

## Trip Report

Juneau Lobbying and Legislative Reception

March 19-21 2018

The following is a list of legislative priorities The City Council passed to take to Juneau.

### **The City of Unalaska State Priorities for FY2019:**

<b>Captains Bay road and Utility Improvement</b>	<b>\$24 Million</b>
<b>Robert Storrs Boat Harbor Improvements</b>	<b>\$9.5 Million</b>
<b>Lift Station 2 &amp; 5 Discharge Pipe Replacement</b>	<b>\$154,300</b>
<b>Automatic Meter Reading System</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Derelict Vessels Legislative Changes</b>	<b>Initiative</b>
<b>Environmental Remediation Support</b>	<b>Initiative</b>
<b>Habitat Restoration for Salmon Stock Improvement</b>	<b>Initiative</b>

### **Day 1**

Breakfast strategy meeting with Ray Gillespie, Diane Blumer and AML outgoing Executive Director Kathie Wasserman-Schultz. We went over which offices we were visiting today as well as who will be in the group as some of the offices cannot accommodate the whole group. Debbie informed us of the Legislation AML is following and how the various pieces could affect us.

We were introduced on the House floor by Representative Chris Tuck on behalf of Speaker Edgmon. Our meetings were set up by Ray Gillespie in advance to best match us up with the most beneficial committee the respective Representative or Senator sits on. Of course we always meet with our Senator Lyman Hoffman and our Representative Bryce Edgmon.

We met with the following people on the first day. Senator Lyman Hoffman, Representative Bryce Edgmon, Senator Donny Olsen and Senator Gary Stevens. We presented our list of projects as well as discussed various other topics such as the Dwindling State positions in Unalaska, the Ferry system, Education funding levels, a possible Bond package for capital projects and various fisheries issues including the ramifications of Fisherman's Finests opposition regarding the Resource Landing Tax.

In the evening we hosted our "Constituents Dinner". Though not fully attended because of the fiscal situation facing the State many of the people invited were working late. We had some very important

## **Day 2**

Breakfast strategy meeting with Ray Gillespie and Diane Blumer.

Today's meetings were with Representative Louise Stutes, Commissioner Walt Monegan, Representative Paul Seaton, Commissioner Marc Luiken, Governor Bill Walker and I met with Lisa Delaney, Legislative Aide for Representative Andy Josephson. Again we presented each with a list of our projects and discussed topics such as the States fiscal plan, education funding, Trooper and Fish and game staffing in Unalaska, Fish taxes, the Ferry system and the Importance of a replacement for the Tustumina. I went to Representative Andy Josephson's office to discuss our proposed plastic bag ban. He was sponsoring legislation to tax plastic bags. I wasn't able to speak with him directly but instead I spoke with an aide, Lisa Delaney. I went over his proposed bill with Ms. Delaney. The biggest problem with it that I saw was there were no provisions for enforcement. I told her that we were contemplating an outright ban on them.

In the evening we hosted our Legislative Reception. It is, hands down the most popular reception in Juneau during the Legislative Session. This year was no different than previous receptions. We were hit hard and heavy by staffers and their families as well as folks from the Administration that were not busy working and a few Legislators that don't have committee assignments. Governor Walker finally made it as well as some other very important Commissioners and Legislators but the crab was gone by the time they arrived. Of particular importance Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister presented a plaque to the City of Unalaska for the continued support of the US Coast Guard.

## **Day 3**

Breakfast strategy meeting with Ray Gillespie and Diane Blumer.

Today's meetings are with Deputy Director Doug Wooliver, Alaska Court System, Commissioner Michael Johnson, Education Commissioner, Forrest Bowers, ADF&G, Doug Mecum, deputy regional manager at the NOAA fisheries service Juneau office and Glenn Merrill Assistant Regional Administrator Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA, Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister of the US Coast Guard.

We presented our list of projects and initiatives we are supporting to those that mattered. Items we discussed were staffing levels and positions within the Unalaska Court house, Education Funding levels, A possible funding increase in the basic allocation per student, the importance of sideboards put on the Amendment 80 boats, we were updated on fish surveys important to us, McLees lake weir funding, salmon enforcement in Unalaska Bay, a courtesy visit to Rear Admiral McAllister's office, and visit to the new State of Alaska Museum.

In the middle of the morning we were introduced on the Senate floor by Senator Lyman Hoffman and Anna MacKinnon who used to go to school in Unalaska.

