

# FY25 ANNUAL REPORT

June 2024-July 2025



**SOUTHEAST  
CONFERENCE**

**SEC'S MISSION IS TO UNDERTAKE AND SUPPORT  
ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE STRONG  
ECONOMIES, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND A  
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA**



# FY24 ANNUAL REPORT CONTENTS

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# OUR MISSION

# OUR MEMBERS





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Juneau, AK 99801  
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[www.seconference.org](http://www.seconference.org)  
Email [info@seconference.org](mailto:info@seconference.org)

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

## Welcome to Southeast Conference

*Southeast Conference is a regional, nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interest of the people, communities and businesses in Southeast Alaska. Our goal is to support projects that promote strong economies, sustainable communities, and a healthy environment in Southeast Alaska.*

As the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and the federally-designated Economic Development District (EDD) for the region, Southeast Conference takes an active role in regional resource management and economic development planning. We have the ability (and responsibility) to assist municipalities, Tribes and business leaders with community and economic development, workforce training, transportation planning, public infrastructure, affordable housing, disaster recovery and resilience, rural capacity-building, public health, regional planning, and other services. We also work as regional conveners, helping to connect public and private partners in support of community-based initiatives. We also provide technical assistance and assist as needed with project development.

Southeast Conference began 66 years ago with a group of interested leaders, like you, who wished to see the region develop successfully and the ferry system established in Southeast Alaska. After the creation of AMHS, Southeast Conference stayed together to focus not only on transportation issues but on many other concerns unique to the region. Our membership is over 200 strong and now includes nearly every community in Southeast Alaska.

We are surrounded by a sea of change and face uncertainty in the federal government's future participation in our region and state. Our vision is to facilitate enduring connections that enable dynamic, diverse and thriving economies across Southeast. Our award winning Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy provides the foundation for each economic priority and will guide future investments from the public and private sectors..

Southeast Alaska is surrounded by a wealth of resources, from our forests and minerals to our tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities: but our greatest regional resource is our people who are committed and passionate about our mission of vibrant economies, sustainable communities and a healthy environment in Southeast Alaska.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

J. Robert Venables

Executive Director



**MISSION- *What We do***

*SEC's mission is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, sustainable communities, and a healthy environment in Southeast Alaska.*

**VISION- *Why We do It***

*To facilitate enduring connections that enable dynamic, diverse, and thriving economies across SE Alaska.*

**VALUES- *How We do It***

- *We position Southeast Alaska as an economic leader in the global economy.*
- *We engage community leaders to develop solutions which will enhance the economic sustainability of our region.*
- *We catalyze change and prosperity for our diverse region.*
- *We facilitate visionary and adaptive solutions to sustain our region in perpetuity.*
- *We build trust among our partners.*
- *We respect and celebrate the diversity of our region.*
- *We develop capacity internally and externally to accomplish our mission.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Southeast Conference became an organization in 1958 to assist in the creation and development of a regional transportation system that eventually became the Alaska Marine Highway System. After that success, the group continued to advocate for key regional issues.. Through our membership network and committee process we support local projects that will benefit the region and regional projects that will benefit local communities. Our work has been focused on regional transportation policy and infrastructure; sustainable affordable energy for all Southeast Communities; growth of our marine supply and support industry; support for our fishing and fish processing industry; sustainable timber industry; sustainable food security; and workforce development. We have a 13-member volunteer Board of Directors and more than 200 member organizations & individuals that populate our many committees. We have members from Native Tribes and Organizations, Communities, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Organization and Universities in the region.

In 2002 Southeast Conference became the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Southeast Economic Development District (EDD) and the State of Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR). The federal designation benefits our membership with reduced match requirement on federal grants, and access to other programs within that department. The state designation has allowed us to form partnerships with many other state development districts. Both designations require us to have a five-year regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that is updated annually. The current priority objectives identified are energy, mariculture, tourism, and transportation.

**WEBSITE**

On our website, [www.seconference.org](http://www.seconference.org), users can find upcoming events, current and past publications, committee minutes, and much more. The Articles of Incorporation and IRS recognition as a 501(c) 6 non-profit organization are available for review upon request.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Southeast Conference's membership is made up of municipalities, federally-recognized tribes, businesses, government agencies, organizations, and individuals located or doing business in Southeast Alaska. Municipalities, businesses, government agencies, organizations and individuals that are *not* located in the

region may become Associate Members, retaining all the rights of full members except voting and introducing resolutions.

## **THE BOARD**

Southeast Conference is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board manages the affairs of the organization between annual membership meetings and meet at the call of the President. They provide direction to SEC staff on implementation of the work plan, and approve any interim resolutions, communications and recommendations from the various ad hoc committees. The Board is comprised of 13 members, of which five must be municipal representatives elected or employed by their communities, or federally-recognized tribal representatives elected or employed by their organization, a minimum of five (5) members must represent the private sector and three (3) members are members-at-large, representing any member entity. The Directors are elected for a three-year term by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. The Nominating Committee (comprised of the Past-President and no less than 3 Southeast Conference members-in-good-standing) accept nominations from the membership and verify the qualifications of each candidate. Candidates must meet geographic, cultural, and gender requirements as well as bylaws requirements. At each Annual Meeting a Second Vice President is elected from the current Board members, which involves a commitment to serve as Second Vice President, First Vice President, President, and then Past-President. Board members are expected to pay membership dues and attend the two membership meetings as well as support the scholarship program with donations to the annual auction.

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board President calls meetings and sets the agenda. Committee work is routinely reviewed and acted upon as part of the meeting. Some issues are raised at the Board level without committee referral, at the call of the President, generally because of urgency in timing or prior process already initiated. The Board considers resolutions throughout the year, if they are consistent with direction from membership provided at the Annual Meeting. Most meetings are via zoom. Some action items are dealt with between meetings electronically.

## **COMMITTEES**

Standing Committees are Bylaws and Nominations, ad hoc committees are formed when needed at the call of the President. Ad hoc committee chairperson must be a Board member. Committee membership is limited to members in good standing. Most meetings are conducted as teleconferences and are scheduled at the call of the Chair. The Chairperson is responsible for the agenda. Members in good standing are allowed to offer agenda items to the chairperson. Committee members are expected to review and deliberate on the issues during the meetings and provide recommendations to the Board of Directors. The chairperson then reports to the Board. The Board of Directors has final approval on all committee actions. Requests for letters of support or resolutions are handled in this manner.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Membership Meeting, as required by State law and the Bylaws, is traditionally held in September, in a community other than Juneau. Everyone is encouraged to attend, members and non-members alike. New board members are elected and the location of the next meeting is voted on. The annual report is made available, and an agenda is created, addressing all of the current issues before the Conference. At the Annual Business Meeting, the new board members are announced, the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP is elected, resolutions are voted on, and membership advises the Board on direction for the following year.

## **MID-SESSION SUMMIT**

During the Legislative Session, a membership meeting is convened in Juneau to assess progress on the work plan(s) and to evaluate specific legislative issues. We attempt to gather all of our Southeast Legislators so members can have direct contact with them.



SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAM



*Rooted in purpose...*



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
FOUNDATION



## A Letter from the President

I am pleased to share this annual endowment report with you, now writing in my capacity as the permanent president of the University of Alaska (UA) Foundation. It's been a year of reflection, growth, and gratitude, and I want to thank you for your continued support. Your generosity continues to open doors for our students and faculty, shaping a brighter future across our universities and the communities we serve.

At the UA Foundation, we take our commitment to responsible stewardship seriously. This report includes a snapshot of your fund's performance as of December 31, 2024, as well as the amounts available for spending in both the past and current fiscal years.

The UA Foundation strives to provide you with clear and timely information. Thanks to donors' thoughtful feedback, you'll notice this report comes to you in a calendar year format and is being provided to you in early summer.

Behind the scenes, we've been working closely with university partners to streamline how funds are distributed and used - helping ensure your gifts make meaningful impact where they are needed the most. Last year, the UA Foundation delivered more than \$31 million in support to the universities, an increase from \$22 million the previous year. This growth reflects both your generosity and our shared commitment to student success and academic excellence.

I'm also pleased to share that the endowment achieved a five-year net annualized return of 8.4% as of December 31, 2024. While market conditions fluctuate, our performance continues to exceed key benchmarks and peer averages, supporting the long-term strength of your investment.

On behalf of the entire UA Foundation team, thank you! Your commitment is creating opportunities and changing lives every day across the University of Alaska system.

Warmest regards,

**Tlisa A. Northcutt, CFRE**  
**President**

# UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT REPORT

Report for the period of January 01, 2024 - December 31, 2024

## Southeast Conference Scholarship (80818)

### Amount Available for Spending in Accordance with the Purpose of the Fund

FY25 Spending Distribution:	\$5,873
FY26 Spending Distribution:	\$7,256
Total distribution benefit over the lifetime of the endowment:	\$59,214

The calendar year distribution refers to the amount of accumulated earnings transferred from the endowment to the spending account where it is then available for the donor's stated intent. This transferred amount is determined by a spending formula in the UA Foundation's spending guidelines and is generally equal to four percent of the market value of the fund, based on a five-year rolling average as of December 31.

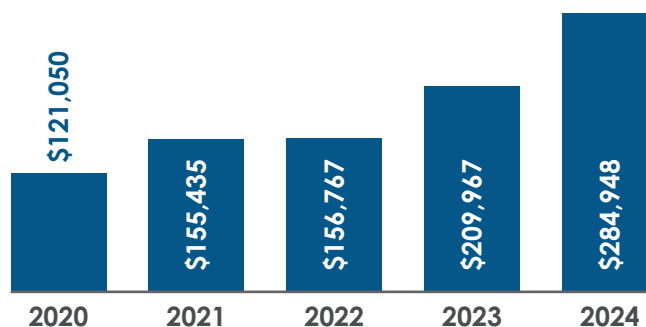
### Market Value

as of 12/31/2024

**\$284,947.95**

The market value is calculated with the original gift amount and any additional gifts plus total return (capital appreciation and earned income) net of investment expenses less distributions/payout from the endowment fund.

### 5-Year Performance:



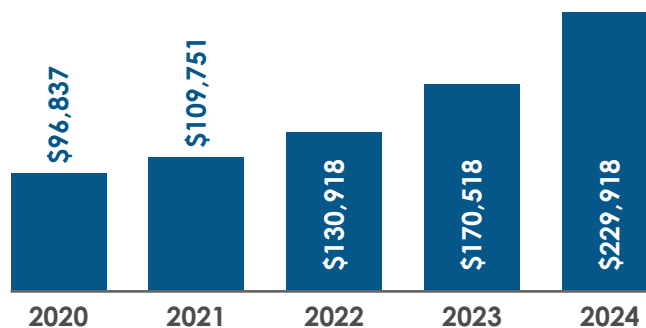
### Book Value

as of 12/31/2024

**\$229,917.54**

The book value is the original amount of the donation to the endowed account plus all additional donations and realized gains.

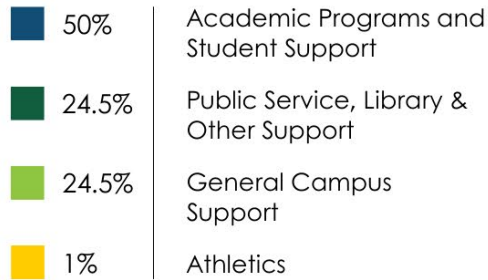
### 5-Year Performance:



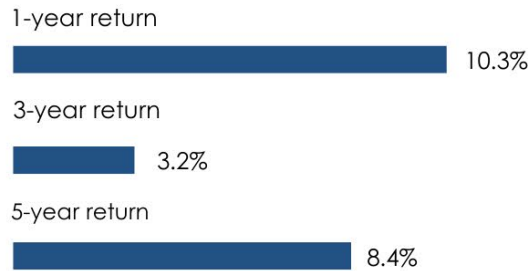
Available balance will be affected by any open or pending commitments, pledges, non-cash items, payables, or other adjustments on the fund.

# UA FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT GENERAL OVERVIEW

## Amount Distributed to the University of Alaska as of December 31, 2024



## Annual Endowment Return Rates Net of All Fees as of December 31, 2024



## Learn More | Connect with the UA Foundation



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@universityofalaskafoundation



@uakfoundation



[www.alaska.edu/foundation](http://www.alaska.edu/foundation)

**"A little help can have a large impact."** - Donor Jim Sink

## Contact Us

### UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE (UAA)

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### UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FOUNDATION

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Fairbanks, AK 99775  
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[foundation@alaska.edu](mailto:foundation@alaska.edu)

The University of Alaska ([www.alaska.edu](http://www.alaska.edu)) is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employer and Educational Institution. The University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination ([www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination)) against individuals on the basis of any legally protected status.

