



Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday December 12, 2019, 2 PM

Call to Order – meeting began at 2 pm with Jodi Mitchell from IPEC, giving an update on the **Gunnuk Creek Hydroelectric Project in Kake**. The project is moving along and hoping to get project up and running by spring 2020. IPEC is having its annual meeting in Kake in May of 2020 and the plan is to have a ribbon cutting ceremony then for project. This project is funded with over \$7M in grant funding with very little funds being borrowed to complete. The project is slightly over budget in part due to higher steel prices (tariffs). Date for ribbon cutting will be set in January and IPEC will work to get as many folks out to Kake for the event.

**Roll Call** – meeting was brought to order by Chair Alec Mesdag at 2:15 PM in attendance: Alec Mesdag, Aurora Agee, Clay Koplín, Clay Good, Jason Custer, Jodi Mitchell, Jon Boiling, Jessie Huff, John Heberling, Karen Peterson, Chere Klein, Gary Williams, Hal Dreyer, Dana Herndon, Betsy McGregor, John Heberling and Robert Venables

**VW Settlement Trust Fund & EVWG**

Betsy McGregor spoke regarding VW Settlement Trust Fund & EVWG (see attached notes). There is currently an RFP for the EV workgroup with 6 proposals in hand and a deadline of December 20, 2019.

Another RFP for an EV Contractor the contractor will be responsible for the installation, maintenance operations and support of the of the units for a period of 5 years. There are versions – one for the road systems and one for island communities. Also, there is an RSA for a site host and a community plan. All of the RFP 's and RSA's are flexible to meet each community's needs. The City and Bourgh of Juneau received an EV Bus Award and the City of Tok was awarded an electric school bus.

**Comments:**

Clay Koplín shared that there is a free App for EV drivers that helps identify charging locations – Plug Share <https://www.plugshare.com/>. Committee discussion followed on value to charge for use of public chargers. In general, it costs more to charge for EV plugin charging than to give it for free- software point of sale is expensive to manage and maintain. Mesdag can send the usage of AEL& P charging station at their office. Juneau has over 20 hosted EV charging stations where the host pays for the electricity. But individual EV owners do not pay for EV charging.



Koplin announced that there will be an Electrify Alaska Conference the week of April 27, 2020 in Cordova.

### **Regional Updates**

#### **Prince of Wales – AP&T** Jason Custer:

Hiilangaay Hydroelectric Project is on hold due to weather and concrete issues – this will begin again in Spring of 2020 and possibly be finished by Fall 2020. Evaluating the rate and how it will impact overall rates – rate depends on demand of energy – the more energy needed the lower the rate!

#### **Skagway and Haines** – concerns about ferry service and impacts.

The power goes from Skagway to Kasidaya via an ocean floor cable that will need to be replaced within the next two years. Hydrographic ocean floor study should begin Spring 2020.

**Gustavus** US Park Services draft design-build plans for the Gustavus intertie project documents were delivered December 12, 2019. This has the potential to impact service kilowatt charges by saving .11/.12 cents per kilowatt hour.

**Thayer Creek Hydro - Kootznoowoo Inc.** – Hal Dryer stated that the project is on track with grant funding from AEA (amendment #2) to be 100% design complete by December 2020. Team meeting with Forrest Service on December 17, 2019 will include a proposal to the USFS to support building the project in phases. This will cut the amount to financing needed upfront for the project as all funds need to be 100% secured before work (for either the phase vs. entire project) can begin.

Economic Tourism and Economic Development Programs have recently been approved by the board. Looking at developing small electric boats into Mitchell Bay and possibly to the Thayer Creek project.

**AK Heat Smart** – Alec Mesdag: Alaska Heat Smart is a new nonprofit in Juneau with the goal to facilitate the conversation between customers and contractors to install more heat pumps in residential homes. With a grant from CBJ, an employee, has been hired and will begin working in Juneau in early 2020. Bob Deering has been hired as a consultant. Water efficiency kits will also be given to homeowners when the advisor comes to walkthrough the home to evaluate the home for possible heat pumps to be installed.



**Bio-Mass Update** – Karen Petersen

The USFS Wood Innovation Grant (a 2/1 matching grant) is currently accepting applications. A new change to this grant is the ability purchase stationary equipment, such as boilers and the connections needed to install them.

Hydaburg's school boilers are to be installed soon  
Kassan's biomass boiler (and greenhouse) is in the process of rebuilding after last year's fire. They are working on property issues so they can better locate the boiler facility.

**Announcements**

Mid-Session Summit February 4-5, 2020 that will be working on the 2025 CEDS Plan Update.

Roadless Rule Comments due December 17, 2019.

EV Registration Fees are likely coming soon as part of the legislative budget discussions - as is an increase in the gas tax (ostensibly to support highway maintenance needs). It would be good to have a better understanding of the actual costs of EV to the road system to be prepared for that conversation.

AP&T's \$1,000 EV incentive program to continue as well as a relationship with Tongass Federal Credit Union and Fishbone Motors in Juneau for EV financing.

Cordova Electric – is creating an EV priority program using smart grid improvements to stagger EV recharging and heat pump rebates.

Electrify Alaska Conference the week of April 27, 2020 in Cordova.

Meting adjourned