

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – September 2026

INFORMATION ITEM

Sponsor: Davin Holen and the Scientific Advisory Committee

Project number and name or topic: Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange: Learning from the Legacy of Past Oil Spills

1. **Description of agenda item:** Scientific Advisory Committee member Davin Holen will present on the Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange, a three-part workshop series hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine devised to share ideas and bring together people with connections to the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon oil spills. Held between October 2024 and March 2025, the workshops included speakers and participants from both Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico region, as well as participants who represent a range of experiences and disciplines to discuss similarities between the regions and strategies for resilience moving forward. SAC Committee members Davin Holen and Scott Pegau were part of the planning committee for the workshops, and staff members Donna Schantz and Danielle Verna gave presentations on the Council's work.
2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** This workshop advances the Council's mission to promote effective research and support studies, projects, and activities that will advance and apply science, engineering, and public health knowledge to prevent and reduce the risks from oil spills. Participation in the knowledge exchange directly supports to our contract with Alyeska, which states that the Council shall "Provide input into monitoring and assessing the environmental, social, and economic consequences of any oil related accidents." Recommendations from the workshops could inform future projects and outreach by the Council in the Exxon Valdez oil spill region.
3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:** None.
4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** None known.
5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Scientific Advisory Committee was kept informed of the knowledge exchange workshops during the course of the series.
6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** None.
7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** None, item is for information only.
8. **Attachments:** The Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange workshop proceedings and final report can be found [HERE](#).