

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Working for strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska

Annual Report For Membership year 2002

**September 19, 2002
Craig, Alaska**

September 2002

Members of Southeast Conference:

With the annual meeting approaching my term as President is closing. I have been involved with many organizations over the years as I'm sure many of you have. But Southeast Conference has been the best. With a declining population in the region the Conference has become the single most recognized voice for Southeast Alaska.

At last year's meeting we made a commitment to work with Alaska Marine Highways to seek increased funding necessary to provide basic transportation to our communities. We were successful and we must now remain committed in our quest to help recreate the Alaska Marine Highways into a more efficient system that has a lower general fund operating subsidy requirement. Experience has taught us that change is easier from the inside working together than from the outside throwing stones. The conference was formed with a primary mission to create the Alaska Marine highways and I ask that you all continue that commitment.

We spent a lot of time working on the Southeast Alaska Intertie project this year. I believe we have identified that major issues to be resolved in the final formation of the organization that will be responsible for seeking funding and construction. Please help the Conference in thanking Representative Bill Williams for the \$150,000.00 grant from the legislature this year. This money will enable us to jump-start our efforts.

The number one challenge we now face in the region is the state of the economy. We must remain committed to the use of natural resources. The decline in the timber industry is responsible for the largest economic down turn the region has ever experienced. This year we have experienced the decline in fisheries. This will only be changed with elected leadership that supports and understands the issues and people that live here.

Southeast Conference is successful because people like you take the time to get involved. The Board of directors you elect represents all areas, races and people of the region. The lesson that I have learned this year is that diversity leads to better decisions.

Loren Gerhard and Meilani Clark Schijvens have done an outstanding job this year. The accomplishments we have made are because of them. They are two of the most dedicated employees I have ever worked with. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with them.

Thank you to the Board of directors, you have worked hard and remained engaged. Serving on the board requires a commitment of time and money. Thank you to the Chairs and members of our standing committees. Your hard work is critical to the strength of our mission.

Sincerely,

John Conley, President

The Year In Review - Fiscal Year 2002

Overview

July 2001 marked the beginning of membership year 2002. After a full year's cycle under his belt, executive director Loren Gerhard had a slightly easier time of fiscal year end accounting, but the challenges of putting on an annual meeting were compounded by the 9/11 incidents only a week before the event. The board met by phone several times to talk about the impact of those tragic events, and decided to proceed with the annual meeting, in part to send the message that we will not be deterred from our work by terrorists. There were certainly some glitches and challenges because of the fallout, like airplane schedule disruption, heightened border restrictions, and some potential attendees who simply could not travel because of obligations and hardships resulting from the terrorist acts. Still, we were able to muster over 120 attendees and had a productive few days in Prince Rupert.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was accepted by the Economic Development Administration as our application for designation as an Economic Development District. We look forward to that designation as our member communities will benefit, as grantees situated in the Southeast Alaska Economic Development District will see a reduction in the amount of match required for EDA grants. Unfortunately, our application has been on a slow track in the EDA, but we are assured designation will occur soon.

Since 1988, Southeast Conference has been the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) for Southeast Alaska. As an ARDOR, the Conference receives an annual operating grant from the state, which, for fiscal year 2002, funded about ten percent of the Conference's total budget and about 40% of its administrative budget. The state's fourteen ARDORs perform locally initiated economic development activities the state cannot or will not undertake. The Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) administers the ARDOR Program.

The Inter-Island Ferry Authority launched and commenced operation of their first vessel the *M.V. Prince of Wales*, on daily service between Hollis on Prince of Wales Island, and Ketchikan. This represents the first element of the *Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan* to be implemented. After an unsuccessful bidding process on the first Fast Vehicle Ferry for the Alaska Marine Highway System, the DOT was successful in awarding a contract under a follow on bid. The ship is being constructed in New York, and is scheduled for delivery in late spring of 2004. We applied for and were awarded a state mini-grant to evaluate possible changes for the Alaska Marine Highway System, to help it become more sustainable in the long term, and to solve some of the recurring problems that have plagued the System over the years. The analysis was undertaken and work products delivered in May and July. The Conference will use this data in further efforts to promote a healthy, responsive marine transportation network.

The Conference continued in FY 02 to participate in the Cruise Ship Discharge discussions. The Cruise Ship Initiative Steering Committee was disbanded, after the state law was passed in spe-

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cial session summer of 2001. We concluded that it had run its course, and that constructing sensible regulation under the new law was the next order of business. The Commissioner appointed a negotiated regulation committee representing the various constituencies interested in the outcome, and we sat on that committee. It met 5 times last winter, and the end result was regulations now in final adoption process.

