



**2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
NAVIGATING THE CHANGING TIDES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 – 8:30 AM**

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Board of Directors

Lacey Simpson, President
Zak Kirkpatrick, 1st VP
Katie Koester, 2nd VP
Chelsea Goucher, Secretary
Alec Mesdag, Treasurer
Mark Scheer
KC Hostetler
Gracia O'Connell
Jan Hill
Jason Custer
Dennis Gray
Elizabeth Cornejo
Liz Cabrera

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Lacey Simpson at 8:35am.

Roll Call: More than 85 SEC Members including Zak Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth Cornejo, Gracia O'Connell, KC Hostetler, Liz Cabrera, Markos Scheer, Rodney Dial, Patty Gilbert, Ron Curtis, Dee Wright, Deb Hayden, Judy Dubose, Robert Venables, Meilani Schijvens, Sarah Woodruff and Nathan Green.

Approve of the Agenda: Motion/Second – Scheer/Hostetler, passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from September 21, 2023 Sitka Annual Meeting - Motion/Second – Hostetler/Scheer passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Executive Director, Robert Venables spoke for treasurer Alec Mesdag, who was unable to attend. Venables reported that a financial snapshot is available in the Annual report, accessible via the QR Code. They show that Southeast Conference's financials are very stable.

New Business Items:

Approval of the ballot results

Three incumbent board members re-approved, Chelsea Goucher, Alec Mesdag, and Elizabeth Cornejo.

New president, Zak Kirkpatrick

Jan Hill dismissed. Although not in attendance, Jan was publicly thanked for her many years of dedicated service.

Katie Koester from 2nd to 1st VP, Gracia O'Connell as 2nd VP

New Business

Location nomination from the city of Sitka for annual meeting in 2025. Visit Sitka submitted a bid to serve as the host city. Sitka Chamber member Holly Meyer spoke to Sitka's ability and encouraged reservations sooner rather than later.

Motion to vote on the location of the 2025 meeting to Sitka. O'Connell/Hostetler. All approved.

Members Instructions to the board:

Ketchikan Gateway Borough Mayor Rodney Dial said that he'd like to have more discussion around disaster preparedness. Wrangell Mayor Patty Gilbert said she would like to see a regional approach to disaster preparedness. Dee Wright said that she was impressed with the conference and the issues that were addressed across so many different industry areas. Deborah Hayden expressed admiration for the work that the Alaska Mariculture Coalition is doing, but asked for more time for the communities to mount a collective local voice for responding to RFPs. Judy Dubose expressed her pride and excitement to be involved with Southeast Conference.

Raffle winner was drawn: Keith Perkins was the winner.

Board Comments to the Membership:

Mark your calendar for the 2025 Mid Session Summit & Transportation Symposium: February 11-13 in Juneau at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall.

Elizabeth Cornejo said that she's happy to officially be elected to the SEC Board. She was appointed last year and has since begun work for UAS. Markos Scheer said that he appreciates all the real work being done by SEC in the 4 terms that he's served. He thanked the membership for their generosity. Gracia O'Connell said that her favorite part about her job is traveling to each unique community and she is honored to represent the membership. KC Hostetler said that the conference content is astounding and is excited about the new direction of the scholarship program. Liz Cabrera said thank you to the membership for their level of commitment. She is open to hearing from communities and encouraged by the rise of regional cooperatives and initiatives. Zak Kirkpatrick said that he loves that SEC is able to see across industries and communities to find common ground and work for the good of the region.

Venables introduced new SE Conference staff, Charles Westmoreland, Energy Coordinator, Cady Lister, Senior Energy Advisor, Charlie Herrington, Project Manager, Chase Coleman and Cindy Jimenez, Mariculture Program Coordinators, Stephane Granato, Sustainability Fellow, and Collette Peters, Special Projects Coordinator

Motion/Second to adjourn – 9:12am, Hostetler/Cabrera. All approved.

Minutes Approved

Date