

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Anchorage, Alaska
Via Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pruhs called the meeting of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to order on January 13, 2021. A quorum was established.

2. ROLL CALL: BOARD MEMBERS

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

3. ROLL CALL STAFF, PUBLIC

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Karl to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Sande.

The motion to approve the agenda passed without objection.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Pruhs requested the public to please state their name and affiliation, if any. He asked that public comments be limited to agenda items.

Margi Dashevsky, lifelong Alaskan, requested AIDEA to rescind Resolution G20-31 and not complete the actions for any Arctic Refuge leases. She expressed opposition to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plains oil and gas development. Ms. Dashevsky requested answers to these questions today:

- Has AIDEA signed any of the leases?
- Is AIDEA ready for the backlash from these actions?
- Can AIDEA demonstrate how the December 23rd meeting was not just a perfunctory gesture with a predetermined outcome?
- Is there something that could have been said to change the course of action?
- How many people called in and submitted written comments on the 23rd, and how many of those were in opposition?
- How many people called in and submitted written comments today, and how many of those were in opposition?

Ms. Dashevsky shared a quote from a person indicating their unrelenting opposition to Refuge development. She does not believe extracting oil diversifies the economy and feels it will destroy our future. Ms. Dashevsky commented that 98% of the public testifiers were opposed to the resolution, but the Board voted unanimously in favor. She does not feel AIDEA is listening to the public. She quoted Mr. Fogle's comments that we should come together as Alaskans to solve our problems. Ms. Dashevsky expressed concern the meeting is being held in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mary (sp) Fuller (sp), indigenous Alaskan, expressed opposition and requested AIDEA to abandon the leases to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plains oil and gas development. Abandoning the leases will prevent further harm and erosion to the traditional and indigenous way of life. Ms. Fuller discussed that Western values prioritize individual gain, while indigenous values prioritize family. She expressed that the indigenous did not need financial help before interruption.

Chair Pruhs reminded the public to please limit their comments to two minutes. He noted he will provide a 15-second alert before the comment time is concluded.

Mario Sapala (sp), of Anchorage, expressed opposition and requested AIDEA to do the right thing and refuse to sign the leases that were bid on in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He does not believe extracting oil diversifies the economy and feels AIDEA must invest in a regenerative economy for the future generation. Mr. Sapala explained that for thousands of years the Gwich'in and Inupiat have lived in relation to the sacred birthing grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd and were granted federal protection by Congress 60 years ago. Mr. Sapala asked AIDEA to honor the federal agreements and to hear the concerns expressed by the Gwich'in Steering Committee in their meeting with AIDEA on January 8th, 2021.

Lois Epstein, representing the Wilderness Society, informed that the Wilderness Society has hundreds of members in Alaska and approximately one million members and supporters nationwide. She expressed opposition and concerns regarding AIDEA bidding on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain leases. Not only do the coastal plains offer extraordinary ecological and subsistence values, but the leases are a bad investment for Alaska. Ms. Epstein commented that there has been increasing State legislative interest in changing AIDEA's statute to address issues such as Board balance and making costly decisions without legislative input.

Ms. Epstein requested answers to these questions today:

- If there is little or no industry interest in the lease tracts AIDEA owns, at what point or what year will AIDEA relinquish its leases back to the federal government to avoid paying the additional \$4.8 million per year rental cost?
- Has AIDEA signed any or all of the coastal plains leases at this point?

Chair Pruhs clarified that any questions that are presented today will be handled by AIDEA staff and sent out accordingly.

Sarah (sp) Furhman (sp), of Fairbanks, requested that AIDEA rescind Resolution G20-31 and not complete the actions for any Arctic Refuge leases. She believes this is a poor financial decision

and that AIDEA has acted illegally and beyond its authority. Ms. Fuhman discussed the meeting held on December 23rd was in direct violation of the Open Meetings Act. She stated that the Governor failed to renew appointments by the December 15th deadline set by Congress and therefore, the Board members' subsequent actions are without legal appointments and must be nullified. Ms. Fuhman discussed that the opposition will act at every opportunity to ensure that no development occurs in the Refuge.

Rick Quibeck (sp), of Anchorage, expressed support and appreciation for AIDEA's activities in the 1002 leases, which he feels will provide economic security for the State of Alaska. He believes this activity will directly and indirectly benefit the 100,000 Alaskans who are involved with the oil and gas industry and will provide jobs now and in the future. Mr. Quibeck disagrees that oil is dead and feels like those who express opposition are wasting AIDEA's time, instead of working with AIDEA.