The Tongass Forest continued to be a topic of hot discussion. The Bush administration directed the Forest Service to include a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, following a court decision, which dictated further review of potential wilderness designations. The Forest Service concluded that the no action alternative was appropriate, which is the recommendation in the draft SEIS, now out for public comment. This action was taken primarily in recognition that the forest management processes required under various federal laws have been adequate to address this issue in the past, and there is no compelling reason to revisit or change the results of those extensive processes.

The regional electrical intertie project continued its progress, after the federal authorization of the last fiscal year. The task before the Conference was to propose a form of entity to initiate funding requests for specific projects, and determine how to own and manage the project. A draft entity type was introduced at the Annual meeting in Prince Rupert. The Committee met several times last year, hammering out the issues, culminating in a full day session last March in Juneau where the key issues were identified, and a course of action outlined to attempt their resolution. The primary issue seems to be what kind of organization will meet the expectation that there will be broad representation, without losing favorable tax status and operating flexibility. We were successful in obtaining a state grant in the legislative session, for continued work on this project. Hiring a full time Intertie Coordinator is the primary goal of that funding, to finish sorting out the issues and moving forward with a proposed entity, and concurrently developing a work plan for initial phases of the regional grid, so that we can submit requests for federal funding next year. The grant will also allow for some consulting work to finish the efforts we have made so far in the entity formation.

Fisheries in Southeast Alaska are under the same pressures as around the state. Low prices plague the salmon harvesters and processors, as competition with farmed product further displaces their market share. Now there is a similar market threat to sablefish and halibut fisheries, from the advent of fish farms for those species. We wrote in support of a continued moratorium on further development of salmon fish farms in British Columbia, but their government continued with their plan to lift the moratorium. We continue to work with dive fishers and mariculture advocates to enhance the viability of the commercial shellfish industry. We also monitored the progress of the Sustainable Salmon Fund awards, and negotiated a long term watershed council development project utilizing those funds in cooperation with Fish and Game

The Minerals sector of our regional economy continues to develop very slowly. Greens Creek continues to operate their silver and zinc mine on Admiralty Island, after continued efforts to streamline their operations to be more cost effective in a volatile metals market. The Kensington Mine Project in Lynn Canal has developed a new operating plan which would lower their cost of production, which is important given the static low prices for gold.

We attended an economic summit in Hoonah late spring, where resource agencies spent time with local community leaders, reviewing ongoing and potential economic development programs and projects. We provided an update on the Intertie development and the CEDS process.

The Conference assists municipalities and other groups with locally conceived economic, community development and resource conservation projects in its capacity as the USDA Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council for Southeast Alaska. The RC&D Program is sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Department of Agriculture.

Last January, our long term RC&D coordinator, Bob Tribelhorn, announced that he had accepted a position with the NRCS in Moscow, Idaho, starting in March. It is a step up for Bob, but he is sorely missed. The RC&D program was very productive in his 6 years here, and we wish him well in his new position. We were without a coordinator until late June, when Eric Decker started in the position. The NRCS also is hiring a watershed specialist for the Southeast Region, which should be very beneficial for our project with the Department of Fish & Game. Paul Coffey continues in his duties on Prince of Wales Island as the Assistant RC&D Coordinator, assisting local communities on projects of importance to those communities and other groups. He also assists private landowners and communities with resource conservation planning and program implementation.

Activities and Accomplishments in FY 2002

During the past year Southeast Conference was involved with numerous activities and efforts that are summarized below in the same categories presented in the Conference's *Regional Development Strategy and Area Plan*.

GOAL 1 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Support and assist communities, boroughs, and other organizations in efforts to improve the region as a good place to live and work.

Objective 1 - Infrastructure Development - Southeast Conference will undertake, advocate, support, and assist in development, maintenance, and enhancement of public infrastructure throughout the region.

Task 1 - Continue the Conference's Transportation Committee involvement with DOT's Southeast Region as they implement the *Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan*. Develop a sub-committee to explore transportation enhancements or changes.

