

Pribilof Islands Ecosystem Stakeholder Process Organizing Committee
February 7, 2003 meeting

Agenda and meeting summary

Agenda:

1. Report on meeting with Stevens' staff
2. SWAMC/501(c)3 representation – progress report and decision
3. Other fundraising – progress reports
4. Facilitator search – progress report, committee assignments
5. Report on halibut data meeting at NPFMC meeting

Meeting summary:

Present: Aquilina, Randy, Larry, Evie, Margaret

Not present: Joe, Greg

1. Report on meeting with Stevens' staff:
 - Last week Margaret and Larry met with Matt Paxton – fisheries issues staff in Senator Stevens office.
 - They explained the planned stakeholder process and requested \$250,000.
 - He expressed concern about conservation organizations being involved in the process; Larry and Margaret explained we are all a bit wary about working together for the first time, but that we are committed to this being our best alternative, and that all parties think its better to move forward with this process than not.
 - He seemed favorably disposed toward the project.
 - There are two opportunities for funding in the foreseeable future:
 - First: Supplemental budget – only chance for funding under this year's budget Congress will take up in April or May. We need to make the case that this is really important, almost an emergency request.
 - Second: FY 2004 budget – not in our preferred timeframe.
 - Larry will draft letter formally requesting \$250,000; will circulate for editing/approval prior to next committee meeting. Letter to be delivered at end of February (when Stevens office will be ready to think about supplemental budget).
 - Committee agreed we need many parties to contact Stevens in support of stakeholder process. Will have affiliated organizations write letters of support after we submit written request.
 - Stevens' office seemed very comfortable with idea of having SWAMC administer funds for the stakeholder group.
2. SWAMC/501(c)3 representation:

- Evie relayed a message from Joe: He had a conversation with Steve Miner and he/CBSFA are do not have any objections to the stakeholder group working with SWAMC.
 - Agreement that the committee should commit to working with SWAMC.
 - Agreement committee will need a detailed budget, and clear understanding about expectations and accounting.
 - Committee needs to have conversation with SWAMC about logistics and mechanics of relationship.
 - Discussion about need (or not) to form a stakeholder 501(c)3: Pros: gives group more autonomy. Cons: unnecessary, complicating, time consuming. Suggestion: Look into forming as Alaska non-profit corporation, but not as federally recognized 501(c)3.
 - Agreement to ask Joe:
 - His opinion about need to form a non-profit. If he thinks is good idea, is he willing to draft legal papers?
 - Is he willing to take the lead on working with SWAMC to decide details of organizational/group relationship?
3. Other fundraising:
- Rasmuson Foundation: Agreement that St. Paul (and St. George if they agree) tribe(s) will take the lead on a request. Aquilina will contact foundation about proposal timeline and report back to committee at next meeting.
 - Seacology Foundation: Evie contacted Karen Peterson - they are only working in South Pacific at present. She expressed keen interest in Pribilofs, asked to be kept in the loop, and stated they will work in Alaska again sometime in the future.
 - Alaska Conservation Foundation: Evie contacted Kevin Harun – was told not to submit a proposal for general project funding, as stakeholder process does not fit their current funding priorities. Kevin suggested we check with ACF’s new marine program officer about the slight possibility of funding through that program. Phone call not returned to date.
 - Packard Foundation: Margaret contacted. They are no longer working in the Bering Sea.
 - Pew Foundation: Agreement that they have tight control over projects they fund, that they are not well regarded by some stakeholders, and that we should not approach them for funding.
4. Facilitator search:
- Evie will email large file with resumes/information on specific facilitators next week. All committee members will review and be ready to discuss, make decisions about interviews at next meeting.
5. Report on halibut data meeting at NPFMC meeting:
- Larry convened an informal meeting at the NPFMC meeting in Seattle last week to discuss the halibut data we received. Present at meeting were: Phil

Lestinkoff, Kevin Kennedy, Max Malavansky, Larry Philimonof, John Gauvin, Carl Halflinger, Paul McGregor, Joe Sullivan, and possibly others.

- Larry said those present agreed there is “no smoking gun” with regard to concern that groundfish fleet is intercepting halibut before it gets to local Pribilof fleet.
- According to Larry, John Gauvin said flat fish fishery migrated N & W of Pribilofs in order to avoid by-catch (which shuts them down), relocated where there was minimal by-catch.
- According to Larry, Kevin Kennedy suggested there are cumulative impacts of by-catch that lead to the decrease in CPUE around the Pribilofs
- Those present concluded they, others need to spend more time looking at data, and that a full day workshop focused on education and analysis would be helpful to increase general knowledge and identify better what types of data we need.
- Larry will organize workshop, probably to take place in Anchorage on Sunday, March 30 – just prior to start of next NPFMC meeting.

Next organizing committee meeting:

- **Tuesday, February 18, 2003, 10 am teleconference**