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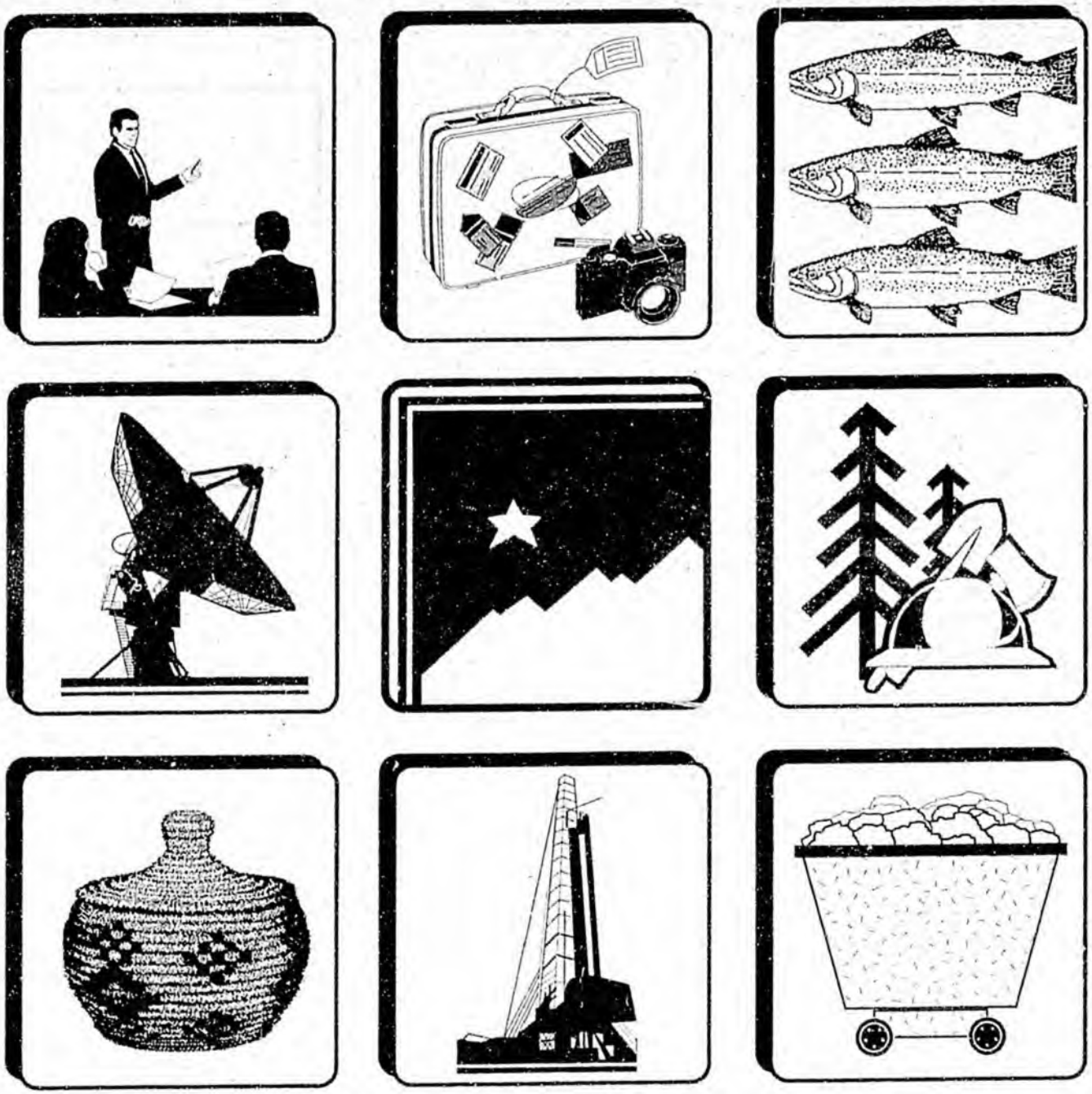


Alaska Regional Development Organizations

ANNUAL REPORT

March 1996

ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

ANCHORAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Designation Date: April 11, 1989
Max Lowe, Chairman
Patricia DeMarco, President
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 258-3700 Fax: 258-6646

ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: March 1, 1991
David Baker, President
Don Schindler, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1353
Barrow, AK 99723
Phone: 852-4146 Fax: 852-2683

COPPER VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: November 1, 1990
Carol Neeley, President
Donna Tollman, Executive Director
P.O. Box 9
Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone: 822-5001 Fax: 822-5009

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Designation Date: February 22, 1989
James Elson, Chairman
Stan Steadman, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3029
Kenai, AK 99611
Phone: 283-3335 Fax: 283-3913

LOWER KUSKOKWIM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: September 17, 1991
Andrew Guy, Chairman
Carl Berger, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2021
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: 543-5967 Fax: 543-2255

LOWER YUKON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: November 1, 1991
Larry Lujan, President
Susan Anderson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2021
Anchorage, AK 99524
Phone: 271-2424 Fax: 271-3951

MAT-SU RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Designation Date: November 1, 1993
Ted smith, President
Douglas Smith, Executive Director
351 West Parks Highway, Suite 100
Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone: 373-1062 Fax: 373-1064

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Designation Date: June 28, 1989
Charlie Curtis, Chairman
Jeff Hadley, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1110
Kotzebue, AK 99752
Phone: 442-2500 Fax: 442-2027

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: November 1, 1991
Jackie Robb, President
Paul Roetman, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2353
Valdez, AK 99686
Phone: 835-3775 Fax: 835-5770

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
Designation Date: April 14, 1989
J. Allan MacKinnon, President
Berne Miller, Executive Director
124 West Fifth Street
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: 463-3445 Fax: 463-4425

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
Designation Date: April 6, 1989
Alice Ruby, President
Mary Stadum, Executive Director
3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: 562-7380 Fax: 562-0438

ARDOR Association

ARDOR
SHAPING ALASKA'S FUTURE

Members

Donna Tollman, President
Copper Valley Economic
Development Council

Stan Steadman, Vice President
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Economic Development District

Susan Anderson, Secretary
Lower Yukon Economic
Development Council

Paul Roetman, Treasurer
Prince William Sound Economic
Development Council

Patricia DeMarco
Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation

Don Schindler
Arctic Development Council

Carl Berger
Lower Kuskokwim Economic
Development Council

Douglas Smith
Mat-Su Resource
Conservation and Development
Corporation

Jeff Hadley
Northwest Arctic Borough
Economic Development
Commission

Berne Miller
Southeast Conference

Mary Stadum
Southwest Alaska Municipal
Conference

March 1996

Dear Reader,

As we approach the seventh anniversary of designation of the first Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), there are many accomplishments to point to and many challenges that remain.

During this time, the very real need for regional economic development planning and program implementation has become increasingly evident. Each ARDOR office has not only become a focal point for development activity in its region but increasingly local residents and organizations are looking to ARDORs for economic development services and leadership. At the same time, the challenge has become even greater to find the resources necessary to carry out this important work.

Three years ago, the Alaska Legislature had the foresight to grant state agencies the authority to enter directly into contracts with ARDORs. As both federal and state agencies look for ways to downsize, while still providing a necessary level of public service, ARDORs are proving to be logical choices to bring the delivery of those services closer to the users and at a lower cost. This approach is typical of the national movement to the regionalization of federal and state program delivery and provides many opportunities for increased efficiencies and greater local participation in determining and meeting community needs.

During 1995, the ARDORs not only carried out significant economic development programs within their individual regions, but worked together on a number of projects with statewide implications. Additionally, ARDORs rededicated themselves to insuring high-level operating standards and accountability for the productive use of public and private resources.

As we prepare to enter the 21st century, the members of the ARDOR Association are committed to developing strong regional economies and healthy communities for Alaskan families throughout our state.

Sincerely,

Donna Tollman
President

ARDOR

The Year in Review

"I'm a firm believer in the long range planning aspect of regional development and the strength of local input and ownership that it provides."

Dave Cobb, Business Manager, Valdez Fisheries Development Association

The Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR) program was conceived and implemented for the purpose of establishing a network of regional organizations to plan and promote economic development at the regional level. In 1988, the Alaska Legislature established the program in statute in support of the widely held belief that locally driven initiatives, in partnership with the state, can most effectively stimulate economic development and produce healthy, sustainable local economies.

To qualify for designation as an ARDOR, applicant organizations must meet specific criteria that insure their broad-based public and private sector support as well as carry out detailed work programs that address their region's economic development needs. The program allows maximum flexibility for determining local priorities but it requires that ARDORs retain qualified, professional staff to administer their programs. Additionally, ARDORs are charged to work with the private sector, local communities, development agencies and organizations within their regions to produce a regional development strategy. This document, which must be updated every two years, provides the framework for development activities undertaken by the organizations.

Since its inception, the ARDOR program has been administered by the Division of Trade and Development within the Department of Commerce and Economic Development. The division's role has been to review annual ARDOR work plans, award and administer matching grants in support of those efforts and provide technical and professional support to ARDORs to help them achieve their goals. This level of support has been made possible with annual grants from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) matched with state CIP dollars. All state operating budget appropriations to the program have been passed directly to the ARDORs.