Photos in this report have been generously provided by UAA, UAF, and UAS.

Cover Photo: The Auke Lake Trail in Juneau features educational signage about the rainforest ecosystem. Fundraising for trail construction was organized by the UAS Office of Advancement, in partnership with the City and Borough of Juneau.

# UA FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## OFFICERS

**Meg Nordale**

*Chair*

GHEMM Company, Inc.

**Jennifer Schrage**

*Vice Chair*

Signature Land  
Services

**Roald Helgesen**

*Treasurer*

Central Council of Tlingit  
& Haida Indian Tribes of  
Alaska

**Stephanie Erickson**

*Secretary*

ConocoPhillips Alaska

## DIRECTORS

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University of Alaska  
Board of Regents

**Ella Goss**

Providence Alaska

**Stephanie Madsen**

Retired, At-Sea  
Processors Association

**Tim Thompson**

Alaska Airlines

**Anna Atchison**

Kinross Gold  
Corporation

**Todd Greimann**

Mauna Loa Land &  
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**Aleesha Towns-Bain**

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**Daniel White, Ph.D.**

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**Stephen Colligan**

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Board of Regents

**Brian Holst**

Juneau Economic  
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**Melissa Reiser**

First National Bank  
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**Laura Edmondson**

Edmondson  
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**Mary K. Hughes, J.D.**

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former Regent

**Benjamin Roth**

SBS Retirement  
Consultants, LLC

**Jason Gootee**

Moda Partners, Inc.

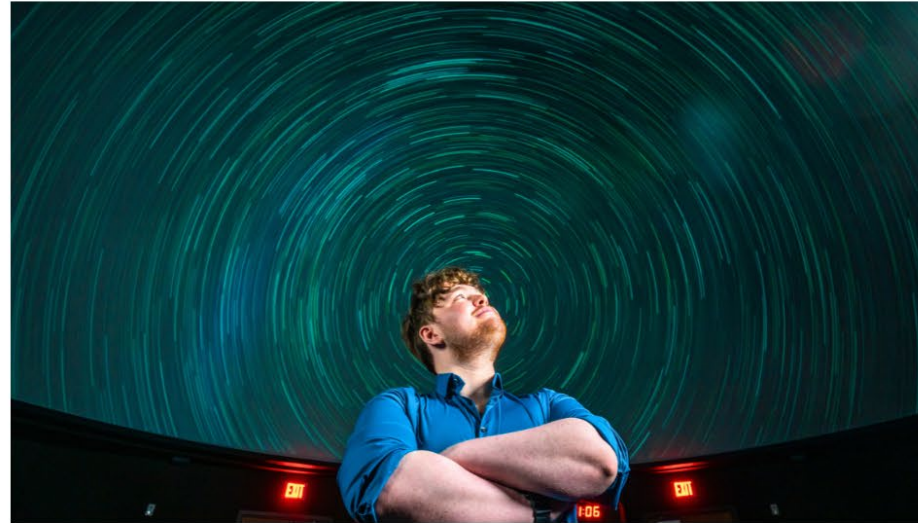
**Dave Karp**

Saltchuk

**Cheryl Siemers, Ph.D.**

University of Alaska  
Anchorage

The UA Foundation is legally separate and distinct from the University of Alaska and is governed by a board of directors. This all-volunteer board comprises prominent Alaskans, the president of the University of Alaska, chancellors from each university (UAA/UAF/UAS), and two members of UA Board of Regents.





**TO:** University of Alaska Southeast  
Attn: Brittany Walkenford, Development Officer & Annual Fund Manager

**FROM:** Southeast Conference Board of Directors

**DATE:** April 18, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Southeast Conference Scholarship Awards 2025-2026

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Southeast Conference has determined the following three (3) applicants eligible to receive a scholarship from the Southeast Conference Scholarship Fund. The decisions to rank the candidates in these categories were unanimous.

**\$1600 AWARD**

Catherine McRoberts from Ketchikan  
Lydia Green from Haines  
Tellisha Frankhouser from Ketchikan



# BOARD MEETING

# MINUTES

**PLEASE NOTE:  
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

JULY 18, 2024

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**Southeast Conference  
Board of Directors**

Lacey Simpson, President

Zakary Kirkpatrick, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Katie Koester, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Alec Mesdag, Treasurer &  
Past President

Gracia O'Connell

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Chelsea Goucher

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Liz Cornejo

Jan Hill

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President Simpson at 11:02 am via zoom.

Board members present were Simpson, Koester, Mesdag, Cornejo, Scheer, Kirkpatrick, Goucher, Gray, Custer Staff present: Robert Venables, Kaitlyn Jared, Dan Lesh, Charles Westmoreland, Juliana Leggitt, Sarah Woodruff, and Adrienne Buntten.

Approval of the Agenda: M/S by Goucher/Scheer, approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2024: M/S by Mesdag/Cornejo approved unanimously.

President's Report: President Simpson thanked everyone for attending. She informed the board that at the last meeting, the Ketchikan City Council did not discuss the free use of the civic center for SEC's Annual meeting but hopes that they will put it back on a future agenda. Simpson also stated that the Executive Director's annual evaluation is due and should be discussed with the Board and Executive Committee at the next meeting.

Mesdag stated that the Finance committee just met. The year-end financials are not yet available, but they discussed the FY25 budget. Mesdag said that there will likely be an amendment to the budget forthcoming with expected grant awards.

The Executive Director provided his and other staff reports (in packet). Venables stated that things are going well. He will be in Ketchikan soon to meet with the USDA Under Secretary for a SASS roundtable. He may also visit POW. The USFS and industry stakeholders seem open to SEC facilitating the discussion on how to shift the timber conversation to focus on young growth. They have hinted that there may be another smaller amount of SASS funding.

Woodruff gave an update on annual meeting planning. Lesh shared updates on SASS. Fifteen microgrants awarded through the SASS program. USDA Under Secretary Homer Wilkes is coming and the SASS Annual Report is getting wrapped up. Leggitt gave an update on the Build Back Better program. 1.3 million in the second round of joint innovation projects through AFDF Sub-recipients will be submitting reports. An offer has been made to a new hire to fill the Mariculture Coordinator position. Jared said that she has been able to hand off some of the Energy work to our Energy team now that its fully staffed. Things are moving forward with AMHS. Westmoreland reported that there is more interest in the EV program, did a site visit at the POW Pellet Mill Site and is getting ready for the first Biomass Operator training since 2019. Cornejo asked about provisions for training due to the different fire risk present as a result of EV batteries. Jared said that at this point, there is no funding, but the additional risk and equipment is needed and on everyone's mind.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion to approve the latest iteration of SEC's Mission/Value/Vision statement as proposed by the wordsmithing committee. M/S Scheer/Cornejo. All approved.

Venables asked how we should roll out this new direction. Simpson said we could inform the membership at Annual Meeting. Staff will work on talking points. Cornejo suggested a social media campaign.

NEW BUSINESS:

Venables said that the RLF flow chart is fairly self-explanatory and outlines a variety of paths to connect the borrower with the lender. Scheer expressed concerns that, according to the flow chart, the Loan Advisory Board (LAB) would have final approval on loan applicants instead of the lending institution. Young and Venables clarified that the purpose of the Loan Approval Board will be to determine whether the applicant is eligible for collateral support through BBB funding. The lending institutions have the final call on applicant loan eligibility.

Simpson said since we're running short on time, staff will send out a doodle poll with the Executive Committee for the Executive Director review.

Motion made that SEC donate \$60,000 to the UA Foundation. M/S Mesdag/Custer. Scheer said it would be great if we had some scholarship recipients to give testimonials at annual meeting. Simpson said that if we're wanting to shift and open funds to other student education and workforce development opportunities, we should discuss prior to the annual meeting and have a clear path forward. Sheer said he is happy to participate. All approved.

Simpson said Cabrera and O'Connell agreed to serve on the Nominations committee. The committee needs three members. Simpson said she was willing to fill the third seat unless anyone else wanted to. Mesdag and Goucher both indicated that they are willing to serve another term.

Motion made to approve the FY25 budget. M/S Mesdag/Kirkpatrick. All approved.

Simpson mentioned that the board can review the letters of support included in the packet.

Motion to adjourn M/S Scheer/Custer. All Approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14pm.



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Robert Venables, Executive Director

8.15.24

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Date

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 15, 2024**

**Southeast Conference  
Board of Directors**

Lacey Simpson, President  
Zakary Kirkpatrick, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Katie Koester, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Alec Mesdag, Treasurer &  
Past President  
Gracia O'Connell  
KC Hostetler  
Liz Cabrera  
Dennis Gray  
Chelsea Goucher  
Jason Custer  
Mark Scheer  
Liz Cornejo  
Jan Hill

The meeting was called to order by President Simpson at 10:35 AM. Members present: Simpson, Kirkpatrick, Koester, Mesdag, O'Connell, Hostetler, Gray, Goucher, Custer, Scheer. Hill was excused.

Approval of the Agenda with the addition of an Executive Session and action item for RLF Loan Advisory Board. Motion/Second by Hostetler/Kirkpatrick – passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2024; M/S by Scheer/Hostetler, passed unanimously

President's Report – Update was given on the City's donation of the Civic Center for the Annual Meeting, time for the Executive Director's annual performance evaluation.

Finance Committee reviewed draft year-end financials (final will be presented at Annual Meeting), discussed cash flow and grant management, especially with the CPRG added to the BBB and other grant programs.

Executive Director reported on written staff reports, highlighted annual meeting logistics, CPRG, AMHS issues and BBB.

SEC is ready to open up the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) with the establishment of the Loan Advisory Board (LAB) and final EDA approval. The board reviewed the staff recommended LAB roster and recommendation of the SEC Exec. Director and Lacey Simpson to the LAB. M/S by O'Connell/ Hostetler, passed unanimously.

Moved to Executive Session for Executive Director's annual performance evaluation by Scheer/O'Connell – unanimous.

Executive Session ended at 12:20 pm. The board expressed its unanimous appreciation for the Executive Director's performance over the past year and noted the organization's growth, productivity and health was noteworthy. Motion/second by Mesdag/Hostetler for the President and Executive Committee to provide the Executive Director with goals for the coming year and adjust his salary accordingly.

Correspondence was reviewed, Scheer commented on the BBB Governance Body meeting held recently in ANC which was the best ever. Custer asked if shrimp farming was being considered.

The next meeting will be September 23, 2024, in Ketchikan. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM M/S Scheer/Mesdag, unanimously passed.

  
Robert Venables, Executive Director

9.23.24  
Date

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SEC

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**Southeast Conference  
Board of Directors**

Lacey Simpson, President  
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Katie Koester, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Alec Mesdag, Treasurer &  
Past President

Gracia O'Connell

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Chelsea Goucher

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Liz Cornejo

Jan Hill



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 pm by President Simpson in the Ted Ferry Center Boardroom. Other members present, Kirkpatrick, Koester, O'Connell, Hostetler, Scheer, Cornejo with Cabrera after flight.

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by Scheer/O'Connell, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second for Approval of Minutes from August 15, 2024, by Scheer/Hostetler, passed unanimously.

President Simpson welcomed everyone to Ketchikan and spoke to the excitement for the conference and thanked all involved.

The Executive Director provided the FY 24 Finance Report that would be going to the membership during the annual meeting. Another good year for Southeast Conference!

Robert provided his Executive Director report which included an overview of the Annual Meeting Logistics and Metlakatla meetings the day after. The MIC Mayor is providing a boat and inviting everyone to come visit Metlakatla. Sarah explained the Scholarship Auction and handed out raffle tickets. Robert wrapped up with an overview of the AK DOT RPO and MOA that SEC has been working on for many months.

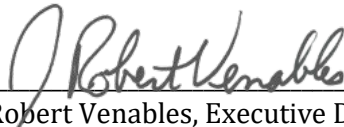
Motion/Second to reaffirm the SEC Board positions taken electronically for both the Student Activities Scholarship and the Approval of the Ballot made by Scheer/Hostetler, passed unanimously. During discussion, the board directed staff to use the SEC Foundation for future scholarship auctions. The board will continue work to clearly articulate the new student activities support for vocational and special certifications programs and reiterated SEC's very strong support to continue the priority partnership with the UA Foundation.

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association is coordinating a letter to the Delegation regarding the Farm Bill. SEC had signed on to a similar letter last year. Motion/Second by Scheer/O'Connell to approve SEC participating in this effort, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second to authorize the Executive Director to sign the AK DOT MOA by Scheer/Kirkpatrick, passed unanimously.

