRA Council
Aimee Williams	Kodiak Island Borough
Kirk Zinck	City of Seldovia

Members Absent

Elijah Jackson	Kodiak Village Mayors Association
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Committee Members Present

Steve Lewis <i>(via videoconference)</i>	POVTS Committee
Davin Holen <i>(via videoconference)</i>	SA Committee
Savannah Lewis <i>(via videoconference)</i>	IE Committee
Cathy Hart	IE Committee
Ruthie Knight	IE Committee
Kate Morse	IE Committee
Matt Melton <i>(via videoconference)</i>	OSPR Committee
Tom Kuckertz	TOEM Committee
Mikkel Foltmar	TOEM Committee

Staff Members Present

Donna Schantz	Executive Director
Joe Lally	Director of Programs
Brooke Taylor	Director of Communications
Hans Odegard	Director of Administration
Ashlee Hamilton <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Director of Finance

Jennifer Fleming	Executive Assistant
Danielle Verna	Project Manager
Roy Robertson	Project Manager
Linda Swiss	Project Manager
Jeremy Robida	Project Manager
Alan Sorum	Project Manager
Amanda Johnson	Project Manager
Sadie Blancaflor	Project Manager
Maia Draper-Reich	Outreach Coordinator
Nelli Vanderburg	Project Manager Assistant
Jaina Willahan	Office Coordinator

Ex Officio Members Present

Ytamar Rodriguez	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Lisa Fox <i>(via videoconference)</i>	U.S. Department of the Interior
CDR Sarah Rousseau	USCG MSU Valdez
Liza Sanden <i>(via videoconference)</i>	NOAA
Steve Weeks	Bureau of Land Management
Mary Goolie <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Environmental Protection Agency

Others Present

John Kurz	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Andres Morales	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Klint VanWingerden	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Mike Day <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company / SERVS
Alyssa Sweet <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Diana Bouchard <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Michelle Egan <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Kate Dugan	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Suzanne Cunningham <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Weston Branshaw <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Kara Kusche	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Anna Carey	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Mollie Dunkin	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Sonja Mishmash	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Melissa Woodgate	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Mo Radotich	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Teresa Melville	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Jade Gambell	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Kathy Shea	Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Eileen Oliver <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Bureau of Land Management
John Douglas	City of Valdez
Chris Merten	Alaska Tanker Company
Sam Norton	Alaska Tanker Company
Andrea West	Polar Tankers
Mark Curtis <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Crowley Alaska Tanker
Rob Kinnear	Hilcorp
Steve Ferrell	Hilcorp

Ben Knowles	Hilcorp
Diane Dunham	Hilcorp
Capt. Josh Weston <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA)
Tony Parkin	Santos
Joe Balash <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Santos
Steve Wackowski	Santos
Peter Laliberte	Santos
Joe Levesque	Levesque Law Group
Genevieve Cowan <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Blank Rome, PWSRCAC Legislative Monitor (Federal)
Roy Jones <i>(via videoconference)</i>	PWSRCAC Legislative Monitor (Federal)
Gene Therriault <i>(via videoconference)</i>	PWSRCAC Legislative Monitor (State)
KJ Crawford <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Alaska Safety Alliance
Lanette Oliver	Valdez Adventure Alliance
Rick Steiner <i>(via videoconference)</i>	Oasis Earth

Thursday, May 2, 2024

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 2 and 3, 2024, at the Valdez Civic Center, Valdez, Alaska. President Robert Archibald called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. on May 2, 2024, 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: Archibald, Bauer, Beedle (via videoconference), Bender, Brittain, Cutrell, Donaldson, Haggerty, Hasenbank, Herbert, Janka (via videoconference), Malchoff, Moore, Shavelson (via videoconference), Vigil, Williams, and Zinck. Nick Crump and Angela Totemoff joined the meeting in person at 8:30 a.m. and 9:50 a.m., respectively.

Valdez City Manager John Douglas welcomed the Council to Valdez.

Introductions and Directors' reports followed.

1-0 AGENDA

President Archibald presented the agenda (green-colored sheet) for approval.

Michael Vigil moved to approve the agenda (green-colored sheet). Jim Herbert seconded.

Archibald suggested the addition of a discussion on vessel-whale strikes and voluntary vessel speed reductions in Prince William Sound be added to the executive session.

Dave Janka moved to amend the agenda to add a discussion on vessel-whale strikes and voluntary vessel speed reductions in Prince William Sound to the executive session. Mako Haggerty seconded, and the amendment was approved without objection.

The agenda was approved as amended.

4-1 PWSRCAC ANNUAL 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. Executive Director Donna Schantz read the names of those Directors nominated for appointment to the Board and pointed out that there were no changes to those currently holding their seats.

Jim Herbert **moved to confirm the appointment** of the selected representatives for each of the member entities listed for two-year terms expiring May 2026, as follows:

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

Nick Crump **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

1-1 MINUTES

Ben Cutrell **moved to approve the minutes** of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of January 25-26, 2024.

Robert Archibald pointed out **corrections on p. 27**. [The organization to which Archibald, Herbert, and Haggerty all belong and for which they asked for a ruling on any conflict of interest was the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park (FKBSP), not the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation (PWSSF).]

Corrections:

p.27, to the third and fourth paragraphs under *Item 4-4 Consideration of the Oil Spill Region Recreational Coalition as Class I Member*, **delete** "PWSSF" and **insert** "FKBSP."

p.27, to the first line of the fifth paragraph, **insert** "also" between "was" and "on" ... and **delete** "the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park" and **insert** "FKBSP."

Nick Crump **seconded** and the **minutes were approved with the corrections**.

1-2 MINUTES

Michael Vigil **moved to approve the minutes** of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of March 27, 2024. Robert Beedle **seconded** and the **minutes were approved** as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alyeska President John Kurz addressed the Council and briefly reviewed items of significance during his first year as president as they relate to PWSRCAC. He stated that Alyeska took the Billie Garde report seriously and was working on the issues raised in that report. He highlighted

his commitment to safety first in Alyeska's operation. He reported that under his leadership Alyeska had established eight safety "mindsets" to motivate individual employees to take certain steps and make certain decisions, and Alyeska is encouraging the entire workforce to adopt these mindsets and carry them forward to deliver the performance that Alyeska wants.

He thanked PWSRCAC for giving Alyeska the opportunity to review some of its reports, including the Tanks 7 and 94 report, before they are released publicly. He emphasized that Alyeska is working on better gathering of information to respond to PWSRCAC's requests for information in a timelier manner.

Jim Herbert thanked Kurz for the tour of the VMT the previous day and expressed appreciation for his leadership. Herbert urged Alyeska to share ideas with PWSRCAC and the USCG, and to work with PWSRCAC on a solution to the problems the new USCG Subchapter M towing regulations will have on the SERVS-contracted fishing vessel fleet. Kurz agreed. He said Alyeska was likewise concerned with the new regulations and the effect it will have on SERVS operations, and he had spoken with CDR Rousseau on this issue.

INTERNAL OPENING COMMENTS – PWSRCAC TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

TERMINAL OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE (TOEM)

Amanda Bauer reported on the activities of the TOEM Committee since the January Board meeting as follows:

- TOEM selected a contractor to perform a review of the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT) Title V Air Quality Permit renewal. It is still unknown at this time when the permit will be released for public comment, so the committee deemed it best to select a contractor who can be ready to start work as soon as the permit renewal is released.
- TOEM issued an RFQ and selected a contractor to perform a review of the VMT Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Water Quality Permit. The permit is expected to be released for public comment in summer/fall 2024.
- Regarding Alyeska's proposal to utilize the non-destructive testing method geoelectric leak location (GELL) to evaluate the integrity of the secondary containment liner at the VMT, the TOEM Committee voted to bring contractor Dr. Craig Benson to the VMT to observe the pilot testing in the VMT West Tank Farm and calibration of GELL. The committee has since learned that Dr. Benson will retire soon and will be sending a subcontractor to do the observation, although he still plans to see the project through to completion. A date for the observation has not yet been scheduled.
- TOEM held additional discussions with Bill Mott of Taku Engineering on his report titled "Review of the Ballast Water Tank 94 and Crude Storage Tank 7 Out-of-Service Inspection Reports." This report was sent to Alyeska for their review and input, at which point Alyeska sent some additional documentation that had not been included with the initial round of requested information. This report is undergoing further revision as a result.

- TOEM recommended following up with Alyeska directly to request information related to the tank bottom processing dike cell fire. A letter was transmitted to Alyeska on February 29, 2024. None of the requested information has been received at this time.

OIL SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE COMMITTEE (OSPR)

Chair Jim Herbert reported for the OSPR Committee on its activities since the January Board meeting, as follows:

- OSPR was updated on area and regional planning efforts for the Alaska Regional Contingency Plan, and the Prince William Sound, Arctic and Western Alaska, and Inland Alaska c-plans and area committees.
 - Comments were recently submitted during the final public comment period for the 2023 proposed major amendment on the Tanker C-Plan. Staff continues to track the public process for the 5-year renewal of the VMT C-Plan.
 - The secondary containment issue at the VMT is also part of the VMT C-Plan renewal. There is currently an outstanding condition of approval from the 2019 VMT C-Plan renewal that requires Alyeska to submit results from a pilot study on the method they selected to evaluate secondary containment liner integrity. The field work for this study is scheduled for this summer. The TOEM Committee is also closely following this.
- OSPR's Virtual Meeting with Contracted Response Vessel Representatives took place via Zoom on March 6. This meeting was considered a success by those in attendance, with suggestions for an in-person meeting next time. Fleet representatives had some suggestions regarding trainings, but felt the program was stable overall and in a good place.
- OSPR received a presentation about the Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) task force, which discussed the work that has been done by the task force to develop job aids for the Liaison Officer and RSC members. A similar presentation is on the agenda for this Board meeting.
- OSPR reviewed and accepted various drill reports, including the 2023 Annual Drill Monitoring Report, which is on the agenda for later at this meeting.
- 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. Dr. Rob Campbell is now working on the analysis of the 2023 Port Valdez weather buoy data.
- Herbert thanked Alyeska for its assistance in tracking down the Jackson Point buoy which escaped its mooring. Alyeska has assisted with getting it re-installed.
- OSPR has also been updated on the non-operational Seal Rocks and Cape Cleare weather buoys in the Gulf of Alaska, both of which stopped working and then broke free from their moorings. The buoys were finally replaced by the National Data Buoy Center in early May.