Jan Bronson (sp), of Anchorage, expressed opposition and requested AIDEA to abandon the leases to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plains oil and gas development. She does not believe AIDEA provided adequate public process and is concerned about the violation of the Gwich'in people's human rights and subsistence rights. Ms. Bronson feels this decision is financially irresponsible, given the lack of interest of the part of major oil companies and the commitment by major banks not to fund Arctic drilling. She noted the widespread citizen support for protecting the Arctic Refuge and pivoting to renewable energy in order to promote strong communities without risking the climate and these sacred lands.

Stuart Chappin (sp), of Fairbanks, expressed opposition and requested AIDEA to abandon the leases to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plains oil and gas development. He believes the most important need is to support infrastructure for renewable and affordable energy for Alaska, rather than curtailing the rights of indigenous people and negatively impacting the climate.

Kathy (sp) Walling (sp), of Fairbanks, expressed opposition and requested AIDEA to abandon the leases to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plains oil and gas development. She does not believe extracting oil diversifies the economy and feels AIDEA could invest in broadband internet capacity, communication infrastructure, or other outdoor recreation and quality of life interests to attract companies and workers to Alaska. Ms. Walling feels that these leases will not only cost Alaska the yearly \$4.8 million lease payment, but will also cost additional legal fees necessary to respond to increased litigation. Ms. Walling does not believe oil is the direction of the future, and that the big oil companies have shown this by not bidding on any of the leases. She believes Alaska should have a different vision for the future to collectively move forward.

Siqiniq Maupin, noted she was raised in Fairbanks, and is Inupiat from Utqiagvik and Nuiqsut. She expressed her belief that the State of Alaska and AIDEA is continuing what was seen in the Capitol that white supremacy has taken priority to the sacrifices of indigenous people. Ms. Maupin believes the State will lose money because the new Administration is moving away from fossil fuels with the Paris Agreement and there will not be an increase in jobs or income. She believes the human rights of the indigenous people are being violated and the desecration of sensitive ecosystems places the State of Alaska on the wrong side of history. Ms. Maupin agreed

that climate change will be exacerbated by oil and gas. She expressed the concerns of feeding our families, dying of rare cancer, increasing number of respiratory illnesses, starving caribou, mold on fish, and new species entering the rivers. Ms. Maupin said the indigenous people will be watching and fighting every day until they get to live and breathe with the same rights as the State of Alaska employees.

Emily Sullivan, Arctic Program Coordinator of Northern Alaska Environmental Center, shared the concerns of others and noted the difficulty in calling into these meetings and accessing transparent public engagement. She expressed opposition and believes the resolution is inappropriate, fiscally irresponsible, rushed, and illegal. She requested AIDEA to abandon the leases to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plains oil and gas development. Ms. Sullivan asked if the leases had been signed. She noted that Northern Alaska Environmental Center is doing everything in its power to prevent oil and gas development on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. They stand with the Gwich'in and will continue to express opposition.

Chair Pruhs expressed appreciation for the public comments and noted no other public was on the line. He informed that approximately 70 comments were emailed to AIDEA and have been provided to each Board member.

6. PRIOR MINUTES – December 9, 2020 and December 23, 2020

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Karl to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2020. Motion seconded by Ms. Sande.

The motion to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2020 passed without objection.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. Resolution G21-01 AIDEA FY22 Operating Budget Submission Ratification

Alan Weitzner, Executive Director, explained Resolution G21-01 ratifies the Governor's submission of FY22 Operating Budget. The FY22 Operating Budget was attached to the resolution.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice-Chair Karl to approve Resolution G21-01, as written. Motion seconded by Ms. Sande.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to approve Resolution G21-01 passed unanimously, with Commissioner Anderson absent for the vote.

7B. Resolution G21-02 UCORE Cost Reimbursement Agreement

Mr. Weitzner explained Resolution G21-02 authorizes a Cost Reimbursement Agreement with UCore, which would reimburse AIDEA for up to \$100,000 in order to evaluate an application AIDEA has received from UCore for an initial financing request of \$3.5 million related to the development and operation of the Alaska Strategic Metals Complex. Mr. Weitzner provided an overview of the project, which focuses on the processing of rare earth at the proposed Strategic

Complex outside of Ketchikan. Mr. Weitzner welcomed AIDEA staff members, Mark Davis and Jeff San Juan, members from UCore, Pat Ryan, Peter Manuel, Mike Schrider, and IMC's Tyler Dinwoodie to discuss the resolution and answer any questions.