Correspondence was deferred to next meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 17, 2024. With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

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Robert Venables, Executive Director

10.15.24  
Date

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computer or smartphone:**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15, 2024**

***Southeast Conference  
Board of Directors***

Zakary Kirkpatrick, President

Katie Koester, 1st VP

Gracia O'Connell, 2nd VP

Alec Mesdag, Treasurer

Chelsea Goucher, Secretary

Lacey Simpson, Past President

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Liz Cornejo

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm by President Kirkpatrick via zoom. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Liz Cabrera, Elizabeth Cornejo, Gracia O'Connell, Lacey Simpson, Chelsea Goucher and Jason Custer. Staff present: Robert Venables, Sarah Woodruff, Dan Lesh and Charlie Herrington.

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by O'Connell/Simpson, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second for Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2024, by O'Connell/Cornejo, passed unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick welcomed board members. Kirkpatrick reviewed the committee assignments from FY24. Board members present agreed to continue with previous committees. As the treasurer was not in attendance, Kirkpatrick gave a report from the finance committee. He said that the CFO asked to wait to use the SEC Foundation until next year's auction. Scheer said he felt like moving scholarship funds to the SEC Foundation is overdue and needs to happen sooner rather than later. Board members asked that the CFO move ahead with setting up the SEC Foundation account.

The Executive Director thanked everyone for the incredible annual meeting. Venables reported that Juliana Leggitt will be moving onto other employment, and we have new staff members, Chase Coleman and Cindy Jimenez that will be filing in the gaps in her absence. After annual meeting, SEC staff attended the Rural Energy Conference and next week Venables is headed to New Orleans to present at the NADO annual training conference. A MOA is now in place with the State of Alaska to continue working on ferry issues for the next 5 years, led by Kaitlyn Jared and Jon Bolling (and new staffer, Colette Peters). There will be another agreement with the State to designate SEC as a Regional Planning Organization which will bring additional funding to SEC, with primary responsibilities to conduct outreach and technical assistance to communities in our region. There is a new opportunity with young growth forestry opportunities. SEC has been asked to facilitate conversations of TCC Stakeholders (The Tongass Coalition) regarding its utilization and monetization and pass on input to the Forest Service as they work on a revision of the Tongass Land Management plan. Venables went through some of the findings of the recent business climate survey for the region. SEC is working to expand the current office space to the suite next to ours that will include Alaska Heat Smart (for CPRG project).

New Business:

Motion/Second to move the 2025 Annual meeting shift to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September Cabrera/Scheer. All approved.

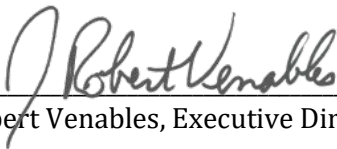
Motion/Second to approve Resolution 25-01 to set up a bank account for SEC Foundation, Cabrera/Scheer. All Approved.

Resolution 25-02 was drafted at request of one of the board members for Southeast Conference to oppose Ballot Measure 2. Motion/Second to approve Resolution 25-02 for purposes of discussion Scheer/O'Connell. Discussion included whether municipalities and employees can take a position on things like this (it is generally discouraged). The board consensus was that this is not role of Southeast Conference to be engaged as a heavy political player, and that SEC should not take a stance that is highly politically charged. Motion/Second to table the discussion on this resolution Cabrera/Simpson. All approved.

Board discussed the vacant Northern Private board seat. Venables gave some background on the vacancy. Cornejo said that she had a few people in mind to fill the seat and is in the process of reaching out. Board agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Kirkpatrick said that the Alaska Native representation on the SEC board has been brought up as a suggestion. Venables clarified that changing the bylaws was an involved process (normally done by the membership at the next annual meeting) and would need advance coordination with both the state and federal government, given our authorized status at each level, but adding an Alaska Native seat as an ex-officio board member would be within the purview of the SEC Board's authority for immediate action, if so desired. SEC has had Alaska Native leadership on the board, but not in officially designated seats. This is an important issue that will be on the next agenda and necessitate dialogue with Tribal leaders to see how to best ensure that SEC's leadership is reflective of diversity in our region re: industry, sectors, races, etc.

Board went through the correspondence without questions or comments.

Motion/second to adjourn 2:47pm, Scheer/O'Connell. All approved.



Robert Venables, Executive Director

11.21.24

Date

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 am by President Kirkpatrick via zoom. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Liz Cabrera, Elizabeth Cornejo, Gracia O'Connell, Katie Koester, Chelsea Goucher and Alec Mesdag. Staff present: Robert Venables, Sarah Woodruff, Meilani Schijvens.

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda with inclusion of supplemental items of proposed minor changes to the employee handbook and request that SEC adopt a resolution to support hatcheries and oppose proposition 156 by Mesdag/O'Connell, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second for Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2024, by Scheer/Cornejo, passed unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick welcomed board members and moved on to the finance committee report.

Finance Report – Nothing alarming. The organization continues to do well financially. The CFO is working on the audit. Committee has requested the next committee report to include the Alaska Pellet Supply financials. Annual meeting financial results were reviewed and very positive thanks to our generous sponsors. Mesdag would like the organization to start thinking about what to do with the large amount of retained earnings that are not needed to run the organization (currently they are used to help manage cash flow while waiting for reimbursements from EDA).

The Executive Director went through his report and reviewed some of the highlights including CPRG, legislative changes, and upcoming travel.

**Old Business:**

N. Private Board Seat- Cornejo said that she did talk with a few folks in Haines about the open seat. She has two potential people interested but hasn't had time to follow up. Kirkpatrick reminded board members that any board members could nominate a potential replacement. Venables said that the primary focus area is Haines/Skagway, although Yakutat and Gustavus would also qualify. Koester said that she would reach out with her connections. O'Connell said she has a possible contact in Yakutat.

Alaska Native Representation on the SEC Board- President Peterson asked about amending the bylaws and adding a tribal seat. An ex-officio seat may be a consideration temporarily, and quickly, until the membership could formally approve any recommended bylaw change but some research would need to be made into the proposed changes since we are also sanctioned by both the State and EDA.

**Southeast Conference**

**Board of Directors**

Zakary Kirkpatrick, President

Katie Koester, 1st VP

Gracia O'Connell, 2nd VP

Alec Mesdag, Treasurer

Chelsea Goucher, Secretary

Lacey Simpson, Past President

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Liz Cornejo

Sheer said that AFDF just made a recommendation to amend their bylaws. An ex-officio is a full seat, but the member gets the seat based on their title (ex. "The President of Tlingit and Haida"). Scheer said that in order to add a voting member the bylaws would need to be changed. Goucher recommended the bylaws committee look into this. Kirkpatrick said that he would follow up with President Peterson to get some more clarification into the request. Once that is clarified, the bylaws committee will meet to determine a path forward. The item will remain on future agendas until resolved.

New Business:

CEDS Prioritization

Meilani Schijvens presented the draft CEDS recommendations to the board, asking for guidance on how to move forward. The board discussed finding a champion for supporting local tourism and the Juneau Chamber was suggested. The CEDS will be sent out to membership for review and comments around the beginning of January, which means any changes need to be made by mid-December. A revised version will be brought back to the board.

Resolution 25-03- Banking Amendment Resolution. Motion/Second to move. O'Connell/Koester. All approved.

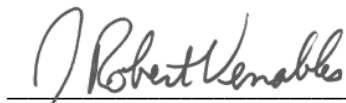
Community Change Grant Authorization. Motion/Second Koester/O'Connell. Venables spoke to the grant application. He said that these funds will be highly sought after, but whether or not we receive funds, the process has been invaluable and in line with our workforce development plans. Kirkpatrick questioned capacity within SEC. Cornejo said she supports the grant application. All Approved.

Proposed minor changes to the employee handbook. Venables said that there was some clarification that needed to be addressed regarding 401K, employee travel, and a few others. Motion/Second- Cabrera/Cornejo. All Approved.

SEC Support of hatcheries and oppose proposition 146. Koester said that she would like to propose an amendment to the resolution to keep the SEC focus on the economic development aspect. O'Connell said that she also supports the resolution with the amendment as she doesn't think SEC should wander into political territory. (delete 2<sup>nd</sup> to last whereas). All approved the amendment to the resolution. Cabrera cautioned SEC getting into anything that we don't feel strongly enough to be in the room to speak to. Kirkpatrick said that because the board of fisheries doesn't meet until January, the board may want to postpone making a decision. Venables suggests that the board send the amended resolution to the fisheries committee which can then have a more informed discussion, and then send the resolution back to the board for final approval. Motion/Second Cabrera/Goucher to send the resolution onto the fisheries committee for recommendation with the amended change. All Approved.

Board went through the correspondence without questions or comments.

Motion/second to adjourn 12:20 pm, Scheer/O'Connell. All approved.



Robert Venables, Executive Director

12.19.24

Date

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 19, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by President Kirkpatrick via zoom. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Jason Custer, Gracia O'Connell, Katie Koester, Elizabeth Cornejo, KC Hostetler, Lacey Simpson and Alec Mesdag. Staff present: Robert Venables, Sarah Woodruff.

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by Mesdag/O'Connell, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second for Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2024, by O'Connell/Custer, passed unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick welcomed board members and moved on to the finance committee report.

Finance Report – Southeast Conference has a clean audit. The final will be released in the new year. Auditor, Max Mertz reminded the finance committee that discussions about the SEC Foundation and the Alaska Pellet Supply, need to be mindfully separate, even if the board members are the same.

The Executive Director went through his report and reviewed some of the highlights including staff role changes, and Mila's involvement checking in with SEC staff regarding duties, office culture, and professional development. Venables gave a report on his DC trip, MSS planning,

**Old Business:**

N. Private Board Seat- Cornejo said that she's been sick and hasn't been able to make any progress towards recruiting new candidates, although she does have another person she'd like to speak to. Venables said there has been some interest from Sitka.

**Alaska Native Representation on the SEC Board-**

Kirkpatrick said that he spoke with Richard Peterson, who said he'd be happy to come to a board meeting and talk about what he had in mind. The board discussed how to handle the next steps. After much discussion, the board agreed that they would like to learn more and will invite Richard Peterson and Albert Smith to future meetings to hear their thoughts.

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**Southeast Conference**

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Lacey Simpson, Past President

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Liz Cornejo

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New Business:

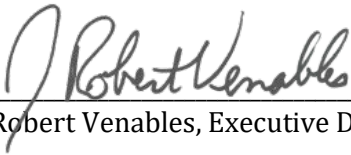
Resolution 25-04. Scheer gave a report from the Seafood committee meeting. The committee voted unanimously to submit this resolution to the board for approval. Per the committee, the passage of this proposal would be a significant step in the wrong direction. Most of the hatcheries are owned by the state and contribute 25% of Alaska salmon population. The same proposal was at the board of fish meeting in Cordova and was defeated. The next board of fish meeting is in Ketchikan at the end of January and this proposition will be on the agenda. Resolution 25-04- Hatchery resolution. Motion/Second Scheer/Custer. All approved.

Simpson led the discussion regarding the proposed changes to Southeast Conference's University of Alaska Scholarship Application questions. At the recommendation of the University of Alaska Advancement office, the scholarship committee recommended revisions with the goal of attracting a larger applicant pool. These proposed revisions removed redundancies and consolidated questions, shortening the application from 6 to 2 essay questions. Motion/Second to accept the proposed changes to the scholarship application Custer/Hostetler. Cornejo formally recused herself from the conversation. All Approved.

Board went through the correspondence without questions or comments.

Venables said that a board retreat will likely happen in late March.

Motion/second to adjourn at 12:06pm, Scheer/O'Connell. All approved.



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Robert Venables, Executive Director

1.16.25

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Date

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Chelsea Goucher, Secretary

Lacey Simpson, Past President

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Liz Cornejo



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 16, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am by President Kirkpatrick via zoom. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Katie Koester, Elizabeth Cornejo, Liz Cabrera, Jason Custer, Lacey Simpson and Dennis Gray. Staff present: Robert Venables, Sarah Woodruff and Dan Lesh.

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by Custer/Simpson, passed unanimously. Motion/Second for Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2024, by Custer/Simpson, passed unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick welcomed board members. Mid-Session is rapidly approaching. Staff is hard at work to shore up the event. Agenda is coming together nicely and the Transportation Symposium will be immediately following. Board dinner will be happening during the conference.

Finance Report – Southeast Conference has some payments coming in on the website due to Jason Custer’s Scholarship fund. The finances are stable. SEC is amending our lease agreement with PND and will be expanding office space, taking over a portion of the suite next door.