Status: A subcommittee was formed, for the primary purpose of overseeing the specifications and conditions of an application for funding for a minigrant to study the AMHS structure. The committee met three times, and the 30 k DCED grant was awarded. The full Transportation Committee then met 3 more times in the execution of the minigrant, which is still in process, with the final deliverable due next FY. Preliminary findings were released and distributed May 15, 2002

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- Task 2 -** Implement the *Southeast Alaska Electrical Intertie Plan*. Establish a regional power transmission Authority; assist Authority in preparing a business plan for system development and operation; assist in developing a strategy for obtaining funds needed to construct the system.
- Status:* *The board of directors monitored the progress of the contractor on the Intertie Formation grant obtained from the State of Alaska. The draft formation agreement was presented at the Annual Meeting and discussed in committee. Comments were received and discussion followed for the winter months. An all day meeting was held in March, 02 to go over the discussion and provide guidance for future efforts. Goals for the entity were narrowed down and decisions made on certain structural characteristics. Funding was exhausted, and further funding was sought and obtained from the legislature in its capital budget. Another committee teleconference was held to firm up plans and direction. The board and membership have been apprised of the progress.*
- Task 3 -** Explore improved fiberoptics and other broadband connections in SE Alaska by working with industry and government representatives. Look at formation of committee and pursue public/private partnerships.
- Status:* *The lead private partner in this effort has the project on hold. Fiberoptics will be pursued in any specific regional intertie legs constructed.*
- Task 4 -** Participate with communities, agencies, and other groups initiating plans for a regional solid waste disposal program and/or facility.
- Status:* *We continued to provide communities with updated information on prior and current efforts to address this issue. The current proposals for a regional facility are still being investigated.*

Objective 2 - Quality of Life Improvements - Support and assist communities, boroughs, and other local organizations in efforts to develop, maintain, and enhance health care, education, and community services throughout southeast Alaska.

- Task 1 -** Assist the Craig Community Foundation in planning for and obtaining funds for services to the community, for example, the construction of a new community center.
- Status:* *Foundation now housed with RC&D office in Craig. RC&D assistance continues to identify funding for a center.*
- Task 2 -** Provide scholarships for students at University of Alaska Southeast.
- Status:* *\$18,000 raised at FY02 Annual meeting. FY 01 awards made in December 02 of \$4250 to 6 students, and FY02 awards of \$6000 made to 6 students. 1/2 of the funds raised were donated to a national scholarship foundation for the families of rescue worker victims of the World Trade Center disaster.*
- Task 3 -** Build the scholarship endowment fund.
- Status:* *\$4670 added to corpus of fund from 02 auction.*

Task 4 - Provide planning assistance to Petersburg's Clausen Museum.
Status: This project is on hold at the request of the sponsoring municipality.

Objective 3 - Capacity Building - Southeast Conference will support and assist communities and boroughs in developing leaders and organizations to perform local and regional economic and community development activities

Task 1 - Provide communities, businesses, and organizations advice, consulting assistance and facilitation services in strategic planning, project management, and economic renewal.
Status: Projects include: Craig Industrial Ice House, Vessel Haul out, Coffman Cove and Port Nicholas King Salmon Enhancement; Prince of Wales Tourism Plan; Naukati RV Park; Hydaburg Cold Storage; Hoonah Marine Bulkhead; Haines Fish Processing Expansion; and Aquaculture Shellfish Development Zone in Naukati and Thorne Bay.

Task 2 - Support the Southeast Conference of Mayors in their efforts to support each other and work for the betterment of the region; facilitate and provide administrative support as needed.
Status: Organized Conference of Mayors meetings 3 times, and kept in close communication with mayors, providing periodic updates via fax and email.

Task 3 - Assist the community of Hydaburg with completion of their community action plan.
Status: RC&D staff facilitated hiring of contractor, got project up and running, retained funding for plan, traveled to site for community meetings, developed vision for community. Plan completed.

GOAL 2 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Support and assist in planning and execution of local and regional economic development efforts and projects.

Objective 1 - Tourism Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the tourism sector of Southeast Alaska's economy.

Task 1 - Support community leaders and representatives of the cruise industry in their decision to meet periodically to find ways to coordinate efforts for the betterment of the region; participate in DEC-sponsored Cruise Ship Initiative.
Status: Participated in meetings of the Steering Committee, including final of Cruise Ship Initiative meeting. Applied to and appointed to negotiated rule making advisory group, to implement Cruise Ship Discharge Legislation, which finished it's work in May, after about 35 hours of meetings. Final Rulemaking to be out by end of FY.

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Task 2 - Provide technical assistance and support to Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council (POWCAC) efforts to develop a Prince of Wales tourism planning document.

Status: Community planner and RC&D assistant worked closely with Prince of Wales Chamber and Tourist Advisory Council to create funding for the position of Tourism Planner for POW, and other organizational needs.

