



Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 15, 2020
Anchorage, Alaska

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pruhs called the meeting of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to order on April 15, 2020, at 8:31 a.m. A quorum was established.

2. ROLL CALL: BOARD MEMBERS

Members present: Chair Dana Pruhs (Public Member); Vice-Chair Bernie Karl (Public Member) (phone); Julie Anderson (Commissioner, DCCED) (phone); Albert Fogle (Public Member); Bill Kendig (Public Member); Anna MacKinnon (SOA-DOR) (phone); and Julie Sande (Public Member) (phone).

3. ROLL CALL: STAFF, PUBLIC

AIDEA Staff present: Tom Boutin (CEO/Executive Director) (phone); Chris Anderson (Commercial Finance Director); Brenda Applegate (Chief Financial Officer); Mark Davis (Chief Infrastructure Development Officer) (phone); Alan Weitzner (Chief Investment Officer, Project Finance and Asset Management [PFAM]); Karsten Rodvik (External Affairs Officer); Sam Tappen (Infrastructure Development Officer) (phone); Sherrie Siverson (Executive Assistant); Aimee Sudbeck (Administrative Assistant); and Geoff Johns (phone).

AEA Staff and AIDEA Counsel and Consultants: Jerry Juday (Department of Law) (phone); and Stefan Saldanha (Department of Law) (phone).

Public: Betty Caudle (Accu-Type Depositions) (phone); John Hendrix (HEX, LLC); Chris Gerteisen (Nova Minerals) (phone). Blythe Marston (phone); Tam Boeve (phone); Representative Matt Claman (phone); John Gaedeke (phone); Rachel Gaedeke (phone). Melissa Heuer (phone); John Hinders (phone); Lisa James (phone); Jasmine Jeckle (phone). Judy Caminer (phone); Dave Khalsa (phone); Becky Long (phone); Ruth McHenry (phone). Catherine Reardon (phone); Danny Rosenkranz (phone); Bernie Smith (phone); Steve Springer (phone); Nancy Wainwright (phone); James Wilson (phone); and Mike Wood (phone).

Sherrie Siverson, Executive Assistant, requested, if possible, all telephonic public participants email their names to ssiverson@aidea.org

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Fogle to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Mr. Kendig.

The motion to approve the agenda passed without objection.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS related to agenda items 7B. and 7C. (2 minutes)

Chair Pruhs advised public comments are limited to two minutes each and are limited to comments regarding Item 7B. and Item 7C. The public comment period will close at 9:30 a.m., at the latest. Chair Pruhs requested anyone who does not get a chance to make a public comment today to email the comment to Ms. Siverson.

Becky Long expressed opposition to the passage of Resolution No. G20-15 in Item 7B. because there has been no public involvement and no stakeholder engagement by the property owners. There has been no cost/benefit analysis and no impact analysis on the access, which includes approximately 100 miles, 24 bridges, 440 culverts, and may cost \$450 million, plus over \$4 million in right-of-way acquisition. Ms. Long asked if there will be adequate tectonic studies and adequate hydrologic studies. She noted the documents to the public have been scarce and she does not even know the three alternate routes. Ms. Long believes this is an inappropriate action at this time when already established businesses and the economy are hurting. The habitat degradation from the access hurts the already established economy and way of life.

Blythe Marston commented on Item 7B., the resolution regarding the West Susitna Access Road, and requested to incorporate the previous speaker's comments into her comments. Ms. Marston informed the board that Mark Miller of Talaheim Lodge has tried to call in but was unable to access AIDEA's agenda or appear because he is in bush Alaska. He has telephone service, but the 464 number does not allow him access on the phone he is using. Ms. Marston expressed appreciation for AIDEA's new loan program during this important time in Alaska's history. She hopes AIDEA will reconsider it a poor choice to appropriate money for the West Susitna Access Road. Ms. Marston is unaware of any notice to stakeholders. The last document she has seen produced was the 2014 study. Phase I documentation is unavailable to the public. The comment on the last page of 7-4 discusses an economic analysis to assess the value of resource extraction potential being lost due to the lack of transportation access. She does not believe the economic analysis has been conducted and/or has not been made public.

