

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 17, 2026
via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kendig called the meeting of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to order on June 17, 2026, at 9:03 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL BOARD MEMBERS

Members present: Chair Bill Kendig (Public Member); Julie Sande (Commissioner, DCCED); Albert Fogle (Public Member); Randy Eledge (Public Member); and Al Haynes (Public Member).

Members absent: Janelle Earls (Commissioner, DOR); Andrew Guy (Public Member).

A quorum was established.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Fogle to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Haynes.

The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed with no objection.

4. PRIOR MINUTES –May 13, 2026

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Fogle to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Haynes.

Mr. Eledge asked if the last name is known for the person noted as Calvin Unidentified in the last paragraph of page 18. Executive Director Randy Ruaro stated Calvin's last name. However, Mr. Ruaro was too far from the microphone and Calvin's last name was indiscernible on the audio. Chair Kendig informed that Calvin's last name will be added to the minutes. There were no objections and no other comments regarding the minutes.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2026 passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Kendig requested that public comments be limited to two minutes, and that speakers please identify themselves and their affiliation, if any.

Bill O’Leary, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alaska Railroad, commented that he is pleased to be in attendance today and to support the Port MacKenzie rail extension agenda item. He believes the rail extension benefits Alaska in general, and benefits some of the specific projects that AIDEA continues to work diligently on. Mr. O’Leary discussed that the best opportunity to get the rail extension in place is through the federal Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program, which closes next week. The Alaska Railroad intends to submit an application to the CRISI grant program for the Port MacKenzie rail extension project. Mr. O’Leary explained that the Alaska Railroad and others have spent tremendous effort over the last nine months on socializing the project to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and to the senior leadership team, including the Federal Railroad Administration. Mr. O’Leary believes that the federal representatives are very receptive to the project and that the project is well-positioned to be successful with the grant.

Mr. O’Leary noted that the outlay of the project is significant at approximately \$300 million. He discussed that the issue with the grant application is the required 20% match of as much as \$60 million. He commented that Alaska Railroad, AIDEA, and the Mat-Su Borough are working to collaborate to meet the required match and to submit a strong application for the project. Mr. O’Leary urged members to support the resolution today. He stated that Meghan Clemens, External Affairs Director of Alaska Railroad, is also in attendance, and that they are both available for questions.

Chair Kendig commented that questions will be asked when the resolution is discussed and not during the public comment period. He thanked Mr. O’Leary for his comments.

Krystal Lapp, Interim Executive Director of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, provided testimony because AIDEA continues to spend public money advancing projects like Ambler, which is a risky private mining access road with deep public opposition and serious impacts to caribou, fish, wetlands and subsistence resources. Communities have raised concerns for years and AIDEA should be listening to them, not spending public resources trying to dismiss it. Alaskans deserve full public accountability on how much has been spent on Ambler, what funding resources are being used, and what contracts are in place. There are massive public and ecosystem risks.

Ms. Lapp expressed her deep concern that AIDEA is using \$700,000 for communications and marketing. She noted that the latest ad that came out misconstrued much of the public testimony that was provided that day. If AIDEA wants public trust, it needs to stop using public dollars to exploit the public process and invest in projects that are adamantly opposed by the public. Ms. Lapp requested that AIDEA release non-private, non-privileged financial and project information for Ambler and for all of other projects that are happening. Ms. Lapp stated that AIDEA continues to go behind closed doors for hours and to talk about things that AIDEA considers privileged. The public deserves answers to the questions that are not being answered. Ms. Lapp understands that public testimony is not a question-and-answer process. She is asking for transparency and accountability with public money.

Chair Kendig thanked Ms. Lapp for her comments.