In FY97, administrative responsibility for the ARDOR program is proposed to be transferred to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. Additionally, the state has been notified that grants from the EDA will no longer be available to underwrite the cost of support services to ARDORs. The coming year will certainly require some adjustments on the part of the ARDORs and the state agency with whom they will be most closely associated.

In FY96, the legislature appropriated $650,000 for financial support to ARDORs; a $250,000 decrease from FY95. This provides funding of approximately $55,000 to each designated

organization. Even this modest investment enabled ARDORs to leverage an additional $5.9 million from federal, private and other funding sources. Most impressive is the growth in ARDOR revenues derived from fees for services which grew from $557.0 in FY95 to $3,177.7 to date in FY96. This reflects the increased confidence other public and private organizations have in ARDORs as they contract with them to implement projects and deliver services to user groups in their regions.

As part of their commitment to quality management and a strong public image, late in FY95 the ARDORs underwent a compliance review which resulted in one organization voluntarily ceasing operations and a second organization losing its designation as an ARDOR. This was followed by a second ARDOR losing its designation in the first half on FY96. In each case, the inability of the ARDOR to function at an appropriate level was a result of the lack of strong support for the organization from within its region. Happily, efforts are now underway to structure new ARDORs in two of those regions and it is anticipated that they will soon again be fully participating in the program.

As part of the FY96 funding application process, all ARDORs completed a self-administered survey to evaluate the degree to which they are engaged in appropriate economic development activities and operate consistent with sound management practices. The results of this survey have been analyzed and the survey instrument is being modified for continued use as a management tool.

Finally, amendments to the regulations under which the ARDOR program is administered have been proposed. Scheduled for release for public comment soon, these amendments simplify program administration and clarify ambiguous language which results in differing interpretations of program intent and regulatory requirements.

It has been a year of challenges and accomplishments for ARDORs and the future looks no less demanding. But with each year, the need for regional development organizations becomes evermore apparent and the only acceptable response must be to redouble our commitment to building strong regional economies for the benefit of all Alaskans.

"The success of SWAMC and all regional development organizations will ensure success in the region, the state and the country as a whole. People and communities who are self-reliant and feel they can contribute will always be an essential asset to the country."

Jack McFarland, Director, SWAMC

ARDOR

Anchorage Economic Development Corporation

Patricia M. DeMarco, Ph.D., President

"The ARDOR network is one of the most effective mechanisms for coordinating activities across the entire state. The regular contact mechanism and professional responsiveness of the ARDORs make economic development efforts better integrated without losing focus."

Max Lowe,
Chairman of the Board,
AEDC

The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) is a private nonprofit corporation with support from over 150 private firms, the City of Anchorage and the State of Alaska. The AEDC promotes business development by attracting new business, expanding existing businesses, and promoting opportunities for international trade.

Many successful marketing programs and activities were conducted in 1995. Following are examples of AEDC's major 1995 accomplishments:

- Continued support of the statewide BUY ALASKA program generated 185 jobs. By encouraging the use of Alaska made goods and services, $12.35 million was added to or retained in the Alaska economy.
- Submitted company-specific proposals to three major firms considering Anchorage as a location for distribution operations. Continued intense follow up with these and other global logistics prospects.
- Published a winter tourism needs assessment and began pursuing development of the recommended infrastructure projects.
- Initiated the formation of the Alaska High-Tech Business Council to be chartered in early 1996, to support and promote Alaska's high tech industry.
- Continued work with Alaska and Hawaii senators on a visa waiver proposal to allow more Koreans to travel to these two states. Continued heavy promotion of Alaska as a year-round destination to tourists from Korea and Japan and completed an Alaska travel manual for Korean travel agents.
- Collaborated with the Kenai, Mat-Su and Fairbanks ARDORs to deliver a presentation about investment opportunities in Alaska to delegates to the USA-Republic of China Joint Business Council conference held in Alaska in September 1995.
- Presented informational seminars about Alaska in Boston, Minneapolis and Chicago; producing many viable business development contacts.
- At the request of Mayor Mystrom, began facilitation of the Anchorage Seafood Industry Task Force to find ways to provide more of the support services for the seafood industry from within Alaska.
- Increased communication with companies in Alaska as well as outside by developing a Home Page on the Internet (http://www.alaska.net/~aedc/) and conducting a direct mail program to outside companies. These efforts resulted in over 5,000 new business contacts for AEDC.

AEDC's 1996 work plan calls for continued business development in the target industries of international cargo services, manufacturing and distribution, winter tourism infrastructure, seafood processing, headquarters employment and knowledge intensive industries.

Board of Directors: Max J. Lowe, Chairman

- Dennis C. Bird
- Michael F. Brady
- Fuller A. Cowell
- George R. Findling
- Jim M. Gorski
- Ernest E. Hall
- Rick L. Nerland
- Mel P. Nichols
- Tennys B. Owens
- Robert C. Penney
- B. John Shipe
- Mike E. Stone
- Phil A. Thingstad
- Dana L. Tindall

Arctic Development Council

Don Schindler, Executive Director

The Arctic Development Council is the lead development agency for the North Slope Borough. Created by the region's business leaders in 1991, it provides a vital and necessary forum for representatives of major public and private entities to address regional issues at a grassroots level. Highlights of last year include:

Small Business Support Services

- Nearly 900 client contacts. Primary contact categories:
  - General business information (21 percent)
  - Business breakfasts/training workshops (19 percent)
  - Requests for loan and financial information (13 percent)
  - Requests for Mayor's Mini-Grant program information (9 percent)
- Completed outreach plan for village-based business support services
- Conducted KUVRAQ I entrepreneurial training program with six graduates
- KUVRAQ I and II training programs scheduled for March 1996
- Grant writing assistance:
  - Two RDA applications for City of Anaktuvuk Pass; one funded
  - Provided information on grant and loan availability to over 250 clients
- Contract assistance:
  - Consultation to Pt. Lay on development of fuel delivery alternatives
- Training and Referrals:
  - Four workshops on small business start up and management topics

Small Business Incubator Services

- Opened for business July 1995; first tenant admitted November 1995
- Services provided to incubator clients include:
  - Shared secretarial and office support
  - Photocopying and clerical support
  - Access to business library and data terminals
  - Building security and professional building management
- Received Alaska Municipal League Award of Excellence in *Innovation in Economic Development* category

Revolving Loan Fund

- Revolving Loan Fund Implementation Plan submitted to borough for "seed" capitalization
- Possibility of federal match for borough capitalization appears likely
- Plan provides micro-loans of $5.0 to $15.0 for working capital and inventory purchases
- ADC role as community lender permits growth into funding source for larger fixed asset financing

"The Arctic Development Council is a very needed organization. It is helping small businesses form in Barrow and our outlying communities. it is extremely important to help these small businesses get going, especially in this region which is dependent on such a high percentage of government jobs."

Grant Thompson, President, Cape Smythe Air Service

Board of Directors: David Baker, President

- Brian Bazzett
- Robert Harcharek
- Robin Harrison
- David Hoffman
- Jeslie Kaleak
- Tony Kesler
- Bruce Kleven
- Price Leavitt
- Ben Nageak
- Grant Thompson
- Jim Vorderstrasse

ARDOR

Copper Valley Economic Development Council

Donna Tollman, Executive Director

"The CVEDC is responsible for many activities that have gone a long way toward bettering the quality of life in our region. The ARDOR program has reinvigorated us and created more excitement and interest in this community than we've seen since construction of the pipeline."

Theresa Absher, CVEDC Director

The mission of the Copper Valley Economic Development Council (CVEDC) is to coordinate public and private resources in the Copper Valley region to create an environment in which economic development can occur. CVEDC has a number of projects underway to further our goals and objectives for economic development in the Copper Valley region of Alaska.

Installation of the Interactive Distance Learning/Medical Link project is underway. This project will provide interactive television linkage to seven communities' school sites, three medical clinics and Prince Williams Sound Community College to provide expanded educational, medical, and work force development and training opportunities.

Visitation to the Copper Valley continues to increase as the National Park Service advances its plans to build a new Visitor Center and Park Headquarters to serve the Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The Kennicott/McCarthy area is receiving increased visitation, which, in turn, is creating a number of opportunities for residents throughout the region. CVEDC is working on a number of hotel and restaurant development projects, as well as smaller businesses to accommodate the needs of the visitors and local residents.

CVEDC continues to provide assistance to local communities with project development, day care assistance, business information, business planning, financing and funding information and job training. The ARDOR provides a strong linkage between the region's public and private sectors.

Affordable energy remains a key barrier to economic development in the region. CVEDC and its board of directors feel the Sutton to Glennallen Interie is the long-term solution to overcoming this barrier. The construction of the line would ultimately mean a better bottom line for existing business and would make new business development a feasible proposition.

Board of Directors: Carol Neeley, President

- Theresa Absher
- Mary Bowman
- John Downes
- Darby Hobson
- Vickie Nelson
- Thelma Schrank
- Will Tipton
- Susan Winingham

ARDOR

Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District

Stan Steadman, Executive Director

The KPBEDD mission is to serve the residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough by enhancing the quality of life through responsible and sustainable regional economic development activities. To further the mission, the KPBEDD managed a variety of projects in 1995 which are leading to significant development activities.