The Executive Director went through his report and reviewed some of the highlights including Mid-Session Summit planning and plans to attend the Board of Fish meeting. SEC is moving the AMHS Long-Range plan forward. Dan Lesh reported that things are on-track with the BBB and have requested an extension on our SASS funding. Cabrera said she’d talked to a business owner who was looking into an energy audit funding recently and expressed concern about REAP money running out. Venables said there were many programs operating under REAP including REDA. He told Cabrera to encourage them to reach out and SEC could help connect them.

**Old Business:**


Alaska Native Representation on the SEC Board-

Kirkpatrick said that in person conversations are planned with President Peterson and Metlakatla Mayor Albert Smith during Mid-Session Summit.

Elizabeth Cornejo said that she did talk with one other person who was potentially interested in a board seat and was interested in receiving more information.

Board went through Correspondence without questions. Cabrera said that Petersburg was awarded a 8.8 million RAISE grant for vessel haul-out. Motion/second to adjourn at 11:33 am, Scheer/Koester. All approved.

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Robert Venables, Executive Director

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3.20.25  
Date

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

**MINUTES**

***Southeast Conference  
Board of Directors***

Zakary Kirkpatrick, President

Katie Koester, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Gracia O'Connell, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Alec Mesdag, Treasurer

Lacey Simpson, Past President

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Chelsea Goucher

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Elizabeth Cornejo

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by President Kirkpatrick. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Jason Custer, Gracia O'Connell, Katie Koester, Elizabeth Cornejo, KC Hostetler, Lacey Simpson and Alec Mesdag. Guest present: Tlingit & Haida President Richard Peterson. Staff present: Robert Venables and Kaitlyn Jared.

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by Custer/O'Connell, passed unanimously.

The approval of Minutes from January 16, 2025, was deferred to the next meeting.

President Kirkpatrick reflected on the very successful Mid-Session Summit and thanked everyone for being present and available.

The Finance committee report was deferred to the next meeting

The Executive Director stated that the attendance was strong, and financials should be favorable, in part to the generosity of Tlingit & Haida for their donation of the facility and the many other sponsors who stepped up to make this event a success. An update of the very fluid Federal funding situation was provided. Most of SEC's programs seem safe at present with the greatest risk being the EPA CPRG heat pump initiative, which is under contract and underway, but funding frozen. The EDA BBB Mariculture program had a brief pause but seems to be back on track. The Revolving Loan Fund is near final approval with interest from 2 lending institutions for loans.

**Old Business:**

The board was notified that there is interest from a Haines member for the vacant Northern Private Board Seat. A letter of interest is forthcoming. President Peterson was invited to speak to the Tribes interest in filling a SEC Board seat that would be dedicated to the regional Tribe (T&H). He gave a history of the working relationship he has had with SEC over the years and how the two organizations have, and are, working effectively throughout the region. It was noted that changes would require a bylaws change and possible input from EDA.

Motion/Second by Custer/O'Connell, for the Executive Director to pursue the legal structure to include the regional Tribe as a full voting-member of the SEC Board. Passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

Special Projects Manager Jared explained that SEC is applying for the annual EDA Partnership Planning Grant and board approval was necessary to reaffirm the funds availability.

Motion/Second to recertify and authorize use of unencumbered funds for EDA Planning Partnership grant application by Mesdag/Custer, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second to recertify and authorize use of unencumbered funds for EDA Planning Partnership grant application by Mesdag/Custer, passed unanimously.

Jared gave an update on the Denali Commission grant to SEC on behalf SEASWA's regional planning efforts.

Motion/Second by Custer/Hostetler to authorize the SEC Executive Director to accept and administer the Denali Commission grant on behalf of SEASWA, passed unanimously.

Venables discussed options for a possible Board Retreat around April 29-May 1 with a facilitator who had help NADO with their strategic plan. He also suggested that the ferry could be a venue. The board requested a Doodle poll with various dates to allow for the highest participation possible.

It was noted that the Visit Sitka contract was in flux after June 30 with the Chamber deciding not to pursue renewal. Staff will monitor and work with the community as it relates to annual meeting readiness.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2025.

Motion/second to adjourn at 6:55 pm by Hostetler/Koester. All approved.



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Robert Venables, Executive Director

3.20.25

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Date

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Lacey Simpson, Past President

KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Chelsea Goucher

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Elizabeth Cornejo

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2025**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am by President Kirkpatrick. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Jason Custer, Gracia O'Connell, Elizabeth Cornejo, KC Hostetler, Lacey Simpson, Chelsea Goucher, and Dennis Gray.

Staff present: Robert Venables, Dan Lesh and Sarah Woodruff

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by Cornejo/Hostetler, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second to Approve Minutes from January 16, 2025 and February 17, 2025, by Hostetler/Cornejo, passed unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick reported that the finance committee reviewed the finances. While the majority of SEC programs continue without interruption, there are a couple of grants that are temporarily paused. Each program is closely monitored by staff. He encouraged the board to reach out with questions.

The Executive Director reported that with the exception of programs funded under the Department of Agriculture (Forest Service and SASS), most of our funding seems to be remaining intact. He addressed SEC's Board member liability insurance (provided a copy of the policy) and addressed concerns with the Revolving Loan Fund which is currently being "realigned" by the EDA Attorneys. He gave an update on the release of the AMHS Long Range Plan and the slow progress of the Pellet Mill, due to labor/contractor/operator shortages. He also assured the board that Southeast Conference is closely following the Ketchikan Shipyard issues between Vigor and AIDEA. He said that SEC program managers included their reports in the packet. Deputy Director, Dan Lesh gave a brief report regarding staffing changes. Cindy Jimenez has left SE Conference and Alaska Fellow Stephanie Granato has stepped into her role.

Old Business:

The board was notified that there is interest from a Haines member, Michael Ganey from Alaska Marine Trucking.

Motion/Second by Cornejo, O'Connell, for the appointment of Michael Ganey to the board seat until the next annual meeting. Custer abstained from the vote. Passed unanimously.

Tribal Designated seat

Bylaws Committee: Gracia O'Connell, Chelsea Goucher, KC Hostetler (appointed by President Kirkpatrick). The Committee will meet to review the bylaws and make update/amendment recommendations to the board, including the addition of a Tribal designated seat.

New Business:

Board Retreat will be delayed until the fall due to busy schedules. They requested that Venables present 2 options at the next meeting: one that included book end retreat sandwiching Annual Meeting in Sitka, and one that visited a smaller community.

Forestry Policy discussion will continue at the next meeting. Discussion will be focused around the Tongass Collaborative and how SEC can be involved and make a difference.

Personnel Handbook Policy. Suggestion is to remove redundant language and include some federally mandated language. Motion to approve the proposed policy handbook changes. Cornejo/Scheer. All approved.

CEDS public comment period is closed. Regional communities will be asked for resolutions/letters of support.

Motion/second to adjourn at 12:03 pm by Custer/Cornejo. All approved.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Venables, Executive Director

4.17.25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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KC Hostetler

Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Chelsea Goucher

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Elizabeth Cornejo

Michael Ganey



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2025**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by President Kirkpatrick. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Elizabeth Cornejo, KC Hostetler, Alec Mesdag, Liz Cabrera, Jason Custer, Michael Ganey, and Katie Koester, Staff present: Robert Venables, Kaitlyn Jared and Sarah Woodruff

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by Scheer/Mesdag, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second to Approve Minutes from March 20, 2025, by Hostetler/Scheer, passed unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick welcomed SEC's new board member Michael Ganey, Haines operations manager for AML, who introduced himself.

Treasurer Alec Mesdag reported that despite the federal stop on many grants across the country, Southeast Conference is continuing function as usual on grants except for the SASS grant. It's unclear if that's due to a lack of staffing (DC & AK) or due to other directives. The Revolving Loan Fund, however, has reportedly cleared the final hurdles during an EDA review in both Seattle and DC and will be ready to proceed after SEC reconciles final edits and one last EDA review.

The Executive Director reported that the state legislature seems focused on securing matching funds for energy and transportation projects and very little else for the capital budget. REAP has hired a replacement for Clay Good, and has decided to lease office space at SE Conference. We will be looking for new staff members to fill recent vacancies in Energy and Mariculture. Kaitlyn Jared, Transportation and Special Projects manager reported on current Transportation projects. The main focus has been to support the AMHS projects – namely the High Efficiency Commuter ferry project. SEC is also working on behalf of the city of Saxman to apply for the PIDP grant for a new dock. The draft of the 2030 CEDS has been given to the EDA for any changes. The Solid Waste project is moving forward on schedule and staff is working on the issue of restoring ferry service to Prince Rupert. The board discussed the lack of response on federal funding awards on a community as well as organizational level.

**Old Business:**

SEC Board of Directors Retreat

The board discussed the proposed options. The board agreed that planning for a retreat day in Juneau in October would work best for the majority. Sarah will poll the board and asked for dates to not consider.

New Business:

Scholarship Awards

SEC Scholarship committee recommended awarding \$1600 each to three scholarship applicants: Catherine McRoberts from Ketchikan, Lydia Green from Haines, and Tellisha Frankhouser from Ketchikan.

Motion/Second to Approve the recommendations of the SEC Scholarship committee by Hostetler/Scheer, passed unanimously. Cornejo recused herself from the vote.

Forestry Policy

Venables said that he has included details in the packet on the direction that SEC is headed regarding the Forestry priorities discussion (focus on forest health, habitat health and community economic health) and encouraged the board to reach out with input, questions or concerns. He said that with the new Natural Resources Director hire, the position will be focusing more on Forestry going forward.

Correspondence

Provided for awareness for the board. Nothing major to highlight.

Motion/second to adjourn at 11:59 pm by Mesdag. All approved.



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Robert Venables, Executive Director

5.15.25

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Liz Cabrera

Dennis Gray

Chelsea Goucher

Jason Custer

Mark Scheer

Elizabeth Cornejo

Michael Ganey



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MAY 15, 2025**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by President Kirkpatrick. Other members present, Markos Scheer, Alec Mesdag, Liz Cabrera, Jason Custer, Michael Ganey, Lacey Simpson and Katie Koester, Staff present: Robert Venables, and Sarah Woodruff

Motion/Second to Approve the Agenda by Scheer/Mesdag with the following adjustments: 5b is an update from the bylaws, 6b is should be "TTC", 6e is an additional letter of engagement for Max Mertz's Audit, passed unanimously.

Motion/Second to Approve Minutes from April 17, 2025, by Scheer/Mesdag, passed unanimously.

President Kirkpatrick said he didn't have anything to report that wouldn't be covered in the meeting.

Treasurer Alec Mesdag reported that there are some agreements to be finalized for the RLF and a new lease to be signed with REAP for providing office space for their new staff.

The Executive Director went through his executive director's report, highlighting the Presidential budget challenges, the 3 staffing vacancies at SEC, and

**Old Business:**

Setting a date for the Economic Development Committee

Liz said she just sent an email to Kaitlyn about scheduling an economic development meeting the first week of June.

**Recommendations for Bylaws revision**

Committee is recommending to update the mission statement, recognize the lifetime members on our website, remove mentions of communicating via "teletype" and "Cable". Regarding the tribal board seat, the committee recommended that the number of board seats remains at 13, but one of the "At Large" seats would become a "Tribally Recognized Seat". The last recommendation is to change the language that board members are not mandated to be involved in the awards of RFPs.

**SEC Board Retreat**

Board members seemed to be in agreement that October 9<sup>th</sup> would work.

New Business:

Per the EDA, final approval for the RLF contracts should be finalized next week. Move to reaffirm the SEC BBB Revolving Loan fund with the EDA. Sheer/Cabrera. All approved.

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to authority to apply for, win and receive grant money (\$75-\$100K range) for the TTC. Cabrera/. Executive Director gave background information about the current state of Meridian, an organization deeply involved in Timber in the Tongass that closed due to lack of promised federal funding. Files and history of work to be transferred to SEC. SEC will be facilitating stakeholder engagement, and developing subgroups to look at policy, timber sales, development of the next 5-year plan for the Tongass. has recently folded. All approved

Resolution 25-05

Motion to approve Resolution 25-05: Custer/Ganey. All Approved

Nominations Committee

President Kirkpatrick asked Koester to chair the nominations committee along with Liz Cabrera and Chelsea Goucher.

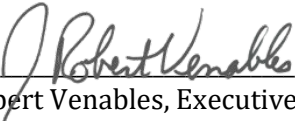
Audit Letter of Engagement with CPA Max Mertz

Board agreed that they would like to engage Mertz as SEC's CPA again

Correspondence

Provided for awareness for the board. Nothing major to highlight.

