



Monthly President's Report

Dear AFN Co-Chairs, AFN Board Members & Membership,

Happy New Year! 2012 will be a very good year. Our staff and board members are aggressively promoting our peoples' interests in DC and Juneau. We have already made marked progress on the priorities laid out by our membership, and many more of our board committees will meet in the coming weeks.

AFN Co-Chairs have formed a new and important Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chaired by Steve Ivanoff that hit the ground running in January. The last in a series of productive meetings and workshops took place on Monday, and resulted in the attached Discussion Draft: SAFE TRIBAL ACCESS TO MARKETS ON PAR WITH AMERICA -- TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT. Please see the TRANSPORTATION update below for more on this committee's progress.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar last week announced his appointment of Anthony Christianson, of Hydaburg Cooperative Association, and Charles Brower, of Ukpeakvik Inupiat Corporation, to the two new public seats representing rural subsistence users on the *Federal Subsistence Board* (PDF announcement attached). These appointments represent a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to achieve better recognition for the needs of rural subsistence users on the FSB. We look forward to what Secretary Salazar called a "new chapter" that these two great representatives will help open for the FSB.

We are also pleased to congratulate AFN Co-Chair Ralph Andersen on his appointment as the Native Liaison to the *Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska*. More to come on the importance of this high-level Working Group and AFN's planned Alaska Day in Washington DC.

Please read on for an update on the staff and board activities that have kicked off this new year...

January 2012 Update

Upcoming AFN Meetings

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DATE: February
COMMITTEES:

- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Legislative/Litigation Committee

LOCATION: Anchorage

FULL BOARD

DATE: February 21-22

PURPOSE: Regular quarterly meeting

LOCATION: Juneau

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Operations Report

SUBSISTENCE UPDATE:

- AFN requested that Federal Subsistence Board reconsider and reverse their decision on Saxman's rural status (see the PDF letter attached). The FSB decided to extend the compliance date of the 2007 non-rural designation, which was to go into effect May 7, 2012. Although this does not mean that they reversed their decision, this is a step in the right direction. Unofficially, the FSB likely did not want to reverse their prior decision because it would allow other communities/groups to file suit for similar decisions. Officially, the compliance date is extended for the first of 5 years or the completion of the decennial rural/non-rural designation process. The decennial review process as a whole is being revised per Secretary Salazar based on his subsistence management review. The decision is a win for Saxman as it will allow subsistence users to retain their priority status in harvesting/fishing during the lengthy overhaul of the rural/non-rural designation process. AFN is confident that a process requiring deference to Regional Advisory Council recommendations, incorporation of more representative socioeconomic indicators, and inclusion of the two newly-seated public FSB members will result in a favorable, i.e. continued rural designation, for Saxman.
- AFN staff provided USFWS Alaska Regional Director Geoffrey Haskett with a detailed summary of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council Meeting Outcomes, reviewing key issues and recommendations (see PDF attached). The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) was established to coordinate the effective and meaningful involvement of the village councils in the conservation and subsistence use of migratory birds. For years the AMBCC has been rendered nearly ineffective by a flawed structure and poor collaboration with Native stakeholders. The January Summit and subsequent invitation for written input are hopeful signs we may see real improvement in 2012. With the real impact of climate change on migratory bird populations in Alaska, a functioning Co-Management structure is absolutely essential.

Upcoming Outside Meetings

TRIBAL LEADER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE

Register at <http://triballeader-roundtables.indianeducation.org/>

DATE: Feb. 16

LOCATION: Seattle, WA

FSB REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

DATE: February-March

PURPOSE: To develop proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing regulations for the 2012-2014 regulatory years

LOCATION: Across Alaska (see PDF flyer attached for dates and contacts)

AFN CAPITAL RECEPTION

DATE: March 7, 2012

PURPOSE: To honor Congressman Don Young's 39 Years of Service

LOCATION: Washington, DC

Photos: Clark Mishler

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Operations Report, *Continued*

FEDERAL NATIVE PROGRAM CONTRACTING - CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS:

At the direction of the board, AFN staff are working with NCAI, Navajo Nation, or other interested entities in support of tribal contractors in *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter*, No. 11-551, US Supreme Court and *Arctic Slope Native Association v. Sebelius*, No. 11-83, US Supreme Court.

The question presented for review is whether the government is required to pay all of the contract support costs incurred by a tribal contractor under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, where Congress has imposed an express statutory cap on the appropriations available to pay such costs, and the Secretary cannot pay all such costs for all tribal contractors without exceeding the statutory cap. The significance of these cases is that HRC and the Alaska Native Health Consortia have contracts with BIA, Indian Health Service, for which the contract support costs have not been fully paid.