- Expanded Infrastructure: analyzed natural gas access to Homer, Seward, and communities in between; planned for development of a world-class volcano interpretive center between Anchor Point and Ninilchik; participated on team to establish a shellfish research and hatchery facility in Seward and shellfish nursery in Kachemak Bay; studied economic impact of expanded ice rink development in communities throughout Kenai Peninsula; and served on teams to develop a Challenger Learning Center in Kenai and make downtown improvements through Soldotna Main Street Program.
- Opportunities for Entrepreneurs: administered a $280,000 revolving loan fund which has provided financing to 13 businesses; established UAA/ Small Business Development Subcenter which provided training, consultation and other technical assistance; established Business Innovation Center (small business incubator); awarded one of six national Ford Foundation/National Association of Development Organizations Partnership Grants to establish Youth Enterprise Development Project.
- Community Capacity Building: provided administrative and/or technical support to the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council, Kenai Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development District, Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association, Healthy Communities-Healthy People, Kenai Peninsula Opportunities, and the Peninsula School-To-Work Program.
- Information and Publications for Economic Opportunities: published Situation & Prospects (S&P), Quarterly Update, Overall Economic Development Plan: 1995 - 96 Update, and EDD Update; provided funding support for Kenai Peninsula Meeting Planner Guide, and distributed Kenai Peninsula Borough Prospectus.
- Developing Markets: facilitated Russian exchanges with Sakhalin region in cooperation with Russian American Center and in anticipation of local oil and gas industry involvement; organized trade missions to Russia and sister city, Akita, Japan.

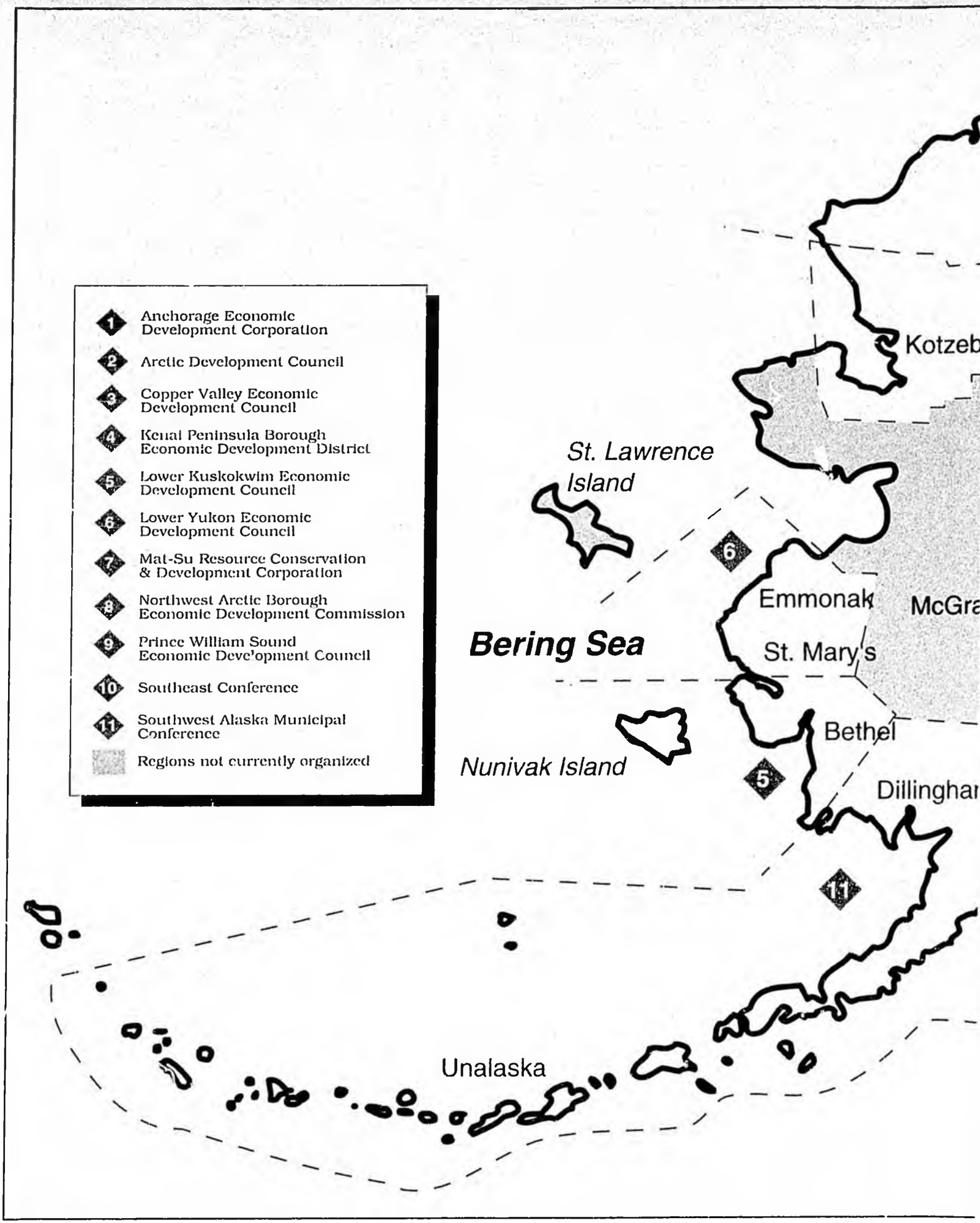
These projects resulted in the involvement of over six hundred residents on boards, councils, task forces, and oversight committees. 1995 was a productive year for Kenai Peninsula economic development efforts.

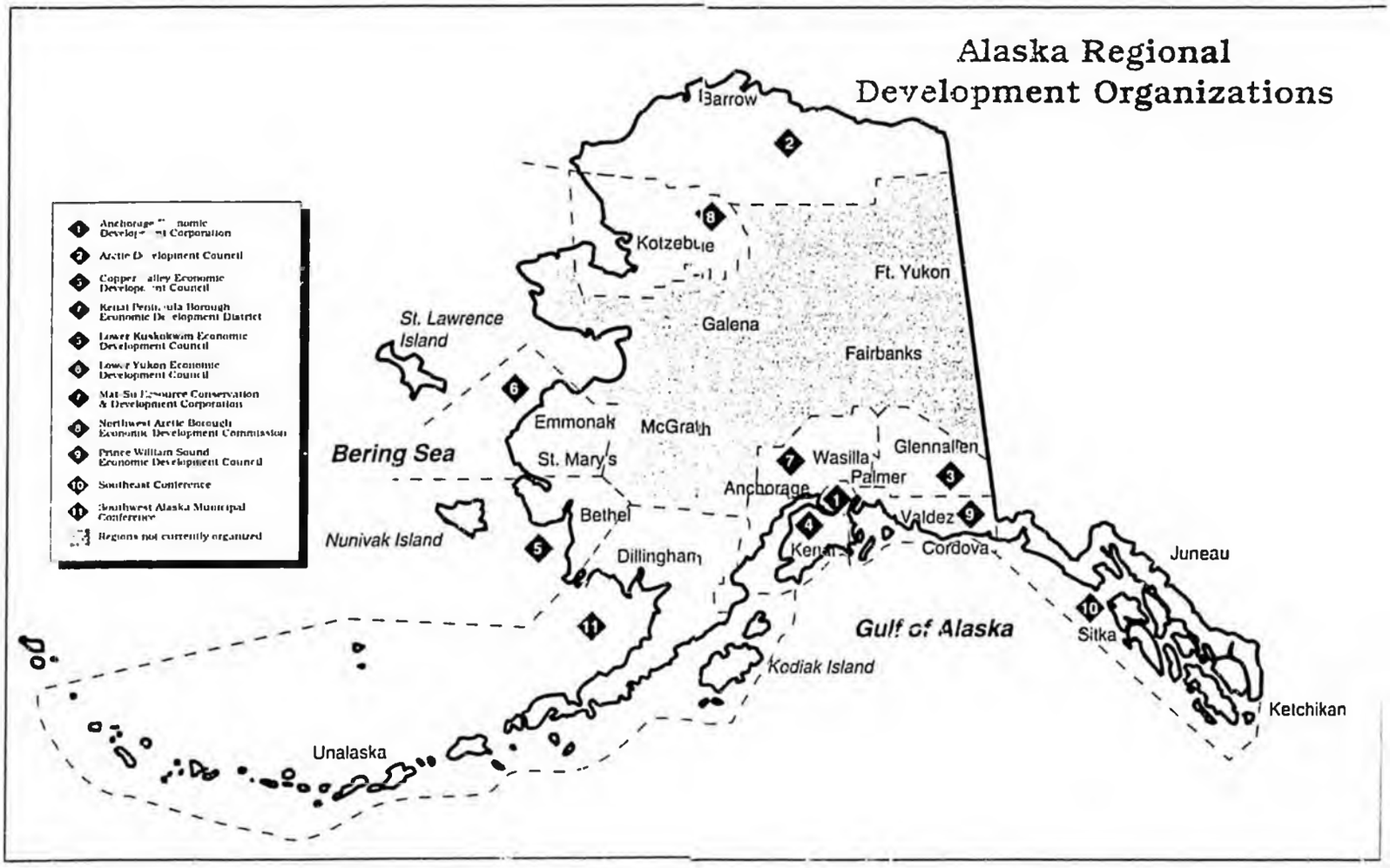
"It wasn't many years ago that people from the various Kenai Peninusla communities had a difficult time discussing a regional issue, let alone working together to resolve one. Today, with the KPBEDD's help as a facilitator and forum for region-based cooperative efforts, people and communities through out the borough routinely interact for the mutual benefit of all. The ARDOR program is one of the major reasons this has become possible."