Task 3 - Assisted with development of a Prince of Wales visitor center.

Status: Assistant RC&D Coordinator met with POW Chamber to discuss space and location alternatives, which continue to be evaluated.. May be consolidated with Craig Community Center.

Objective 2 - Timber Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the timber segment of Southeast Alaska's economy.

Task 1 - Continue to participate in efforts to establish a predictable, reliable timber supply from federal lands sufficient to sustain the region's timber economy and communities. Work with mayors to stay informed on Tongass Land Management Plan and other land use management changes and court decisions.

Status: Participating in on-going Forest Service suit. Presented at annual meeting. Met with Deputy Regional Forester for Resources, Steve Brink on numerous occasions. Economic Development Committee focusing efforts on this item, including formation of a Timber Task Force, which prepared recommendations now before the Board.

Task 2 - Initiate a sustainable forest planning effort with communities, USFS, private landowners, and other interested groups.

Status: Discussed at annual meeting. Assistant RC&D Coordinator looking into topic. Project on hold pending new RC&D coordinator assignment.

Objective 3 - Fisheries Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the fisheries sector of Southeast Alaska's economy.

Task 1 - Assist the City of Skagway with development of Skagway salmon enhancement alternatives.

Status: Task no longer necessary. Client community pursuing w/o assistance.

Task 2 - Explore community interest in the creation of a shellfish aquaculture development zones on POW Island.

Status: On-going project. RC&D Coordinator applied for Alaska Science Technology Foundation grant. Discussed at annual conference. Presented at November Pacific Rim RC&D Council Association annual meeting. Received extension money for beach survey work on Sea Otter Sound. Legislation passed with some assistance from SEC director, funding beach surveys and pre permitting concepts.

RC&D assistant actively involved in facilitating and participating in community meetings on this subject.

Task 3 - Monitor Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund implementation and assist with project applications as requested by member organizations.

Status: RC&D Coordinator attended meetings. Helped organize Prince of Wales Hatchery and Mendenhall Watershed Partnership and Watershed Stewardship Program. Accepted SSF Grant to help formulate watershed councils.

Task 4 - Assist Prince of Wales Communities and the Prince of Wales Hatchery Association with king salmon enhancement projects.

Status: Continued work with Coffman Cove and Craig on king salmon enhancement projects. On going meetings on developing terminal fisheries.

Task 5 - Assist Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association with PSP program funding and related program assistance.

Status: SARDFFA is now able to undertake this on their own.

Objective 4 - Minerals Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the mining sector of Southeast Alaska's economy.

Task 1 - Work with Juneau Economic Development Council to support funding for minerals development plan in Southeast.

Status: Met with Coeur Alaska Inc. on development strategies. Offered our assistance and outreach to mayors on mineral development issues.

Objective 5 - Business and Industrial Development - Southeast Conference will assist in continuation of existing businesses and development of new enterprises and will aid in ensuring that financial resources needed for community and economic development are available

Task 1 - Assist local economic development groups in recruiting new businesses, and expanding existing businesses, in the region

Status: RC&D Assistant Coordinator helped provide initial planning assistance to two businesses in Craig. Executive Director attended Sitka Business Expo. Met with SEDA, JEDC and others to discuss programs.

Task 2 - Support utilization of the Juneau Economic Development Council's regional revolving loan fund to ensure organizations throughout the region are aware of it and participate in it if they find it to their benefit.

Status: Gave at least six referrals to JEDC, including major retailer, a timber value added company, and a Naukati hamburger booth.

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Task 3 - Support the University of Alaska's Small Business Development Center to ensure organizations throughout the region are aware of its capabilities and use them if they find it to their benefit.

Status: Numerous referrals from all staff and encouraged SBDC participation in 2 SEC sponsored economic assistance providers' forums.

Task 4- Assist timber impact communities with technical assistance, project design and grant applications for economic development projects.

Status: Some of our projects include: Craig Industrial Ice House, Vessel Haul out, and Salmon Enhancement Projects; Coffman Cove King Salmon Enhancement; Prince of Wales Tourism Plan; Naukati RV Park; Naukati Forest Road nomination; Hyدابurg Cold Storage; Hoonah Marine Bulkhead; Haines Fish Processing Expansion; and Aquaculture Shellfish Development Zone in Naukati and Thorne Bay. RC&D Assistant Coordinator attended several meetings of POW communities, and Community Planner made 3 trips to Prince of Wales and planning administrator made 3 trips to POW. The Planner made 2 trips to Haines and 1 to Hoonah, and the administrator made 1 trip to Haines and Hoonah in pursuit of these goals.