Ms. Marston advised the last statement in the 2014 study notes public involvement and stakeholder engagement. The reconnaissance level report was prepared to determine possible locations for an access road into the Susitna Basin to support potentially significant resource development opportunities. Should this project be furthered, seeking public input and comments from relevant stakeholders is a critical next step. Ms. Marston is unaware that either the Borough, AIDEA or Nova have engaged in public input and comments from relevant stakeholder. She requested AIDEA table the motion and ensure further public notice is provided.

Chair Pruhs informed Ms. Marston she had utilized her two minutes for public testimony. Ms. Marston informed she had a final comment. Chair Pruhs apologized and thanked Ms. Marston for her comments. He stated if Ms. Marston has additional comments, the Board would appreciate it if she put those in writing and send them to Sherrie Siverson.

James Wilson informed he is representing John Bussey with the Mat-Su Borough. He stated Mat-Su Borough completely supports the previous comments about looking into the public engagement regarding potential impacts. Mr. Wilson noted his understanding is this is a starting point for looking into whether or not it is feasible or theoretical for developing resources. He does not discourage anyone from looking at potential resource development projects and takes full consideration of all the comments previously made and potential impacts. Mr. Wilson believes this is an initial high-level review.

Chair Pruhs stated Mr. Wilson's assumptions are correct.

Danny Rosenkranz requested AIDEA return the money to the fund that was given to the Ambler Road Project. He advocated against the use of monies for industries that are going to operate without government support. Chair Pruhs informed comments are not being taken on Ambler. Comments can be given on West Susitna Access Road or the loan to HEX, LLC. Chair Pruhs encouraged any comments on Ambler be submitted in writing to Ms. Siverson. Chair Pruhs noted public testimony on Ambler can be given during a future meeting in which Ambler is on the agenda. Mr. Rosenkranz agreed and requested Ms. Siverson post her email address. Ms. Siverson agreed.

Nancy Wainwright commented on Item 7B, the proposal of an MOU with Nova Minerals. Ms. Wainwright stated there is no copy of the proposed MOU on the AIDEA website or attached to the agenda. She asked for a copy of the proposed MOU be provided for public review. Ms. Wainwright noted she searched the Alaska Corporation's database and cannot find Nova Minerals as a business license or a licensed corporation in Alaska. She requested clarity as to who is Nova Minerals.

Judy Caminer believed this meeting was about the unconscionable decision to put money into Ambler at this point in time. She will provide written comments regarding Ambler.

Steve Springer expressed he would like to exercise his right outlined in the Alaska Open Meetings Law and speak for his two minutes in regard to the decision to transfer \$35 million in State money away from small businesses to pay for field work and permitting of the Ambler Road. Chair Pruhs informed AIDEA is not taking testimony on Ambler today, and encouraged Mr. Springer provide his comments regarding Ambler in writing. Chair Pruhs noted public testimony on Ambler can be given during a future meeting in which Ambler is on the agenda.

State Representative Matt Claman informed he joined the meeting to listen. He commented he has been hearing many questions and concerns from his district, including, but not limited to, the West Susitna Road.

John Gaedeke commented Resolution No. G20-15 appears to be asking for the Board's approval for a nonbinding memorandum of agreement to plan a remote access road. Mr. Gaedeke stated he is in Fairbanks in the Brooks Range and this sounds very similar to the Ambler Road. He believes AIDEA is entering into nonbinding agreements while spending money that puts

Alaska in a bind. Mr. Gaedeke understands AIDEA has its own funding to work from, but if the immediate spending does not have real results for Alaskans now, AIDEA is failing at its job. It appears the Mat-Su Borough does not currently have the funds to move the proposal forward and the cabin owners and lodges along this route have not been identified. This is the same terrible planning used on the Ambler Road. Mr. Gaedeke noted there are still no agreements with Doyon after seven years into the Ambler Road, and there are no plans for payment. His understanding according to Doyon is AIDEA has not made any proposals.

Mr. Gaedeke believes that is a failure and believes Resolution No. G20-15 is looking to repeat that failure. West Susitna Access, like the Ambler proposal, is also over extremely challenging terrain. Mr. Gaedeke asked why AIDEA continues to choose technically challenging and financially devastating new projects when existing Alaska businesses owned and operated locally need AIDEA's help. Mr. Gaedeke respectfully requested AIDEA Board put a moratorium on road projects proposed with nonbinding agreements. This is a time for signed agreements and it is a time to work smarter on viable projects with real results. Mr. Gaedeke requested AIDEA start by rescinding the \$35 million transfer for the Ambler Road that was approved in the last meeting. He believes AIDEA has a very poor reputation among the villages and business owners in the Brooks Range. He requested AIDEA not bring the poor reputation to the Mat-Su as well, and to immediately stop making statewide mistakes in an attempt to subsidize out of state business when Alaska is facing a massive recession.