Jeff Murphy, KPBEDD Director

Board of Directors: James A. Elson, Chairman

- Louis Bencardino
- Jack Brown
- Penny Carty
- Jim Chambers
- Kurt Eriksson
- Harry E. Gregoire
- Debra Horne
- Tom Manninen
- Sharon Moock
- Philemon Morris
- Jeff Murphy
- Ray Springer
- Drew Scalzi
- Mary Tougas
- Jefferson Trenton


1 Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
2 Arctic Development Council
3 Copper Valley Economic Development Council
4 Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District
5 Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council
6 Lower Yukon Economic Development Council
7 Mat-Su Resource Conservation & Development Corporation
8 Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission
9 Prince William Sound Economic Development Council
10 Southeast Conference
11 Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
Regions not currently organized
Kotzeb
St. Lawrence Island
Emmonak
McGra
Bering Sea
St. Mary's
Bethel
Nunivak Island
Dillingha
Unalaska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Lower Yukon Economic Development Council
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Regions not currently organized
Barrow
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Ft. Yukon
Galena
Fairbanks
St. Lawrence Island
Emmonak
McGrath
Bering Sea
St. Mary's
Wasilla
Palmer
Glennallen
Anchorage
Bethel
Valdez
Nunivak Island
Dillingham
Kenai
Cordova
Juneau
Gulf of Alaska
Sitka
Kodiak Island
Ketchikan
Unalaska

Alaska Regional Development Organizations

ARDOR
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Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council

Carl Berger, Executive Director

"Starting a new business is like caring for a baby. The baby is helpless and you must do whatever has to be done to meet its needs and keep it healthy so it will grow and prosper."

Alexie Jimmie, LKEDC Director

The Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council (LKEDC) is a nonprofit 501c(3) corporation designed as a partnership of the private and public sectors of the Lower Kuskokwim region, with broad representation from the sixteen-member board of directors.

The mission of the Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council is to promote regional economic development activities in Bethel and the surrounding Lower Kuskokwim villages, including local planning and assistance in securing funding for small business activities and the preparation of grant proposals to fund village economic development and infrastructure needs.

Currently, the council is involved in the following activities:

- Valued-added fish processing and production in the region, to supply schools and local institutions with salmon nuggets and other fish products and to create local employment.
- Establishing a joint venture with a boat-building company from outside the region to produce boats locally for village use and to create local employment.
- Establishing tourism-related businesses in selected villages in the region. Developing accommodations, services and infrastructure in all area villages to meet the needs of the traveling public.
- Forming a partnership with the Bethel Chamber of Commerce to carry out their activities and promote participation in the Chamber by businesses from throughout the region.
- Developing a locally-based, value-added fur production industry in area villages.
- Providing capacity building to village organizations for the establishment and growth of local small businesses.
- Assisting the fish processing facility in Quinhagak to become operational.
- Utilizing the Mekoryuk reindeer processing facility for processing of halibut and other fish species.

Board of Directors: Andrew Guy, Chairman

- Max Angellan
- Sam George
- Rep. Richard Foster
- Sen. Lyman Hoffman
- Rep. Ivan M. Ivan
- Alexie Jimmie
- Harold Jones
- Gary Korthuis
- Jackson Lomack
- Ted Moses
- Myron Naneng
- Robert Nick
- Fred Phillip
- Carolyn Walters

ARDOR

Lower Yukon Economic Development Council

Susan Anderson, Executive Director

The Lower Yukon Economic Development Council (LYEDC) is a private, nonprofit corporation whose board of directors represent the ten villages and the major businesses in the region. The strength of both LYEDC and its initiatives lies in its board of directors.

LYEDC's board is made up of community and business leaders whose goals reflect those of the region's residents. It is key to ensuring that the organization skillfully serves the region and its people. The board has begun the process of updating LYEDC's Regional Development Strategy. This plan identifies long-range goals which LYEDC will play a role in achieving which include expanding business opportunities and increasing value added production in the region.

Since its formation, the Lower Yukon Economic Development Council has worked to enhance the economic well-being of the region by first encouraging a "can-do" spirit among it residents. With this spirit in place, the LYEDC has been able to help identify economic opportunities and assist local residents in the development and realization of their goals. LYEDC achieves this by facilitating the inflow of information and new ideas to the region as well as by raising the awareness of state and federal agencies of the conditions and opportunities on the Lower Yukon.

Much of this effort has resulted in productive partnerships with other economic development organizations which bring increased project funding and services to local residents. These partnerships include:

- **CDQ - ARDOR Business Assistance Partnership Agreement**
  The ARDOR is providing technical assistance to fishermen and fisheries related businesses in the CDQ villages. In addition, the ARDOR will train local CDQ representatives to provide these services in the future.
- **RECD AmeriCorps - ARDOR Community Development Project**
  The USDA Rural Economic and Community Development Service awarded LYEDC seven AmeriCorps slots to provide community organizing and development services within the region. This partnership has the added benefit of training local people in the concepts and practice of community and economic development.
- **IRS - ARDOR Tax Payer Education in the Schools Program**
  The IRS, in partnership with LYEDC and the Lower Yukon school districts, is offering tax preparation classes in each of the region's schools. These classes will not only aid the students as they grow older, but also allow them to charge for tax preparation services in the villages, both providing a valuable service and producing income for savings or investment.
- **RECD - ARDOR Leading Communities Project**
  In May, RECD proposed a cooperative project whereby government agencies and ARDORs work together through a community liaison to concentrate economic development resources on that community. This project has so far led to the development of projects in housing and the environment.

"LYEDC has done an excellent job of pulling economic development resources to the Lower Yukon. We are lucky to have an office in Anchorage which can hear our concerns and promote the well being of this region."

Scott Wagner, Alakanuk

Board of Directors: Larry Lujan, President

- Edward Adams
- Bill Alstrom
- Nick Andrew
- Andrew Brown, Sr.
- Joe Evan
- Bay Johnson
- Andrew Kelly, Sr.
- Dan Kirby
- Alvin Owletuck, Sr.
- George Owletuck
- Laura Perez
- Paul Phillip
- Anthony Ulak
- Caroline Ulak

ARDOR

Mat-Su Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.

Douglas Smith, Executive Director

"Our challenge is to identfy opportunities to achieve a consensus that will result in solid accomplishments. Our success will be measured by the improvements in our quality of life."

Ted Smith, President, Mat-Su RC&D

Mat-Su Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. (Mat-Su RC&D) represents a partnership of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the ARDOR program. This alliance pools our limited financial resources and allows concentration on the goals of development.

The Matanuska Su atna Borough faces many challenges in the creation of a solid economic base. Nearly 40 percent of our residents work outside the borough; perhaps due to high unemployment rates and lower wages in the Mat-Su. Yet, our population has increased at three times Alaska's average rate over the past 13 years. To meet these demands Mat-Su RC&D is working with the borough in several areas including promotion of infrastructure, recreation and tourism facilities and the wise use of our natural resources.

Projects underway or completed in this past year include the following:

Marketing Port MacKenzie: Created and distributed a Port Prospectus targeting industrial companies looking for expansion or relocation. This is a regional economic development project with potential to provide direct access to the resources of Alaska's interior.

Hatcher Pass Task Force: Formed a task force to deal with obstacles in development of a local ski facility. Mat-Su RC&D made recommendations to the Mat-Su Borough, presentations to local Chambers of Commerce, and helped to move the community toward consensus.

Constructed Wetlands: Mat-Su RC&D is working with a citizen-based effort to build a playground in Wasilla. The playground will be designed and built by the community and financed through private donations.

Other projects include assistance to Alaska Glacier Valley Grains, the Center for Appropriate Technology, Alaska Bed & Breakfast Association, Knik Glacier Access Project, Big Lake Hatchery, and a Timber Bridge demonstration project.

Mat-Su RC&D is made up a diverse board of directors which provides the depth of knowledge and experience needed to respond to the many issues confronting our region.

Board of Directors: Ted Smith, President

- Freeda Adams
- Cindy Bettine
- Shane Bignell
- John Bogue
- Jim Carter
- Dan Deedy
- Rose Marie DePriest
- John Eder
- Clarence Furbush
- Henry Guinotte
- Steve Levine
- Carol Meyer
- Doug Mills
- Rose Palmquist
- Jackson Parry
- Darcie Salmon
- Calvin Steele
- Dick Zobell

ARDOR
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Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission

Jeffery Hadley, Executive Director

The Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission's updated and adopted Overall Economic Development Plan opened the way for federal assistance programs to help fund local projects. That this document reaffirmed projects identified in an earlier application, which resulted in the award of Champion Community status, had some pleasant consequences. The Kiana Traditional Council received USDA funding for an arts and crafts facility and the Buckland IRA Council was awarded funds by the Administration for Native Americans to begin production and sale of Native food products, including smoked meats and berry preserves.

