



## **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

### **Kake-Petersburg Intertie (KPI) Project**

**November 15, 2012**

**Petersburg**

**5:00-7:00 PM**

**Scandia House 1st Floor Conference Room**

### **Meeting Notes:**

#### **Participants:**

Mark Jensen, Vice Mayor, City of Petersburg  
Honorable Henrich Kadake, Mayor, City of Kake  
Paulette Jackson, Deputy Mayor, City of Kake  
Gary Williams, Executive Director, Organized Village of Kake  
Jodi Mitchell, CEO, Inside Passage Electric Cooperative  
Trey Acteson, CEO, SEAPA  
Robert Venables, Energy Coordinator, Southeast Conference  
Mark Schinman, Project Manager, Commonwealth Associates

#### **1. Meeting called to order - Trey Acteson**

#### **2. Purpose of Steering Committee and It's Role**

Mr. Acteson indicated he was looking forward to the project and its success and thought it best if the group could be informal. Mr. Acteson also indicated meeting notes would be taken and circulated. Mr. Venables added that the role of the steering committee is to enhance communications with the communities and participants and to provide advice. Any final decisions would rest with the project owner, SEAPA.

#### **3. Introductions - All**

The participants introduced themselves and provided their roles and thoughts about the project. Generally speaking, there was a lot of excitement and appreciation that the project is moving forward and acknowledged that this first Steering Committee meeting is a significant step. There was discussion regarding the project, its need, and the group's history. Mr. Venables presented a PowerPoint overview that provided both background and updated information about the project.

#### **4. Project Manager Hired**

Mr. Acteson reported that Mark Schinman, of Commonwealth Associates, Inc., has been hired as the Project Manager. SEAPA is presently viewing the project as having three phases. Phase 1 includes the activities necessary to get the project ready for construction. This includes environmental work, permits, engineering design, and possibly some material procurement. Phase 2 includes any special analysis required (for example electrical system compatibility) to determine what may necessary to interconnect with the SEAPA system, the intertie voltage, etc. Phase 3 is the construction phase.

## 5. SEAPA Current Project Funding

Mr. Acteson reported there are two grants. Grant #1, in the amount of \$2,990,000, was originally in the name of Kwaan Electric Transmission Intertie Cooperative. This grant has been transferred to SEAPA for administration. Work to obtain Grant #2, in the amount of \$2,000,000 is nearly complete. A few additional approvals are required. A project management agreement has been developed and agreed to by the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), SEAPA, Kwaan Electric Transmission Intertie and the Inside Passage Electric Cooperative (IPEC). A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed by AEA, IPEC, and SEAPA which outlines the project development and responsibilities.

## 6. Kake - Petersburg Road Status

Mr. Schinman reported AKDOT has \$43M of funding available for the road project along the northern route and it is expected that this will be adequate for construction. The EIS process has started with the USDOT, Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway as the lead agency. They have established a Web Site and the address is <http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/ak/kake/>. Michael Traffalis is the Project Manager (360) 619-7787. HDR has been retained as the consultant for the EIS technical work and a Record of Decision, (ROD) is expected in 2015. It is expected the EIS scoping meeting will occur after the first of the year. It was noted that there is a preliminary road design, there has been a LIDAR Survey which was used for preliminary transmission line design, and there may be a road Plan and Profile available. Commonwealth is working to obtain a copy of the road Plan and Profile and also to coordinate with this EIS process.

## 7. KPI - Environmental Impact Statement Status

Mr. Schinman reported:

- a. Work completed by TetraTech, the consultant for the EIS.
  - a. Public scoping April and May 2010
  - b. Field Work – Fall 2010 and Summer 2011
    - i. C/L ±150', Located streams and creeks, Wildlife, Wolves/Bears, Wetlands, Rare plants, Cultural etc.
  - c. Still need to do scenic evaluation
  - d. Developed nine Resource Reports May /June 2012. These were sent to the USFS for review and comment. The comments have been received from the USFS and these are being addressed by TetraTech.
  - e. October 29, 2012, there was a meeting with the USFS and it was attended by TetraTech, SEAPA, AEA, SE Conference, D. Hittle and Commonwealth.
    - i. The project status was discussed.
    - ii. The USFS expressed concern about four issues: is an easement or a special use permit requested; roads/roadless; the preferred route; and timber and clearing details
  - f. The EIS Schedule was presented as a part of Mr. Venables presentation. It was noted that, according to TetraTech, the schedule in the handout has slipped approximately one month.
  - g. Next Steps for the EIS
    - i. Transfer TetraTech Contract to SEAPA for administration

- ii. Work through USFS Issues
- iii. Issue Draft EIS
- iv. Public Meetings this spring
- v. Record of Decision (ROD) – late 2012

### **8. KPI Construction Funding Status**

Mr. Venables reported that Kake has submitted a white paper and a request for \$35M to the Governor's office for inclusion in the FY 14 budget. This is the beginning of the process and the dollar amount can be adjusted through the legislative process as warranted. SEAPA would be expected to request legislative funds through CAPSIS during the upcoming session Mr. Jensen offered to take the matter before the Petersburg City Council and request their support for the funding request.

### **9. Current Issues**

Mr. Schinman reported the preferred route and an easement or special use permit are current issues and these have previously been discussed during this meeting. The consensus of the steering committee is that the northern route seems preferable. More detailed information will be needed to determine how to best go through or around Kupreanof. That information will be brought to the committee at a future meeting so individual committee members can provide letters of support.

### **10. Next Steps**

Mr. Schinman reported next steps for the Project include:

- a. Develop detailed project schedule - Construction planned to Start Spring 2014
- b. Hire project environmental consultant
- c. Hire design engineer
- d. Start system compatibility analysis as necessary
- e. Prepare background information for transmission line voltage decision as necessary
- f. Northern route details on connectivity options through and/or around Kupreanof

### **11. Community Communications**

Mr. Venables led a discussion and the group generally expressed interest in providing more information about project progress to the communities. Ideas discussed included providing timeline information, both historical and future, as well as providing quarterly reports.

### **12. Schedule Next Meeting**

There was general discussion about the frequency of Steering Committee meetings and quarterly meetings were determined appropriate. There is a Southeast Conference meeting approximately February 26-28 in Juneau and it was determined that a Steering Committee meeting will be scheduled then. Mr. Venables also agreed to provide an updated Steering Committee member list.

### **13. Adjournment**

As a close to the meeting, Mayor Kadake expressed his thanks for the work being done and asked that thanks be passed along to the SEAPA Board of Directors. He indicated, with the work moving the project forward, people are starting to believe the intertie will be completed. Mr. Williams also expressed his thanks and appreciation.