Maddie Halloran (sp), Anchorage resident, noted that she provided public comment at the previous

meeting. She echoed Ms. Lapp's sentiments regarding what was discussed and what was approved and how Ms. Halloran's image was used by AIDEA in later materials. Ms. Halloran thanked AIDEA Board member Andrew Guy, who was the only Board member to vote no on the resolution to spend more money on Arctic Refuge leases because of fiduciary duty considerations. Ms. Halloran expressed appreciation in knowing that someone is on the Board who is willing to slow down and take in the full ramifications of public expenditures.

Chair Kendig thanked Ms. Halloran for her comments.

David Luckley (sp) noted he is Inupiaq and was raised in Fairbanks. His mother was born in Kotzebue and raised in Fairbanks. Mr. Luckley requested increased accountability and transparency related to the mega project. He expressed concerns regarding the sheer amount of money being allocated to high-risk projects. Mr. Luckley noted this is a serious concern to many people and there is much opposition. He stated that transparency is needed to ensure AIDEA can be trusted.

Mr. Luckley stated that he is deeply troubled by the video released by AIDEA using footage of the May Board meeting that made it sound like all these people were racist against Inupiat people, yet he knows that they share his Inupiaq values and uplift other Inupiat people who care deeply about the environment. Mr. Luckley believes it is wild and unprofessional to use public testimony to attack public commenters and to construe them to be against Inupiat people when he knows that they are not. He commented that this is troubling because AIDEA is pushing the Ambler Road Project, which is opposed by 88 Tribes, yet he did not see any AIDEA footage being used to talk about that. Mr. Luckley is worried that AIDEA is picking and choosing which Inupiat people to highlight, and the Inupiat people have wildly different views. Not all Inupiat people support drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Luckley recommended that AIDEA reevaluate the choices regarding using the \$700,000 public relations money and to stop using Alaska Natives and Inupiat people as pawns for AIDEA's massive megaprojects that lack transparency.

Chair Kendig thanked Mr. Luckley for his comments.

Matthew Jackson, lifelong Alaskan originally from Ketchikan and now living in Anchorage, echoed some previous comments. He noted that he was disturbed by the video that AIDEA released after last month's Board meeting. Mr. Jackson noted that the video was not particularly made well, and he thinks it is weird that some in AIDEA believe it was a good idea to use public resources to mock public testimony, take it out of context, and twist people's words. Mr. Jackson commented that this shows that AIDEA needs more oversight because they continue to make strange decisions and poor fiduciary decisions. He hopes that AIDEA takes some of the comments today to heart and that AIDEA will move toward operating more transparently.

Mr. Jackson commented that every time he sees AIDEA doing something, he asks himself if the money would be better off in the Permanent Fund or would be better off paying for schools or education. Most of the time, he believes AIDEA makes those questions very easy for him to answer that the money would be better off spent elsewhere.

Chair Kendig thanked Mr. Jackson for his comments.

There were no other members of the public in-person or online who wished to make a comment. Chair Kendig closed the public comment period. There was no objection.

6. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Fogle to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the following: Alyeschem, Ambler Road, ANWR, E4M and consulting, Port MacKenzie, AIDEA Financials, AIDEA Legislative matters and other matters related to AIDEA and matters that are subject to specific legal advice, which is subject to attorney/client privilege. These matters, which if discussed publicly, could have an adverse effect on the finances of AIDEA, are matters that are attorney-client privileged, and matters involving consideration of issues and that by law are not subject to public disclosure due to the executive or deliberative process, privilege, or other law. The executive session matters discussed therein are proper subjects for an executive session under the Alaska Open Meetings Act, reference Alaska Statute 44.62.310 (C)(1), (3), and (4), and the Alaska Public Records Act. Motion seconded by Mr. Haynes.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to enter into Executive Session passed unanimously.

6A. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:26 a.m. Confidential and deliberative matters related to: Alyeschem, Ambler, ANWR, E4M, Port MacKenzie, AIDEA Financials, AIDEA Legislative matters and other matters related to AIDEA and matters that are subject to specific legal advice. All of which are subject to the deliberative process privilege, executive process privilege or other legal exemptions from the Open Meetings Act. Also, matters related to AIDEA subject to the attorney-client privilege will be discussed.