A video, promoting tourism visitation to the region, has been completed with the support of more than $60,000 in services contributed by local businesses. Soon, the NABEDC will have the capability to produce compact disks from videos and will consider producing a CD for computer use, not only for distribution to travel agents but also for sale over the Internet.

The Kiana Rapid Response System for village fire fighting has been set up and packaged for export to other communities. This system is sold as a package, which includes hardware and training of the community volunteer fire department for quick response to fires. Arctic Novelties Manufacturing in Kotzebue received an RDA mini-grant for production equipment for Arctic Igloo kits. Kiana is now making a small amount of profit on its tourism trade, which is still in the test marketing stage. Buckland IRA and an anthropologist will be collaborating on producing a compact disk for educating school children about beluga whale hunting. A commercial CD on the same topic is also under consideration for sale over the Internet.

Currently, the only local access to the Internet is through an AlaskaNET switch in Kotzebue and its access is limited to Prodigy. Working with the local telephone cooperative, it appears better access will be available in the near future. The village schools now have an 800 dial up e-mail and bulletin board service available to them, which was secured the NABEDC.

NW_Arctic_Borough@prodigy.com is the address to use to contact the NABEDC via e-mail. A web page will be available before June 1996.

Alaska's real future lies in its ARDORs. When the oil is gone, Alaska will look to its grass roots organizations for the help it needs to continue economic growth."

John Downes, CVEDC Director

Board of Directors: Charlie Curtis, Chairman

- Joe Ballot
- Reggie Cleveland
- Donald Dorsey
- Chuck Greene
- Frank Greene
- Ralph Hargraves
- Jason Jessup
- Alex Navarro
- Doug Neal
- Brad Reeves
- Randy Swenson

ARDOR

Prince William Sound Economic Development Council

Paul Roetman, Executive Director

"PWSEDC continues to be instrumental in opening the door to the region's economic development opportunities by assisting private and public sector cooperation that capitalizes on that opportunity. Simply put, they make things happen in Prince William Sound."

Mark Stahl, Manager, Lands & Resources Department Chugach Alaska Corporation

PWSEDC's primary mission is to serve as a forum for the discussion of regional economic issues and to foster economic growth and job creation through strategic planning and infrastructure development. PWSEDC has had an exceptional year in planning, securing funding and coordinating development projects throughout the region's five communities. Following are highlights of PWSEDC's proactive stance and development activities.

- Growing Regional Presence - From a staff of one in 1993, PWSEDC has grown to a staffing level of four, including a regional office in Valdez and a satellite office in Cordova. This growth is a direct result of increased project-related work and contracts.
- Diversified Revenue Base - PWSEDC has achieved an unprecedented level of funding for FY 96, with a current operational and project budget over $1.5 million.
- In August 1995, the Department of Natural Resources contracted with PWSEDC for $1.35 million to manage four marine park projects. These include creation of trails and restroom facilities at Dock Point Beach in Valdez and improvements to the Allison Point sport fishing area near Valdez, the Fleming Spit sport fishing area in Cordova and a one-and-a-half mile hiking trail to Iktua Bay from Chenega Village.
- PWSEDC is nearing completion of a 16-month, $310,000 Sound Waste Management Plan. Developed by the region's communities, the plan resulted in a number of long-term, cost-effective recommendations. Two now being pursued by PWSEDC include a $1 million Environmental Operation Station proposal to be submitted to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for funding and a $400,000 appropriation for development of a new land fill site for the City of Cordova.
- With the recent additions to staff, PWSEDC has the capacity to undertake local planning efforts through contracts with the communities in the region. Planning scheduled for this year include an Economic Development Strategy ($11,500) for the community of Cordova, an Overall Economic Development Plan ($7,200) for the village of Tatitlek and the completion of a Boat Harbor Comparative Analysis ($10,500) and Overall Economic Development Plan ($13,500) for the City of Valdez.
- Other projects to be undertaken this year include: 1) A $1.1 million proposal for the Valdez Duck Flats Viewing Area Project for construction of a series of boardwalks to accommodate the growing number of visitors. 2) Several grant applications in support of development projects including a $100,000 CDBG for the City of Cordova, a $65,000 CDBG for the City of Valdez, and two grant proposals totaling $80,000 for the Village of Chenega Bay.

Board of Directors: Jackie Robb, President

- Scott Clark
- Dave Cobb
- R. C. Collin
- Dave Dengel
- Jeff Fulton
- Clayton Huriess
- Scott Janke
- Mark Johnson
- Gary Kompkoff
- Brian Lettich
- Randy Maag
- JoAnn McDowell
- Chris Overbeck
- Mark Stahl
- Chuck Totemoff
- Tom Van Brocklin

ARDOR

Southeast Conference

Berne Miller, Executive Director

For Southeast Conference, 1995 was a year of transition and growth. A complete staff turnover in February brought new ideas and new energy to Conference endeavors. Key were increased emphasis on regional economic development and a new focus on locally-initiated community development. By year's end, the result was a renewed commitment to improving economic, social, and environmental conditions throughout southeast Alaska and first steps toward increasing the Conference's capacity to make things happen for the region's people and communities.

As in the past, during 1995 Southeast Conference gave first attention to the lifeblood of the region's economic and social well-being, the Alaska Marine Highway System. The Conference's Transportation Committee continued its traditional work with Department of Transportation leaders on system operations and maintenance, scheduling, and expansion, and worked with several independent developers who propose undertaking projects to add capacity to the system. The Conference's newly-named Environment Committee settled into its recently-expanded role as it continued working with state agencies to help craft regulations that accomplish the intended purpose, at a cost our small rural communities can afford. And, of course, the Conference's successful region-wide Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program continued.

As an ARDOR, Southeast Conference put clear focus on creating jobs in the private sector, protecting private-sector jobs that currently exist, and working to resurrect jobs that have disappeared unnecessarily in the past. Drawing on a grant provided by several of its private-sector members, the Conference undertook active participation in the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan revision process. The Conference's objective is to ensure that Forest Service decisions cause no avoidable adverse economic or social consequences for the people and communities of southeast Alaska and, if possible, reverse the unintended economic contraction that followed passage of the Tongass Timber Reform Act in 1990.

Early in the year, Southeast Conference was designated the Resource Conservation and Development Council for southeast Alaska. In this role, the Conference takes on the mission of accelerating utilization and conservation of the region's natural resources. The Conference will execute this new mission by finding groups of citizens who want to make things happen in their local communities, then helping them initiate and complete projects they decide are needed close to home. New resources that come with RC&D designation should be in place by mid-1996.

Finally, in the years ahead, Southeast Conference intends to find ways to deliver services the region's people and communities need but which federal and state governments can no longer provide as budget reductions and program down-sizing continue. While communities, regions, and the entire state face significant challenges in the future, Southeast Conference remains convinced that working public/private partnerships represent one of the most effective approaches to solving regional problems and meeting regional needs.

"The advice and facilitation Southeast Conference provided during our recent renewal effort was a significant factor in our citizens bringing that endeavor to a successful conclusion."

Sioux Plummer, Mayor, City of Skagway

Board of Directors: J. Allan MacKinnon, President

- Forrest DeWitt
- Rosemary Hagevig
- Marieke Nordlinger
- Bobbie Permenter
- Dick Smith
- Linda Snow
- David Stone
- Ginny Tierney
- John Tronrud
- Bob Ward

ARDOR
SHAPING ALASKA'S FUTURE

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

Mary Stadum, Executive Director

"Our work is never done at SWAMC, as we map out directions for how to achieve economic development goals. Some may never be reached, but that's ok for what we accomplish along the way helps in ways that cannot be measured."

Carvel Zimin, Jr., SWAMC, Director

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC), with over one hundred and twenty-five public and private sector members, advances the region's collective interests and helps promote economic development opportunities to improve the quality of life and influence long-term, responsible development. Recent accomplishments include:

- PLANNING - SWAMC publishes an annual update to the Overall Economic Development Plan for southwest Alaska, including an overview of the area and its economy, identification of economic issues, and highlighting significant accomplishments in the region. SWAMC provides planning assistance to members and support for local development initiatives.
- INFORMATION EXCHANGE - SWAMC publishes a bimonthly newsletter featuring articles on events and issues affecting southwest Alaska. Highlights include community and member activities, SWAMC resolutions, local and national economic development information, grant sources, seafood marketing information, training opportunities, and an events calendar.
- CONFERENCES - Two annual conferences are held each year, each attracting over 100 participants. They focus on economic development and municipal issues including fisheries, tourism, transportation, environmental clean up, and small business development. Conferences offer members an opportunity to network with each other, with elected officials, and policy makers.
- RESOLUTIONS - SWAMC members develop resolutions that are distributed to policy makers expressing the collective views of Southwest residents on state and federal issues important to the region. Seventeen resolutions on fisheries, tourism, transportation, energy, education, and economic development were passed and distributed by SWAMC membership in 1995.
- MARKETING - SWAMC attends trade and travel shows, develops publications and surveys, and places advertising to market the region and its resources. Last year, SWAMC responded to over 3,000 visitor inquiries and referred follow-up inquiries to SWAMC tourism industry members.
- SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT - SWAMC provided assistance and training to over one hundred individuals and businesses during the past year, including training in marketing, packaging tours, sales tracking, desktop publishing, and customer services.
- FISHERIES MANAGEMENT - SWAMC has lobbied successfully at the state and federal level for legislation and policies beneficial to commercial fishing and resource preservation, including support for CDQs and inshore/offshore allocations, reauthorization of the Magnuson Act, and increases in the Department of Fish and Game budget for southwest Alaska.
- TRANSPORTATION - SWAMC successfully lobbied Alaska's national and state legislators for an ocean-going ferry vessel, increased Alaska Marine Highway service to the Aleutian Chain, and is working for expanded marine and air transportation to and within southwest Alaska.