Dave Khalsa noted he is a small business owner living in Fairbanks and is commenting on Item 7B. He expressed concern this project sounds similar to the Ambler Road Project. He believes the \$35 million, at the time of the public health crisis, and the money that is being spent on Item 7B. for the Susitna Access Road, could be used by small business owners at this time. Mr. Khalsa has rental properties in Fairbanks and his tenants are losing their jobs. The small business economy is hurting. He urged AIDEA to consider putting funds toward small businesses. Mr. Khalsa requested information on how to access funds if AIDEA has set aside funds for small businesses.

Melissa Heuer with the Susitna River Coalition based in Talkeetna informed she is representing more than 14,000 Alaskans. She expressed her concern regarding AIDEA's use of Alaska's funds regarding Item 7B. Resolution No. G20-15 West Susitna Access Road. Ms. Heuer believes the allocation of funding is occurring too quickly in the process and before due diligence has been conducted. She does not believe this is the time to allocate money to this project, especially when Alaskan businesses are in need of financial assistance. Ms. Heuer expressed concerns on how AIDEA is allocating funds for projects and believes more can be done for the state with a clearer vision for projects, rather than wasting money on projects before they are ready to move forward. Ms. Heuer requested that before money is allocated for this project, AIDEA should address concerns from 2014, including what stakeholder engagement has been implemented and occurred; has the recommended DNR geotectonic study been completed? What is the justification for Alaskans; how does a 107-mile long road at a cost of \$4.2 million a mile benefit Alaskans?

Chair Pruhs said there seems to be a little bit of confusion. He clarified the MOU does not include spending any money. The MOU allows staff to talk with Nova on their theoretical ideas. Chair Pruhs informed the Mat-Su Borough has to sign-in on this MOU and there will be plenty of opportunities for the folks providing comments today to talk to the Borough when and if it comes before the Borough.

Mike Wood informed he is Chair of the Mat-Su Fish and Wildlife Commission. He is familiar with concerns of fishing and fishing economy in the area. Some of his comments were indiscernible due to interference with the speaker-phone. Mr. Wood made a comment regarding Senate Bill 204 giving DNR the right to put public lands in private hands to Nova Minerals, which is related to Nova Gold, which is related to Nova Copper, and having access across the Little Susitna and the Big Susitna. Mr. Wood believes this MOU is putting the cart before the horse because it has not gone before the Assembly or to the Commission. He does not believe monies should go in this direction. Mr. Wood expressed concern by the lack of public notice and public comment on this issue. As a sponsor of the ballot measure, public comment was one of the major things to be implemented for the people that live in these areas and to have a way to voice their concerns. Mr. Wood believes many people in the Skwentna River areas are clueless about this project. He requested AIDEA ensures the public understands this project because roads to resources in this area are unconscionable without public comment.

Ruth McHenry of Penny Lake noted she has lived in Alaska since 1945. She urged AIDEA not to proceed with Item 7B., the Susitna Access. Alaska must not imitate the mistakes of the south 48, where wildlife populations have been fragmented or destroyed by road development. Just as in the case of the Ambler Road, the region's remoteness is an asset that will be treasured even more in the future. Ms. McHenry believes AIDEA money is needed most for small doable energy projects to assist communities addressing climate change.

Rachel Gaedeke stated she does not live in the Mat-Su area, but has lived in Alaska her whole life. She has been listening to the meetings and to the public comments. Ms. Gaedeke requested a change in the acknowledgement of the public who are calling in. She believes more and more people are expressing concerns during public comment and yet, the votes taken after public comment are directly opposite to the concerns of the public, as though it just does not matter because the agenda and the vote has already been set. If there are too many people interested in commenting, the public comment time is reduced from three minutes to two minutes to shut out the comments. Ms. Gaedeke feels it would be nice for AIDEA to be concerned about the public comments and take the comments to heart. The comments she has heard have been about 99% against these roads that go nowhere. She asked for more respect to be given to the folks who call in and whose lives will be drastically affected by the projects.

