

Alejandro Bong Tungul:

Trip Report-February 28 thru March 2 2022 Juneau Lobby Trip

March 3 - 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 SWAMC –Economic Summit & Membership Meeting

My trip started arriving in Juneau on February 27, 2022.

The first day we started with the breakfast strategy meeting with Diane Blumer to go over the schedule for the day.

List of Priorities-Critical Needs and Capital project that we high lights during each meeting with the legislatures or their staff.

Captains Bay Road- Robert Storrs Boat Harbor-Unalaska Electrical System Interconnection Project-Unalaska Marine Center and Light Cargo Dock Dredging-Solid Waste Gasifier-Unalaska Marine Center Cruise Ship Terminal-Tom Madsen Airport-State Ferry System-Community Assistance Program and Shared Fisheries Tax Program. Also the Mayor highlighted on every meeting the Tri-Lateral agreement between the City, Ounalashka Corporation and Qawalangin Tribe working together to better accomplished the needs of the community.

On the first dayFebruary 28<sup>th</sup> we were introduced on the House Floor by Representative Bryce Edgmon followed with the meetings that were set up by Daine Blumer, first meeting is with Representative Foster/ Staff Brodie the co-chair of the House Finance Committee then we went to the next building to get swab for Covid test before going to the office of Senator Lyman Hoffman, we always have a positive outcome whenever we met with the Senator he knows how important it is for our community the priorities and Capital project that we are presenting. The next meeting is on the conference room at Diane's office with Miles Baker followed with Commissioner Vincent Lang with ADF&G, a lot of interesting conversation especially with the luck of data for the past few years on the King Crab and reduction of quota of the Pollack season due to Covid 19, he is optimistic that things will change for the better on this coming years by doing more research and by collecting more data. Next stop is at Senator Bishop's office who also co-chair on the Finance, once again the Mayor, City Manager, City Council together with Chris Price representing the Qawalangin Tribe and Nathalie Cole Representing the Ounalashka Corporation, everybody talk about specific topic and how to best serve the community.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day March 2<sup>nd</sup> once again we met for breakfast to go over the schedule for the day, first on the schedule is with Deputy Director Kelly Goode with the Department of correctional together with DP-3 Carol Winklemen we discuss the issue on our community jail which has been underfunded for years and how the AML and Police Chiefs are working together to push

the issues, the commissioner is very helpful and aware of the situation and she will look into it, she also happy to inform us that there is additional 4 million into her budget, it's just a matter on how they will be divided between communities when they are ready to be distributed. Also talked about escorting prisoners out of the island and the length of stay they are allowed into our community jail, also talked about the Correction Division especially in Unalaska how the state provided under half of the cost to run our Corrections division. Over all we had a good meeting with the commissioner, we will expect something positive after our meeting. Next stop is in the office of Senator Revak who Chair the Resources, the mayor introduced everybody including the Tri Lateral on how the community work together to better serve the city of Unalaska, we talked all the grant that will be applicable for our community especially with the Q-Tribe, it was a very interesting visit with the Senator who was familiar with Chis Price. Next is with the office of the Governor, we met in their conference room with Rex Rock who is very happy to meet with us unexpected, he was one of the visitor when Unalaska did the Legislative fly in, the Mayor, city Manager and Council members outline all our priorities, capital project and discuss the challenges we are facing in our community, having visited the community not long ago, he was very understanding on the situation of our community and told us to do everything he can to help and present it to the Governor. Next is at the office of Representative Merrick who co-chair Finance, we met with the staff and outlined all our priorities and capital projects. Break for Lunch. Next stop we went to the office of the Coastguard were we met at their conference room, a lot of good topics including the survey and data collection, they are thank full on the hospital that our community has showed them at the same time we thank them on their presence in Unalaska and hoping to expand and make Unalaska as their home base, that put a big smile on their face, especially with the Arctic opening up. Next stop is with our Representative Bryce Edgmon, he his familiar with our situation and he always represent us very well, a good long discussion on all our priorities and capital project and the challenges we are facing. Last stop of the day is with the DOT and their Team, we talked about the airport master plan, the two broken plane and run away. It's always good conversation with DOT there is always a lot of interesting topic that never got address to our community. To finish the day a get together dinner with Representative Bryce Edgmon and staff, together with Rex Rock.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day March 2<sup>nd</sup> is flying back to Anchorage for SWAMC Economic Summit & Membership Meeting.

Before Flying back to Anchorage Councilman Robinson and Myself together with the city manager Erin Reinders met the President of AML in his office a quick recap on what is going with the legislatures and asked what he can do to help.

March 2, 2022 flying back to Anchorage for the SWAMC Economic Summit and Membership Meeting. Arrived in Anchorage in the afternoon of March 2<sup>nd</sup> and check in at The Hotel Captain Cook.

The First day March 3<sup>rd</sup> Registration and Networking Breakfast followed by opening remarks by the SWAMC Executive Director Shirley Marquardt, very good speaker who hold the floor very well, she welcomes everybody who are present, next is the singing of National Anthem and Alaska state song by Malie Kaercher, next is welcome speech by Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson, followed by Katie Berry the Economist, McKinley Research group, LLC Formerly McDowell group who discuss about the mail service especially Southwest Alaska, the big concern is the medication that being sent by mail that some get bad before it is arrived on a lot of small communities, then the next is Workforce Development, Good Job and Where to find them, Jennie Monk- Sr. President, ASHNHA health care is one of the leading high paying job that is always hiring, there is some program out there where they offer to certify employee as long they will be committed to work for certain period with the company, Teri Cothren- Assoc. Vice president, UA Workforce Development, talk about job opportunities that is available all over the state, Jon Bittner- Executive Director , Alaska Small Business Development Center, they talk about opportunity if you want to start a small business, they have a workforce that can help, and the last one is Jen Keller- Managing director of Talent Acquisition, Alaska Airlines, she said a lot of airlines are having a tough time filling up position from Pilot , stewardess, mechanics, and all other different position, airlines are willing to provide education and get certification for all different position as long as they commit for a certain period of time with the company. Next on the schedule is Health and Covid Update- What to expect in 2022-2023 with Dr. Anne Zink Chip Medical Officer, State of Alaska and Heide Hedberg-Director, Alaska Department of Public Health, the study show that State is at 64% fully vaccinated, still need keep to an eye on what work for every community, this pandemic is a long way from being over, we just have to be careful.