Board of Directors: Alice Ruby, President

- Glen Alsworth
- Jim Brenner
- Steve Hakala
- Frank Kelty
- Stephanie Madsen
- Jack McFarland
- Kara Sandvik
- Jerome Selby
- Jim Stevens
- Wayne Stevens
- Carvel Zimin

FY 96 Alaska Regional Development Organization Funding Sources to Date - March 1996

	Anchorage Economic Development Corporation	Arctic Development Council	Copper Valley Economic Development Council	Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District	Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council	Lower Yukon Economic Development Council	Mat-Su Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.	Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission	Prince William Sound Economic Development Council	Southeast Conference	Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference	Funding Source Totals
Federal Funds												
Commerce - EDA				108.9							65.0	173.9
Agriculture - USFS				17.6								17.6
Agriculture - RUS			487.0									487.0
Agriculture - NRCS				12.8	7.0	10.0	136.4			15.1		181.3
Agriculture - RECD					2.5	97.3						99.8
Other		18.0				21.7		15.0				54.7
State Funds												
DCED - ARDOR	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	605.0
DCED - Other				12.9							5.5	18.4
DCRA			60.0									60.0
H&HS				37.9								37.9
Local Government	370.0						10.0	155.7				535.7
Membership Fees							.8		35.2	48.5	40.0	124.5
Local Communities			150.0	50.0		2.0	3.0					205.0
Private Sector	300.0	33.0	.4		3.5		2.0				9.0	347.9
Fees for Services	255.0	868.0		470.4	7.2	83.0			1,489.6		4.5	3,177.7
Private Sector Grants				27.5						40.0	2.5	70.0
In-Kind Contributions	100.0		.2		5.0			60.0			9.0	174.2
Interest Income	10.0		.4	23.0	1.1	1.2				2.0	1.2	38.9
Other	2.0			93.5	4.0				5.5	22.5	48.0	175.5
BUDGET TOTALS	1,092.0	974.0	753.0	909.5	85.3	270.2	207.2	285.7	1,585.3	183.1	239.7	6,585.0

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)
Date Referred to Committee: February 5, 1997 FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/18/97

The FINANCE Committee considered: HB 35

HOUSE BILL NO. 35 EXTEND REG. ECONOMIC ASST PROGRAM

"An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska regional economic assistance program; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute _____ [ ] the same title [ ] a new title

[ ] additional referral to _____ Committee
[ ] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[ ] fiscal note(s) _____ [X] fiscal note(s) DCRA, 2/5/97

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) _____ [ ] zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Therriault	+		X	
	Hanley				X
	Mulder	X			
	Martin				X
	Kohring			X	
	Davies			X	
	Grussendorf	X			
	Davis			X	
	Kelly				
	Foster	X			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1
Bill Version: HB 35
(H) Publish Date: 2/5/97

Revision Date:
Title: An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska regional economic assistance ...
Sponsor: Rep. Austerman
Requestor: House C&RA

Dept. Affected: Community & Regional Affairs
BRU: Community and Economic Development
Component: Community and Economic Development
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2151

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 03	FY 04
PERSONAL SERVICES	46.4	46.4	46.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS	620.0	620.0	620.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	666.4	666.4	666.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other (I/A)	666.4	666.4	666.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	666.4	666.4	666.4	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART-TIME	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current (FY97) impact $ none

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill continues the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program for three more years (FY 98 -00). Interagency receipts from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority will fund the program in FY98 and until the ARDOR program sunsets as provided in the bill. There are 12 ARDORs covering most regions of the State. The Amounts above are presented for information purposes only - they reflect amounts requested in the FY 98 Governor's budget request.

Prepared by: Remond Henderson, Director Remond Henderson Phone: 465-4708
Division: Division of Administrative Services Date: 1/30/97
Approved by Commissioner: Mike Durr Date: 1/30/97
Agency: Community & Regional Affairs

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REPRESENTATIVE ALAN AUSTERMAN Alaska State Legislature

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SPONSOR STATEMENT - HB 35

In 1988 the Alaska Regional Development Organizations program was created in statute. Commonly referred to as ARDOR's, they are private, nonprofit corporations formed by local initiative to promote private sector economic development within their designated regions.

The statutory authority for the program, previously AS 44.33.026, is now found in AS 44.47.900. The program was transferred by Executive Order 93, from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to the Department of Community & Regional Affairs and is under the administrative oversight of the Division of Municipal & Regional Assistance.

The ARDOR program has led to the formation of 11 regional development organizations such as the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, the Southeast Conference, the Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation. Nearly two hundred representatives of local political, social and economic interests, who serve on ARDOR boards of directors, are working together to lead their regions to greater economic self-sufficiency.

The ARDOR grants, while not particularly large, are not tied to specific projects and so may be used for operating expenses and to leverage dollars from other sources. These are the hardest kind of dollars to find and are, therefore, extremely valuable to the organizations. Millions of additional dollars have been leveraged from federal, private and other funding sources.

ARDOR's are achieving significant success in sustainable development through the establishment of production and marketing cooperatives, improved access to capital, development and marketing of tourism destinations, technical assistance and training for local businesses and entrepreneurs, support to value added production and proactive involvement in locally initiated economic development projects.

Another important benefit afforded ARDOR's by statute is the ability of state agencies to enter into contracts, with them being exempt from a competitive procurement process. This has proven beneficial to ARDOR's, who are able to provide greater local expertise in service delivery or project implementation, and to state agencies who through the ARDOR's, are able to deliver services or projects more efficiently and with less administrative burden.

Sound economic development relies heavily on solid partnerships between the public and private sectors. The ARDOR's were conceived to facilitate this kind of partnering and to bring a regional perspective to the discussion of economic development issues.

The original legislation had a sunset clause that ended the program in 1993, but was extended until the end of fiscal year 1997. I believe it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to continue the ARDOR program to insure the ongoing economic viability of Alaska's various regions.

Article 9A. Regional Economic Assistance Program.

Section
900. Alaska regional economic assistance program

Effective dates. — Section 8, E.O. No. 93, makes this article effective July 1, 1996.

Sec. 44.47.900. Alaska regional economic assistance program. (a) The department shall

(1) encourage the formation of regional development organizations by providing assistance in forming organizations to interested individuals, including information on how to qualify and apply for regional development grants and federal funding under 42 U.S.C. 3121 — 3246 (Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965), as amended;

(2) assist an interested individual in establishing boundaries for a proposed organization to ensure that the region

(A) is of sufficient geographic size and contains a large enough population to form an economically viable unit with shared interests, resources, traditions, and goals;

(B) contains at least one municipality that serves as a regional center; and

(C) contains the entire area of each municipality included in the region;

(3) gather information about regional economic issues, international trade, and tourism from organizations;

(4) serve as liaison between organizations and other state agencies and encourage other agencies to make resources available to help accomplish goals of the organizations;

(5) assist each organization to

(A) provide services designed to encourage economic development to local communities and businesses;

(B) collect and distribute economic information relevant to the region;

(C) participate in state marketing campaigns and join state trade missions that are relevant to the region; and

(D) develop and implement strategies to attract new industry, expand international trade opportunities, and encourage tourism within the region.

(b) Subject to (c) of this section, the department may make regional development grants to organizations for projects the department determines will be of value in encouraging economic development. During a fiscal year the department may make no more than 15 grants and may only make grants to one organization from a particular region. An organization that is designated an economic development district under 42 U.S.C. 3171 qualifies for grants under this subsection. The department shall by regulation adopt procedures for applying for regional development grants, including application deadlines. The department may by regulation establish additional grant eligibility requirements.

(c) To qualify for a grant, a regional development organization must match the grant by providing an amount of money from nonstate sources. The department shall establish by regulation a formula that determines the amount of the match required under this subsection based upon the capability of each organization to generate money from nonstate sources. The amount of match required may not exceed the amount of grant money and may not be less than 20 percent of the grant. The total amount of grant money provided to an organization during a fiscal year may not exceed $100,000.

(d) There is established in the department the regional development fund consisting of appropriations to the fund. Money from the fund may be used only for regional development grants.

(e) In this section, "regional development organization" or "organization" means a nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation formed to encourage economic development within a particular region of the state that includes the entire area of each municipality within that region and that has a board of directors that represents the region's economic, political, and social interests. (E.O. No 93 § 4 (1996))

Repeal of section. — Under § 3, ch. 94, SLA 1988, as amended by § 1, ch. 35, SLA 1992 and § 6, E.O. 93, this section is repealed effective July 1, 1997.