Ms. Gaedeke stated she is living in Anchorage. Many businesses have been forced to close and those that cannot conduct curbside pickup are going to suffer the most. Everyone says we are in this pandemic together, but when the small businesses start going bankrupt, they will do that alone and no one will be standing beside them. The small businesses will have to take out loans and any money that could help local Alaska small businesses during this huge economic crisis

would be much better spent immediately, as opposed to always putting outside mining interests first.

Tam Boeve informed she is on the Mat-Su Borough Assembly and stated the Assembly has not yet been briefed on this. She expects it will be a contentious issue when it comes before the Assembly.

Chair Pruhs inquired if there were additional public comments.

An unidentified telephonic speaker requested to know the name of the person speaking to the public. There was no response.

Jasmine Jeckle of Fairbanks provided indiscernible comments. Chair Pruhs requested Ms. Jeckle speak more clearly so her comments can be heard correctly. Ms. Jeckle urged AIDEA to please consider the public comments and not proceed with Item 7B. She requested any decisions made consider the ongoing public health crisis as a factor not to proceed.

There were no additional comments.

Chair Pruhs expressed appreciation to all those who commented. He reiterated additional comments may be given in writing and emailed to Ms. Siverson to be distributed to Board members. Chair Pruhs stated AIDEA values the public's input and perspective.

Public comments submitted via email are included as an attachment to these minutes.

6. PRIOR MINUTES - March 4, 2020

Ms. MacKinnon requested the spelling of her name be corrected throughout the minutes. Ms. Siverson informed the spelling of Ms. MacKinnon's name was corrected in the final draft of the March 4, 2020 minutes.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Kendig to approve the Minutes of March 4, 2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Fogle.

The motion to approve the Minutes of March 4, 2020 passed without objection.

7. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Fogle to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential financial matters relating to economic stabilization and AIDEA's programs; Mustang Development Loan; and Allen Marine. Motion seconded by Mr. Kendig.

The motion was approved without objection.

7A. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:06 a.m.

Discuss confidential financial matters relating to economic stabilization and AIDEA's programs; Mustang Development Loan; and Allen Marine.

The Board reconvened its regular meeting at 12:47 pm, with Commissioner Anderson not back on the line.

Chair Pruhs advised the Board did not take any formal action on matters discussed while in executive session.

7B. Resolution No. G20-15 West Susitna Access Road - Phase II MOU Memo

Tom Boutin, CEO/Executive Director, commented that in the time preceding coronavirus, there has been scarce new infrastructure development. Natural resources continue to bring money into the state of Alaska. Mr. Boutin does not see any new development, nor does he expect resource development to occur on national forest land. He does not see much resource development on BLM land. Mr. Boutin believes that gaining access to natural resources so they can be brought to market seems to have fallen to the State of Alaska. This project looks forward to several years of process, including an extensive and lengthy environmental impact statement. This resolution is the initial stage of reviewing possible routes to access quite a few valuable resources. AIDEA has partnered with the Mat-Su Borough and with some private entities that are able to bring exploration investment dollars into the state. Mr. Boutin strongly recommends the approval of the resolution. Mr. Boutin requested Alan Weitzner, Chief Investment Officer, PFAM, provide additional specifics of the resolution.

Mr. Weitzner apologized for the lack of clarity in the presentation of the information to the Board and what has been provided to the public. Mr. Weitzner acknowledged staff fully hears the public comments that were made today, specifically addressing the West Susitna Access Road, including the issues of stakeholder engagement, economic evaluation, and following the processes outlined in the original Department of Transportation study. Mr. Weitzner expressed support for all of the comments and issues raised. The resolution today requests the ability to engage with one of the resource owners that is in the Whistler Mining District in order to enter into a process of collaboration with them in defining some of the initial information and study issues that will give AIDEA the ability to accurately address people's questions in a stakeholder engagement process. Mr. Weitzner noted Chris Gerteisen, CEO/Director of Nova Minerals, is available telephonically to address questions.

Mr. Weitzner reiterated staff is recommending the resolution to allow AIDEA to enter into a nonbinding MOU with Nova Minerals in order to collaborate and investigate the Phase II issues of the West Susitna Road Access Project. Phase I has been completed and was a preliminary study and field examination of proposed routes. The routes are currently presented in the slide that is available for the Board to view in the room and in the email that was sent to the Board. The two routes that have been discussed include the one that goes from the Whistler Mining

District to Port MacKenzie, and the southern route that goes from the Whistler Mining District to Ladd Landing.