Mr. Schrider presented a detailed slide show regarding UCore Rare Metals and the development of the Alaska Strategic Metals Complex (Alaska SMC) for the production of rare earth oxides. He provided the company's background and significant mergers and acquisitions information. These include the mineral rights to Bokan Mountain, and IMC, who invented the patent-pending RapidSX critical metals separation technology and trade-secret processes. Mr. Schrider described the businesses and technology involved in UCore's Alaska 2023 business plan. The economic impact study estimated an average annual employment of 325 direct, indirect, and induced jobs for the projected two-year mine construction period, 340 direct, indirect, and induced jobs for the planned initial 11-year mine operating period, and the possibility of further exploration. Mr. Schrider noted that he does not have specific information on the economic community multiplier, but believes it is significant.

Mr. Dinwoodie continued the presentation and reviewed the executive summary of the Alaska 2023 business plan, which includes processing the mine's ore into the finished oxides at a commercial scale. Mr. Schrider described the attributes of the planned facility, with an annual throughput of 5,000 tons. All feedstock is expected to ship through Ketchikan. Once the facility is operational, it is projected to provide 24 direct jobs. Mr. Dinwoodie discussed the RapidSX separation technology and its demonstrated significant improvement to the industry's current standard solvent extraction separation technology. Mr. Dinwoodie gave a detailed description of the process and the significant market opportunity that is available.

Mr. Ryan discussed the rare earth industry and its critical importance in keeping the U.S. competitive for the next 100 years and providing national and economic security. He noted the market is projected to increase five-fold in the next decade, according to Adamas Intelligence research. Mr. Ryan indicated that there are currently no rare earth separation facilities in the U.S. The only heavy rare earth separation and supply is in China. Alaska's Bokan has the ability to utilize the heaviest grade rare earth in the U.S. Mr. Ryan discussed the benefits and competitive advantage of this specialized technology compared to other technologies. He believes Alaska will play a significant role in building a domestic supply chain of critical materials at an economic and commercial scale. The intent is to maintain the balance of production in order to support current pricing. These critical materials are needed for the clean, green technologies and EV applications. There is the capability to increase production in different phases of commercialization by replicating the initial deployment process.

Chair Pruhs commented that UCore is a Canadian company with an American subsidiary. He asked if there is a firewall in place, in the articles of incorporation, for example, to prevent UCore from being acquired in part or in total by a Chinese company. Mr. Ryan indicated that one of the shareholders on the Board is an Alaskan. Mr. Ryan noted his career has been built upon developing supply chains for North American independents, specifically to break away from dependence and reliance on China. He explained the potential procurement entities do not want Chinese ownership. Chair Pruhs indicated that the issue will be a topic of discussion with staff to deliberate with UCore to provide confidence and security on the path forward.

Vice-Chair Karl commented that he believes it is AIDEA's duty to ensure its assets are not sold to China. He urged UCore to provide tangible and delineated protection so that the company cannot be sold to China. Mr. Ryan agreed that the comments are valid and he will ensure available options for a solution are reviewed.

Ms. Sande asked for additional information regarding the timeline and the likely location of the plant. Mr. Dinwoodie explained a specific location has not yet been determined. The engineering and plant construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Sande to approve Resolution G21-02. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Karl.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to approve Resolution G21-02 passed unanimously, with all present.

7C. Update on Resolution G20-31 ANWR Coastal Plains Oil & Gas Development

Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 Part 4

Mr. Weitzner explained the purpose of this item is to update the Board following the approval of Resolution G20-31. It has been designated under ANILCA as the 1002 Area Lease Sale. After evaluation, AIDEA ultimately submitted bids for 11 of the 22 tracts listed, and was awarded nine of those tracts. Mr. Weitzner presented a slide show. He discussed the information and evaluation that staff undertook to identify the high potential resource areas, which has the potential to add approximately 10.3 billion barrels of oil to Alaska's existing infrastructure system. Mr. Weitzner indicated that the leases that were not undertaken are no longer available for development. He highlighted that the specific Native land indicated on the map is available for development of subsurface rights by ASRC.