The Board reconvened its regular meeting at 1:54 p.m. Chair Kendig advised the public that the Board did not take any action on the matters discussed while in Executive Session. The session was limited to discussion of matters directly protected from public disclosure by the Open Meetings Act.

6B. Amended Resolution G26-07 Port MacKenzie Infrastructure and Real Estate

Chair Kendig requested Mr. Ruaro to discuss the Amended Resolution G26-07 Port MacKenzie Infrastructure and Real Estate. Mr. Ruaro noted that the proposed amended resolution before the Board approves the use of up to \$34 million from the AIDEA Revolving Fund as the partial amount needed to match the competitive CRISI grant, if awarded to Alaska Railroad. If the full amount of the grant is awarded, a match amount would need to be provided in the grant application as available. There is a timing issue, as the granting entity needs to see that the match is available as they are scoring the grant. The amended resolution allows Mr. Ruaro to exercise discretion and to provide up to \$34 million in AIDEA funds from the Revolving Fund as match for that Alaska Railroad CRISI grant application submittal to the Federal Railroad Administration. Mr. Ruaro informed that AIDEA is not the only entity providing matching funds, and other entities include the Mat-Su Borough and the Railroad Corporation. He noted that staff recommends that the Board approve the resolution as amended.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Fogle to approve Resolution G26-07 authorizing a budget for general costs and acquisition of interests in real property associated with economic development, jobs, and export of materials and products. Motion seconded by Mr. Haynes.

Mr. Eledge asked Mr. Ruaro for clarification that the commitment AIDEA is making if they pass the proposed resolution, will be part of the package to show proof of the 20% match. Mr. Ruaro agreed that the resolution would be submitted along with the application as proof that the match is in-hand. There were no other comments or questions.

A roll call was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

7A. Project Updates

Mr. Ruaro stated that the Board hears frequently in the public comment section complaints and concerns about AIDEA and how it is operating with its projects. Mr. Ruaro believes it is important to clarify on the record a few assumptions and statements that are made repeatedly in the public comments from opponents of AIDEA and its projects. He noted that the first point is that AIDEA is using State of Alaska public funds to fund its activities. This is actually incorrect, both factually and legally. AIDEA funds are written in State law statute as not being funds of the State of Alaska. When it is stated that AIDEA is using public funds, it is only correct to say that AIDEA is using its own public corporation funds that it has earned through investments in other projects. AIDEA is not using recurring oil production tax revenue, mining license revenue, or other types of funds that flow into the State Treasury and are then appropriated out by the Legislature. AIDEA is set up to be completely different, largely isolated from the politics of the Legislature, and the Board is empowered by State law to manage AIDEA public corporation funds. Mr. Ruaro believes this is a very important difference that is overlooked by some of the public commentators or that they are simply unaware of the facts and the law on that topic.

Mr. Ruaro discussed the second point addresses the question of why AIDEA invests in these projects. Comments have been made that AIDEA would be better off funding on a one-time basis and then the money is gone. Mr. Ruaro noted that AIDEA provides a dividend every year to the State Legislature, and if unallocated, the dividend goes towards paying the general expenses of the State of Alaska. AIDEA has paid dividends from its public corporation funds' earnings to the State of Alaska of roughly half a billion dollars. Mr. Ruaro does not think that there are many other State entities or corporations that are paying for their own operations and are also paying a dividend to the State of Alaska. AIDEA is in a unique positive position to make contributions to the State Treasury while fulfilling the statutory mission to create jobs and improve economic development. The Legislature created AIDEA in 1961 and included the concern that "unemployment and poverty is a serious menace to the health and safety of Alaskans." Mr. Ruaro emphasized that AIDEA invests in building projects and invests in small businesses because of the statutory mission and because it is good for Alaska and Alaskans. AIDEA has to provide a future for Alaskans or face continued out-migration. Mr. Ruaro believes AIDEA is making solid investments and performing its due diligence. He understands that it can be frustrating to the public that there are not immediate