Cross references. — For transitional provisions relating to the 1996 transfer of responsibility for the Alaska regional economic assistance program from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, see § 7, E.O. 93, in the Executive Orders pamphlet.

Article 10. General Provisions

Section
980. Regulations
998. Definitions

Sec. 44.47.980. Regulations. The department may adopt regulations in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to carry out the purposes of this chapter. (§ 2 ch 200 SLA 1972)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.47.160. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.47.998. Definitions. In this chapter

(1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of community and regional affairs;

(2) "community" means home rule cities and boroughs, cities and boroughs of any class, and unorganized boroughs and villages that are social units;

(3) "department" means the Department of Community and Regional Affairs;

(4) "region" means an area larger than a community, or including all or part of more than one community, but sufficiently integrated that it may be treated as a unit for administration of particular services. (§ 2 ch 200 SLA 1972)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.47.170. Renumbered in 1980

Chapter 50. Notaries Public.

Section
10. Appointment and commission
20. Qualifications
30. Term of office
40. Fees
50. Duties
70. Presence and identification required
80. Seal
90. Protest of bill or note
100. Return of papers to lieutenant governor
110. Application of Administrative Procedure Act to revocation of notary commission
120. Bond
130. Filing oath and bond
140. Disposition of bond
150. Copy of bond as evidence
160. Misconduct or neglect
170. State employees as notaries
180. Postmasters as notaries
190. Savings clause

Revisor's notes. — In 1971 "lieutenant governor" was substituted for "secretary of state" in this chapter to conform with the 1970 amendment to the state constitution.

Cross references. — For provisions governing oaths, acknowledgments and related matters, see AS 09.63.

1/97

ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

ANCHORAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Designation Date April 11, 1989
Max Lowe, Chairman
Patricia DeMarco, President
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 258-3700 Fax: 258-6646
AEDC@alaska.net

ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: March 1, 1991
David Baker, President
Don Schindler, Executive Director
P.O Box 1353
Barrow, AK 99723
Phone: 852-4146 Fax: 852-2683

COPPER VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: November 1, 1990
Carol Neeley, President
Donna Tollman, Executive Director
P.O Box 9
Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone: 822-5001 Fax: 822-5009

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Designation Date: February 22, 1989
James Elson, Chairman
Stan Steadman, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3029
Kenai, AK 99611
Phone: 283-3335 Fax: 283-3913

LOWER KUSKOKWIM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: September 17, 1991
Andrew Guy, Chairman
Carl Berger, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2021
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: 543-5967 Fax: 543-2255

LOWER YUKON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: November 1, 1991
Larry Lujan, President
Susan Anderson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2021
Anchorage, AK 99524
Phone: 271-2424 Fax: 271-3951

MAT-SU RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Designation Date: November 1, 1993
Ted smith, President
Douglas Smith, Executive Director
351 West Parks Highway, Suite 100
Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone: 373-1062 Fax: 373-1064

NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Designation Date: June 28, 1989
Charlie Curtis, Chairman
Jeff Hadley, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1110
Kotzebue, AK 99752
Phone: 442-2500 Fax: 442-2027

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Designation Date: November 1, 1991
Jackie Robb, President
~~Paul Roetman~~ Executive Director
P.O. Box 2353
Valdez, AK 99686
Phone: 835-3775 Fax: 835-5770
James Winchester

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
Designation Date: April 14, 1989
J. Allan MacKinnon, President
Berne Miller, Executive Director
124 West Fifth Street
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: 463-3445 Fax: 463-4425

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
Designation Date: April 6, 1989
Alice Ruby, President
Mary Stadum, Executive Director
3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: 562-7380 Fax: 562-0438

FY 96 Alaska Regional Development Organization Funding Sources to Date - March 1996

	Anchorage Economic Development Corporation	Arctic Development Council	Copper Valley Economic Development Council	Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District	Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council	Lower Yukon Economic Development Council	Mat-Su Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.	Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission	Prince William Sound Economic Development Council	Southeast Conference	Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference	Funding Source Totals
Federal Funds												
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Other	2.0			93.5	4.0				5.5	22.5	48.0	175.5
BUDGET TOTALS	1,092.0	974.0	753.0	909.5	85.3	270.2	207.2	285.7	1,585.3	183.1	239.7	6,585.0

SOUTHWEST ALASKA
MUNICIPAL
CONFERENCE

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone (907) 562-7380
Fax (907) 562-0438

RESOLUTION 97-06

A RESOLUTION URGING FULL SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 35, EXTENDING THE TERMINATION DATE OF THE ALASKA REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, among the most successful strategies for sustainable economic development are those that support the greatest participation at the local and regional levels; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) were established by state statute for the express purpose of fostering local economic development capacity and implementing locally-conceived economic development strategies; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the ARDOR program, significant achievements have been realized by the ARDORs which lay the foundation for greater local leadership and responsibility for economic development; and

WHEREAS, as an ARDOR, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference has assisted Southwest communities in (1) stabilizing their economies through supporting fisheries policies, such as the CDQ program, (2) fostering economic development through tourism and small business development and training, (3) supporting and helping to expand the Alaska Marine Highway Service and intra-regional transportation in Southwest Alaska, and (4) helping communities address solid waste management and other environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 35 will extend the termination date of the ARDOR program from July 1, 1997 until July 1, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference that the Alaska State Legislature is urged to support and pass House Bill 35, extending the termination date of the ARDOR program to July 1, 2000.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE THIS 1st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1997.

Alice J. Ruby, President

Mary S. Stadum, Executive Director

SOUTHWEST ALASKA
MUNICIPAL
CONFERENCE

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone (907) 562-7380
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RESOLUTION 96-20

A RESOLUTION URGING FULL SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (ARDOR) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, it is well-recognized by both the public and private sectors that among Alaska's greatest challenges is the expansion and diversification of its undeveloped economy; and

WHEREAS, among the most successful strategies for sustainable economic development are those that support the greatest participation at the local and regional levels; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) were established by state statute for the express purpose of fostering local economic development capacity and implementing locally-conceived economic development strategies; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the ARDOR program significant achievements have been realized by the ARDORs which lay the foundation for greater local leadership and responsibility for economic development; and

WHEREAS, as an ARDOR, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) provides the structure for a membership organization that speaks with a collective voice on issues important to Southwest Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC helps promote economic opportunities to improve the quality of life and influences long-term, responsible development;

WHEREAS, SWAMC has assisted Southwest Alaska communities in (1) stabilizing their economies through supporting fisheries policies, such as the CDQ program, (2) fostering economic development through tourism and small business development and training, (3) supporting and helping to expand the Alaska Marine Highway Service and intra-regional transportation in Southwest Alaska, and (4) helping communities address solid waste management and other environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, the ARDOR program will sunset July 1, 1997 unless reauthorized by the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference that the Knowles Administration and the Alaska State Legislature are urged to fully support legislation authorizing the continuation of, and funding for, the ARDOR program for an additional five years.

EDC
Lower Kuskokwim

FEBRUARY 4, 1997

REP. IVAN M. IVAN
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JUNEAU, ALASKA FAX: 465-4589

DEAR REP. IVAN:

HB 35: ARDOR REAUTHORIZATION
HEARING, WEDS. FEB 5, 1997

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS, WHICH YOU CHAIR, WILL BE HOLDING HEARINGS TOMORROW ON HB 35, WHICH SEEKS TO REAUTHORIZE OUR PROGRAM FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS.

I WILL BE IN EEK, MAKING A PRESENTATION ON SMALL BUSINESS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND WORKING WITH THE TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR TO FINALIZE A PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING THAT IS DUE NEXT WEEK, SO WILL PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR HEARING FROM THERE.

AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOWER KUSKOKWIM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, I'M SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE CONTINUING NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT OUR REGION. WITHOUT THE ARDORS, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE TO NO LOCAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO START A BUSINESS OR EXPAND AN EXISTING ONE, SECURE NEEDED FINANCING, LEARN OF APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, AND THE MANY OTHER SERVICES NOW PROVIDED BY ARDORS.

YOUR SUPPORT IS REQUESTED, TO EXTEND THE OPERATIONS OF ARDORS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THROUGH FY 2000.

VERY TRULY,

Carl Berger

CARL BERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LOWER KUSKOKWIM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council
PO Box 2022
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: (907) 543-5967
FAX: (907) 543-2255

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

An Alaska Regional Development Organization and USDA Resource Conservation and Development Council

February 3, 1997

Representative Albert Kookesh
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kookesh:

House Bill 35, an Act Extending the Alaska Regional Economic Assistance Program, is scheduled to be heard before the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee this Wednesday. When enacted, the Bill will extend the life of the Alaska Regional Development Program to the end of this century.

Attached you will find a copy of Southeast Conference Resolution 97-6 urging reauthorization of the ARDOR Program. This Resolution was adopted unanimously by Conference members during their Annual Meeting in Juneau last September. For more information about Southeast Conference and its activities as the ARDOR for Southeast Alaska, please see the Conference's *Regional Development Strategy and Area Plan* and *Annual Report for Membership Year 1996* sent you with our last letter.