PORT OPERATIONS & VESSEL TRAFFIC SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (POVTS)

Chair Steve Lewis reported (via videoconference) on the efforts of the POVTS Committee since the January Board meeting:

- The POVTS Committee continues to stay informed about the weather-based projects led by the OSPR Committee and on matters pertaining to the Port Valdez weather buoys.
- **Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts (8520).** The POVTS Committee met to discuss the Miscommunication in Maritime Contexts whitepaper. The committee found the report to be exhaustive and comprehensive, and recommended it for Board approval. The report was approved at the Special Board meeting on March 27.
- **Vessel Operator Tsunami Hazards Guidance Workshop (8025).** Staff and committee members have been working with Nuka Research & Planning Group, LLC, on this project, as well as a steering committee that includes representatives from the City of Valdez, Ground Truth Alaska, the Alaska Division of Natural Resources, and Alaska Pacific University. The workshop is scheduled to take place June 3 and 4. An agenda has been drafted and presenters have been selected. A registration form was sent out to possible interested parties.
- The committee met twice on the voluntary tanker speed reduction/vessel-whale strike issue, and developed findings and conclusions. This will be discussed later in the agenda.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Chair Davin Holen reported on SAC's activities since the January Board meeting, as follows:

- **Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Project (LTEMP).** SAC has completed a thorough review of the Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Project (LTEMP) since the last Board meeting. This year's fieldwork will start the week following this Board meeting by deploying passive sampling devices in Port Valdez. In early June, the remainder of the field work will occur by retrieving the passive sampling devices and collecting sediment samples and blue mussels in Port Valdez. This year samples will also be collected at remote sites in Aialik Bay, Windy Bay, and Shuyak Harbor.

In addition, SAC has discussed a plan to analyze heavy metals in sediment near the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT), prompted by concerns raised by researchers from the University of New Orleans about metal accumulation. This will be a preliminary assessment. SAC will reassess the need for heavy metals sampling after results from this year's sampling are received.

- **Marine Bird Surveys.** Unfortunately, the March 2024 marine bird surveys were canceled due to engine failure on board the research vessel. However, the committee anticipates a draft report on a hotspot analysis of marine birds in Prince William Sound using historical data from 2007-2023 to be ready in early June.
- **Marine Invasive Species.** SAC has been discussing ongoing efforts to recruit high school or college-age students for invasive species monitoring internships in Cordova, Kodiak, and

Valdez. These internships will offer students the opportunity to do fieldwork in the marine environment and receive a stipend. The outgoing interns from 2023 have recently been presenting the results of their projects in their local communities.

SAC has received an update on the progress of the Smithsonian's broad-scale invasive species survey that took place last summer and a draft report is expected at its June meeting.

- **Vessel-Whale Strikes Discussion.** SAC has been taking part in the discussion on tanker-whale strikes, along with POVTS. The committee focused on the biological aspects of whales, such as availability of data on whale presence and ship strikes in Prince William Sound.
- **SAC Membership.** Following the recent departure of SAC member Ana Aguilar-Islas, the committee has been discussing the potential recruitment of a new member with expertise in oceanography. The committee is evaluating potential candidates, with a focus on proficiency in physical oceanography and understanding anthropogenic impacts.
- **International Oil Spill Conference.** PWSRCAC Project Manager Danielle Verna and SAC Chair Davin Holen will present a paper titled "Building Collaborative Social Science Research Models to Understand the Social, Cultural, and Economic Impacts of Spills" at the International Oil Spill Conference. Additionally, Jim Payne, a previous LTEMP contractor, will present a paper on LTEMP and transcriptomics at the same conference.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE (IEC)

Committee member Cathy Hart reported in the absence of Chair Trent Dodson. Hart reported that IEC had two regular meetings since the Board met in January, and the committee's activities were as follows:

- **Fishing Vessel Program Community Outreach.** Due to scheduling conflicts with the 2024 SERVS' training dates, IEC had a thoughtful discussion about alternate scenarios for the annual outreach tour. Based on this discussion, IEC moved to return the project funds for FY2024 Fishing Vessel Program Community Outreach to contingency, with the next event scheduled to take place in September 2024 in Whittier. The Whittier event will fall under fiscal year 2025.
- **Youth Involvement.** IEC accepted two final reports from the Alaska Marine Conservation Council as complete and meeting all deliverables.

There are still nine contracts underway with the following contractors: University of Alaska Anchorage, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, Fireweed Academy Charter School, Copper River Watershed Project, Alaska Geographic, and Kenai Mountain-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area. Four 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 2024-2025 school year. The deadline is May 24. IEC is planning to hold a project team meeting in June to review

proposals received. Board members who know of anyone who might be interested in submitting a Youth Involvement proposal should contact Outreach Coordinator Maia Draper-Reich for more information.

- **Illustrated Prevention and Response System Outreach.** In February, author and illustrator Tom Crestodina traveled to Valdez to view vessels and equipment. Following that trip, he began working on the illustrations for the book and has been finalizing the storyboard with input from the project team and industry. He has been posting some of the draft drawings to his Facebook page.
- **Community Outreach.** In March, Board and OSPR member Jim Herbert and Outreach Coordinator Maia Draper-Reich, traveled to Seward to participate as competition officials for the Alaska Ocean Sciences Tsunami Bowl. In April, Board and IEC member Aimee Williams, and Board and SAC member Wayne Donaldson helped host the Council's booth alongside PWSRCAC Project Manager Danielle Verna at ComFish Alaska in Kodiak. Staff have coordinated and participated in many additional outreach events, which will be detailed further during the Community Outreach Annual Report later at this meeting.

IEC is excited to continue supporting outreach efforts in the upcoming months, including events such as the International Oil Spill Conference and the Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium.

- **Conferences.** In March IEC members Cathy Hart and Kate Morse traveled to Portland, Oregon, to attend the 2024 Nonprofit Technology Conference in person, while IEC member Savannah Lewis attended the conference's virtual sessions. Some key topics that were discussed during this conference included board governance software and board engagement technology, website analytics, workforce retention, countering disinformation, intergenerational communication, and fostering work-life balance. This conference continues to be a valuable learning opportunity for volunteers who attend.

Amanda Bauer added thanks to all those who facilitated getting Tom Crestodina on board the vessels for his illustrated storybook project on oil spill prevention and response.

(This concluded the Opening Comments of PWSRCAC's Technical Committees.)

INTERNAL OPENING COMMENTS -- PWSRCAC BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (LAC)

Dorothy Moore reported on the activities of the Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) on federal and state issues since the last Board meeting in January.

State:

- The Council has been concerned with the long-term sustainability of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Spill Prevention & Response (SPAR) Division budget for more than a decade. A recent change made to the way that the SPAR Division calculates the funding coming into the Prevention Account has budget projections indicating that the account will now go into deficit in FY2033, rather than FY2025 as

originally projected. A discussion about the effects of this change is part of the 4-6 Federal & State Government Affairs update on the following day's agenda.

- At the end of the 2023 legislative session, the contents of Senate Bill 67 (relating to PFAS use, regulation, and testing) were inserted into another bill which passed the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor. The original bill has been revised to remove the language that the Governor found objectionable and is working its way through the legislative process. Activity on this bill is expected towards the end of this legislative session.
- There has been no forward progress on the Governor establishing an Alaska Invasive Species Council through an executive order. Therefore, based on the threat that marine invasive species like the European Green Crab (already found in Metlakatla) pose to Alaska waters, ecosystems, and habitats, PWSRCAC will continue to advocate for legislation to establish this Council in the future.

Federal:

- LAC has been following the progress of the request that the Government Accountability Office conduct a review to determine the adequacy of federal and state regulatory oversight of the Valdez Marine Terminal. There is additional information about this topic in the written Executive Director's Report to the Board.
- The Council's legislative monitors in Washington, D.C., have conducted outreach with Alaska Delegation staff regarding the inoperable and off-station Seal Rocks and Cape Clear weather buoys in the Gulf of Alaska. The Council has done outreach to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Response Planning Group, and Alyeska/SERVS to emphasize the importance of replacing these weather buoys as soon as possible.
- The Council has been concerned with the potential serious impacts to the Alyeska/SERVS uninspected response vessel fleet since 2020, when the regulatory issue of the Coast Guard application of Subchapter M towing vessel inspection regulations first arose. At that time, U.S. Coast Guard District 17 updated the PWSRCAC Board on a Marine Safety Information Bulletin that exempted the SERVS vessels. However, in 2023, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters implemented a Work Instruction that could potentially remove those exemptions and impact the SERVS fleet.

Recent Updates:

State:

- A team comprised of Council staff and LAC members, supported by our State Legislative Monitor Gene Therriault, met with close to 20 Alaska legislators and their staffs in mid-April to provide information and advocate for addressing the SPAR budget deficit and personnel losses, PFAS legislation, and the Alaska Invasive Species Council. The team also met with the U.S. Coast Guard District 17 Commander and staff to discuss projects and issues of mutual concern.