Motion/second to adjourn at 11:53 pm by Custer/Scheer. All approved.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Venables, Executive Director

7.17.25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTORS'  
REPORTS

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 2024

### USDA Under Secretary visit

Under Secretary Dr. Homer Wilkes will make his 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to Southeast this month and host a SASS Round Table discussion in Ketchikan. I will participate in person with other staff attending virtually to present updates and share successes.

He may also travel to POW where SEC has the BDO and Integrated Forestry Campus concept under development.

The Forest Service this week announced yet another "Old Growth Amendment" to implement in Southeast and nationwide. Our efforts are focused on the young growth opportunities to shore up and retain what remains of the timber industry.

### Energy Issues

Southeast Conference hosted the Department of Energy Arctic Energy Office in Juneau on June 25<sup>th</sup>, with many of our energy partners in attendance. Their visit to Southeast, which included Sitka and Gustavus was a resounding success.

SEC is also part of the Rural Energy Conference steering committee and working on the agenda for the September 30-October 4 event in Fairbanks. We hope to hear soon on the CPRG grant application. Our work continues on the D.O.E. Arctic Ambassador program, and the Energy Shed project, with travel to Kake later this month.

The biomass team is facilitating statewide training workshops for boiler operators, and many other efforts. See the program manager's reports for more details. A lot of good work is happening!

### Transportation Update

SEC has meetings scheduled with DOT leadership toward formalizing SEC as a Regional Planning Organization (RPO) and finalizing the updated MOA between DOT and SEC to help accelerate the electric ferry (Lo-No E) project. Kaitlyn will be attending the NADO transportation symposium and RPO America event later this month.

### Annual Meeting

The draft agenda is almost ready to publish, and registration is open! The logistics are coming together for our upcoming annual meeting. Speaker invites are going out now and sponsorships are starting to come in - more are needed to help keep the registration fees low and participation high! We are inviting keynote speakers from DC on transportation, EDA and USDA.

### SEC CEDS

We will be scheduling the next round of committee meetings as part of the 5-year "CEDS" project. Please continue to solicit committee participation as the process continues and drafts are sent out for review. We plan to use time at the annual meeting for priority setting. It is critical for community and industry leaders to be fully engaged as the CEDS sets our scope of work and focus for the coming years.

Meilani and I have been making presentations on the CEDS and the Business Climate survey that was recently completed (and is foundational to our planning efforts). If you would like a presentation or materials to share with your community, let us know.

### Miscellaneous SEC

Much more detail of our work is in the individual staff reports. However, we do have staff taking leave, so some reports may be delayed. We are also interviewing for a new staff member to fill the BBB Coordinator position that is now vacant. Personnel performance evaluations are underway, and the organization continues to function at a high level.

The FY 25 budget is having the final touches that will include the new personnel and new programs that were recently awarded to SEC (Denali Commission SEASWA and USDA RBDG BDO and Solve-It).

Travel this month is a day trip for me to Anchorage (19<sup>th</sup>) and the Ketchikan trip for the Under-Secretary's visit. Kaitlyn goes to the Transportation Symposium that same week, Charles is in Tok/Tazlina for biomass Operator Training, and Juliana is in Kodiak for BBB.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 2024

### Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

WOW! How could we start off with anything else?! Southeast Conference was awarded \$38,600,000 by EPA to implement our beneficial electrification priority of promoting the installation of 6,100 heat pumps, from Ketchikan to Kodiak. Kudos to our lead partner at Alaska Heat Smart for developing a successful pilot program (already underway in Juneau) and writing the narrative for the expanded program. See the packet for more information.

We are working on a new lease to expand the office space and will sublet a portion to AK Heat Smart (and ACEP) and anchor our “energy department” there.

We are also looking to host the EPA Administrator here in Juneau for a celebration kick-off meeting.

### Energy Issues

Southeast Conference staff continues to work on a wide range of energy issues and programs, ranging from the Energy Shed (including our own travel to Kake) to the pellet mill project (which is slowly but steadily moving forward).

The biomass team has an operator training on POW this month and continues to work on the Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone and Solve-It programs. Our Arctic Ambassador outreach involves us in “all-things” energy as we integrate other initiatives that involve energy consumption (green corridor, transportation, etc.)

SEC continues involvement on the planning team for the Rural Energy Conference that takes place September 30-October 4 in Fairbanks. Most of our energy team will participate in person.

### USDA Under Secretary visit

Under Secretary Dr. Homer Wilkes spent a week in Southeast, hosting a SASS Round Table discussion in Ketchikan with the “strengthening partners” (see presentation). The next day we went into the forest to see examples of forest health, sections with precommercial thinning – and areas that were not.

He also traveled to POW where Karen spent time with him, explaining the successes at the school district and

our BDO and Integrated Forestry Campus concept that is under development. It was a very positive trip.

### Transportation Update

Kaitlyn attended the NADO transportation symposium and RPO America event that proved to be very beneficial. SEC has meetings scheduled with DOT leadership toward formalizing SEC as a Regional Planning Organization (RPO) and finalizing the updated MOA between DOT and SEC to help accelerate the electric ferry (Lo-No E) project. Our team is very involved with ongoing transportation planning with both the State and USFS.

I participated in a Ketchikan Community roundtable convened by former Governor Murkowski focused on AMHS (the attached resolution will go to committee).

### Annual Meeting

Registration is open and we expect a robust engagement of our region’s leadership in Ketchikan! We are finalizing speakers and more sponsorships are needed to help keep the registration fees low and participation high – let us know if you know of potential sponsors. We are inviting keynote speakers from U.S. federal agencies and Canada.

### SEC CEDS

The next round of committee meetings are underway for the 5-year “CEDS” project. Please continue to solicit committee participation as the process continues and drafts are sent out for review. We plan to use time at the annual meeting for priority setting. It is critical for community and industry leaders to be fully engaged as the CEDS sets our scope of work and focus for the coming years.

Meilani and I have been making presentations on the CEDS and the Business Climate survey that was recently completed (and is foundational to our planning efforts). If you would like a presentation or materials to share with your community, let us know.

The BBB team will be in Anchorage for a Governance Body quarterly meeting. SEC is helping to host the National Hydropower Association’s meeting in Juneau.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2024

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### Energy Issues

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### Biomass Update

Space heat is often two-thirds of a household's footprint in rural Southeast Alaska. Southeast Conference team members have played a crucial role in helping to assess community needs by matching communities with the right biomass system and partners, and by providing the tools and knowledge to keep high efficiency biomass systems up and running. These systems heat schools, greenhouses, municipal offices, community centers and teacher housing. SEC provides guidance on a range of subjects, from reliable feedstock to technical assistance and assessing cost savings of displacing diesel. Our impact and role with biomass can be seen in a variety of projects, from the development of a forest product campus on Prince of Wales to the creation of a pellet mill in Ketchikan and annual cordwood operator training sessions. AEA is extending our contract to continue this work through next year with additional funding.

### Regional Solid Waste Planning Grant

Southeast Conference has been awarded \$500,000 to take the next steps toward regional solid waste management. The project begins with a review existing and historical data regarding Southeast Alaska municipal solid waste generation. Conduct an alternatives evaluation for the management of municipal solid waste, identifying safer, more efficient and cost-effective waste management systems for Southeast Alaska communities. Explore available technologies and policy options for the management of municipal solid waste, including diversion of compostable and recyclable materials. The development of this strategy is intended to inform and enable near-term decision-making for southeast communities, Tribes, and Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority membership. We have already had a preliminary meeting with Tlingit & Haida.

### Transportation Update

Kaitlyn attended the NADO transportation symposium and RPO America event that proved to be very beneficial. SEC has meetings scheduled with DOT leadership toward formalizing SEC as a Regional Planning Organization (RPO) and finalizing the updated MOA between DOT and SEC to help accelerate the electric ferry (Lo-No E) project. Our team is very involved with ongoing transportation planning with both the State and USFS.

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Meilani and I have been making presentations on the CEDS and the Business Climate survey that was recently completed (and is foundational to our planning efforts). If you would like a presentation or materials to share with your community, let us know.

The BBB team will be in Anchorage for a Governance Body quarterly meeting. SEC is helping to host the National Hydropower Association's meeting in Juneau.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 2024

### Annual Meeting

WOW! What an event we had in Ketchikan! Thanks to the community for such an impactful gathering. We had over 300 in-person attendees and 94 speakers! Once again Marcos and KC did a fabulous job at the scholarship auction (I feel a little bit green with envy – or is that the asparagus effect?). Sarah and the team did an awesome job making sure everything ran smoothly. We are sending out thank you notes to our hosts, speakers and 37 sponsors. Please do the same.

### Staff changes ahead

Well, we can't thank Juliana enough for the amazing impact she has had in our organization and to the benefit of our region. She joined us in the aftermath of the pandemic and helped make possible the mariculture venture we are on now. We wish her the very best as she moves on next month. To fill that gap, we are very pleased to welcome 2 new employees and 2 Fellows. We will shuffle the org chart a bit, but SEC maintains a healthy buzz of a vibrant workplace.

### Energy Issues

Southeast Conference staff traveled to Fairbanks for the Alaska Rural Energy Conference. Cady and I were on the planning committee and participated in various capacities during the event (I was Emcee). Over 500 attendees came through at some point during the week. The US Dept of Energy had a large presence at the event that was cohosted by AML, SEC, the Denali Commission, AEA, and UAF/ACEP.

After the annual meeting, SEC went over to Metlakatla for meetings with the Council, primarily focused on the Energy Shed program (of course we discussed AMHS and many economic development topics). We are looking to schedule meetings in Hoonah, Angoon and Haines over the winter.

SEC also supported another cordwood operator training session in the Interior. AEA is extending our contract to continue this work through next year with additional funding.

### Transportation Update

Southeast Conference has just received the official Notice to Proceed on the scope of work outlined in the attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the "Low-No Emission Ferry Pilot Project," signed on September 24, 2024. We are very excited to partner with AMHS and AKDOT to undertake this critical work. We are also working to finalize another agreement to have SEC recognized by DOT as the Regional Planning Organization (RPO). This will provide a modest stipend for staff support and open the door for further work on all things transportation.

### The Tongass Collaborative

Southeast Conference has been asked to facilitate/host the next iteration of forestry planning in the Tongass. The Tongass Collaborative (TTC) mission is to represent/reflect Municipal, Tribal, ANC, NGO, Trust, Industry, and governmental interests from across the SE Alaska region. The TTC membership recognizes the people of the region, and their collective futures, are inextricably tied to the lands, resources, and waters of the Tongass National Forest. The TTC is committed to collaborating with the Forest Service to help inform and influence future management of the Forest, and to help design and map a pathway forward which will; restore and maintain a healthy forest ecosystem, support cultural values and traditional practices, and provide the basis for a sustainable and diversified economy to support vibrant and healthy communities throughout all of SE Alaska, for current and future generations.

### SEC Misc.

Work continues on the 5-year "CEDS" project. Please continue to participate as the prioritization work continues. Our goal is to be completed by Mid-Session Summit.

October events include the NADO ATC, Marine Log (ferries) and back to Anchorage for a Governance Body quarterly meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 2024

### State Legislative issues - Elections

Both the State Senate and State House (maybe?) organized and announced their key leadership positions and priority issues. While there are a few races left to be decided that may shift the size of the Senate coalition, there are still a couple of pending races that could change the House organization.

The Senate Bipartisan Coalition leadership for the upcoming legislature is as follows:

- Senate President – Sen. Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak
- Majority Leader – Sen. Cathy Giessel, R-Anchorage
- Rules Chair – Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage
- Finance Chair (Operating) – Sen. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel
- Finance Chair (Capital) – Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka
- Finance Chair (Bills) – Sen. Donny Olson, D-Golovin 1.
- Majority Whip – Sen. Kelly Merrick, R- Eagle River
- Legislative Budget & Audit Chair – Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson, D-Anchorage

The House Bipartisan Coalition leadership (if it holds)2. for the upcoming legislature is as follows:

- Speaker of the House – Rep. Bryce Edgmon, I-Dillingham 3.
- Majority Leader – Rep. Chuck Kopp, R-Anchorage
- Rules Chair – Rep. Louise Stutes, R-Kodiak 4.

The House Majority Coalition's key priorities are similar to those of the Senate Majority with:

- Balanced budgets in line with the Percent of Market5. Value revenue and spending cap.
- Stable public education funding.
- Retirement reform to fill critical state jobs at public safety, resource permitting, etc.
- Energy development to promote private investment, create jobs, and lower costs.

Ballot measure 1 passed but Ballot Measure #2 failed by only 664 votes (50.1% vs 49.9%). The Southeast delegation remains the same, except for Jeremy Bynam in Ketchikan who is replacing the retiring Dan Ortiz.

### Federal Election

RCV will make the final determination for the US House seat, but all signs point to Nick Begich achieving the last .05% needed to get past the 50% needed.

