Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – May 2022

INFORMATION ITEM

Sponsor: Alan Sorum

Project number and name or topic: Presentation by Captain Steve White, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Alaska

1.   **Description of agenda item:** Captain Steve White, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK), will brief the Board about his organization, their marine safety mission, and areas were MXAK has common interests with the Council.

2.   **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** Founded in 2001, Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives, property, and protecting the environment by preventing maritime disasters. MXAK has developed a vast maritime safety network which provides maritime domain awareness using cutting-edge technology, extensive experience, and strong partnerships. Many of their marine safety interests and goals overlap with those of the Council.

MXAK is responsible for installing and maintaining more than 60 weather stations, as well as developing Alaska's most comprehensive vessel tracking system, with over 150 Automatic Identification System (AIS) receivers positioned across the state. There is potential to collaborate with the MXAK on future weather-related projects, and the Council has previously shared expenses with them to conduct maintenance work at the Cape St Elias weather station.

Data gathered from marine safety sites is made available on PacTracs, a customizable display system designed to provide mariners with accurate information needed to make informed decisions. The Council subscribes to this service and has used it extensively during marine related incidents in the past.

3.   **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:** Not applicable.

4.   **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** Not applicable.

5.   **Committee Recommendation:** Not applicable.

6.   **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** None.

7.   **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** None, item is for information only.

8.   **Attachments:** None.