Federal:

- That same Council team will be traveling to Washington, D.C., supported by PWSRCAC's Federal Legislative Monitors Roy Jones and Genevieve Cowan, to meet

with the members of the Alaska Delegation and their staffs to discuss and request support in resolving the issues identified above. The team will also meet with various U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters offices to discuss the potential serious impacts of applying the Subchapter M regulations to the SERVS uninspected response vessel fleet, the replacement of the radar systems in Prince William Sound, and other issues of mutual interest and concern.

On behalf of the committee, Moore expressed appreciation to Director of Programs Joe Lally, who is the staff lead for LAC, for the tremendous amount of time and energy he puts in to supporting the committee. She especially wished to recognize his efforts in developing the briefing materials for the committee's Juneau and Washington, D.C., legislative visits.

BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (BGC)

Chair Luke Hasenbank reported on the Board Governance Committee (BGC) activities since the January Board meeting.

- The committee has not found it necessary to meet since the January Board meeting.
- In late February, the Council was successfully recertified by the Coast Guard.
- Staff support assigned to BGC will change, as Hans Odegard has been appointed Director of Administration. Office Coordinator Jaina Willahan will support the committee going forward.
- Any Board members interested in joining the committee are requested to express their intent during the Board subcommittee appointments (Item 4-9) on the agenda the following day.
- BGC will schedule a meeting, as the need arises, any time pressing issues come up pertaining to the Council's affairs.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (FC)

Treasurer and Chair Wayne Donaldson reported on the Finance Committee's activities since the January Board meeting.

- The Finance Committee met twice since the Board meeting in January.
- In February, the committee reviewed the December 31, mid-year financial statements. The committee also reviewed the draft IRS Form 990. The committee recommended the Board approve the Form 990, which is the nonprofit version of an IRS tax return. The Board approved the Form 990 for submission to the IRS at the Special Board Meeting on March 27, and it was accepted by the IRS on April 4, 2024.
- The committee discussed the selection of a new auditing firm as BDO, the Council's current auditor, is no longer able to provide services to PWSRCAC. BDO has recommended PWSRCAC no longer continue the agreed-upon procedures special audit, as it is unnecessary given the clean financial condition of PWSRCAC over the prior 10 years and the internal controls to which PWSRCAC adheres. During the April meeting, the

committee selected the audit firm Porter & Allison, Inc., to conduct the FY2025 audit and complete the Form 990. Porter & Allison is headquartered in Anchorage but their staff work remotely.

- During April, the committee reviewed the FY2024 budget modifications as well as Board Policy 303, which governs budget modification authority. Executive Director Schantz has brought budget modifications to the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee for all budget modifications, even when they fall within her level of authority. This item is found under Item 3-7 of the Consent Agenda in the meeting notebook.
- During the April meeting, the committee reviewed and recommended the Board accept the Annual Contract Compliance Verification report for FY2023. This report highlights efforts undertaken to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Alyeska-PWSRCAC contract and is Item 3-5 on the Consent Agenda.
- The committee met in executive session to review salary and benefit data for Executive Director Schantz. The purpose of this review was to assemble recent salary and benefit data for the executive director position. The committee will review and update this data annually, in mid-winter, prior to completion of the executive director's annual performance evaluation so Board members have this information during compensation discussions.
- The committee also discussed the Anchorage Office lease extension at the April meeting which can be found under Item 3-6 of the Consent Agenda. The management team has decided to extend the current Anchorage Office lease for a one-year period with the option to extend it for another year. The management team plans to continue the search for new office space in the meantime.
- Finally, the committee reviewed the draft FY2025 budget, which is before the Board at this meeting under item K. Director of Finance Ashlee Hamilton will be previewing the draft budget under said item on the agenda. The Finance Committee recommends the Board adopt the budget as presented.

(This concluded the Opening Comments of PWSRCAC's Board Subcommittees.)

Break: 9:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

EXTERNAL OPENING COMMENTS - EX OFFICIOS

ALASKA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (ADEC)

Ytamar Rodriguez, the Inter-Agency Coordination Manager for the Spill Prevention & Response (SPAR) Division of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, reported on ADEC/SPAR activities since the last Board meeting in January.

- **Staffing.** SPAR is now fully staffed with five positions located in the Valdez office. The Prevention Preparedness & Response (PPR) section has recently been assigned three new PCNs, one of which has been assigned to the Valdez office and interviews have already been conducted for that position.

- **Recruitment.** Recruitment is ongoing for the engineering positions. There were two vacancies originally. One has recently been hired to a supervisory position based in Wasilla and will start May 21. The other is still out for recruitment. There is a total of three engineering positions assigned to SPAR.
- **Spill responses.** There were no reportable spill responses as of this date.
- **Prince William Sound Area Plan Updates.**
 - The Prince William Sound Area C-Plans (ACPs) will be moved into the new C-Plan architecture. This will be coordinated with the Prince William Sound Area Administrative Subcommittee.
 - The Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) job aids are complete and Rodriguez conveyed the thanks of ADEC to PWSRCAC for its assistance and support on this project.
 - A Prince William Sound Area Plan tabletop drill was held on March 13 that was focused on a vessel that overturned in Jack Bay with over 10,000 gallons of oil and hazardous material products. ADEC appreciated the participation of wildlife agencies with this exercise.
- **Prince William Sound Tanker and VMT oversight activities.**
 - The review of major amendments to Prince William Sound tanker c-plans is under way to incorporate the new 2023 Article 4 regulation updates and the new lightering oil spill response barge (OSRB-5) into the Prince William Sound tanker c-plans.
 - Staff have visited the new Allison Creek response barge and have been coordinating with Alyeska on exercise components for this barge.
 - Staff are continuing to complete tanker inspections and have made visits to the VMT over the winter to observe snow removal efforts.
 - Staff have attended fishing vessel training and operational readiness training that support readiness for the VMT and tanker c-plans.
 - The 5-year review of the VMT C-Plan is also under way and will incorporate 2023 Article 4 regulation updates. Project work regarding the Condition of Approval from the 2019 VMT plan renewal as to the secondary containment liner is being tracked by ADEC plan reviewers and engineers. ADEC is planning to conduct a field visit through this project work.
 - ADEC staff will be participating in the VMT exercise on May 8 and have been part of the planning process. Staff will observe and evaluate the July VMT deployment exercise with a wildlife focus and are involved in planning the October 2024 tanker response exercise.

- **New Regulation Review Updates.** Rodriguez announced that ADEC has initiated two new regulatory projects for 2024: a review of the regulations in Article 1; and a review of the out-of-scope comments that were not addressed in the previous regulatory review of Article 4 and, if recommended, to propose additional revisions.
 - The first review is to update the technical standards referenced in the prevention regulations for flow lines and for facility oil piping (18 AAC 75.047 and 18 AAC 75.080, respectively). These standards have not been updated since 2006. PPR's Guidance & Regulation group and Integrity Engineering unit are working on this project. Public comment on proposed changes is expected to occur in 2024.
 - The second regulatory review project is being called Article 4, Part 2. ADEC will review and propose corrective revisions to Article 4 but not substantive changes. The sources will include a limited subset of public comments under the first review of Article 4, lessons learned during the implementation process, and the need to remove the implementation deadlines that have sunsetted. ADEC anticipates that public comment will occur during 2024.
- ADEC staff will participate in "Alaska X," an exercise that will simulate a 9.2 earthquake in Southcentral Alaska. ADEC has been coordinating with the City of Valdez and the Alaska Department of Emergency Management.

Following his formal report, Rodriguez answered questions from the Board.

He confirmed that SPAR staff will be invited to observe when Alyeska does its testing of the catalytically blown asphalt (CBA) liner.

In response to a question from Jim Herbert about the review and potential additional regulation changes to Article 4, Rodriguez said that it was his understanding the changes will be to provide clarification or corrective actions, not anything that is substantive in nature.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG)

CDR Sarah Rousseau reported that LT Abigail Farrara, Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Director for MSU-Valdez, was working on updates to VTS user manuals and procedures to home port.

MSU-Valdez recently started communicating with other port partners through the "gov" delivery system which is a subscription-based system that provides updates through marine safety bulletins, including updates to rulemaking, lights, aids to navigation, or announcements to the local area. One local announcement recently released by MSU-Valdez emphasized the importance of communications during high vessel traffic times and seasonal activities. It served as a reminder that it is everyone's responsibility to operate their radios when on the water. Failure to do so can result in fines

CDR Rousseau reported that a recently finalized rulemaking eliminated the shoreside portion of the security zone that is over Alyeska. This was a cleanup of poorly drafted language when it was first implemented after 9/11.

As to the implementation of the new Subchapter M towing regulations, CDR Rousseau noted that implementation of the regulation is in limbo at the present time but emphasized there is no exemption for Prince William Sound. There is simply a delay in implementation of the rule until Congress and USCG District 17 has clarification of the new regulations. Rousseau thanked all the port partners who provided input. She emphasized that she cannot advocate or convey the position of the SERVS fishing vessel response fleet unless she has the information necessary to convey the impacts the rule will have to District 17 and USCG Headquarters. She thanked SERVS for providing good insight into the problems so she could advocate for the fleet to District 17 so they can, in turn, convey the information to USCG Headquarters. She commented that sometimes rules are made without understanding the detrimental impacts in other parts of the country. The more she can communicate that, the better USCG can make better decisions.

In response to an inquiry from Mike Bender about the status of the Seal Rocks and Cape Clear buoys' redeployment, CDR Rousseau relayed that they should be back in place this month and that was the latest information she had from the National Data Buoy Center.