Mr. Weitzner explained the memo includes preliminary evaluation and conclusions on the routes. Phase II proposes to undertake a scope of work and proposed budget to continue the preliminary engineering studies principally to conduct an economic cost evaluation of the proposed routes. Additionally, definitions of the public engagement process would be developed in partnership with the Mat-Su Borough to ultimately enter into a subsequent process of proposing a further and full study preparation for a potential EIS or other permitting requirements for a proposed road. The proposed scope of work and proposed budget would then come before AIDEA for approval.

Chair Pruhs inquired if his understanding is correct that before AIDEA is able to move forward on a proposed budget or spend any money, the local government agency entity has to sign off on any development. Mr. Weitzner agreed. He explained Phase I worked directly in partnership with the Mat-Su Borough, who had engaged the proposal for the MOU first. AIDEA has been talking directly with the Mat-Su Borough and management to partner during Phase II. The proposal with AIDEA will first determine if there is a willingness to move forward with this Phase II MOU, after which, the Mat-Su Borough Assembly will undertake the proposal to approve a similar resolution.

Mr. Fogle requested Mr. Gerteisen address one of today's public comments regarding the inability to find Nova Mineral's business license on the Alaska business search. Mr. Gerteisen explained the parent company Nova Minerals is an Australian publicly listed company. In Alaska, the claims are held under AK Custom Mining, LLC, and the service side is under AK Operations, LLC. Mr. Weitzner requested the revision of the memo to include the business names that Nova Minerals is doing business as in Alaska. Mr. Fogle inquired if Mr. Gerteisen is amenable to the change. Mr. Gerteisen agreed.

Mr. Weitzner requested Mr. Gerteisen provide comments regarding the benefits they see in working with AIDEA on this road project and how they are looking to ensure stakeholder engagement in the process. Mr. Gerteisen explained one of the reasons they are seeking the MOU is to satisfy their continuous disclosure requirements since such a road project to their project area is material to their operations. The MOU is also beneficial in pushing the project forward for other potentially large-scale 20-year to 30-year mine life copper projects, including Fort Knox, Donlin Creek, and Pogo. Mr. Gerteisen explained the intention of the MOU is to be able to fully fund the next phase of the project, as well as the future phases of the road.

Vice-Chair Karl believes AIDEA needs to do a better job of explaining the resolutions to the public. He feels that approximately 97% of the public comments presented today were negative and he does not believe the public understood what the Board is voting on today. Vice-Chair Karl suggested the possibility of explaining and reading the resolution before public testimony is opened. He noted this resolution is strictly an MOU and has nothing to do with building the road. Vice-Chair Karl believes AIDEA is following its mission to open up resource development and should support these roads.

Ms. Sande reiterated there will be opportunity for extensive public comment moving forward and in partnership with the Borough. Mr. Weitzner agreed, and noted part of the process with the MOU and engagement with Nova Minerals allows the engineering studies to occur at this stage so public questions can be addressed responsibly.

Chair Pruhs asked if this MOU creates the framework for a public outreach program. Mr. Weitzner agreed and noted staff will take the public comments and the Board comments and work with Mr. Gerteisen on the MOU to incorporate those elements. Chair Pruhs believes it is an important distinction that this resolution begins the process, including engineering, fieldwork, engagement with the Mat-Su Borough, and creates the framework for the public outreach. He feels it would be beneficial in the future to explain to the public the specifics of resolutions in advance. Chair Pruhs requested clarification regarding the public comment that the resolution was not posted on the website. Ms. Siverson informed the resolution was posted on the website a week ago. The MOU has not been posted. Chair Pruhs requested the protocol regarding posting the MOU. Mr. Weitzner explained discussions on finalizing the MOU are ongoing. Staff will duplicate the process in Phase I, including a public issuance of the MOU.

Vice-Chair Karl inquired if it is possible to read the MOU before public testimony occurs. Chair Pruhs explained this resolution authorizes staff to negotiate an MOU. Vice-Chair Karl believes there is unnecessary public misunderstanding and misinformation. He feels AIDEA needs to be proactive in educating the public.

Mr. Weitzner noted staff has a process in place to establish the MOU with Nova Minerals and conduct an Assembly review with the Mat-Su Borough. Staff is also in the process of finalizing the scope of work and the final budget for Phase II, at which time, staff would have to come before the Board to present the full proposal. The full proposal includes a form of an MOU which engages all the parties of supporting the scope of work and budget. Mr. Weitzner proposed at the May Board meeting, staff would read through and have public notice on the full nonbinding MOU, the proposed scope of work and budget to be approved by the Board.