While a lot of conjecture is in the press about what to expect in the coming Administration, no significant effects are anticipated in our current awards with contracts set for both BBB and CPRG.

### Workforce Development CCG grant opportunity:

Southeast Conference and Tlingit & Haida to address multiple workforce development needs and maximize facilities and opportunities in the region. More details in staff reports, and is an action item, but the main points are:

**Objective 1:** Build a strong clean-energy workforce, especially in disadvantaged communities, that provides family sustaining jobs with the potential for career advancement by increasing training opportunities and access.

**Objective 2:** Ensure that regional training curriculums and course offerings reflect emerging, carbon reduction energy technology

**Objective 3:** Increase the region's ability to continue to develop its own workforce by increasing the number of qualified trainers.

**Objective 4:** Improve consumer knowledge on clean energy technologies to ensure proper use and increase adoption.

**Objective 5:** Strengthen partnerships and collaboration between local businesses, local governments, training entities, and job service groups throughout the region.

### Energy Issues

Southeast Conference staff traveled to Fairbanks for the Alaska Rural Energy Conference. Cady and I were on the event planning committee and participated in various capacities facilitating sessions during the event (I was REC event Emcee). Between 400-500 attendees came through at some point during the week. The US Dept of Energy had a large presence at the event that

was cohosted by AML, SEC, the Denali Commission, AEA, and UAF/ACEP.

After the annual meeting, SEC went over to Metlakatla for meetings with the Council, primarily focused on the Energy Shed program (of course we discussed AMHS and many economic development topics). We are looking to schedule meetings in Hoonah, Angoon and Haines over the winter.

SEC also supported another cordwood operator training session in the Interior. AEA is extending our contract to continue this work through next year with additional funding.

### **Transportation Update**

Southeast Conference has just received the official Notice to Proceed on the scope of work outlined in the attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the "Low-No Emission Ferry Pilot Project," signed on September 24, 2024. We are very excited to partner with AMHS and AKDOT to undertake this critical work. We are also working to finalize another agreement to have SEC recognized by DOT as the Regional Planning Organization (RPO). This will provide a modest stipend for staff support and open the door for further work on all things transportation.

### **The Tongass Collaborative**

The Tongass Collaborative (TTC) continues to move past its history with the USFS-led efforts to a more diversified regional stakeholder group that will be under the SEC banner with consultant, Meridian support (paid by the state currently). There is an older TTC website that is slowly merging from the "Tongass Transition" phase to the future "Tongass Collaborative" effort. Documents from both eras will likely be maintained here for now: <https://tongassland-mgmt.org/october-17-2024-meeting/>

The TTC is committed to collaborating with the Forest Service to help inform and advise on future management of the Tongass which will; restore and maintain a healthy forest ecosystem, support cultural values and traditional practices, and provide the basis for a sustainable and diversified economy to support vibrant and healthy communities throughout all of southeast.

### **SEC Misc.**

Work continues on the 5-year "CEDS" project. This will be an expanded agenda item for this meeting as the prioritization work continues. Our goal is to be completed by Mid-Session Summit.

The NADO Annual Training Conference went very well and was a good learning and networking event. I was elected as Secretary for NADO's Executive Committee – a first for Alaska and will put me on track to eventually lead the organization in about 5 years. (It should also mean I get to choose where the summer board meeting is located the year prior – I'd like to showcase Southeast Alaska if possible. I also presented about our BBB project with an emphasis on how equity was being implemented Presentations can be seen here: [2024 Annual Training Conference - NADO](#)

Kaitlyn, Jon and I attended the Marine Log Ferries conference which was very beneficial as we embark on our responsibilities on the modernized/electrified fleet for AMHS. Jon and I met with FTA the day before with the Region 10 leadership team.

Dan and I (along with Willow Hetrick, CRRC) will travel to DC next month (Dec. 3-4) as part of EDA's, "Navigating Roadmap 2024" event held across from the White House at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Building. This is an invitation only event for BBB and other Cares Act mega-project organizations. It will be an opportunity to "make our case" and network during this change of Administrations.

I will go a day early for other meetings and attend the Alaska Christmas tree lighting ceremony mentioned here: [Ketchikan welcomes to town Capitol Christmas Tree](#)

The Alaska Municipal League holds its winter conference December 11-13. I will go a day early to help facilitate the annual gathering of the ARDORs and other economic development organizations in the State. It will be a good opportunity for us all to work with the Denali Commission's new federal co-chair, Julie Kitka, who began work this month after a very long career leading AFN.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 2024

### Mid-Session Summit

It's time already to begin planning for the Mid-Session Summit! Logistics are shaping up for the February 11-12 MSS and our annual Transportation Symposium on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we look to the board for agenda input (we'll mirror the usual format) and assistance with securing sponsors for the event and legislative reception on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### DC Travel

I attended an EDA/BBB-sponsored event that was hosted by the U.S. National Science Foundation. The "ROADMAP" sessions featured an [impressive lineup of speakers](#) who covered a lot of ground (although a lot of it was tech-focused). During more than 20 presentations, panel discussions, and fireside chats, these thought leaders shared their perspectives on the current state of U.S. economic competitiveness, America's capacity for innovation in the industries of tomorrow, and the great potential and opportunity for place-based innovation ecosystems (which is our focus with BBB).

While in DC, I was able to interact with the Wrangell delegation who was there for multiple causes, including the lighting of the Capitol Christmas Tree. It was a nice ceremony and provided a focus on Southeast Alaska. I was also able to meet with both of our Senators and provide an update on our work and discuss what the next year might look like at the federal government.

Another federal highlight was the US House passing the reauthorization of EDA. That now goes to the Senate and seems likely to pass for the first time in many years. While it is not an appropriations bill, among the provisions is a tripling of the funding levels for Southeast Conference and other EDDs.

### Fisheries

The fisheries committee met and thoroughly discussed resolution 25-04. It has their full support, and we will support the industry groups' efforts and participate in public outreach for the upcoming meeting of the Board

of Fisheries in Ketchikan and will consider being there in person to deliver our remarks.

### Transportation Update

The ferry system is rolling out the very first long-range 2045 plan for AMHS at the upcoming AMHOB meeting. SEC has participated in its development and will be assisting with the public outreach during the public comment period. We are also rolling out the work plan for the DOT MOA that was recently signed and are still working with DOT on the RPO status.

### SEC Misc.

All of our teams are functioning at a high level of performance. Highlights of their work is attached.

Work continues on the 5-year "CEDS" project. The draft will be ready for public comment soon after the New Year with our goal to be completed by Mid-Session Summit.

The Ketchikan pellet project construction is likely delayed until spring as winter caught up to us before our contractors and concrete did.

There is growing interest in our proposed forestry efforts – and a lot of uncertainty surrounding the "what-ifs" of the new Administration and potential actions in the Tongass. Our focus is on the upcoming USFS Forest Plan revision that will guide the next generation of work in the Tongass.

This report is a bit shorter than usual, due to my taking extended leave in November! ☺

Southeast Conference has had an amazing year. Thank you all for your guidance, support and participation. I am looking forward to the opportunities that come our way in 2025.

Happy Holidays!

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2025

### **Mid-Session Summit**

It's time already to begin planning for the Mid-Session Summit! Logistics are shaping up for the February 11-12 MSS and our annual Transportation Symposium on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we look to the board for agenda input (we'll mirror the usual format) and assistance with securing sponsors for the event and legislative reception on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **EDA Reauthorization**

Our Delegation and both the U.S. House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the Department of Commerce's [Economic Development Administration](#) (EDA) with a historic reauthorization, allowing it to continue its legacy of providing grants and support to communities across the country. Since 1965, EDA has led some of the nation's most impactful programs to strengthen public works and infrastructure, job creation and workforce development, disaster recovery, and technology and industry advancement. EDA has not been formally reauthorized since 2004.

Establishes the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience: EDA is uniquely positioned to coordinate federal support for regional disaster recovery efforts in partnership with its extensive network of [Economic Development Districts](#)(EDDs), [University Centers](#), and other stakeholders in designated impact areas.

### **SE Conference Scholarship Endowment**

Since the beginning of the Southeast Conference Scholarship, we have given over \$50,000 in scholarships. The Endowment, which generates the funds for each year's scholarships now sits at \$210,000 with a check for \$20,000 to be presented at next month's Mid-Session Summit. We will be advertising more broadly within the region to support our students and expanding the educational support now outside of the UA system to include other certificated programs.

### **SEC and Energy Policy.**

SEC will have opportunity to lead on energy policy issues that impacts the region and state with the strength of our internal team (staff and Board), coupled with

two Southeast members on the AEA Board of Directors and with one of our SEC board members serving on the National Hydropower Association Board (congrats Alec). I served on the Governor's Energy Security Task Force and there are many priorities from that we should support moving forward. Energy will have a lot of attention from the State Legislature this year.

### **Fisheries**

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Forest Plan revision that will guide the next generation of work in the Tongass.

SEC, AMHS, and NADO commissioned Elliot Bay Design group to conduct a survey on the impacts of the ferry system on the coastal Alaska business community. The published summary of their findings follows. The study found that across all industries and regions, the top two most critical factors were the reliability and frequency of ferry service. Throughout the last decade as ferry service has diminished, many communities and businesses have reported increased costs, leading to missed opportunities for commercial growth. However, increased AMHS service frequency and reliability would potentially lead to increased economic growth if service.

2023 UA Foundation Endowment Report is also included.

Southeast Conference has had an amazing year. Thank you all for your guidance, support and participation. I am looking forward to the opportunities that come our way in 2025.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 2025

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Southeast Conference has had an amazing year. Thank you all for your guidance, support and participation. I am looking forward to the opportunities that come our way in 2025.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 2025

### Federal Government Issues

It has been a whirlwind month of Presidential Executive Orders and federal agency responses that includes layoffs, funding freezes and a lot of uncertainty. The federal government is the region's "landlord" controlling over 94% of the southeast Alaska. Every action taken has direct and indirect impacts. Of particular concern are the layoffs that impact our summer economy (cruise season begins next month) and the jobs related to fisheries and forestry.

For the most part, Southeast Conference is faring better than most federally funded recipients. All our federal programs have their funds available, with the exception of the Dept. of Ag which funds the SASS program, REDA and half of the AEA biomass program. We also just hit a snag on the BBB RLF program. At the last moment EDA's attorney feels there is a need to amend the program agreement for better alignment. Very unclear, frustrating and damaging for the program goals to stand up the mariculture industry and create jobs.

### March Conferences

I attended the 2025 NADO Washington Conference in DC with more than 500 regional and local economic development professionals, elected officials and agency representatives over the four-day conference. I was also able to meet with both Senators, staff and Rep. Begich's office while in town.

### SEC and Energy Policy.

I was invited to present to the Alaska House Energy Committee this month as a follow up from the Governor's Energy Security Task Force and update on the work of SEC. I have a follow-up meeting with the committee Chair to see what actions might follow. SEC has the opportunity to impact the state's energy policy, and our team is quite engaged.

### Fisheries

There is much uncertainty in the fisheries industry, especially in Southeast. We continue to wait for AFDF to engage on specific actions on the proposed Seafood Modernization effort and we are in communication

with our colleagues across the state who are similarly concerned about the vibrancy and future of the industry

### Transportation Update

AMHS officially released their very first long-range 2045 plan which is out for public comment. SEC's team continues to work with AKDOT on multiple projects and is still finalizing the formal RPO status.

Also attached is correspondence between Mayor Pond and the DOT Commissioner as new efforts to reconnect Prince Rupert via ferry gets a fresh look.

The southern Southeast mayors are working on a potential resolution (draft attached) to support those efforts as well. This connection is critical to many facets of the region's economy – beyond mere transportation.

### SEC Misc.

The public comment period has officially closed for the new 5-year "CEDS" project. Staff are reaching out to local governments and asking for a resolution of support. The new CEDS is going to print and will be available soon.

The Ketchikan pellet project construction continues to be challenged on multiple fronts (lack of ready labor, construction costs and feedstock, i.e. dry wood chips, and customers). It's a "perfect storm" that is certainly helping to build the case for what can (and often does) go into project development. This demonstration project continues to move forward slowly with all equipment expected in Ketchikan this summer for a fall installation.

There is growing interest in our proposed forestry efforts – and a lot of uncertainty surrounding the "what-ifs" of the new Administration and potential actions in the Tongass. Our focus is on the upcoming USFS Forest Plan revision that will guide the next generation of work in the Tongass. There may be cause to bring on staff to assist specifically with forestry policy.