REDISTRICTING UPDATE:

The Legislative/Litigation Committee was provided with a summary of the present status of Restricting of the State of Alaska by Ms. Natalie Landreth of NARF and in particular, districts 1, 2 and 37. The proposed District 37 received the most attention as this would divide the traditional Yupik/Aleut districts. The committee continued its review in an informal workshop by Ms. Landreth this week.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE UPDATE:

Legislative/Litigation Committee passed Resolution 12-01, "Support of a state of Alaska Act to Establish the Alaska Native Language Preservation Council and Relating to the Preservation, Restoration, and Revitalization of Alaska Native Languages." The letter and Resolution we submitted to Don Olsen supported the passage and enactment of SB 130. We also asked him to support the allocation of funds for Alaska Native Language restoration programs and appropriate funds for five demonstration language restoration projects for the Inupiat, Yup'ik, Aleut, Athabascan and Tlingit language groups.



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Operations Report, *Continued*

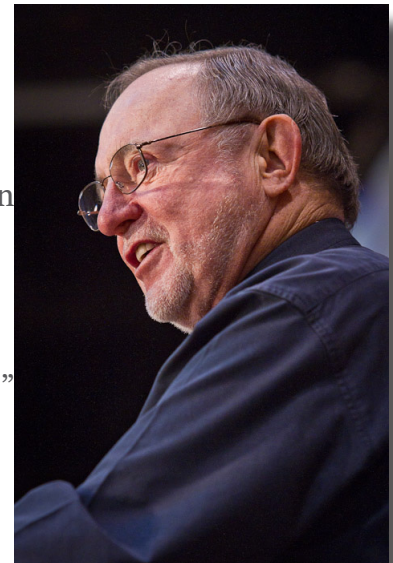
TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Congressman Don Young called into the AFN Legislative/Litigation Committee meeting on Monday, January 23, 2012. We thanked him for his efforts on IRR in SAFETEA-LU when Congress passed what is now PL 109-59, and we urged him to implement as much of PL 109-59 as possible during the reauthorization of the transportation bill. He will consider the T & I committee's proposed amendment to replace the MAP-21 "population-based" Indian roads funding formula with the "relative need" Indian roads funding formula (see PDF attachment).

Announcements & Opportunities

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

On March 7th, AFN will host a formal reception honoring Congressman Don Young for his 39 years in service of Alaska and our Native communities. We invite all of you to help us honor this great man by submitting photos and "thank you" letters for inclusion in a "Book of Gratitude" that we will deliver to the Congressman at his reception in Washington DC. For more information, or to submit your "thank yous," please email afninfo@nativefederation.org or call AFN 907-274-3611.



OPPORTUNITIES

- The **DOI US Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking a Native Liaison**. Learn more at <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/307471200> (PDF job description included)
- **Rasmuson Foundation Do Something Award Program** applications are due March 1, 2012. The *Do Something Award* identifies exceptional young social entrepreneurs, activists, and community leaders who have a significant social impact with five \$10,000 community grants and one \$100,000 Grand Prize for the winner's cause or organization. Apply at dosomething.org.
- Proposals for the **7th Annual NCAI Tribal Leader Scholar Forum** are due by February 17, 2012. (PDF announcement included)

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Announcements & Opportunities, *Continued*:

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS - ALASKA NORTHERN WATERS TASK FORCE

This month the Alaska Northern Waters Task Force (ANWTF) released its preliminary findings related to the anticipated increase in pressure and momentum around the development of northern shipping routes, mineral extraction, oil and gas exploration, commercial fisheries and tourism in the Arctic. The Task Force identified three priority recommendations, as well as an array of substantial recommendations regarding governance, oil and gas development, marine transportation, fisheries, infrastructure, and research. The Task Force's complete findings and recommendations are included with this report (PDF).

The ANWTF's priority recommendations included:

- The need for more meaningful opportunities for Alaskans to participate in Arctic policy and Outer Continental Shelf development opportunities.
- The formation of an Alaskan Arctic Commission to enable Alaska to more effectively engage in the development of policies and a comprehensive strategy for the Arctic.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

A special thanks to the Legislative Task Force Chair, Representative Reggie Joule, and his wonderful staff who provided this important report, so hot off the presses.

Financials

An audit by Altman, Rogers & Co., certified public accountants, is underway and should be ready for the AFN Board at our next meeting.

Thank You

Thank you all for your important work on behalf of our communities. We look forward to accomplishing great things with you in 2012!

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka

Alaska Federation of Natives

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