Chair Pruhs believes today's resolution clearly authorizes staff to negotiate and enter into an MOU.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Kendig to approve Resolution No. G20-15. Motion seconded by Mr. Fogle.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to approve Resolution No. G20-15 passed unanimously, with all present either telephonically or in the room.

7C. Resolution No. G20-16 Approving Revisions to the Finance Plan for the Development Project Loan to HEX LLC

Mr. Boutin explained Resolution No. G20-16 contains important revisions due to the bankruptcy court's changes in its directions, which has caused changes to the HEX financing. Mr. Boutin noted the financing is now closer to a textbook intersection of reserve-based lending. The important considerations discussed on March 4, 2020 are still in place. Mr. Boutin requested Mr. Weitzner provide comments and John Hendrix, President/CEO of HEX, LLC, provide clarifications, if necessary.

Mr. Weitzner reiterated the financing plan has changed. There is an addition of subordinated debt obligation that is being covered off by HEX, LLC. Staff does not believe this affects the material terms of the arrangements as a first priority lender and the structure that is in place. Staff is not requesting any changes to those terms and conditions. There are beneficial aspects that Mr. Hendrix has been able to negotiate since the time AIDEA originally gave approval. Mr. Weitzner requested Mr. Hendrix highlight the changes for the Board.

Mr. Hendrix expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the Board. He outlined the remaining schedules. The binding term sheet has been signed with the debtors and all of the creditors. The process is moving diligently to reach the effective date of June 30, 2020. The acquisition agreement, disclosure agreement, and the plan are expected to be filed this week. HEX is expected to go in front of the Delaware judge by May 4, 2020. The plan documentation hearing will occur on June 9, 2020. Possession can be taken two weeks later. The immediate resolution is nonrecourse to HEX and to AIDEA.

Chair Pruhs requested clarification regarding the working interest owners' process and role in the bankruptcy court. Mr. Hendrix explained the four working interest owners, the RWIO Group, can speak in bankruptcy court and the judge will rule on what they say. The overrides have not changed. The State has a royalty interest on 12.5% and a number of parties have interest on 12.5%. The State has to sign off on the process and the State is supportive of seeing an Alaskan operator come in.

Vice-Chair Karl expressed support for the resolution and believes the borrower's character is the most important part of a loan. Vice-Chair Karl supports Mr. Hendrix's character more than the project.

Mr. Fogle asked if the current employees are out-of-state workers who engage in a two-week on/two-week off schedule. Mr. Hendrix noted Peak is owned by Bristol Bay Native Corporation and has a number of workers at the site under contract. Mr. Hendrix informed he has to be mindful of the take-over transition to bring people onboard who share the same values. The current players have done a superb job managing this winter. Mr. Fogle asked if the goal was to bring jobs to Alaska during these unprecedented times. Mr. Hendrix agreed and noted there is opportunity for growth. Mr. Fogle expressed support of the resolution.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Kendig to approve Resolution No. G20-16. Motion seconded by Mr. Fogle.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to approve Resolution No. G20-16 passed unanimously.

8. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mr. Boutin recognized the contribution and effective partnership Jerry Juday, Department of Law, has provided to AIDEA. Today is Mr. Juday's last day before retirement. Mr. Boutin acknowledged Mr. Juday's important contributions.

Mr. Boutin informed he is available to answer any questions from Board members. There were no questions.

8A. Ambler & West Susitna Status Report, Resolution No. G19-21 Report

8B. Finance Dashboard Report, Commercial Loan Reports, Resolution No. G11-18 Report

8C. Infrastructure Development (IFD) Updated Matrix

8D. Navision Budget & Project Status, Resolution No. G17-19A Report

Next regularly scheduled AIDEA Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 20, 2020

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Karl expressed appreciation to the staff. He thanked Mr. Juday and noted Mr. Juday has earned his respect. Vice-Chair Karl does not believe any agency in the state has a more important job right now than AIDEA to try and save as many businesses as possible.