Amanda Bauer expressed disappointment with the recent and extensive Prince William Sound navigational chart update from NOAA. In her opinion it is not as good as the chart from 10 years prior, and this was especially disappointing in light of NOAA's move to abandon paper charts in favor of electronic ones. Bauer added that Stan Stephens Cruises has contacted NOAA about things that need to be fixed in the update. CDR Rousseau offered to connect Bauer with NOAA personnel coming to town the next week to work on these charts.

In response to a question from Nick Crump, CDR Rousseau clarified the jurisdiction of the USCG security zone is to the water side only and to certain parts where there is over-water transfer. Beyond that, USCG is not responsible for security shoreside in the zone; that is Alyeska's own responsibility. There is an overall facility oversight security plan which is a plan approved by the Captain of the Port and exercised every year, but it is a separate process from the on-water security zone area.

Michael Vigil asked CDR Rousseau to comment on the circulating rumor he had heard that if USCG is called out and it is not a life or limb situation, the person will get a bill. CDR Rousseau clarified that MSU Valdez does not do search and rescue activities. That lies with Sector Anchorage, but in any event there is no bill from USCG for search and rescue efforts.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Mary Goolie, via videoconference and filling in for Federal On-Scene Coordinator Torri Huelskoetter at this meeting for EPA's opening comments, thanked PWSRCAC staff for their participation in the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) and Area Committee meetings, and being on the subcommittees reviewing the area c-plans, and providing comments in addition. She also thanked specifically PWSRCAC staff Joe Lally, Jeremy Robida, and Linda Swiss for their participation on the ARRT Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) Task Force.

Goolie reported that the job aids mentioned by ADEC's Ytamar Rodriguez have been completed in draft format and will be distributed to the RSC tri-chairs and go out for public comment, starting with the Arctic and Western Alaska C-Plan.

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

NOAA's Scientific Support Coordinator Liza Sanden reported (via videoconference) on projects NOAA has been working on in Alaska.

She reported NOAA was working on several training opportunities which included Alaska responders. In March there was a virtual SCAT (Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques) course for the Pacific region. There were over 50 participants from Alaska's USCG and ADEC. There will be a follow-up field day later this year in Juneau and Valdez. She said it is her hope that it will become an annual event, and now that there are so many USCG and ADEC personnel trained in Alaska, she hopes it can be opened up to other partner agencies in Alaska who have already expressed interest.

NOAA has had several responders from Alaska attend its Science of Oil Spills and Science of Chemical Releases courses held in Seattle, WA, and Mobile, AL, and there will be a third Science of Oil Spills course in Ann Arbor, MI, in September. The application deadline for that course is June 6.

NOAA has also been updating Arctic ERMA that NOAA and USCG use for major and minor incidents for preparedness in general. Some of the updates were triggered by the ongoing work on data validation of GRS response strategies in Western Alaska.

The Spatial Data Branch has been working on some updates to ERMA that will allow greater functionality during responses.

Within the broader Alaska NOAA team, they have been working to improve their ability to respond to natural disasters with those that have a focus on coastal impacts.

A new position has been created within the NOAA National Ocean Service known as the Deputy Administrator for Navigation, Observation & Positioning, and that has been filled by Rachel Dempsey. She will be visiting Alaska in a couple of weeks with the objective of learning the needs of Alaska that can be served by the National Ocean Service. Sanden has met with Dempsey recently and the issue of the buoys is one that Dempsey is aware of.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program has a few grant opportunities available with funds for cleanups of marine debris, both hazardous and non-hazardous. One is for Alaska communities and is funded by NOAA to the Alaska SeaGrant Program.

In response to a question from Jim Herbert as to the current status of the buoys that had gone adrift and when they might be re-sited, Sanden indicated that she had no further information beyond what CDR Rousseau had previously provided. Jim Herbert invited Sanden and other NOAA personnel to attend the upcoming workshop in early June on the potential for terrestrial based/tsunami generating landslides in Valdez. Sanden said she cannot attend but others from NOAA's tsunami staff will be attending. As an aside to the issue of terrestrial-based versus tsunami-generated landslides, she added that NOAA is working on determining where NOAA's responsibility begins and ends as it works with the US Army Corps of Engineers to clear shipping routes in coastal waterways impacted by terrestrial and tsunami caused landslides, and which agency will take the lead.

CDR Rousseau added that LT Caroline Wilkinson of NOAA will attend the tsunami hazards workshop and she will be the person to meet with Amanda Bauer on NOAA's chart updates.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Steve Weeks reported that BLM personnel had worked closely with ADEC on the situation with the tanks during the winter months, monitoring snow removal, etc., and BLM personnel will be in attendance for the upcoming inspections of the secondary containment liner.

He reported that he will be unable to attend the upcoming spill drill because he will be in Salt Lake City, UT, attending a best available technology conference, but Greg Bjorgo will be in Valdez for the upcoming spill drill.

Weeks reported that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit has begun but he could not give details because it is an active audit. The report is not expected until January-February of 2025, and will encompass all federal partners in the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO).

As to staffing, Weeks reported that there are BLM positions within the JPO that have not been filled, but they are not "open" either. There are currently no plans to fill open BLM JPO positions and future filling of those positions may depend on the results of the GAO audit.

Eileen Oliver reported on Alyeska's Alaska Native Hire compliance. The overall combined workforce for TAPS for the first quarter of 2024 for Alaska Native Hire was 23.5% (the goal being 20%), with Alyeska reporting 25.4%, and the designated and reporting contractors at 21.6%. In January she met with Alyeska and its three contractors who are on corrective action plans and this has resulted in an improvement in their compliance numbers for this first quarter of 2024.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)

Lisa Fox (via videoconference) had no items to report that specifically related to TAPS or PWSRCAC but there were a few items of peripheral interest:

In February, the DOI was heavily involved in a session that was presented at the Alaska Forum on the Environment memorializing the 25th anniversary of the EVOS. It covered a large array of information and was a well-attended event.

The Spill Response Coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Region is now Bridget Crokus.

The National Archives has set a deadline for June for accepting paper records after which no paper records will be accepted. The DOI office in Anchorage has spent considerable time sorting EVOS records on the DOI's role in the spill response and they are on their way to the National Archives.

On May 1, the Council on Environmental Quality published their final rule for another set of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. One item to note is that it has codified the time limits for environmental assessments (EAs) and environmental impact statements (EISs). EAs must be completed within one year of starting; EISs must be completed within two years, and the ability to waive that requirement has been removed from the regulations.

ALASKA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ADNR)

(No report.)

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

(No report.)

OIL SPILL RECOVERY INSTITUTE (OSRI)

(No report.)

ALASKA DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (ADHSEM)

(No report.)

U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

(No report.)

(This concluded the External Opening Comments of PWSRCAC's Ex Officio Members)

EXTERNAL COMMENTS – TAPS SHIPPERS, OWNER COMPANIES, AND PILOTS**ALASKA TANKER COMPANY (ATC)**

Chris Merten reported on some recent milestones for the company:

In March, ATC and OSG celebrated the fourth anniversary of their successful merger, and operations have continued at the high level they expected. In April, it was the 25th anniversary of the founding of ATC.

As to 2024 YTD operations, ATC carried 18 loads from the VMT, using the Alaskan Navigator and the Alaskan Legend, totaling approximately 15 million barrels of oil. There were no lost time injuries, no spills to sea, and no losses of containment over one barrel. The Alaskan Explorer has transitioned to the Gulf of Mexico and the U.S. West Coast.

On May 26, ATC will have an oceangoing towing vessel in Malaysia dead-ship tow the Alaskan Frontier to Singapore and will commence an extensive shipyard to bring her back to service. She has been laid up since 2018.

Steve Lewis said that the POVTS Committee would be interested in hearing how the shipyard and refurbishment goes on the Alaskan Frontier, particularly the new propulsion system and the ballast water treatment system (BWTS) installations.

Merten gave a brief explanation on the operation of the diesel electric propulsion systems on ATC vessels.

Bauer asked Merten about his thoughts on the vessel-whale strike issue and the draft resolution that was on the agenda. Merten relayed that he/ATC has taken part in some of the general discussions and pointed out that ATC does observe voluntary reduced speed limits in other parts of the country. He expressed interest in the presentation scheduled for the following day and any new information that may arise but mentioned he would not be able to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Mike Brittain asked about the quality of the fuel used by ATC's diesel engines. Merten explained the various stages of testing that is done to ensure good fuel is loaded on board the ATC tankers before sailing. He acknowledged that there are occasionally issues with fuel but with ATC's redundant systems on board, they have not had problems.

CROWLEY ALASKA TANKERS (CAT)

Mark Curtis (via videoconference) reported that YTD 2024 the California had transported over 4 million barrels and the Washington over 3 million barrels of ANS crude oil from Valdez. The Washington is scheduled to leave Valdez for dry dock in May and June, with plans to resume service in July. The California is expected to leave Alaska for its scheduled dry dock maintenance in September, after which it will return to providing service in Alaska.

Curtis announced a replacement has been hired to fill Angie Fuschetto's position. The formal announcement and introduction of the new hire will take place during Tatitlek's Culture Week events the following week, and the individual will also be present at PWSRCAC's September Board meeting. Curtis reported that operationally YTD 2024, CAT had zero lost-time injuries, no loss of containment, and had conducted safe transportation of oil out of Valdez.

Steve Lewis asked about the potential impact to ANS crude futures from the opening of Canada's TMX Pipeline and their enhanced deliveries into the port of Vancouver, and whether Curtis saw any direct competition to the ANS market, given the significant difference in the quality of the two crude oils. He said that the POVTS Committee would appreciate the thoughts of any of the TAPS shippers on the potential future impacts on operations for the VMT and the TAPS fleet that deliveries from this new pipeline would have. Curtis responded that CAT is monitoring the situation.