answers to every question when projects are undertaken. AIDEA is acting in accordance with State law. AIDEA is successful and is producing good returns. Mr. Ruaro noted that the Red Dog Mine Project would not have happened without AIDEA's investment. It has produced well over \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in returns, including local property taxes, and Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreements (PILT) that are used for schools in the Northwest Arctic Borough. Mr. Ruaro doubts that AIDEA's critics will heed any of his comments, but he believes it is important that there is a public record in the minutes and elsewhere that list the facts.

Mr. Ruaro discussed that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Project is proceeding. AIDEA won an additional few leases. Seismic activities and a drilling plan are advancing. AIDEA is fighting the opponents of the project in the Federal District Court. AIDEA feels it has a very strong case. Congress used language that there shall be oil and gas production from Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The language was not that there might be oil and gas production. AIDEA believes the language gives a mandate and a mandatory directive to AIDEA. Congress said AIDEA is to produce oil and gas in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Ruaro noted that the Ambler Road fieldwork is progressing on several fronts, including drilling and geo-tech for the bridge sites, which should last several more weeks. Approximately 15 residents of local communities have been hired near the project. Some of the younger folks have never had a job before. They are working and making very good money. Mr. Ruaro discussed the work that is occurring on alternative modular bridges that has been used recently in Arizona and on the Red Dog extension road. He believes the modular structure should produce significant cost savings.

Mr. Ruaro discussed that the West Susitna Road is advancing. There have been several meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding legal debates. He believes those issues have been resolved. Mr. Ruaro commented that the Shipyard in Ketchikan is expected to provide a significant announcement about several more years of additional work for the Shipyard. He believes the Shipyard currently has between 180 and 220 employees. A year ago, there were only 15 employees. This is a huge improvement. JAG is doing a great job. Mr. Ruaro noted the workforce development partners Sealaska Corporation and the Tlingit & Haida Tribe who are assisting with the vocational technical facility in Prince of Whales Island. The first class is expected to be at the Shipyard soon. Mr. Ruaro discussed that the community reported that small businesses are seeing more business, including restaurants, grocery stores, and NAPA Auto Parts. Mr. Ruaro indicated that everything starts to improve when people in the community work and make good salaries. There were no comments or questions.

7B. Loan Dashboard Report – Included in packet

7C. 2026 Q1 Interior Energy Project Quarterly Report - Included in packet

Mr. Ruaro discussed that additional lines continue to be added to the quarterly report. The offtake of natural gas from Cook Inlet has been completely eliminated. All of the gas is being trucked from the North Slope. AIDEA is involved in commercializing the North Slope gas in two ways, including the Alyeschem Plant. Progress continues to be made on the Interior Gas Utility (IGU) and conversions seem to increase when diesel or heating fuel prices are higher. There were no comments or questions.

7D. Statistics Summary – Included in packet

7E. Next regularly scheduled AIDEA Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2026, Anchorage, Alaska

Chair Kendig advised that the date for the next Board meeting is actually Wednesday, July 8, 2026, rather than August 5, 2026. There were no objections.

8. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Haynes is glad that everyone agreed to the extension of the rail, especially since he started the project. He will be very happy to see the project finished. Mr. Haynes noted that he was taken aback by the Seward project and coming to the understanding that it was a different piece of property. That will have to be addressed at a later time. He noted that he is not an oil and gas person, and so he does not have any comments related to oil and gas.

Mr. Eledge is encouraged for the collaborative effort between Alaska Railroad and AIDEA following exactly what this Administration expects of AIDEA to work cooperatively for the good of Alaskans to create more jobs and to develop economic engines to move forward for the State and for the good of the citizens. He expressed appreciation to the Railroad for the opportunity to participate.