Mr. Fogle expressed appreciation to the staff and members for the extensive work efforts during the last few weeks to help move Alaskans and AIDEA forward. He noted everything AIDEA does creates opportunities for the state, including the West Susitna Access Road, the HEX, LLC loan, and the Ambler project, which are creating jobs and economic activity in Alaska, especially during these difficult times. Mr. Fogle noted for the record AIDEA is conducting important work for the state, creating high paying jobs and bringing needed income to Alaskans.

Ms. Sande echoed the appreciation to staff for working long hours to do what is right for Alaska. Ms. Sande has been honored to witness staff's diligence. She recognized Mr. Juday for his efforts to AIDEA. He will be missed. She wished him a happy retirement. Ms. Sande assured members of the public their comments are absolutely considered by the Board. Public comments are heard and are valued.

Mr. Kendig echoed the recognition and appreciation to the staff for their efforts during these hard times.

Ms. MacKinnon noted she is in Juneau following the recommendations of the State Medical Officer and the Governor in keeping all Alaskans safe. She echoed the appreciation to staff during these difficult and uncertain times. The AIDEA team has continued to work on behalf of small businesses, economic development, and those that may have current or future jobs in Alaska. Ms. MacKinnon thanked the businesses in Alaska that are struggling now and are trying to file applications with the State or at their local banking institutions.

Ms. MacKinnon stated Alaskans are on the offensive and will triumph as Alaskans and as Americans over this unseen pandemic that is affecting all of our lives. She specifically expressed appreciation to Mr. Weitzner, Mr. Davis, Ms. Anderson, and Mr. Juday. She commented Mr. Juday will be missed and he has brought value to the Board. Ms. MacKinnon thanked Board members for their perspective and for listening diligently to public comments regarding important issues facing Alaska.

Commissioner Anderson noted Mr. Juday's kind counsel and calming presence will be missed. She wished him well during retirement. Commissioner Anderson expressed the importance of understanding how nimble AIDEA has to be during these difficult times to try and find solutions to problems that have never previously been encountered. She appreciates the extra hours worked during these times. Commissioner Anderson acknowledged Chair Pruhs leadership. She hopes to look forward to a robust economy in the near future.

Chair Pruhs echoed appreciation for the pleasure of working with Mr. Juday. Chair Pruhs attributes much of AIDEA's success to Mr. Juday's guidance and counsel. He wished Mr. Juday all the best in his future endeavors. Chair Pruhs thanked staff and Board members for their best efforts during these unprecedented times. He believes the results are positive and meaningful to AIDEA's mission.

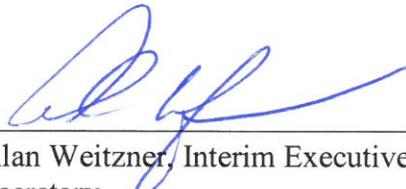
Chair Pruhs expressed appreciation for the public's comments. He noted there are sometimes misunderstandings regarding the actions of the AIDEA Board. He requested staff facilitate better outreach to clarify misrepresentations. Chair Pruhs gave an example for the record regarding the Ambler Road action moving \$35 million from one fund to another. No authorization for spending was given. Chair Pruhs noted he does not anticipate spending the money, unless the amount of spending is matched by the third-party mining company. The spending proposal would then come before the Board for approval. Chair Pruhs explained when and if spending is authorized by AIDEA and joined by the mining company, additional work has to be completed. The potential right-of-way identification is two weeks old. AIDEA does not know what kind of road it will be, how many culverts, how many bridges, how many trucks will be on the road, or how heavy the trucks will be.

Chair Pruhs acknowledged there is no information to give all of the stakeholders who own property along the right-of-way because there is not a definitive project outlining the project plan, project expectations, effects on other land, location of the road, or maintenance and security of the road. Chair Pruhs stated once the mining companies are engaged and willing to participate in funding the design of the road and the field investigation, AIDEA's contractors would then request land use permits so the mining companies and engineers and surveyors could actually land on the property, private or public, and conduct the investigation to develop a solution that best fits the property, the property owner, and the end result of the mine. He believes it is premature to go to any landowner at this point in time without being joined equally by the mining company with a budget and a proposal to give the landowner. Chair Pruhs requested staff disseminate this information in the appropriate place in a fashion that is easy to follow.

Chair Pruhs noted the next Board meeting is May 20, 2020. It is possible the Board will meet before then, if necessary, to address economic conditions in Alaska. He requested members be prepared and flexible.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, the AIDEA meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.



Alan Weitzner, Interim Executive Director
Secretary