Monday, March 31 is the Seward's Day holiday which is observed by the State and SEC.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 2025

### Federal Government Issues

The situation largely remains the same – which is uncertainty in federal execution of policies being formed by the Administration. While most of our federal programs continue to be funded (we still have a delay on SASS and EDA's Partnership Planning grants), the greatest concern is centered on federal personnel retention. A new offer for early retirements further impacts the number of personnel available to perform the needed functions of many agencies (esp. at the USFS). There is real concern that the lack of federal employees will have a negative impact on our regional economy.

Southeast Conference's core programs continue without interruption. The issues with the BBB RLF program have been very frustrating and caused delays in rolling out the program, but the issues are being resolved within EDA (Seattle and DC) and we are told that a full response will be provided in the next 2 weeks.

### State Legislature

The AK House has struggled with constructing a balanced operating budget while the Senate has put forward a very slim capital budget. The PFD and Education are the big-ticket items taking up time and dollars, and neither issue is being resolved. Lots of talk about a special session. The budget is additionally challenged with very low forecasts for oil prices and earnings from the Permanent Fund. A good article summarizing the lay of the land can be found [here](#).

### Forestry Discussions

Southeast Conference is positioned to play a significant role in the future of the Tongass planning efforts. We are focusing on the TTC's mission and goal of advancing forest, habitat, and community economic health in SE AK by developing policies and plans that are developed collaboratively by a diverse coalition and broadly supported. This website has more details on the work the group has done to date:

<https://tongasslandmgmt.org/04092025-ttc-virtual-mtg/>

My hope is to create a 250 year blueprint that the 5-year USFS Forest Plan conforms to operationally.

### SEC and Energy Policy.

I presented to the Alaska House Energy Committee this month as a follow up from the Governor's Energy Security Task Force and provided an update on the work of SEC. I have a follow-up meeting with the committee Chair to see what actions might follow. SEC has the opportunity to impact the state's energy policy, and our team is quite engaged.

I also participated in a webinar by ACEP, titled, "*Building Alaska's Future: Insights from Iceland*". This virtual workshop discussed Alaska's and Iceland's similarities—remote geographies, harsh climates, and resource-driven economies. In recent years, dialogue between the two regions has grown, highlighting valuable lessons Alaska can learn from Iceland's approach to energy, industry, and innovation.

### Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP)

Clay Good has retired as REAP's Energy Catalyst with SSP after many years of extraordinary efforts and partnering with SEC. We thank him for his contributions to the region and energy world and welcome his replacement, Adrianna Northcutt. REAP is considering moving into the SEC offices, which will bring four energy-focused entities together, which would be a win-win for all. There is a potential for NREL to have a Fellow based here as well.

### Other Energy Updates

A new report produced by New Energy Alaska (a project hosted by New Venture Fund): [Securing Our Energy Future: Perspectives from Alaskans on the Importance of Federal Clean Energy Incentives](#) - and a related [op-ed](#). The report was shared in person with the delegation last week in DC where it was well received. It highlights SEC's heat pumps project among others.

The Ketchikan pellet project construction continues to be challenged on multiple fronts (lack of ready labor, construction costs and feedstock, i.e. dry wood chips, and customers). It's a "perfect storm" that is certainly helping to build the case for what can (and often does)

go into project development. This demonstration project continues to move forward slowly with all equipment expected in Ketchikan this summer for a fall installation.

**SEC Misc.**

The public comment period has officially closed, and EDA is reviewing the new 5-year “CEDS” project. We are beginning to receive local government resolutions of support (board support would be appreciated). The new CEDS next goes to print and will be available soon.

Resolutions from both Metlakatla and Ketchikan have been passed in support of a renewed effort and focus to reestablish connection with Prince Rupert. SEC staff is working with the mayors of all 3 communities to facilitate those discussions. This connection is critical to many facets of the region’s economy – beyond mere transportation, including the mariculture industry.

SEC will be at the BBB Mariculture Governance Body quarterly meeting in Anchorage, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The following week, Cady and I will be at the Delegation’s Infrastructure Symposium, and I will go from there to the KPED Industry Day (focus on mariculture and economic development). Kaitlyn will be attending and providing updates to AMHOB on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Busy times and the program managers each provide updates in the packet that reflects more of the details of what the team is working on. Contact me anytime with questions.

# Southeast Conference

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2025

### Federal Government Issues

The President's FY26 Budget Request, commonly referred to as the "Skinny Budget," is [linked here](#). Not surprising is the President's Budget Request wants to eliminate EDA, along with many other programs and agency divisions of importance to the region and state (which he also did during his first term). Ultimately, only Congress can make appropriations decisions.

In previous years when EDA was proposed for elimination, Congress ultimately did still provide funding for EDA. Hopefully the FY 2026 appropriations process will follow this same pattern. I am working with NADO (and other state partners eventually) in defense of EDA and many other agencies and programs impacting our region, including HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HUD HOME Investments Partnerships program, and the Denali Commission.

The issues with the BBB RLF program have been resolved within EDA (cleared by both Seattle and DC) and SEC has edited our program documents as requested. (Nothing substantial but a lot of "word changes"). The updated documents have been shared with the finance committee.

Our remaining federal program project delays have been with USDA RD (SASSi). There is a new appointee in DC now assigned to our program and a new State Director has been named this week for Alaska.

### State Legislature

The Legislature seems to be winding down as adjournment draws nearer. The PFD amount has been proposed to as little as \$1K and Education funding has been proposed in what looks to be a veto-proof bill that is on the way to the Governor now. Oil prices have plummeted and there is recognition that this year's budget and next will be very constrained. The LNG pipeline discussions have been in the news a lot, especially as Cook Inlet supplies wane.

### Natural Resources

Southeast Conference is restructuring the Energy Coordinator position into a broader "Natural Resources Director" role that will include hydro development but also support mining and forestry initiatives as both sectors take a more prominent spot in the region's planning future. SEC is focusing on the opportunities to advance initiatives that can advance forest, habitat, and community economic health in SE AK by developing policies and plans that are developed collaboratively and broadly supported. This website has more details on the forestry work the TTC has done to date: <https://tongasslandmgmt.org/04092025-ttc-virtual-mtg/>

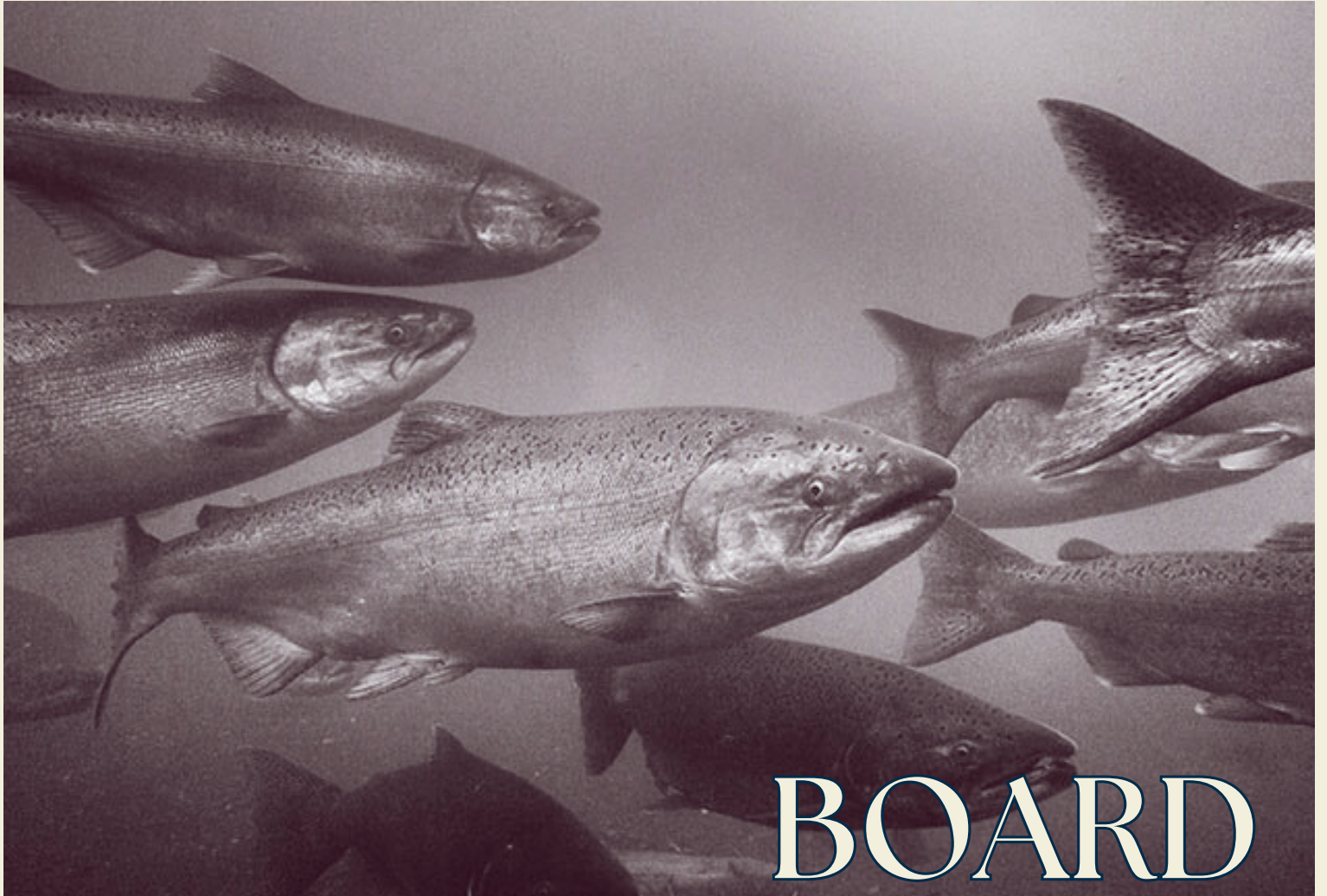
### Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP)

SEC has had a long relationship with REAP and it is about to take another step forward as the organization locates its Juneau office in our suite, which will create an energy-focused hub with SEC, AHS, REAP, ACEP and NREL.

However, the most significant (and bittersweet) evolution of our work with REAP will take place as our Senior Energy Advisor, takes the helm as REAP's new Executive Director. We wish Cady the very best as she moves into that role. She has set up the CPRG program very well and will be able to hand it off seamlessly to her successor (applications are being accepted now).

### Recreation Economy for Rural Communities

SEC has been chosen out of 200 applications to be one of 45 entities chosen as a Semi-Finalist for the [Recreation Economy for Rural Communities](#) program! This application revolves around the core concepts of SeaT-rails and our community trails and recreation advocates. This is a planning assistance (potential) award that would work with a regional steering committee in at least 3 planning calls, a two-day workshop, and at least 3 follow-up calls with the planning assistance team, plus local coordinating meetings as necessary. This detailed regional plan would be the foundation for the region to be better positioned to pursue funding to implement the developed priorities.



# BOARD RESOLUTIONS

## Southeast Conference

### Resolution 25-01

#### **A RESOLUTION TO OPEN A MEMBER ACCOUNT AT FIRST BANK AND ADD SIGNATORY NAMES AND AUTHORIZATIONS ON THE BUSINESS INTEREST CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE FOUNDATION**

**WHEREAS**, Southeast Conference is a non-profit corporation in the state of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, Directors on the Corporation's Board of Directors are Alec Mesdag, Jason Custer, and Katie Koester

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Executive Director is Robert Venables; and

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Deputy Director is Dan Lesh; and

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Chief Finance Officer is Stephanie Cameron; and

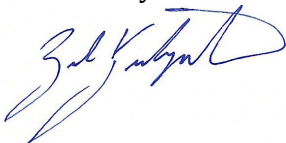
**WHEREAS**, In order to open a Business Interest Checking account with First Bank and authorize signatories required for signing all checks & transfers needed and necessary for the purpose of doing business;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** The Board of Directors of Southeast Conference has authorized Executive Director Robert Venables to open a member account at First Bank and has appointed Directors Jason Custer, Katie Koester and Alec Mesdag, Executive Director Robert Venables, and Deputy Director Dan Lesh as signers for said corporation's accounts with First Bank with an effective date of October 15, 2024;

**AND, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** The Board of Directors of Southeast Conference authorizes Stephanie Cameron, Chief Finance Officer, to do all regular and necessary business with said account.