Vice-Chair Fogle expressed appreciation to the partners, the presenters, the staff, and the Executive Director. The Agency is lean and mean, and there is a lot going on. He asked the staff to continue to push on the partners, the vendors, and everyone to get things done in a very, very timely manner, approaching lightening speed. Alaska is at a crossroads. The Senate is negotiating the gas line bill today, and either Alaska will go down the path of the continued economic malaise and managed decline, or Alaska will chart a new future for Alaska's children and grandchildren with a gas line, Ambler, West-Su, and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and give them the opportunities that were allowed because of the previous generation who laid the groundwork. Vice-Chair Fogle encouraged everyone to reenergize themselves to do the ambitious and the impossible to make things happen for themselves, their children, their grandchildren, and for the Alaskan people who they will never meet. This time is very important to the State to become the energy and the mineral powerhouses for the world. Vice-Chair Fogle believes this needs to happen for the current generation and for future generations. The work of AIDEA is very important. He commended everyone for their efforts.

Commissioner Sande thanked Mr. Ruaro and the team at AIDEA. She expressed excitement for the Port MacKenzie rail extension and for moving forward with the CRISI grant application. She hopes that will be successful. The State has already invested approximately \$180 million into the project. She recognized the tremendous value and assets that the project will bring, especially as the mining projects will hopefully come online. This could be an amazing export facility and could provide many opportunities for the economic future of Alaska. Commissioner Sande noted that the coordination between the Department of Transportation's team, the Railroad's team, and AIDEA's team has been an honor to watch. She does not know if Alaskans have much opportunity to witness the out-of-box thinking, hard work, and coordination between the teams. Commissioner Sande

commented that she has seen the progress and coordination over the last five years.

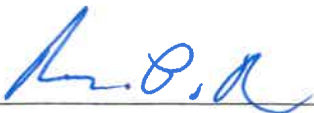
Commissioner Sande expressed appreciation again to Mr. Ruaro for his efforts to bring JAG to Ketchikan. It has been such a tremendous improvement. Commissioner Sande said that as a community member, she is grateful to drive by the parking lot, go to the grocery store across the street, or to the post office, and to see the obvious improvement to the Ketchikan Shipyard. She noted that it was an underutilized and underperforming State asset. She reiterated her appreciation for those efforts.

Commissioner Sande thanked Mr. Ruaro for clarifying some of the items that were stated during public comments. She appreciates public comments, and makes sure to listen and to read the comments that are submitted. Commissioner Sande noted that it is her experience that the majority of public comments does not equate to the majority of public opinion. Oftentimes, those two things are used as if they are the same, and they are not. Many Alaskans will not take the time to call in or to testify in public comments, and those folks certainly have reached out to AIDEA in other ways and have let AIDEA know that they very much want to see resource development projects in Alaska move forward with a clear understanding that without that revenue, Alaska does not have the ability to contribute. AIDEA has provided over \$500 million in dividends to the State of Alaska. That money is used for many, many public services that are needed. Without the revenue and the resource development projects, AIDEA would not have the ability to continue to contribute at that level. Commissioner Sande appreciated Mr. Ruaro clarifying some of the important factual points on the record.

Chair Kendig echoed the previous comments. He noted that it is always a pleasure to work with Mr. Ruaro and staff. He thanked staff for the Board's indulgence in pushing so hard on these efforts. Chair Kendig reiterated Commissioner Sande's comments regarding Mr. Ruaro's response to public comments. He understands there is a lot of misconception, and the public does not have the front row seat that the Board has. Chair Kendig believes that it is AIDEA's responsibility to clarify comments if the public does not fully understand. He hopes that Mr. Ruaro will continue to make clarifying remarks when there are misunderstandings regarding the process. He thanked everyone for the good meeting. There were no other comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, the AIDEA meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.



Randy Ruaro, AIDEA Executive Director

Secretary