Sam Norton, President and COO of OSG, responded that OSG has a large operating fleet in the United States and agreed with Lewis's comments that the large volume of Alberta Sands crude coming out of the TMX Pipeline, starting this month, is likely to be destined for the Far East. He noted there are draught limitations in the Port of Vancouver that limit the loadable quantities of TMX crude to 555,000-575,000 barrels, and with the significant difference in quality of TMX crude compared to ANS crude, he surmised that TAPS crude and TAPS shippers would remain competitive for the foreseeable future.

Ben Knowles, Vice President of Marketing for Hilcorp, added that the two crudes are molecularly different and the refineries use them differently. He surmised that geopolitical situations around the world will have more of an impact than pricing.

POLAR TANKERS

Andrea West reported Polar Tankers transported 37 loads and 27.6 million barrels from the VMT with zero spills YTD 2024. In March, Polar Tankers held its officers conference in Houston, Texas. The bridge resource management training course will take place in the fall of 2024.

She announced that Polar Tankers was proud to learn that it is to be the recipient of the prestigious Silver 2024 Benkert Award for Environmental Protection from the USCG and will be going to Washington, D.C., in late May to formally receive the award.

The Polar Enterprise will go to the shipyard for mandatory drydock work in late May and return in late August; the Polar Adventure will depart in late September and return in November.

HILCORP

Rob Kinnear reported that Hilcorp celebrated its 35th anniversary as a company in 2023 and had just been named for the tenth year as one of Fortune’s top 100 companies to work for and is the top energy company on that list.

Kinnear reported that YTD 2024 Hilcorp had transported 18 cargos via ATC ships from the VMT, amounting to 15 million barrels, and one spot charter in February. Looking ahead, Kinnear expects Hilcorp to manage its production for the remainder of 2024 with the Alaskan Navigator and the Alaskan Legend; neither vessel has a shipyard planned for this year. Hilcorp is watching its North Slope production closely; if there were to be another spot charter in 2024 it would be towards the end of the year and it may not be needed.

MARATHON PETROLEUM

(No report)

SOUTHWEST ALASKA PILOTS ASSOCIATION (SWAPA)

The Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA) report was postponed to the following day to accommodate the presenter’s schedule.

(This concluded the External Opening Comments of TAPS Shippers, Owner Companies, and Pilots.)

Break: 11:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

ALYESKA/SERVS ACTIVITY REPORT

Andres Morales, Alyeska’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Director gave Alyeska/SERVS’ activity report for 2024 YTD.

VMT Operations:

- Operations: 2024 (1Q)

	<u>2024 (1Q)</u>
○ Tankers Loaded	55
○ Tankers Escorted	56
○ Barrels Loaded	40,311,813
	<u>Since start up (1Q)</u>
○ Tankers Loaded	23,557
○ Tankers Escorted	14,895
○ Barrels Loaded	17,992,434,176

- Safety (TAPS): 2024 (1Q)

○ Days away from work cases	1
○ TAPS Combined Recordable Rate %	0.62

- Environment (Valdez): 2024 (1Q)
 - Spill Volume (Gallons) 2.0039
 - Number of Spills 2

Fishing Vessel Availability by Port (end of 1Q 2024):

<u>Port</u>	<u>Tier 1</u>	<u>Tier 2</u>
Valdez	24	13
Cordova	27 (+7 Rapid Resp.)	99
Whittier	7	17
Seward	0	26
Homer	0	44
Kodiak	0	41
Totals	65	240

2024 (1Q) Quarter Contingency Plan Activities:

- Support Shippers on PWS C-Plan Amendment RFAI response.
- VMT C-Plan Renewal
 - RFAs received from ADEC March 14, 2024.
 - RFAI responses submitted to ADEC April 10, 2024.

2023 (1Q) Training & Exercises Completed

- Unannounced Q1 Notification Exercise.
- Rapid Response Exercise.
- Emergency Towing Assist Exercise – Polar Adventure.
- Tethered Escort Tug Exercise.
- Otter Rehabilitation Training - Anchorage.
- IMT Notification Test.

2024 Valdez Major Maintenance:

- BWT Triennial Inspection & Repair A Header & Berth 5.
- VMT Marine Structures Coating Repairs Berth 5.
- Reef Island Power Improvements.
- B5 Foam System Transition.
- ILI of VMT A & B Header.
- External Coating of Tank 54-TK-3 and 54-TK-4 (VMT-Crude).
- 500-2 Refurbishment.

OSRB-5 and Allison Creek Replacement

- OSRB-5 has replaced the Mineral Creek.
- Approved in VMT C-Plan and approved as mitigation in the Tanker C-Plan pending amendment.
- Allison Creek (photo).

Morales remarked that three injuries in the first quarter of the year, resulting in the 0.62 recordable rate, was not good. It happened early in the first quarter and is of concern. The company is working to improve that.

As for the two recorded spills, one was two gallons from a loader hose, and the other was a tablespoon from an outdrive on a boat in Valdez.

The fishing vessel availability numbers have improved and stabilized this year.

Morales remarked that SERVS is very pleased with the Allison Creek barge. It is well designed and well-constructed, and a significant improvement from the previous barge.

Following his report, Morales answered questions from the Board:

In response to a question from Steve Lewis regarding work force numbers, Morales reported there are approximately 2,000 employees employed by Alyeska/SERVS, including contractors.

Noting that Tank 8 has been taken out of service, Jim Herbert asked about the possibility that Tank 7 may also be taken out of service. Morales said any time Alyeska does major maintenance on a tank the question of whether it will go back into service is routinely addressed, and any time two tanks are removed from service Alyeska would want them to be in the same dike cell, given a choice, but he had not heard anything definitive as to Tank 7. Klint VanWingerden added there were no current plans to take Tank 7 out of service.

Herbert congratulated Alyeska on its handling of the snow loads this winter.

Mike Bender asked about the transition away from PFAS firefighting foam. Morales said they are still looking at various products, no decision has yet been made, and they may do a pilot study to narrow down the substitute product choice and to figure out the supplemental engineering adjustments that will need to be made for effective application.

In response to a question from Robert Beedle about the timeframe for the testing of the secondary containment liner, Morales reported that no date had yet been set but it would be later this summer.

Herbert again reiterated the importance of Alyeska, PWSRCAC, and USCG working together on the issues facing the SERVS fishing vessel response fleet under the new Subchapter M towing regulations, and invited Alyeska to share information it had with PWSRCAC's LAC delegation going to Washington, D.C., the following week to meet with Alaska's congressional delegation. Morales agreed the situation is concerning and that cooperation will be important to get the collective message across to those in Washington, D.C.

Amanda Bauer asked whether a 2024 VMT maintenance project list would be forthcoming soon. Klint VanWingerden said they had already provided a high level maintenance project list and they were working on a more comprehensive list around everything that has been happening, and he had been in communication with Executive Director Schantz on a possible presentation to the TOEM Committee.

APPROVAL OF FY2025 BUDGET

Director of Finance Ashlee Hamilton presented the FY2025 budget for Board approval. A budget workshop was previously held on April 25, 2024:

Income:	\$4,357,818 (includes assumed interest income and an in-kind donation)
Expenses:	\$4,976,676
Contingency:	\$75,000
Net Assets Used:	\$693,858.00

Mako Haggerty asked for clarification of the LTEMP budget where \$20,000 would be needed from the FY2025 budget to use in May 2024. Hamilton explained that after the budget is approved, the adjustment (reduction) would be made to the FY2025 LTEMP budget before it is imported into the accounting software.

Wayne Donaldson **moved adoption** of the FY2025 budget as presented during the Budget Workshop on April 25, 2024. Total expenses are \$4,976,676, and the contingency is \$75,000. Haggerty **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

CONSENT AGENDA**3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7**

There were seven items on the consent agenda (3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7) with respective briefing sheets in the meeting notebook:

Wayne Donaldson **pulled** Item 3-3 LTEMP Contract Authorization for discussion. Item 3-3 was placed on the agenda for the following day under Item K Consideration of Consent Agenda Items.

Dorothy Moore **moved to approve the consent agenda as amended**. Mako Haggerty **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

- **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 FY2025 CONTINGENCY PLAN CONTRACTOR POOL**
Authorization for individual contracts with Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC, and Attorney Breck Tostevin for professional services in FY2025 with the aggregate total not to exceed \$80,000.
- **3-4 MARINE BIRD FALL AND EARLY WINTER SURVEYS 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 – Prince William Sound Marine Bird and Mammal Winter Surveys in 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$78,928.
- **3-5 APPROVAL OF PWSRCAC/ALYESKA CONTRACT COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION REPORT**
Acceptance of the PWSRCAC/Alyeska Annual Contract Compliance Verification Report.

- **3-6 APPROVAL FOR ANCHORAGE OFFICE LEASE EXTENSION**
Authorization for the Executive Director to sign a one-year lease extension for the Anchorage office located at 3709 Spenard Road. The monthly rent is \$5,950.95, totaling \$71,411.40 over the one-year term.
- **3-7 APPROVAL OF FY2024 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**
Approval of the FY2024 budget modifications as listed on the provided sheet, with a total revised contingency in the amount of \$204,629.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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

President: Amanda Bauer nominated Robert Archibald. Archibald accepted.
Hearing no additional nominations for President, nominations were closed.

Vice President: Jim Herbert nominated Amanda Bauer. Bauer accepted.
Hearing no additional nominations for Vice President, nominations were closed.

Secretary: Amanda Bauer nominated Bob Shavelson (pending his acceptance).
Hearing no additional nominations for Secretary, nominations were closed.