GOAL 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE - Support and assist communities, boroughs, and other organizations in efforts to sustain and improve the quality of the region's environment.

Objective 1 - Environmental Quality - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible and balanced local and regional resource development and conservation efforts.

Task 1 - Assist the Mendenhall Valley Watershed Partnership and Duck Creek Advisory Group as an advisor for implementation of program for watershed management, land stewardship and pollution prevention program for Juneau's Mendenhall Valley.

Status: Working on implementation of restoration plan with Corps of Engineers. RC&D Coordinator was chair of Duck Creek Advisory Group. Corp currently completing Environmental Assessment of Mendenhall Blvd. Project. Working on implementing NFWF grant for Duck Creek restoration with iron removal equipment.

Task 2 - Assist in the creation of a community-based regional process for citizen involvement in the assessment, use, and restoration (where applicable) of watersheds. Assist the Klawock Watershed Council with development and implementation of their high priority needs.

Status: RC&D Assistant Coordinator met with Klawock Watershed Council and is assisting with grant applications. Awarded SSF grant to pursue formation of additional watershed councils.

- Task 3 -** Work with DEC and PWSEDC to deliver a Household Hazardous Waste Collection program.
Status: *Implemented contract renewal with Carson Dorn Inc. Received completed report from DEC. Summer, 02 program underway.*
- Task 4 -** Work with City and Borough of Juneau and other communities to develop an On-site Secondary Sewage Treatment demonstration program.
Status: *Applied for Alaska Science Technology Foundation grant. Funding freeze on ASTF projects. Working with Ketchikan on related project.*
- Task 5 -** Assist the communities of Craig and Klawock with the development of recycling and community composting programs.
Status: *RC&D Assistant Coordinator working with recycling program. Recycling bins are being placed in various locations and collection site being prepared at Klawock Landfill. Still need a baler.*

GOAL 4 - ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - To expand and strengthen the Conference's ability to advance the economic, social, and environmental interests of Southeast Alaska's people, communities, and businesses.

Objective 1 - Communications - Southeast Conference will increase communication among Conference members, non-member people, communities and businesses in the region, and local, state, and federal agencies with respect to economic, social, and environmental conditions, events, and possibilities in Southeast Alaska.

- Task 1 -** Provide the Conference's Board of Directors and standing committees information about local, state, and federal government activities that may affect the region's communities or businesses, particularly while the Legislature is in session.
Status: *Held eight board meetings, and regularly provided information to board members and committee chairs information regarding issues of regional importance. Conducted mid session summit during legislative session, to update board and members on priorities and projects.*
- Task 2 -** Maintain the Southeast Conference website with newsletter updated quarterly with information about economic development and community development conditions, events, and possibilities in southeast Alaska.
Status: *Website updated regularly. Two newsletters created and posted on website, along with other timely or pertinent information. Major overhaul of website installed by beginning of FY03.*
- Task 3 -** Publish an annual report fulfilling the requirements of the Economic Development District, the RC&D Area Plan, and the ARDOR program.
Status: *Annual report completed.*
- Task 4 -** Hold Membership Conference and Annual Meeting.
Status: *Annual meeting held in Prince Rupert.*
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Task 5 - Develop website links and other features to assist in attracting business development in the region.

Status: Website links created, maintained, and updated.

Objective 2 - Development Planning - Southeast Conference will prepare, maintain, and execute a single integrated regional development strategy, work plan, and budget that satisfies requirements set by the Conference's Board of Directors, the State's Alaska Regional Economic Development Program, the USDA's Resource Conservation and Development Program, and the EDA's Economic Development Program.

Task 1 - Participate in the activities of potential or established regional and national community development, economic development, and resource conservation and development organizations and associations.

Status: Received "RC&D Council of the Year Award," at the 2001 Pacific Rim RC&D Council Association annual meeting. Applied for Economic Development District status. (still pending) On going planning for hosting Pacific Rim meeting in Ketchikan, next fall.

Task 2 - Update CEDS document in collaboration with Central Council Tlingit & Haida including new communications on community priorities.

Status: Economic Development committee completed review of update and board adopted revisions.

Task 3 - Provide outreach and technical assistance to POW Island communities and groups on a regular basis through the Craig RC&D office and regular visits from the Community Planner.

Status: RC&D Assistant Coordinator attended several meetings of POW communities, and Community Planner made 4 trips to Prince of Wales and Planning Coordinator made 3 trips.