Next is Networking Lunch, big topic is Broadband that have good funding and one of the presenters is Emmitt Fitch who own Optimera, he did a great on his presentation that put a lot of interest with the other communities that will open up a good service all over the small community especially around Southwest Alaska through the Alaska Tribal Network, next is Video addresses by Senator Liza Murkowski and Senator Dan Sullivan, gave an update on what was going on in Washington DC, it has been very busy trying to pass a lot of the bills on the floor, they are doing a great job looking after the interest of Alaska. Next is Climbing Infrastructure Funding Mountain-Presented by Garret Boyle-Federal co-chair Denali Commission, Keri Skaggs-Compass North Solution, Shirley Kelly –EDA Economic Development Representative for Alaska and April Ferguson-Lead Navigator, Alaska Federation of Native Navigator Program, a lot of good discussion on all different funding that native corporation can apply on all different areas especially on infrastructures. Next is the Broadband Internet Connectivity for Southwest Alaska, was presented by Harold Johnston-Alaska Tribal Broadband, Mark Goldstein Grant Management Associates, Tyler Sachleben Special Assistant to the Governor, State of Alaska and Billy Wailand Senior VP of Corporate Development, GCI, there is a lot of good information that was presented with all the available funding that is approved by Federal and State to have a good connectivity throughout the whole United States from Broadband internet Connectivity. Next is Mariculture Apportunities, Speaker are Erik O’Brian with the Denali Commission, Dan Lesh with the McKinley Research Group, Robert

Venables Executive Directors, Southeast Conference and Tamsen Peeples a Mariculture Specialist, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, talked about Maritime Career Pathways from Fish Tech, Maiculture, Seafood Harvesting, Seafood Processing Vessel Repair and vessel operation this are good highlights for the resident of Alaska specially for young future generation. The other big highlights that got the attention of everybody is the Kelp that is growing heavily all over Alaska, a good potential that is going to be a big market throughout the region from Making Chips to a lot of other products that is going to be process and go into the market. I can wait for someone to start this in our community. The end of the first day is the President Reception and Silent Auction at the quarter Deck, it is nice to see a lot of familiar faces and have some good catching up on what is going on into their communities.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day March 4<sup>th</sup>- Registration and Networking Breakfast, followed by Opening and Welcome By Paul Gronholdt, next is Roll Call-Municipal Members –Shirley Marquardt, Executive Director. A quorum of current SWAMC municipal Members, either present or through proxies is required to conduct the membership meeting, followed by the approval of minutes, next is the Sub Regional Caucuses Board of Election where Councilman Dennis Robinson got elected to the Associate –Aleutian/Pribilofs and Carlin Enlow was elected to the Municipal-Aleutian/Pribilofs. Next is Financial Report Review followed by Resolution of the By-Law updates and changes for review and approval.

Next is the Buffet, Featuring Alaska Symphony of Seafood Winning Products, the speaker are Alaskan Leader Symphony winner, Ashley Heimbigner Communication Director at Alaska Seafood marketing Institute and Dan Lesh McKinley Research Group all did a presentation on how the fish are catch and handled before it get into the market and also show recipe on how it's best serve having to win the Symphony of Seafood.

Next is the Fish Management Policy in Southwest Alaska, With Commissioner Doug Vincent Lang Alaska department of fish and game, Andy Wink Executive Director Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association and Steve Minor Manager of Business Development Peter pan Seafood. It is always an interesting topic when they talked about the fishing industries, everybody in the conference room had a lot of concern on the industries from not doing enough research and not enough data collected because of Covid-19, with less quotas on Pollack's, Snow Crab, and closing of King Crab a lot of Southwest Communities are having a hard time on their budget, but they are optimistic that some will bounce back, schedule more research and collect data in this coming next year.

Next is Gubernatorial Introduction with Heidi Dragas running as LT. Governor with Bill Walker, Les Gara For Governor, Mike Duleavy No show, Charlie Price and Rep. Christopher Kurka, They did a lot of presentation in supporting a lot of needs that the state is facing, from Alaska state Highway to the Ferry System and Education and a lot of other issues, we should start hearing a lot more from every candidates in months ahead.

The last one for the day or the last one on this conference is the Legislative Update and Dialogue with Senator Stevens from Kodiak, Senator Lyman Hoffman from Bethel, Representative Louise Stutes from Kodiak and Representative Bryce Edgmon From Dillingham, each gave an update on all the issues they are working on including their operating budget, the School budget and the Alaska Marine highways and

also the Broadband that has a lot of funding specially urban communities, they all represent the South west very well they listen to what the community needs and work on it. The theme of their presentation was the fact that Rural Legislators are losing influence of the concentration of Alaska population in Urban Centers., hoping some Legislators will be in support of them to pass a balance budget.

This conference session is packed full of information, a good opportunity to discuss common issues that we are facing like other communities, it is great to see how each communities are handling each one. A lot of friendly old faces that is nice to have their acquaintances once again.

I Appreciate the Opportunity to attend Both the Juneau Lobby Trip and the SWAMC Economic Summit on behalf of the City of Unalaska...