Treasurer: Michael Vigil nominated Wayne Donaldson. Donaldson declined.
Wayne Donaldson nominated Mako Haggerty. Haggerty accepted.
Hearing no additional nominations for Treasurer, nominations were closed.

Members-at-Large: Jim Herbert nominated Ben Cutrell. Cutrell accepted.
Nick Crump nominated Angela Totemoff. Totemoff accepted.
Amanda Bauer nominated Dave Janka (pending acceptance).
Dave Janka nominated Robert Beedle. Beedle accepted but would decline if Janka accepts.

Since several nominations were contingent or pending acceptance, it was agreed that the nominees would be given time to decide whether to accept or decline during the lunch break.

Lunch Recess: 11:55 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Dorothy Moore announced that the Valdez Museum has a model of Old Town Valdez (before the 1964 earthquake) and she would like to show it those interested. She would escort a group of those interested to the museum after this Board meeting recessed for the day.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (Continued)

Executive Assistant Jennifer Fleming announced that she had confirmed the acceptances of the nominees and ballots would be distributed the following morning.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

President Archibald and Executive Director Schantz announced the volunteers being recognized for their service to the Council, and presentations were made as follows:

5-Year Verbal Recognition:	Kirk Zinck (Board)
10-Year Clock:	Bob Shavelson (Board) Sarah Allan (SAC) Mikkel Foltmar (TOEM) Steve Goudreau (TOEM) Tom Kuckertz (TOEM)
15-Year Print:	Ruthie Knight (IEC) Kate Morse (IEC)
20-Year Blanket:	John Kennish (SAC)

PRESENTATION ON THE PIKKA PROJECT

Tony Parkin, the Crisis, Emergency & Security Advisor for Santos in Alaska, introduced Joe Balash, Senior Vice President for External Affairs for Santos, who made a presentation on Santos' Pikka Project as it will relate to the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). Santos is an Australian-based energy company that is developing the Pikka Project on Alaska's North Slope.

At the conclusion of the presentation, POVTS Committee Chair Steve Lewis asked about Santos' plans for shipping its crude from the VMT, pointing out that PWSRCAC is more confident of the shipping of TAPS crude on U.S.-flagged vessels. He asked if Santos planned to use existing vessels, sell its oil to other shippers, or bring in its own ships into the TAPS trade, and while he recognized that Balash may not be prepared to answer those questions at that time those are the questions that PWSRCAC's POVTS Committee would like answered as Santos gets further into the Pikka Project.

Balash responded that Santos is still working out all its marketing opportunities, and some of the decisions Santos will make are going to be dictated by some of the commercial opportunities available, such as the vessels that are currently serving the VMT, and Santos would like to come back to the Council in September when they have more details.

Lewis thanked Balash for the presentation and said the POVTS Committee will look forward to hearing more information.

(This was an information item. No action was requested of the Board.)

4-2 REPORT ACCEPTANCE: 2023 DRILL MONITORING ANNUAL REPORT

PWSRCAC Project Manager Roy Robertson presented an overview of the 2023 Annual Drill Monitoring Report for approval and acceptance by the Board. The report summarizes the drills and exercises attended by PWSRCAC staff in 2023. A briefing sheet and a copy of the report were included in the meeting notebook under Item 4-2.

Amanda Bauer expressed concern about the readiness of the fishing vessel fleet and emphasized the importance of doing drills in darkness, as well as unannounced drills, and she urged ADEC and Alyeska to bring those drills back.

Dave Janka pointed out that most of the fishing vessel fleet are only on the water in the summer months and have not exercised in darkness or fog, and some do not know how to use their radar. He would like to see a refresher course for the fishing vessel fleet on their radars for these night exercises, etc.

Amanda Bauer **moved acceptance** of the 2023 Annual Drill Monitoring Report for distribution to the public. Dave Janka **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

4-3 UPDATE ON REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (RSC) TASK FORCE

PWSRCAC Project Manager Jeremy Robida updated the Board on the Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) task force that was established by the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) in August 2022. This update was supplemental to the one presented to the Board at its January 2023 meeting at the time the Task Force process was just starting up and where PWSRCAC had considerable concerns over proposed edits to the RSC language.

Robida reported that now the process is nearing completion, PWSRCAC staff is satisfied and supportive of the developed work products. The developed job aids are now generally in agreement with the current Prince William Sound Area Plan and the Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) process that PWSRCAC has practiced in large scale exercises. Robida pointed out the importance of consistency in how this potential tool will be applied. This material will be incorporated across all four regions/area plans throughout Alaska that include: 1) Arctic and Western Alaska; 2) Prince William Sound; 3) Alaska Inland; and 4) Southeast Alaska. The finished work products (job aids) have also been expanded from what had previously been included in the Prince William Sound and Arctic and Western Alaska specific area plans.

A briefing sheet was included in the meeting notebook as Item 4-3.

Mako Haggerty pointed out that communications and information flow with the Public Information Office (PIO) in the event of an incident should go in both directions (i.e., from the PIO to the public and vice-versa). In addition, the RSC should not be a set group of people because the stakeholders would change as the seasons change.

(This was an information item. No action was requested of the Board.)

4-4 APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S ONE-PAGE STRATEGIC PLAN

Staff and the *ad hoc* Strategic Planning Committee sought Board approval of a one-page strategic plan. Executive Director Donna Schantz introduced the one-page strategic plan developed by contractor Agnew::Beck and gave a brief background of the plan. A briefing sheet with the one-page plan was included in the meeting notebook under Item 4-4. If approved, Executive Director Schantz will work with the Long Range Planning Committee to develop the next steps for Phase 2 of this work.

Kirk Zinck **moved to approve** the one-page strategic plan as developed by the Strategic Planning Committee. Jim Herbert **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

Terminal Operations and Environmental Monitoring Committee (TOEM)

Amanda Bauer	Renewal
Matt Cullin	Renewal
George Skladal	Renewal

Note: The committee consists of seven members including renewals.
Director on TOEM: Amanda Bauer.

Oil Spill Prevention and Response Committee (OSPR)

Mike Bender	Renewal
Dave Goldstein	Renewal
Tim Robertson	Renewal

Note: The committee consists of seven members including renewals.
Directors on OSPR: Robert Beedle, Mike Bender, Jim Herbert.

Port Operations and Vessel Traffic Systems (POVTS)

Amanda Bauer	Renewal
Robert Archibald	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
Aimee Williams	Renewal

Note: The committee consists of eight members including renewals.
Directors on IEC: Aimee Williams.

Jim Herbert **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

(This concluded the executive session report and related actions at this time. The Board would take up the issue of voluntary speed reduction of tankers later in the agenda under Item 4-8.)

For the Good of the Order – PILOTS OPENING COMMENTS (Revisit)**SOUTHWEST ALASKA PILOTS ASSOCIATION (SWAPA)**

The Board returned to Item G on the previous day's agenda to hear comments from the SWAPA president who was unable to join the meeting the previous day.

Captain Josh Weston gave a brief report on SWAPA membership. He reported SWAPA was currently staffed with:

- 14 full member Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) qualified pilots and five deputy pilots. Three of those deputy pilots currently hold 110,000 gross ton limited licenses. One of those deputies is at the 95,000 gross ton limit and one is at the 50,000 gross ton limit.
- Three of their full pilots are transitioning to retirement. One is in his fourth and final year and will retire at the end of this summer season.
- Two pilots retired last year and one retired earlier this year.

- To make up for the retirements, SWAPA currently has six trainees and observers. Two of the trainees are presently doing hands-on supervised maneuvers, and one should receive her deputy license this summer and begin working, and of the six, three of them are in the observer status awaiting their federal pilotage.
- Additionally, there is an opening for a new trainee.

In other news, Weston reported ongoing work involving the “alternative planning criteria” (APC) requirements. SWAPA is actively working with the USCG, the State of Alaska, and with the different APC providers to provide clarity and continuity on the APC requirements. Currently, the issues are statewide and not exclusive to SWAPA's purview area. They include the large disparity of requirements among different providers and questions about ships entering state pilotage waters under presumed *force majeure* to avoid weather.

Weston expressed appreciation to PWSRCAC for its assistance and outreach to Tom Crestodina for his book.

Dave Janka asked whether the SWAPA members were comfortable with the foreign flagged tankers coming into Prince William Sound. Weston said the foreign flagged vessels were well vetted ahead of time and there have been no problems.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The election balloting for Officers and Members-at-Large to the Executive Committee for the upcoming year was held electronically and conducted and tallied by staff.

President Archibald announced the results of the election of Officers and Members-at-Large to the Executive Committee as follows:

President:	Robert Archibald
Vice President:	Amanda Bauer
Treasurer:	Mako Haggerty
Secretary:	Bob Shavelson
Members-at-Large	Ben Cutrell, Angela Totemoff, Dave Janka

4-6 FEDERAL & STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Director of Programs and staff lead for the LAC, Joe Lally, led an update of government affairs activities of interest to PWSRCAC since the January Board meeting. He thanked the LAC members for their hard work in meeting every two weeks for the past few months and he also thanked Roy Jones and Genevieve Cowan, the Council's federal legislative monitors, and Gene Therriault, the Council's state legislative monitor, for all their work recently with the Council's legislative concerns and planned trips to Washington, D.C., and Juneau during the Alaska legislative session.

Lally reported that LAC members had just finished their trip to the Alaska Legislature where they met with approximately 20 legislators on the issues of concern to PWSRCAC: the SPAR budget and personnel attrition, PFAS legislation, and the establishment of an Alaska invasive species council. The LAC delegation also met with USCG District 17's Admiral Dean and her staff to work on issues of concern and mutual interest between the Council and the USCG.