Task 4 - Initiate work to host PACRIM RC&D Association annual meeting in FY-03.

Status: This meeting will be held in Ketchikan on September 10-12, 2002. Plans are well under way.

Objective 3 - Efficiency and Effectiveness - Southeast Conference will strengthen and streamline its organization and operations to minimize overhead and maximize service to members and to the region.

Task 1 - Keep Board informed of day-to-day efforts, activities, and accomplishments.

Status: Board updated regularly through emails, meetings, committee participation, phone calls, and regular reports completed by the Executive Director.

Task 2 - Recruit new members and develop recruiting tools.

Status: Nine new members joined this year.

Task 3 - Develop recurring revenue sources.

Status: New members dues, and addition of long term (4.5 year) SSF grant.

Task 4 - Evaluate Executive Director's performance.

Status: Task completed in June, 02

Concerns of the Conference:

Many issues important to the future economic and social well being of Southeast Alaska's people and communities face us this year. As always, we need member feedback on what will benefit the region as a whole and where we as Southeast Conference, should stand on these issues:

1 - We are deeply engaged in the process to build our marine transportation system of the future. Will we be able to put together a credible proposal for revamping the AMHS, especially given the uncertainty of federal dollars to assist prior to next legislature? Will we be able to present a unified position so that our concerns are taken seriously in the legislature and the state government administration? How active will we be as individuals, organizations, and communities, in advocating for the kind of system we decide we want?

2 - Decline in the timber sector of our region's economy continues. Will we be able to make progress promoting the recommendations of the timber task force, or will the national forces who have picked the Tongass as their target for preservation at all costs prevail in the court of public opinion? What else can we do to help people and communities that have lost timber jobs and enterprises?

3 - What must be done to protect and revitalize the fishing sector of our economy? Will the Conference find a way to take an active roll in that effort?

4 - We have the Intertie authorization, but we have been unable to reach consensus on what a regional intertie entity will look like, and how it will work. We are using a new state grant to ramp up the effort to get the entity formed and funding requests into the Congress. Will we be able to move ahead with a compromise? Will we find the solution that will allow us to move forward in a timely manner?

We will likely continue to struggle to maintain a regional focus related to issues with various, and sometimes conflicting local impacts. Allocation of Marine Highway System resources and scheduling is an example. Conference members express their thoughts about what is important to our region in resolutions and policies adopted during their Annual Meeting. Conference By-Laws empower the Board to act on behalf of Conference members between Annual Meetings to serve the interests of the region as a whole. That is why policies established by members during the Annual Meeting are so important. That is why election of officers and directors who will transcend local interests and work for the interests of the region as a whole is so important for the continued success and credibility of the organization. We urge you to participate and make your position known, so that we synthesize an accurate picture of our true regional interests.



Southeast Conference



An Alaska Regional Development Organization and USDA Resource Conservation and Development Council

FISCAL YEAR 2003 WORK PLAN

MISSION

Southeast Conference is a private membership organization that works to advance the collective interests of the people, communities, and businesses of southeast Alaska. It is the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and USDA Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council for the region. The Conference's Mission is to help develop strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND TASKS

For a complete understanding of the Goals, Objectives, and Tasks included in this Work Plan, it must be read in the context of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* that was adopted by the Conference board on September 21, 2000.

GOAL 1 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Support and assist communities, boroughs, and other organizations in efforts to improve the region as a good place to live and work.

Objective 1 - Infrastructure Development - Southeast Conference will undertake, advocate, support, and assist in development, maintenance, and enhancement of public infrastructure throughout the region.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Continue the Conference's Transportation Committee involvement with DOT's Southeast Region as they implement the *Transportation Plan for Southeast Alaska*.

Assigned to: Transportation Committee/Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02- 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Quarterly meetings

Task 2 - Finish Pilot study of *AMHS Sustainable Ferries*. Seek funding and administer contract to develop structural alternatives for management of system to present to legislature, governor, and administration in 2003.

Assigned to: Transportation Committee/Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Study completion

Task 3 - Implement the *Southeast Alaska Electrical Intertie Plan*. Establish a regional power transmission Authority; assist Authority in preparing a business plan for system development and operation; assist in developing a strategy for obtaining funds needed to construct the system. Explore improved fiberoptics connections in SE Alaska in conjunction with the intertie.

Assigned to: Intertie Committee/Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Formation of Authority

Task 4 - Participate with communities, agencies, and other groups initiating plans for a regional solid waste disposal program and/or facility.

Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Meetings attended, status of community programs determined.

Objective 2 - Quality of Life Improvements - Support and assist communities, boroughs, and other local organizations in efforts to develop, maintain, and enhance health care, education, and community services throughout southeast Alaska.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Assist the Craig Community Foundation in planning for and obtaining funds for services to the community, for example, the construction of a new community center.

Assigned to: RC&D Assistant
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Funding strategies implemented

Task 2 - Provide scholarships for students at University of Alaska Southeast.

Assigned to: Board of Directors/Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Number of scholarships provided

Task 3 - Build the scholarship endowment fund.

Assigned to: Board of Directors/Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Annual allocation of auction proceeds to endowment.

Task 4 - Provide planning assistance to Petersburg's Clausen Museum.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Plan developed; fundraising program initiated

Objective 3 - Capacity Building - Southeast Conference will support and assist communities and boroughs in developing leaders and organizations to perform local and regional economic and community development activities

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Provide communities, businesses, and organizations advice, consulting assistance, and facilitation services in strategic planning, project management, and economic renewal.

Assigned to: Executive Director/Community Planner/RC&D Coordinator
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Number of entities served

Task 2 - Support the Southeast Conference of Mayors in their efforts to support each other and work for the betterment of the region; facilitate and provide administrative support as needed.

Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Scheduled meetings attended, other facilitative functions

Task 3 - Assist the community of Hyدابurg with implementation of their community action plan.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator/RC&D Assistant
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Plan component implementation

GOAL 2 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Support and assist in planning and execution of local and regional economic development efforts and projects.

Objective 1 - Tourism Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the tourism sector of Southeast Alaska's economy.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Maintain tourism committee to address a broad array of tourism issues. Support community leaders and representatives of the tourism industry to coordinate efforts for the betterment of the region;

Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Number of meetings held, progress made on projects, problems, and issues

Task 2 - Provide technical assistance and support to Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council (POWCAC) efforts to develop a Prince of Wales tourism planning document.

Assigned to: Community Planner/RC&D Assistant
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Assistance provided, grants administered.

Objective 2 - Timber Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the timber segment of Southeast Alaska's economy.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Continue to participate in efforts to establish a predictable, reliable timber supply from federal lands sufficient to sustain the region's timber economy and communities. Work with mayors to stay informed on Tongass Land Management Plan and other land use management changes and court decisions.

Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Suit against the federal government pursued, communications with mayors

Task 2 - Facilitate timber task force in pursuit of its short, mid-term, and long-term objectives.

Assigned to: Executive director, staff
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Assist with task force goals.

Objective 3 - Fisheries Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the fisheries sector of Southeast Alaska's economy.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Explore community interest in the creation of a shellfish aquaculture development zones on POW Island.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator/RC&D Assistant
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Assist with grant applications to fund project and with community planning meetings on POW Island.

Task 2 - Monitor Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund implementation and assist with project applications as requested by member organizations.

Assigned to: Executive Director/RC&D Coordinator
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Attend SSSF meetings, obtain minutes and help organize applications.

Task 3 - Assist Prince of Wales Communities and the Prince of Wales Hatchery Association with king salmon enhancement projects.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator/Community Planner/RC&D Assistant
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Funding applications, assisting with project planning

Objective 4 - Minerals Development - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible development in the mining sector of Southeast Alaska's economy.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Work with Juneau Economic Development Council to support funding for minerals development plan in Southeast.

Assigned to: Executive Director/Community Planner
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Assistance provided

Objective 5 - Business and Industrial Development - Southeast Conference will assist in continuation of existing businesses and development of new enterprises and will aid in ensuring that financial resources needed for community and economic development are available

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Assist local economic development groups in recruiting new businesses into the region

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Specific development efforts

Task 2 - Support utilization of the Juneau Economic Development Council's regional revolving loan fund to ensure organizations throughout the region are aware of it and participate in it if they find it to their benefit.

Assigned to: Executive Director/RC&D Coordinator/Community Planner
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Referrals made

Task 3 - Support the University of Alaska's Small Business Development Center to ensure organizations throughout the region are aware of its capabilities and use them if they find it to their benefit.

Assigned to: Executive Director/RC&D Coordinator/Community Planner
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Referrals made

Task 4- Assist timber impact communities with technical assistance, project design and grant applications for economic development projects.

Assigned to: Community Planner
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Projects assisted

GOAL 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE - Support and assist communities, boroughs, and other organizations in efforts to sustain and improve the quality of the region's environment.