Mr. Weitzner discussed the financial obligation that was authorized by the Board under Resolution G20-31 was up to \$20 million for evaluation, bid submissions, and the first year's obligation in signing the leases. The nine tracts awarded have a first year financial obligation of \$16,827,885. This is comprised of the level of the bids, which were submitted at the minimum amount of \$25 per acre, plus the additional \$10 per acre required annual lease payment. The cost of surety bonding has not been included. Mr. Weitzner explained the lease agreements are in the process of being concluded and should be signed within the regular allotted 15-day time period by January 21st. Mr. Weitzner provided background information on the two other successful bidders; Knik Arm Services and Regenerate Alaska.

Mr. Fogle requested Mr. Weitzner discuss the local stakeholder support for the 1002 Lease Sale. Mr. Weitzner explained that AIDEA engages with stakeholders during the process for all projects. AIDEA has reached out to the Gwich'in Steering Committee and the North Slope Borough. Mr. Weitzner informed that the North Slope Borough has been very vocal in the support for economic development and has highlighted their experience over the last 60 years of oil development within the state of Alaska and the benefits that development has provided for their communities' economic development. The benefits included increased medical services, opportunity and investment in waste water facilities, water treatment plants, the health and safety of the communities, and economic interests. Mr. Weitzner highlighted that his conversations

with the North Slope Borough continue to maintain strong support for economic and responsible development in the oil and gas sector.

Mr. Weitzner discussed that the Arctic Inupiat community is most centrally located to the 1002 Area and they have highlighted their support for economic development opportunities that result from responsible oil and gas development. Mr. Weitzner noted that Matthew Rexford of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation has spoken eloquently for himself and for his community, identifying the support of the economic benefits from responsible oil and gas development. Mr. Weitzner identified the leadership of ASRC, who have communicated how their communities support responsible development within the region. ASRC holds subsurface rights that are not part of the BLM sale. Mr. Weitzner emphasized the State agencies' experience in monitoring and requiring responsible oil and gas development for the past 60 years.

Vice-Chair Karl asked how many of the 11 villages on the North Slope are in favor of the 1002 development and how many are against it. Mr. Weitzner highlighted the support that comes from some of the ASRC communities including, Arctic Inupiat, Native Village of Kaktovik, Kaktovik Inupiat, City of Kaktovik, North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Native Association, City of Anaktuvuk Pass, City of Point Hope, Native Village of Atkasuk, Olgoonik Corporation, City of Wainwright, and Native Village of Point Lay.

Vice-Chair Karl informed that AIDEA received a letter after the public testimony in December from Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, that includes all 11 North Slope villages. He requested the letter be read into the record. Mr. Weitzner informed that he does not have a copy of the letter with him today. He highlighted that it was a letter addressed to several of the parties that have taken a position against development in the region. The letter discussed the benefits of responsible oil and gas development. Mr. Weitzner stated that he will request permission from the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat to share the letter on the record.

Vice-Chair Karl asked Mr. Weitzner to address public comments regarding the low turnout from oil companies on the 1002 Lease Sales. Mr. Weitzner expressed disappointment that there was not more involvement from the oil and gas sector, but he noted that low turnout was not surprising. The timing of the sale was limited. Companies across all industries are facing economic realities, including the oil and gas sector. The geological research on the resource potential is dated to 1987, and will need to be updated. Mr. Weitzner explained some parties who currently hold State lease sales did not bid because they are working through their current tracts. Mr. Weitzner discussed that the Alaska Oil and Gas Association and the American Petroleum Institute have communicated that their members remain interested in oil and gas development in Alaska. Mr. Weitzner believes AIDEA is facilitating its mission for the State of Alaska's economic development and is preserving the right to go forward with development of the leases through strategic alliances in the private sector.

Ms. Sande requested Mr. Weitzner discuss the benefits of the leases to Alaskans and to the State of Alaska. She informed that she has read the public comments received and acknowledged there is both opposition and support for the development of the project. Mr. Weitzner noted that the State receives half of the \$14 million payment. The production will be shared at a fixed royalty of 16.67%, which is split 50/50 with the federal government and the State of Alaska. AIDEA does not receive benefits from any of the payments that go directly to the State's general

fund. The bids and development of the leases support AIDEA's mission and statutory powers of economic development and job growth for the state and its communities. Mr. Weitzner discussed that much of the economic and community development that has occurred in North Slope communities has been a direct result of oil and gas development, providing job opportunities, substantial property taxes for utilization by the Borough, and funding community infrastructure development.