Going forward, Lally reported that the same LAC delegation will be visiting Washington, D.C., where Roy Jones and Genevieve Cowan will help guide the LAC members to meet with the Alaska congressional delegation and the USCG Headquarters offices. Issues they will be discussing will include the new Subchapter M towing regulations, and to thank them for their work trying to get the Seal Rocks and Cape Cleare weather buoys back on station and reporting again.

Federal Update

Lally turned the floor over to PWSRCAC's federal legislative monitors, Roy Jones and Genevieve Cowan, who gave an overview of legislative issues of interest to PWSRCAC in Washington, D.C.

Cowan gave a brief update on the Council's upcoming trip to Washington, D.C., slated for May 7-9, to meet with Alaska's congressional delegation to talk about the GAO audit and other TAPS issues, and to meet with USCG Headquarters personnel and Sen. John Rayfield, who is chairman of the House Commerce Committee to discuss USCG issues. Cowan reported that the Senate left without re-authorizing the FAA long extension which expires on May 10, and they may have to pass a shorter version. Cowan said they were hoping that appropriations are authorized on time. An earmark request was sent for additional funding for NOAA for the weather buoys and to improve their budget line item which has not been improved in 20 years.

Roy Jones reported that he was setting up meetings for PWSRCAC's LAC delegation with Alaska's congressional representatives (Sen. Murkowski, Sen. Sullivan, and Rep. Peltola) and their staffs, and they are planning to have lunch in the Members' dining room where PWSRCAC's representatives will have a chance to interface with them and other members of the Senate at that time.

Jones reported that he and Cowan had worked on the Seal Rocks and Cape Cleare buoy redeployments and was told the buoys were being replaced, and he hoped that was fully underway. He reported NOAA had been very helpful in that regard. NOAA had also mentioned that it would be helpful to have additional funding for replacement and/or maintenance of buoys when they go down, so Jones and Cowan worked with Sen Murkowski to have another \$3 million added to the NOAA budget for that, and they let NOAA know what the Council had done. It is hoped the additional funding will pass.

Jones reported that they have had meetings with the USCG and added a Zoom capability so those who cannot physically be at the meeting can join in. This has been helpful in discussing all the issues, including discussions regarding the Subchapter M regulations. Jones expected to meet with the PWSRCAC group on May 7, prior to the meetings with USCG on May 8 and 9, and he expected it to be a good interaction and discussion.

Mako Haggerty asked about the status of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Jones advised that this was on the list of items to be discussed with Alaska's congressional delegation during this upcoming visit to Washington, D.C., and specifically with Sen. Sullivan.

State Update

PWSRCAC's state legislative monitor, Gene Therriault, reported on the items that Therriault was tracking that are of interest to PWSRCAC.

- **The SPAR budget.** The Governor proposed a status quo budget, although there is a return of a couple of staff positions to SPAR. The budget is pending reconciliation of the House and Senate versions and does include a component of undesignated general fund (UGF) dollars that helps to preserve the balance of the funds in the Prevention Account to fund SPAR going forward. However, there is a projection that it will be eroded over the next few years and funds will not be sufficient without the self-funding components that provide general fund dollars for SPAR, and the State will have to continue to increase the UGF amount or there will not be adequate funds going forward.
- **Refined fuels surcharge increase.** Neither pending bills to increase the refined fuels surcharge have advanced this year.
- **Senate Bill 67** (empowering the State Fire Marshal to prohibited the use of PFAS chemicals in the State of Alaska when he finds an alternative chemical that is effective and safe to use). That legislation passed out of the House Finance Committee and goes to the House floor and looks like it is poised for passage.
- **Invasive Species Council.** No legislation or executive action was forthcoming this year. It is an item that PWSRCAC will want to follow and educate legislators about before next year's legislative session.
- **Senate Joint Resolution 20.** A resolution advising the Alaska congressional delegation to take steps as the FAA authorization was pending in Congress to make sure the weather buoys in Prince William Sound receive adequate attention from the federal government. The resolution is a statement of concern backing up the concern that PWSRCAC has expressed and conveys that concern to key members of the federal administration in the Congress. It looks like it is poised for passage this year.

(This was an information item. No action was requested of the Board.)

4-7 COMMUNITY OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT

Maia Draper-Reich, Outreach Coordinator, presented an annual report to the Board of PWSRCAC's outreach events since May 2023, as well as work accomplished by the Fishing Vessel Program Community Outreach (Project 3410) and Youth Involvement (3530) projects during FY2024.

Executive Director Schantz mentioned that outreach staff also produces a highlight paper of each regular Board meeting which is distributed to Board members and will also be sent to their member entities if they wish. However, staff relies on each Board member to let staff know if they want it distributed to their member entity.

At the conclusion of her report, Board members thanked Draper-Reich for her comprehensive report and offered comments and some suggestions:

Mako Haggerty remarked that bringing in new interest in younger generations is important. He said he would also be curious to know how the different generations respond to the Council's outreach efforts (i.e., whether their interest stems from being students, or political or environmental interest groups, or especially if they are commercial fishermen).

Steve Lewis noted that the Council's volunteers are aging, and while the Council does much to engage the young people of the region, recruitment and generating interest in the mid-life age group could be helpful as well.

Michael Vigil mentioned that he would like to see outreach visits in the future into the Native villages of Tatitlek and Chenega, if the budget allows. He recognized that going into the remote villages, such as Tatitlek and Chenega, is an expensive endeavor but, picking up on a suggestion from Jim Herbert, he said Tatitlek's Cultural Heritage Camp and Nuuciq Spirit Camp, and Chenega's new Spirit Camp would be good places for PWSRCAC to put up a booth to engage all the generations in those Native communities. He thanked Herbert for the original idea.

Draper-Reich reported that staff members Nelli Vanderburg and Sadie Blancaflor would be going to the Tatitlek Cultural Heritage Festival on May 10 to represent PWSRCAC, on a Crowley Alaska Tankers chartered boat from Stan Stephens Cruises.

Suggestions and a general discussion followed about the logistical needs as well as difficulties of getting into the other smaller communities.

(This was an information item. No action was requested of the Board.)

Break: 10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

4-8 RESOLUTION REQUESTING A VOLUNTARY VESSEL SPEED REDUCTION BY TAPS TANKERS

President Archibald introduced a draft resolution for Board consideration and action that was submitted by Rick Steiner of Oasis Earth. The draft resolution requested TAPS tankers to adopt voluntary speed reductions in Prince William Sound to lessen the risk of vessel-whale strikes. A revised briefing sheet and a copy of the draft resolution (Resolution A1) proposed by Mr. Steiner was included in the meeting notebook under Item 4-8. Also included under Item 4-8 as Attachment B was a report to the Board from the POVTS Committee that looked at the issue extensively.

This issue was discussed in the executive session the previous day.

President Archibald read a prepared statement, as follows:

Today, the Council is being asked to request that the Trans Alaska Pipeline System tankers voluntarily reduce their speeds, when it is safe to do so, to help reduce the risk of vessel-whale strikes. The Council recognizes that vessel-whale strikes are a widespread problem and that reducing vessel speed is currently the most effective way to lower the number of whale strikes. We also recognize that there is currently a lack of information and research specifically regarding the prevalence and risk of tanker-whale strikes in Prince William Sound. I want to make it clear that the Council is concerned about protecting whale populations from impacts of the oil industry in our region, and has been discussing this topic, as well as any advice and recommendation we may wish to convey, for over two years.

Rick Steiner was given the floor to present his draft resolution and he directed the Board's attention to the background information contained in meeting notebook at 4-8. He also

explained his revised version A1 of the draft resolution which simplified the request outlined in the resolution.

Michael Vigil commended Steiner for his efforts but questioned whether this voluntary resolution would be expanded to other vessels, even fishing vessels. Steiner stated that the target group he contemplated would be tankers, cruise ships, freight vessels, and other "large" vessels. He pointed out that NOAA had declined to act on a similar request for large vessels, therefore it was difficult for him to imagine NOAA would approve it for smaller vessels, such as fishing vessels.

SWAPA's Capt. Weston gave the various current speed restrictions in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) for TAPS tankers, which change during transits depending on the location of the vessel and direction of travel (outbound or inbound), laden and unladen, and a discussion followed on speed limits generally.

Steiner was asked what other organizations he had approached for support and whether he expected PWSRCAC to lead the charge on voluntary speed reductions. Steiner reported that in addition to PWSRCAC, he had approached tanker owners and NOAA, but not beyond that yet, and he had not approached Alaska's congressional delegation. However, if PWSRCAC were to adopt such a resolution, he believed NOAA and the tanker owners would take note.

SWAPA's Capt. Weston commented that there are no documented tanker-whale strikes in Prince William Sound in the past and questioned whether it would solve the problem if there were one. Since there are so few incidents, he questioned whether slowing down a tanker from current restricted speeds would make a difference. He also pointed out that while it is being called a voluntary speed reduction, the oil companies, who are mindful of their public image, will consider it a *de facto* way of operating tankers in Prince William Sound. This could create unintended consequences in that the Prince William Sound Vessel Escort & Response Plan (VERP) requires the tanker master to be on the bridge for the entire transit from outside Hinchinbrook Entrance to the VMT berth, and vice-versa, and can amount to a 10-12 hour day for the master. By requiring a *de facto* speed reduction, masters will be required to be on the bridge for longer than they already are required to be, possibly contributing to fatigue, and certainly not a good move towards increasing safety of operation for the environment. Weston added that while it might be a good move for the whales, it might not be as good a move as it may appear on the surface.