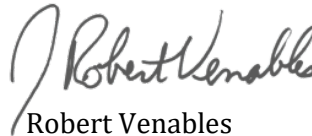
**ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON OCTOBER 15, 2024.**

Witness by:



Zak Kirkpatrick  
President  
Southeast Conference

Attest:



Robert Venables  
Executive Director  
Southeast Conference

## Southwest Conference

### Resolution 25-03

#### A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SIGNATORY NAMES AND AUTHORIZATIONS ON THE BANK ACCOUNTS FOR SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Conference is a non-profit corporation in the state of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Board of Directors President is Zak Kirkpatrick; and

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Board of Directors Treasurer is Alec Mesdag; and

**WHEREAS**, Additional Directors on the Corporation's Board of Directors are Chelsea Goucher and Katie Koester; and

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Executive Director is Robert Venables; and

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Deputy Director is Dan Lesh; and

**WHEREAS**, The Corporation's Chief Finance Officer is Stephanie Cameron; and

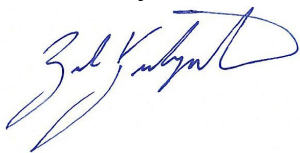
**WHEREAS**, In order to update signatures required for signing all checks & transfers needed and necessary for the purpose of doing business;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** The Board of Directors of Southwest Conference has elected to remove Duncan (Rorie) Watt as a signer from all SEC banking accounts.

**AND, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** The Board of Directors of Southwest Conference authorizes Dan Lesh to operate checking.

**ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON NOVEMBER 21, 2024,**

Witness by:



Zak Kirkpatrick  
President  
Southwest Conference

Attest:



Robert Venables  
Executive Director  
Southwest Conference

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

**RESOLUTION 25-04**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE OPPOSING PROPOSAL 156 TO BE**  
**CONSIDERED AT THE JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 9, 2025, ALASKA BOARD OF**  
**FISHERIES MEETING**

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**WHEREAS**, Southeast Alaska's salmon hatchery programs have successfully operated for almost 50 years, supplementing wild salmon harvests and supporting commercial, sport, subsistence, and personal use fisheries across the state, which are vital to communities in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposal 156 seeks to reduce hatchery production of pink and chum salmon by 25%, posing a significant risk to the hatchery-supported ecosystem in Southeast Alaska and threatening the stability of salmon resources on which coastal communities in Southeast Alaska depend; and

**WHEREAS**, a reduction in hatchery production would not only diminish the availability of salmon for commercial but would also limit access to salmon for subsistence, personal use and sport fishers, thereby directly impacting food security, cultural practices, and recreational opportunities in communities in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's salmon hatchery program is responsible for supporting approximately 4,200 jobs, \$219 million in labor income, and \$576 million in economic output annually, benefiting over 14,000 Alaskans who earn part of their livelihood from hatchery salmon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC), and Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) play critical roles in generating economic stability, providing jobs, and supporting local communities through hatchery operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposal 156 would create uncertainty for hatchery production, complicating long-term planning and financial commitments for these organizations, potentially jeopardizing the sustainability of Alaska's hatchery program, which has historically been a successful partnership between private nonprofits and the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's hatchery system operates as a nonprofit model funded through cost recovery and enhancement taxes, following stringent public permitting and scientific standards to ensure that wild salmon populations are protected while benefiting all user groups; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposal 156 introduces an additional oversight mechanism that would conflict with the established regulatory framework, risking the proven balance between hatchery and wild stocks that has been achieved under existing management;

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, THAT:**

**Section 1.** The Southeast Conference strongly opposes Proposal 156, scheduled for consideration at the January 28 - February 9, 2025, Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, and urges the Board to reject this proposal to prevent detrimental economic and social impacts on Alaska's hatchery programs and the communities they support.

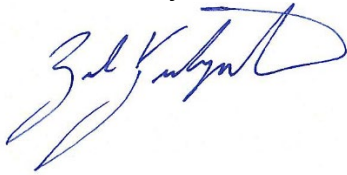
**Section 2.** The Southeast Conference reaffirms its support for SSRAA, DIPAC, and NSRAA, acknowledging their essential contributions to Southeast Alaska's economy, community well-being, and sustainable fishery practices.

**Section 3.** The Southeast Conference calls upon the Alaska Board of Fisheries to commit to science-based, objective assessments for hatchery management, working in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, industry leaders, and the hatchery community to ensure that management decisions reflect the value and benefits Alaska's hatchery programs bring to all residents.

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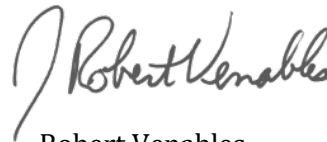
**ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON**

Witness by:



Zak Kirkpatrick  
President  
Southeast Conference

Attest:



Robert Venables  
Executive Director  
Southeast Conference

# **Southeast Conference**

## **Resolution 25-05**

### **A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UPDATE TO THE CEDS, THE MATCH COMMITMENT FOR THE EDA AWARD, THE WORK PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A FEDERAL GRANT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

**WHEREAS**, Southeast Conference is the, Economic Development District (EDD), and the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) for Southeast Alaska, and

**WHEREAS**, the Conference is responsible for preparing and maintaining a regional economic strategy for capacity building, economic and community development in Southeast Alaska, and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) offers annual operating grants to partially-fund performance of work plans that implement regional development strategies.

**WHEREAS**, The production of the CEDS annual update and work plan have been undertaken, approved by the CEDS strategy committee; and

**WHEREAS**, It is a reporting requirement of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration that a CEDS annual report or a revised/updated CEDS be submitted yearly; and

**WHEREAS**, This CEDS has been prepared and updated to meet the requirements for designation as an Economic Development District and to qualify for assistance under the public works, economic adjustment, and planning programs of the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, The Board of Directors approves the Southeast Conference Southeast Economic Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 26.

**ALSO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Board authorizes acceptance of, and assumes responsibility for, an EDA grant of \$70,000 to partially-fund execution of the FY26 Work Plan.

**ALSO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Board certifies the required non-federal cash match has been committed, as reported in the Conference's Grant Application. The Board agrees to collect the required match of at least \$17,500 for the next three years, and allocate it to performance of Southeast Economic Development tasks.

**ALSO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Board authorizes Executive Director Robert Venables, and any successor, to execute, and administer documents required for granting of funds to Southeast Conference and for managing funds on its behalf. He and his successor are further authorized to negotiate and execute amendments to grant documents when needed to adjust the Budget to better meet the development needs of the region at the time.

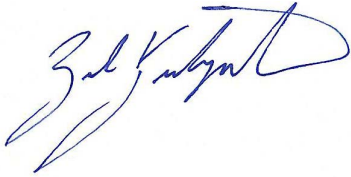
## Southeast Conference

**ALSO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Southeast Conference does hereby adopt this Southeast Alaska Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2030 update and 2026 work plan and agrees to support the goals and objectives outlined herein.

**ALSO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Southeast Conference does hereby authorize and support the submission of the Southeast Alaska Economic Development Strategy 2030 update and 2026 work plan to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration to remain in good standing as the Economic Development District for Southeast Alaska.

**ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON May 14, 2025.**

Witness:



Zak Kirkpatrick - President

Attest:



Robert Venables – Executive Director



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE AND SUBSIDIARY

**CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

As of June 30, 2024

	Southeast Conference	Alaska Pellet Supply and Service	Eliminating Entries	Consolidated Amounts
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash - unrestricted	\$ 693,007	\$ 34,016	\$ -	\$ 727,023
Cash - restricted for revolving loan fund	100,134	-	-	100,134
Grants and accounts receivable	2,241,810	10,764	(2,738)	2,249,836
Prepaid expenses and deposits	526,837	-	-	526,837
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,561,788</b>	<b>44,780</b>	<b>(2,738)</b>	<b>3,603,830</b>
INVESTMENT IN ALASKA PELLET SUPPLY AND SERVICE, LLC	94,502	-	(94,502)	-
GRAIN TERMINAL RESTRICTED USE AGREEMENT	6,000,000	-	-	6,000,000
OPERATING LEASE ASSET AND EQUIPMENT, net	320,874	52,937	-	373,811
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,977,164</b>	<b>\$ 97,717</b>	<b>\$ (97,240)</b>	<b>\$ 9,977,641</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Deferred revenue	\$ 39,716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,716
Accrued wages and related benefits	95,880	7	-	95,887
Accounts payable	1,824,095	3,208	(2,738)	1,824,565
Refundable advances	245,969	-	-	245,969
Current portion, obligation under operating lease	34,811	-	-	34,811
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,240,471</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>(2,738)</b>	<b>2,240,948</b>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>				
Obligation under operating lease, net of current portion	246,222	-	-	246,222
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,486,693</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>(2,738)</b>	<b>2,487,170</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
Net assets without donor restrictions, undesignated	1,336,668	94,502	(94,502)	1,336,668
Net assets without donor restrictions, designated for operating reserve	30,000	-	-	30,000
<b>Total Net Assets, without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>1,366,668</b>	<b>94,502</b>	<b>(94,502)</b>	<b>1,366,668</b>
Net assets restricted by donors for:				
Revolving Loan Fund	100,134	-	-	100,134
EDA BBB grant program	6,001,362	-	-	6,001,362
Scholarships	-	-	-	-
Solid Waste Project	22,307	-	-	22,307
<b>Total Net Assets with Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>6,123,803</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,123,803</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>7,490,471</b>	<b>94,502</b>	<b>(94,502)</b>	<b>7,490,471</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,977,164</b>	<b>\$ 97,717</b>	<b>\$ (97,240)</b>	<b>\$ 9,977,641</b>

Two statements of the entire 24 audited financial statements which are available on request.

THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE AND SUBSIDIARY

**CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Southeast Conference	Alaska Pellet Supply and Service	Eliminating Entries	Consolidated Amounts
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>				
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
<b>SUPPORT</b>				
Grants and Contracts from Government Agencies				
State of Alaska	\$ 203,474	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203,474
Federal government	5,394,602	-	-	5,394,602
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>5,598,076</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,598,076</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Membership	144,907	-	-	144,907
Conferences	112,053	-	-	112,053
Sponsorships	164,579	-	-	164,579
Interest income	12,493	25	-	12,518
Pellet Sales	-	22,126	-	22,126
Equity in earnings (loss) of Alaska Pellet Supply and Service, LLC	(10,498)	105,000	(94,502)	-
Miscellaneous	20,396	-	(17,074)	3,322
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>443,930</b>	<b>127,151</b>	<b>(111,576)</b>	<b>459,505</b>
Support Provided by Expiring Purpose Restrictions	61,500	-	-	61,500
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>6,103,506</b>	<b>127,151</b>	<b>(111,576)</b>	<b>6,119,081</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services	5,236,039	26,902	(10,612)	5,252,329
Supporting Services				
Management and general	272,160	5,747	(6,462)	271,445
Fundraising	91,949	-	-	91,949
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>364,109</b>	<b>5,747</b>	<b>(6,462)</b>	<b>363,394</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,600,148</b>	<b>32,649</b>	<b>(17,074)</b>	<b>5,615,723</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>503,358</b>	<b>94,502</b>	<b>(94,502)</b>	<b>503,358</b>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>				
Scholarship donations	55,575	-	-	55,575
Interest income	1,427	-	-	1,427
Net assets released from donor restrictions - satisfied by payment of scholarships	(61,500)	-	-	(61,500)
<b>Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>(4,498)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,498)</b>
Change in net assets	498,860	94,502	(94,502)	498,860
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,991,611	-	-	6,991,611
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 7,490,471</b>	<b>\$ 94,502</b>	<b>\$ (94,502)</b>	<b>\$ 7,490,471</b>

Two statements of the entire 24 audited financial statements which are available on request.



**Central Council Tlingit & Haida**

**Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA)**

**Alaska Electric Light & Power (AEL&P)**

**Avista Corporation**

**Alaska Marine Lines**

**The Alaska Committee**

**Alaska Seaplanes**

**Alaska Airlines**

**Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI)**

**Alaska Power & Telephone**

**AIDEA**

**Cruise Line International Agency**

**Riverview Senior Living**

**Hansen Gress**

**The Grind**

**Vigor**

**Port of Bellingham**

**Samson Tug and Barge**

**Northrim Bank**

**First BankPacific Seafood Processors**

**Association**

**Goldbelt**

**Elliot Bay Design Group**

**SEARHC**

**Huna Totem Corporation**

**Sealaska Corporation**

**University of Alaska Southeast**

**Grow Ketchikan**

**RESPEC**

**Alaska Forest Association**

**Master Mates & Pilots (MMP)**

**Inland Boatman's Union (IBU)**

**Marine Engineer's Beneficial Association (MEBA)**

**Wostmann & Associates**

**Travel Juneau**

**Republic Services**

**Schottel**

**Southeast Alaska Pilots Association**

**Royal Caribbean**

**Southeast Alaska Power Agency**

**The Landing Hotel**

**Visit Sitka**

**Siemens Energy**

**Alaska Forest Association**

**The Nature Conservancy**

**The Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show**