Objective 1 - Environmental Quality - Southeast Conference will encourage and assist in responsible and balanced local and regional resource development and conservation efforts.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-02 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Assist the Mendenhall Valley Watershed Partnership and Duck Creek Advisory Group as an advisor for implementation of program for watershed management, land stewardship and pollution prevention program for Juneau's Mendenhall Valley.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Scheduled meetings attended

Task 2 - Assist in the creation of a community-based regional process for citizen involvement in the assessment, use, and restoration (where applicable) of watersheds. Administer a watershed stewardship program through the Sustainable Salmon Fund grant.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator/RC&D Assistant/Exec. Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Planning initiated

Task 3 - Work with DEC and PWSEDC to deliver a Household Hazardous Waste Collection program.

Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Collection program completed; Plans developed for following year

Task 4 - Work with communities to develop an On-site Secondary Sewage Treatment demonstration program.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Demo plan developed; sources for financial assistance contacted with applications

Task 5 - Assist the communities of Craig and Klawock with the development of recycling and community composting programs.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator/RC&D Assistant
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Program established

GOAL 4 - ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - To expand and strengthen the Conference's ability to advance the economic, social, and environmental interests of Southeast Alaska's people, communities, and businesses.

Objective 1 - Communications - Southeast Conference will increase communication among Conference members, non-member people, communities and businesses in the region, and local, state, and federal agencies with respect to economic, social, and environmental conditions, events, and possibilities in Southeast Alaska.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

- Task 1 -** Provide the Conference's Board of Directors and standing committees information about local, state, and federal government activities that may affect the region's communities or businesses, particularly while the Legislature is in session.
- Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Reports and other communications
- Task 2 -** Maintain the Southeast Conference website with newsletter updated quarterly with information about economic development and community development conditions, events, and possibilities in southeast Alaska.
- Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Website maintenance and newsletters updated
- Task 3 -** Publish an annual report fulfilling the requirements of the RC&D Area Plan, and the ARDOR program.
- Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 9/30/02
Performance Measure: One annual report published
- Task 4 -** Hold Membership Conference and Annual Meeting.
- Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 9/30/02
Performance Measure: One Annual Meeting held
- Task 5 -** Develop website links and other features to assist in attracting business development in the region.
- Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 9/30/03
Performance Measure: Links established

Objective 2 - Development Planning - Southeast Conference will prepare, maintain, and execute a single integrated regional development strategy, work plan, and budget that satisfies requirements set by the Conference's Board of Directors, the State's Alaska Regional Economic Development Program, the USDA's Resource Conservation and Development Program, and the EDA's Economic Development Program.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Participate in the activities of potential or established regional and national community development, economic development, and resource conservation and development organizations and associations.

Assigned to: Board/Executive Director/RC&D Coordinator
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Conferences and meetings attended

Task 2 - Update CEDS document in collaboration with Central Council Tlingit & Haida including new communications on community priorities.

Assigned to: Community Planner
Performance Period: 7/1/02 – 06/30/03
Performance Measure: CEDS document updated

Task 3 - Seek grant funding for community planning team to assist in CEDS community project development and implementation.

Assigned to: Community Planner/Exec. Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 – 06/30/03
Performance Measure: Working with communities.

Task 4 - Provide outreach and technical assistance to POW Island communities and groups on a regular basis through the Craig RC&D office and regular visits from the Community Planner.

Assigned to: RC&D Assistant/Community Planner
Performance Period: 7/1/02 – 06/30/03
Performance Measure: Visits and meetings with city assemblies and other community organizations

Task 5 - Continue work to host PACRIM RC&D Association annual meeting in FY-03.

Assigned to: RC&D Coordinator/Board of Directors
Performance Period: 7/1/02 – 06/30/03
Performance Measure: Meeting planned

Objective 3 - Efficiency and Effectiveness - Southeast Conference will strengthen and streamline its organization and operations to minimize overhead and maximize service to members and to the region.

In pursuit of this Objective, during FY-03 Southeast Conference will:

Task 1 - Keep Board informed of day-to-day efforts, activities, and accomplishments.

Assigned to: Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Executive Director's Reports distributed

Task 2 - Recruit new members and develop recruiting tools.

Assigned to: Board/Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Membership increased

Task 3 - Develop recurring revenue sources.

Assigned to: Board/Executive Director
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Reliance on state funds for routine operations reduced

Task 4 - Evaluate Executive Director's performance.

Assigned to: Board
Performance Period: 7/1/02 - 6/30/03
Performance Measure: Regular annual evaluation completed 6/30/03