Dave Janka pointed out there are not many really good options to solve the risks of vessel-whale strikes, but the one that has been shown to make a difference is speed reduction, and reduced speed also reduces noise in the water that affects the whales, and it saves fuel. He also noted that there has been a precipitous loss of whale numbers in Prince William Sound. He also pointed out that it is PWSRCAC's mission for safe transportation of oil through PWSRCAC's environment, and whales are part of the environment, and the voluntary speed reduction being requested is only reduced by two knots for outbound tankers. It would be a greater reduction from the current speed restrictions for inbound tankers because they are going faster, and Janka said the additional speed reduction was appropriate in his opinion because a tanker is not going to feel when it strikes a whale and so reduced speed there would make a difference.

Polar Tankers' Andrea West commented that a voluntary speed reduction would add a lot more work requirements for the captains, the chief engineer, and the extra lookouts they have when they come into port. In other areas of the country where tanker operators do participate in

voluntary speed reductions it is not when coming into port, and the captain is not yet on the bridge. So, there are consequences that they would need to evaluate and look at the proposal strategically, and it would need to be well managed. She also commented that it is easy for Polar Tankers to participate in voluntary speed reductions in other areas of the country because it is well managed and Prince William Sound would need to be the same.

POVTS Chair Steve Lewis pointed out that the POVTS Committee did a detailed analysis of increased transit time in April 2023 and calculated an inbound transit time of 5 hrs. 38 mins at the current operating speed requirements, and an 8 hour inbound transit time at a 10 knot overall speed limit. Lewis suggested the Board look at the POVTS report and analysis as a starting point and then decide if the analysis is correct and whether the difference in the transit time conclusion is operationally significant.

Dave Janka **moved to adopt draft Resolution A1** in the meeting notebook. Jim Herbert **seconded**. A roll call vote was taken:

Robert Archibald	No.
Amanda Bauer	No.
Robert Beedle	No.
Mike Bender	Yes.
Mike Brittain	Yes.
Nick Crump	No.
Ben Cutrell	No.
Wayne Donaldson	No.
Mako Haggerty	No.
Luke Hasenbank	No.
Jim Herbert	Abstain.
Dave Janka	Yes.
Melvin Malchoff	No.
Dorothy Moore	No.
Bob Shavelson	(No response.)
Angela Totemoff	(No response.)
Michel Vigil	No.
Aimee Williams	No.
Kirk Zinck	Abstain.

The **motion failed** on a vote of three in favor, 12 against, two abstentions.

Explaining her position against the resolution, Dorothy Moore stated that she would need more scientific data and information in order to vote for such a resolution. She wanted to see the resolution go through the same investigation that other Council resolutions have. While she said she was appalled at the pictures she had been presented of whale strikes, she said it was unknown whether any were caused by TAPS tankers, and any voluntary speed reduction resolution needed to cover all large vessels in Prince William Sound, not only TAPS tankers.

Archibald acknowledged that he did not have an answer to the vessel-whale strike problem but he did know that Alaska has a dwindling whale population.

Jim Herbert **moved** to direct staff to work with the appropriate technical committees to draft an advisory letter to NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, other relevant regulatory agencies identified, and the TAPS shippers conveying the Council's concerns relating to vessel-whale strikes within the Council's region, and acknowledging the effectiveness of a vessel speed reduction. Mike Bender **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

President Archibald sent the issue back to the technical committees to get information to help the Board with the issues that were brought forward.

4-9 ANNUAL BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The annual appointment to Board subcommittees was led by Executive Director Schantz and President Archibald. A briefing sheet was included in the meeting notebook as Item 4-9 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 Jim Herbert, **seconded** by Ben Cutrell, and **passed** without objection. (It was agreed that Directors who wanted to serve on a subcommittee but were not present at this meeting could be added later.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Aimee Williams, Robert Archibald, the five technical committee chairs, IEC member Cathy Hart.

BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

Robert Beedle, Dorothy Moore, Luke Hasenbank, Mike Bender.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Robert Archibald, Dorothy Moore, Robert Beedle, Kirk Zinck, Mako Haggerty.

(Staff to follow up with Directors who were not present to confirm whether they wish to be added to any of the Board subcommittees.)

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Director of Finance Ashlee Hamilton thanked the Finance Committee members for their input and assistance.

She especially thanked Ben Cutrell as the go-to check-signer for the organization. His availability to sign checks in Anchorage allows PWSRCAC's payments to be made timely. She said she continued to explore electronic payment methods that would reduce costs, streamline payments, and decrease the risk of fraud.

Since the January Board meeting, Hamilton reported that she spent considerable time on the FY2025 budget which the Board approved at this meeting, and she thanked staff members Jennifer Fleming and Jaina Willahan for their assistance with the budget book.

As reported by Treasurer Wayne Donaldson, the Council's IRS Form 990 was successfully filed with the IRS on April 4, 2024, and this concluded PWSRCAC's relationship with the accounting firm

BDO. Hamilton announced that Porter & Allison, Inc., have been engaged as the Council's new auditors for 2024, and she was arranging an in-person meeting later this summer/fall with the Finance Committee during which Porter & Allison will have the opportunity to provide some valuable education to the Finance Committee members.

Hamilton reported she had attended the Sage Transform Conference in Las Vegas in February. The event allowed her to deepen her understanding of PWSRCAC's new Sage Intacct accounting software and to network with other professionals. In addition, she also had the opportunity to make contact with other add-on vendors to the accounting software Sage Intacct which will greatly enhance PWSRCAC's financial capabilities moving forward. Some of the takeaways from the conference were creating smart rules to streamline PWSRCAC's monthly bank reconciliation, in-depth training on how to modify PWSRCAC's existing reporting capabilities, and she also attended a session on how other nonprofits' financial professionals engage their board members.

Hamilton reported that she had been working with prospective vendors to finalize the selection process for new budgeting software. This is aimed at ensuring that the Council's budgeting process remains consistent and efficient year after year. She commented that by investing in the right tools, PWSRCAC can streamline operations and better serve the organization.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD.

A written Executive Director's Report was earlier circulated to the Board via email. Executive Director Schantz highlighted a few items and updated that report at this time.

She noted that the GAO review of the TAPS issues raised in the Billie Garde report has begun. They are currently working on the scope of their review and they expect to visit Alaska in June-July. Their report on that review was not expected to be issued until early 2025, as earlier reported by Steve Weeks. The Council's goal with this recommendation is that it will highlight any deficiencies in state and/or federal oversight of the VMT, such that measures can be taken to address any regulatory gaps that may exist. Schantz gave a brief history of past GAO reviews of TAPS, the JPO, and other regulatory agencies and the positives that have come from those reviews.

She highlighted some of those positive outcomes that have come from recent collaboration and outreach efforts with Alyeska and other industry partners:

- She thanked and recognized Alyeska for the tour they provided to the Council the previous day, and she thanked Hilcorp and ATC for the reception the previous evening.
- She thanked Alyeska for providing some meals for the Youth Involvement Outreach Tour to Bligh Reef. She also recognized Maia Draper-Reich for her efforts on this outreach effort.
- The welcome news from John Kurz that Alyeska was working to improve the timeliness of releasing information that PWSRCAC requests and his comments that seeking Alyeska's input on reports before they are released helps build trust and strengthens PWSRCAC's relationship with Alyeska.
- She noted the great collaboration and partnership on the Council's project with Tom Crestodina and thanked the many who had worked on the project.

- PWSRCAC's ability to observe more drills and exercises in the past year than any year since the pandemic, as reported by Roy Robertson.
- The good Fishing Vessel Program, as mentioned by Jim Herbert.
- Alyeska's commissioning of a new OSRB, the Allison Creek and a new lightering barge.
- The completion of the job aids for the Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC).
- Danielle Verna and SAC Chair Davin Holen's co-authoring a paper, titled "Building Collaborative Social Science Research Models to Understand the Social, Cultural and Economic Impacts of Oil Spills."

On staffing issues, Schantz announced that John Guthrie had accepted the Maritime Operations Project Manager staff position that was previously held by Alan Sorum, and Hans Odegard had been promoted to Director of Administration to replace KJ Crawford who resigned in January. His former position was currently being advertised.

She thanked Finance Director Ashlee Hamilton for her work on the budget and commented on the amazing team of staff that makes up PWSRCAC. She also commented on the fact that all PWSRCAC's regulatory and industry partners share PWSRCAC's goal for the safe transportation of oil and the importance of working together with those partners to achieve the shared goals. She thanked all the volunteers for their time and the expertise they bring to the organization.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

President Archibald thanked the Board for electing him President once again.

He commented on the tour at VMT the previous day and was impressed with the activity they saw there.

He commented that oversight is important as it helps one run a safe organization, but pointed out that sometimes Corporate has a different focus.

He said he was still working on saying "our" environment and not "it" or "the," and he was still looking at the balanced "wheel" he had alluded to in his remarks at previous Board meetings and the importance of keeping the wheel balanced by everyone doing their job.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Item 3-3 LTEMP Contract Authorization was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion by Wayne Donaldson because the contractor named in the briefing sheet had changed. He pointed out that the change was a name change only; there was no change in the principal contractor.

Ben Cutrell **moved to authorize** individual contracts with Alpha Analytical and Fjord & Fish Sciences with the aggregate total not to exceed the amount approved in the final FY2025 LTEMP budget (Project 9510) for contract expenses, and delegation of authority to the Executive Director to enter into individual contracts with the aforementioned consultants. Michael Vigil **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

Ben Cutrell **moved to authorize** contract work to commence prior to the start of FY2025, as approximately \$20,000 of these funds will need to be expended in May and June 2024. Dave Janka **seconded** and the **motion passed** without objection.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Directors were given the opportunity to make closing comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, and hearing no objections **the meeting was adjourned** at approximately 11:46 a.m.

Secretary