Mr. Weitzner commented that AIDEA respects all public comments received. He believes it is AIDEA's obligation to actively engage with all stakeholders, understand their perspectives, and the impacts to communities. Mr. Weitzner acknowledged that there is a large amount of opposition to moving forward on the leases. He recognizes that there has also been broad positive public comments received. Responsible development of the Section 1002 lease area has been in the public discourse for over 40 years. Mr. Weitzner highlighted that Alaska's Governors and the congressional delegations since 1980 have strongly supported responsible development in the Section 1002 area. Additionally, Alaska's legislative bodies have strongly supported responsible resource development in the Section 1002 area since 1997.

Mr. Fogle highlighted the educational point that the passage of ANCSA intended to stimulate economic development for Alaska Native communities, and that the passage of ANILCA gave the opportunity for development of natural resources in the 1002 area. Mr. Fogle requested Mr. Weitzner provide additional background information. Mr. Weitzner gave a historical account of the passage of ANILCA in 1980 and the Section 1002 provision. In 2017, Congress approved the Tax Act, which directs the Secretary of Interior to enact two lease sale process. This initiated the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) review of Section 1002, resulting in a Record of Decision in 2020. The first lease sale process was completed on January 6, 2021.

Mr. Fogle believes developing our own energy needs is a matter of national security, so we are less dependent on foreign countries.

Ms. MacKinnon discussed her understanding of the subsistence issue regarding the Porcupine Herd that leaves the coastal plains in July, shortly after the calving season, and heads east and south back to the fall and winter areas, approximately 400 miles away. Ms. MacKinnon commented that any oil and gas development in the area would occur in the off season to that calving season. She pointed to the success of the herd located close to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which should help address some of the concerns regarding subsistence and the health of the animals in the area to provide a supply of food to the local communities. Ms. MacKinnon requested Mr. Weitzner respond to comments regarding the lack of public notice and comments that the actions are illegal.

Ms. Weitzner emphasized that any lease that AIDEA enters into has to follow the BLM's Record of Decision stipulations, including engagement with affected communities regarding subsistence issues. AIDEA currently has established committees in two other projects that are comprised of Native communities that directly address subsistence. Mr. Weitzner described the timeline of events in December. The meeting was listed on December 18th, and the draft resolution was provided on December 21st. The public discourse on this lease sale has been ongoing for 40 years. AIDEA has worked within regulations and statutory requirements for public notice on the

meeting and for providing supporting information. Over 300 public comments were received during that time, as well as an hour-and-a-half of verbal public testimony at the meeting.

Mr. Weitzner discussed that AIDEA is a qualified bidder under BLM's statement of authorization. AIDEA is a public corporation in the state of Alaska, is incorporated within the state to undertake business and investments within the state of Alaska, and is managed by an independent Board. The decisions AIDEA undertook were authorized under Resolution G20-31 passed by the Board. The detailed statement of sale states that leases may be held by "private, public, or municipal corporations organized under the laws of the United States or of any state."

Mr. Weitzner explained AIDEA functions as the development finance authority and is established to partner with public and private institutions to responsibly develop the State's resources for economic development. He highlighted AS 4488.830 (a) Sub 5, noting that AIDEA has the authority under the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund to enter into leases and to enter into agreements with governments entities for projects like the 1002 Lease Sale.

Ms. MacKinnon thanked Mr. Weitzner for reiterating his comments. She thanked the general public for their comments and acknowledged that she has read many emails on this issue, including receipt of emails today from Alaska and all across the United States.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Sande to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to the 1002 Area Lease Sale, Mustang Holdings, Loan Modification and Loan Modification Policy Review, and the Ambler Access Road Project. This is supported by the Open Meetings Act, AS 4462.310, which allows the Board to consider confidential matters in executive session. In this case, the Board believes that these are subjects, which would have an adverse effect upon the finances of AIDEA or are protected by law due to rules protecting personal privacy and certain business information. Motion seconded by Mr. Fogle.

The motion was approved without objection.

7D. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 1:32 pm
Confidential matters related to Mustang Holdings LLC, ANWR Coastal Plains Oil & Gas Development, Loan Modification and Loan Modification Policy Review

The Board reconvened its regular meeting at 4:25 pm.

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

8. DIRECTORS COMMENTS

All reports are included in Board packets.

8A. Resolution No. G11-18 Report, Finance Dashboard and Commercial Loan Reports -
No questions.

8B. Infrastructure Development (IFD)/Project Finance & Asset Management (PFAM), Updated Project Matrices, Quarterly Project Fact Sheets - No questions.