I regret I will be unable to attend the Committee's hearing. I must be in Ketchikan to join with federal, state and local representatives who are meeting to consider the kind of partnership to put together to aid southern Southeast Alaska's recovery from the recent and impending downturn in the timber industry. Should you have an urgent need for more information, I can be reached through the Cape Fox Hotel.

Thanks you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Berne C. Miller
Executive Director

Attachment

124 West 5th Street Juneau, Alaska 99801 Tel. (907) 463-3445 FAX (907) 463-4425

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

An Alaska Regional Development Organization and USDA Resource Conservation and Development Council

A RESOLUTION URGING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (ARDOR) PROGRAM

(Resolution 97-6)

WHEREAS one of the most serious challenges facing Alaskans today is expansion, diversification, and stabilization of the State's economy, and

WHEREAS among the most successful approaches to economic expansion, diversification, and stabilization is one that encourages and facilitates a high level of participation at local and community levels, and

WHEREAS the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) Program was established to create and sustain regional development capacity by fostering effective public-private partnerships to implement locally conceived and executed economic and community development projects, and

WHEREAS the ARDOR Program will "sunset" in 1997 unless reauthorized by the Legislature, and

WHEREAS ARDORs statewide have laid a solid foundation for greater responsibility and leadership in economic and community development at the regional level, and

WHEREAS Southeast Conference has assisted the people and communities of Southeast Alaska by 1) supporting and helping improve and expand marine and land transportation infrastructure; 2) helping communities address solid waste management, household hazardous waste disposal, and other environmental needs; and 3) helping communities plan and execute development efforts responsive to local needs and priorities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT.

Southeast Conference urges the Administration and Legislature to fully support the ARDOR Program through appropriate administrative policies and appropriation of funds adequate to sustain the ARDORs' mission of building local capacity and developing sustainable economies.

Southeast Conference urges the Administration and Legislature to reauthorize the ARDOR Program during the next legislative session.

This Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Legislature, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the Department Commerce and Economic development, and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

ADOPTED BY SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1996.

Witness _____
John Tronrud - President Southeast Conference

Attest _____
Berne C. Miller - Executive Director

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ALASKA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE ALASKA REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Alaska state legislature created the Alaska Regional Economic Development Organization (ARDOR) program in 1988; and

WHEREAS, the legislation created a program that encouraged the formation of regional development organizations such as the Southeast Conference, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, and others around the State of Alaska to address the economic problems of those regions; and

WHEREAS, the ARDOR'S are private nonprofit corporations formed by local initiative for the purpose of promoting private sector economic development within their designated regions; and

WHEREAS, the ARDOR'S represent an economically viable unit with shared interests, resources traditions and goals; and

WHEREAS, those ARDOR'S have successfully coordinated private and public resources to support economic development in their regions; and

WHEREAS, they have provided the State with information on regional economic issues, tourism and opportunities for international trade; and

WHEREAS, they have provided assistance in local economic diversification and development efforts during a time of turmoil and troubles in those local regions; and

WHEREAS, the ARDOR'S serve as a liaison between local governments and businesses in the region and the State of Alaska on issues of a common nature; and

WHEREAS, those organizations have been successful in their economic development mission; and

WHEREAS, the original legislation had a sunset clause that ended the program in 1993; and

WHEREAS, that repeal was extended until the end of fiscal year 1997; so

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Alaska State Chamber of Commerce that it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to continue the ARDOR program and to insure the ongoing economic viability of Alaska's various regions; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce we support this issue as being of statewide importance in the process of adopting our legislative priorities for the 1997 legislative session.

Passed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce this 6th day of December, 1996.

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

September 26, 1996

Honorable Alan Austerman
Alaska House of Representatives
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Attention: Cliff Stone

Dear Mr. Stone:

In response to your inquiry, the ARDOR program does fall under the provisions of a sunset rule that, absent legislative action, will go into effect July 1, 1997. You may also recall that the program was transferred, by executive order, from this department to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs effective July 1, 1996. The statutory authority for the program, previously AS 44.33.026, is now found in AS 44.47.900 and the program is under the administrative oversight of DCRA's Division of Muncipal & Regional Assistance.

The ARDORs are private, nonprofit corporations formed by local initiative for the purpose of promoting private sector economic development within their designated regions. Should the sunset provision go into effect, the organizations would not necessarily cease to exist. Several are strong enough, financially and organizationally, that they would continue to operate and carry out their missions independent of state involvement. Others, particularly those serving rural Alaska, would be weakened enough by the withdrawal of state support that they would likely not be able to continue operating. All of them would certainly suffer from the loss of state financial support because the ARDOR grants, while not particularly large, are not tied to specific projects and so may be used for operating expenses and to leverage dollars from other sources. These are the hardest kind of dollars to find and are, therefore, extremely valuable to the organizations.

Another important benefit afforded ARDORs by statute is the ability of state agencies to enter into contracts with them exempt from a competitive procurement process. (See AS 36.30.850 (b) (30) enacted in Chapter 68, SLA 93.) This has proven beneficial to both ARDORs, who are able to provide greater local expertise in service delivery or project implementation, and to state agencies, who through the ARDORs, are able to deliver services or projects more efficiently and with less administrative burden. Should the sunset provision go into effect, this ability would be lost unless there is separate legislative action to reenact it.

Perhaps, most important, would be the loss of this important linkage between state government and the regions which facilitates communication, promotes cooperation between communities and other local and regional interests, and encourages local initiative and responsibility for economic development. Particularly as the state embarks on welfare reform, the ARDORs are well placed to take on specific initiatives like designing and implementing regional welfare reform strategies that focus on providing jobs and targeted training for people moving off welfare.

I think most of us have learned by experience that achieving economic development objectives does not take place in a short time frame. Rather, it takes a long-term commitment and the direct involvement of the various stakeholders. It requires the ability to accept that not every effort will succeed; to learn from missteps and move on. And, particularly in Alaska, sound economic development relies heavily on solid partnerships between the public and private sectors. The ARDORs were conceived to facilitate this kind of partnering and to bring a regional perspective to the discussion of economic development issues.

In my opinion, it would be counterproductive to walk away from the state's investment in the ARDORs just as they are realizing the capacity to do the job that was envisioned for them.

Cordially,

Terry Miller
Project Manager

cc: Tom Lawson, Section Chief
Ike Waits, DCRA, M&RAD

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

An Alaska Regional Development Organization and USDA Resource Conservation and Development Council

STATEMENT OF

BERNE C. MILLER

February 17, 1997

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman:

My name is Berne Miller. I am Executive Director of Southeast Conference, the Alaska Regional Development Organization, or ARDOR, for Southeast Alaska. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in support of extending the ARDOR Program.

In describing Southeast Conference to you, I will only say that the Conference is a forty year old non-profit partnership of municipalities, chambers of commerce, businesses, and individuals who come together to work on improving conditions in Southeast Alaska. The Conference's formal Mission is to work for strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in the region.

In economic development terms, the Mission translates into helping to create jobs. I say helping, because government doesn't create jobs, only the private sector creates jobs. Using resources provided by our members and by our state and federal partners, ARDORs such as Southeast Conference "help". ARDOR dollars represent between a quarter and a fifth of the Conference's operating budget....for every dollar provided by the State, Southeast Alaska gets four to five dollars of effort in economic and community development.

Southeast Conference is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership. We hear much today about individual and organizational responsibility, about relying on oneself rather than relying on government. As with most ARDORs, the Conference's members and Board decide what things Conference committees and staff should work on to help strengthen and improve our communities and our region.

What kinds of things have our members and Board decided are important to the region?

Transportation - we work closely with Marine Highway System management in an effort to ensure that the System serves the entire region well and are working to identify future systems needs as well.

Regulations - we work with state agencies in an effort to help craft regulations that accomplish their intended purpose, but at a cost our municipalities and businesses can afford, most recently in solid waste disposal.

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copy on file

Services - we have for a number of years collected and disposed of household hazardous waste from communities throughout Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound and are looking at providing similar solid waste management services on a region-wide basis.

Business Development - we support efforts of the region's Small Business Development Center in providing business education and counseling services; we also support creation of a regional revolving loan fund.

Job Creation - we are currently helping the City of Wrangell plan and execute creation of a new museum and cultural center and with the City of Thorne Bay on the feasibility of establishing a kiln drying and planing facility on Prince of Wales Island, possibly as a cooperative. We will undertake other similar kinds of job-generating projects as opportunities present themselves. Also, as a continuing service, we offer our communities economic development planning facilitation and project execution assistance.

Education - we fund scholarships for students at University of Alaska Southeast.

I could continue for a long time in a similar vein, but in the interest of time I won't. I'll simply wrap up by saying that the State's ARDOR Program contributes to these and similar kinds of activities by ARDORs all around the state. The Program relies on local and regional decisionmaking about what's important, encourages formation of regional public-private partnerships to work on what local people decide needs to be worked on and multiplies State economic and community development dollars to those ends. The Program represents a good investment in Alaska's development and in its future economic and social strength. In a time when the government's ability to meet our people's and community's needs is contracting, the Program is helping to develop private sector capacity to meet those needs. For all these reasons, the program should continue.

On behalf of our members and our Board of Directors, thank you again for the opportunity to appear today. I'll be happy to answer questions.