8C. Board Resolution Report

Chair Pruhs requested information regarding the building update. Mr. Weitzner noted the electrical plans are being developed and the window replacement is underway. A full proposal and building assessment will be presented at the March Board meeting. Chair Pruhs requested feedback regarding the possibility of utilizing this low-price environment to complete the major capital improvements to the building. Ms. Sande expressed the importance of determining AIDEA's future building needs and goals before extensive building improvements are made. Mr. Weitzner agreed to undertake the study request and come back to the Board with the information.

Ms. MacKinnon commented that the budget introductions provided by the Governor indicated a multimillion-dollar infrastructure proposal and consideration of a bond. She suggested that AIDEA review the proposal and discuss how this might move forward, as vertical and horizontal construction as deferred maintenance was included.

8D. Resolution G19-21 Report - No questions.

Next scheduled AIDEA Board Meeting, Wed. February 10, 2021

9. BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Karl expressed appreciation for the continued progress and improvement.

Mr. Fogle commended AIDEA for taking on the big projects of the 1002 Lease Sale and Ambler Access Road, which are future economic drivers for generations. He discussed the intent of the 1002 Lease Sale is to partner with private capital investors to develop the leases. AIDEA's focus now is working with BLM on the next steps concerning the lease sale, undertaking an update to the geological surveys, obtaining a permit authorizing specific geophysical exploration activities, and initiating the planning work necessary to responsibly conduct early phase exploration activities. AIDEA has a strong interest in ensuring the state has tangible economic benefits that come from responsible future developments. AIDEA is obligated to follow all applicable laws and regulations, including state and local laws, which are some of the most stringent in ensuring responsible development of Alaska's resources. Mr. Fogle complimented Mr. Weitzner on his leadership and guidance during these efforts.

Ms. Sande commented that she is pleased the Board supported Resolution G21-02 with UCore. She looks forward to the potential for the rare earth minerals to provide green energy, renewable energy, and impacts to the healthcare industry. Ms. Sande supports responsible resource development. She agrees that Alaska is successful at responsible resource development. Ms. Sande expressed appreciation for the staff and Board members' efforts. She thanked members of the public who provided public comments.

Commissioner Anderson expressed the importance of maintaining a broad perspective on moving the state forward through responsible resource development. She expressed appreciation

for the public comments and reassured the public that AIDEA wants to responsibly move forward and maintain a balanced approach on the economy.

Ms. MacKinnon expressed appreciation for the dedication of the Board and the public who are following these critically important issues. She thanked staff for providing the necessary information so the Board may make informed decisions. Ms. MacKinnon acknowledge that families and businesses continue to struggle and are negatively impacted due to COVID-19. The federal government is trying to process additional funds for people who are in need. She stands ready to work to address small business needs, understanding there are limits to what AIDEA is able to do for individual businesses and understanding that there are dedicated funds for particular purposes that are constrained for use. Ms. MacKinnon expressed appreciation for the public comments regarding the 1002 Lease Sale. She encouraged the Board to continue to focus on strategic planning.

Chair Pruhs thanked staff and the Board for the discussion and efforts today. He believes respectful public comment is important. He noted for the record that disrespectful public comments will not be tolerated. AIDEA works very hard for the betterment of the State. The best interest of the State includes paying bill and providing jobs for our children and grandchildren's future. Chair Pruhs commented on an uneducated op-ed written by someone uninformed and opposed to the 1002 Lease Sale that falsely stated that he was able to monetize work on the North Slope. Chair Pruhs stated for the record that he has not worked on the North Slope for 40 years and he will not profit from any North Slope construction projects.

Chair Pruhs acknowledged that the State is enduring economic hardships and he expressed appreciation to the Board for their continued diligence. AIDEA's loan portfolio consists of about half a billion dollars with Alaska businesses that employ Alaskan citizens. Many of these loans are challenged during this time and Chair Pruhs appreciates AIDEA's efforts to help these businesses maintain success and make a difference for Alaskans. He noted that it is unfortunate to hear announcements of cruise ship delays this spring. It will be very challenging for businesses to survive two years without any revenue. He acknowledged that there is an increase of businesses that are closed or up for sale. Chair Pruhs expressed hope for economic improvement, but does not expect it in the near-term. He is supportive of the two major long-term projects that AIDEA is developing.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, the AIDEA meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.



Alan Weitzner, AIDEA Executive Director
Secretary