



***Solutions for the Future***

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**Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
Dillingham Elementary School Gymnasium  
In Person & Virtual**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Board President Pete Andrew called the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Fr. Victor Nick from St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church led the invocation for the Annual Meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Board President Pete Andrew introduced the Board of Directors, CEO/GM and attorney to the membership.

They were:

Pete Andrew, President	Present
Henry Strub, Vice President	Absent
Annie Fritze, Secretary	Present
Wanda Wahl, Treasurer	Present
Steve Noonkesser, Director	Absent
Chris Napoli, Director	Present <ZOOM>
Sue Flensburg, Director	Present
Bruce Baltar, Director	Present
Mark Lisac, Director	Present

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William Chaney, CEO/GM Present  
Robert Himschoot, Former CEO/GM Present  
Attorney, S. Lynn Erwin with Kempel, Huffman and Ellis

Mr. Andrew also recognized past board members that were in attendance: Nick Wahl, Gordon Isaacs and DeeDee Bennis.

A moment of silence was taken to remember and honor members of the community that have recently passed away.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Board Secretary, Annie Fritze read the Certification & Determination of Quorum. She reported that at least 50 members, or 3% of the members, whichever shall be larger, as required per Article III, Section 5, "Quorum," of the Cooperative's bylaws participated in the Annual Meeting: a total of 239 members participated by casting ballots in the mail-in portion of the meeting for director elections; a total of 65 members registered by phone and 44 members registered in person to participate in the live in-person/virtual member meeting.

**CERTIFICATION OF NOTICE OF MEETING**

Board Secretary, Annie Fritze read the Certification of the Notice of Meeting and declared that proper notice had been given to the membership.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/EMPLOYEES**

William Chaney, CEO/GM introduced employees and guests:  
Jim Denslinger, Bernie Venua, Brent Wetter, Ken Ruby, Nathan Suttles, John Gleason, Bradon Stumpner, Noah Harper, Jeff Fonkert, Ryan Savo, Tyke Olson, Ryan Luiten, W. Chris Williams, Angie Venua, Heather Savo, Angela Lopez, Angela Thames, Heidi Savo, Tabitha Nielsen, Christian Olson, La'akea Chu and Chrissie Messer.

Michael Rovito with Alaska Power Association,  
Robert Himschoot, Former NETC CEO/GM,  
Brendyn Shiflea, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Choggiung, LTD.,  
Johnathan Storter, President, Meridian Management,  
Cory Warnock with McMillian Jacobs <ZOOM>, and  
Chandler Kemp with UAF Sustainability Energy Program

## **READING/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board President Pete Andrew asked for a motion to approve minutes of the 2022, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Membership Meeting. Jean Barrett motioned, and DeeDee Bennis seconded the motion to approve the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Membership Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

## **CEO/GM Report:**

CEO/GM William Chaney thanked the staff for their efforts in setting up the meeting. Mr. Chaney also thanked the Dillingham Volunteer First Responders/EMS for the services that they provide the community and spoke of the importance of supporting such an important organization. Mr. Chaney recognized the volunteers then shared facts and statistics from 2022. Mr. Chaney called up Scott Runzo the Fire Department Coordinator who gave a brief presentation recognizing long-time volunteer Malcom Wright.

Mr. Chaney spoke about the challenges that the cooperative faced while being understaffed and thanked the current employees for their efforts in continuing to provide the membership with reliable services. The Telecom Operations Manager position is scheduled to be filled by May 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Electric Operations Manager position, along with a few other positions, remains open.

Clearing six (6) miles of Right-of-Way along Aleknagik Lake Road that took place during the summer was a success. There were only two (2) tree related outages this past winter. The purchase of a new skid-steer and mulcher will aid in the clearing process this summer.

The Supplemental Heat Upgrade has been completed.

In addition to the Fiber Build and Hydro Concept, another future project could be the replacement of the main headquarters building at 557 Kenny Wren Road.

Mr. Chaney encourages the membership to reach out and ask questions, to engage in conversations and please feel free to stop him any time.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Michael Rovito gave a presentation on the relationship between Nushagak Cooperative and Alaska Power Association (APA); the different committees and boards that Nushagak Cooperative Board Members and management participate in.

Former CEO/GM Robert Himschoot gave a Power Point presentation highlighting Nushagak's history of internet, the current Fiber Build Project and the future possibilities that expanding Broadband services to our communities could provide. A detailed four-page white paper was included in the Annual Meeting packet; packets are provided to all registered members.

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- High-capacity fiber Middle Mile build will bring 100GB/s of DIA to our communities
- FTTP and HFC upgrades will allow 300/30 Mbps package speeds and unlimited data
- Microwave upgrades will allow Clark's Point and Manokotak to receive equivalent services
- Additional Middle Mile capacity will allow further development of Wi-Fi and Commercial ISP services, provide for DIA resale opportunities to support additional high capacity, affordable, Bristol Bay networks

In October of 2022 Chogguing, LTD. and Nushagak Cooperative received confirmation of funding from National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), totaling \$29.5 million, with no match necessary. This funding allows for the increase costs of materials and services in the last year, the ability to upgrade the network build in several ways including items like directional drilling, increased network monitoring and provisioning services and additional project management.

Brendyn Shiflea, CFO, Chogguing, LTD., spoke about the strategic partnership between Nushagak Cooperative and Chogguing, Ltd., and how this opportunity can be beneficial to the Bristol Bay Region.

Project Manager, Johnathan Storter from Meridian Management, who has been chosen to run the Fiber Project, gave a brief overview of where the project. Mr. Storter explained that within the next couple of weeks the design phase should be completed, which will lead to finalizing the federal permitting process. In three to four weeks the Request for Proposal (RFP) for construction services should be released and as well as a solid plan for execution that will take place over the next year, year and a half.

Will Chaney, CEO/GM and Cory Warnock of McMillian Jacobs gave a Power Point presentation on the Nuyakuk Hydro Electric Concept/Project.

Key Developments Over the Past Year:

- Collaborative ARWG and public involvement related to technical study plan improvements (collective development, review and commenting)
- Geotechnical analysis
- Site-specific methods testing
- All natural resource study leads in place
- Biological study camp established
- All requisite natural resource permit applications submitted
- Development of life cycle and economic models
- Cooperative agreements reached with BBSRI, BBNA and ADFG related to certain study elements
- Multiple ARWG and public meetings along with presentation at relevant regional conferences

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Next Steps – 2023

- Coordination and logistics throughout - Ongoing
- Complete biological study camp set-up – April/May
- On-board camp managers - April
- Formalize all requisite permits – March - May
- LiDAR and habitat mapping – April/May
- Commence study program – May/early June
- Data analysis and reporting – July - November
- ISR – December

Next Steps – 2024 and Beyond

- 2<sup>nd</sup> study season
  - All resource areas
- Further geotechnical analysis
- Refined conceptual design based on study results
- Data analysis and reporting
- Collaborative decisions related to project feasibility begin
- Ongoing consultation/meetings/project updates throughout

Chandler Kemp with the UAF Sustainability Energy Program shared his experience in Hydro Power and his work with energy systems. Mr. Kemp highlighted that the UAF Bristol Bay Campus offers a variety of different classes through the Sustainable Energy program and encourages individuals to enroll.

## **SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board Director and Scholarship Committee Chair Chris Napoli introduced the Scholarship Committee members and announced the 2022 scholarship award recipients as follows:

### MEMBERS

Chris Napoli, NETC  
Annie Fritze, NETC  
Laticia Swift, BBEDC  
Pearl Strub, NETC Member

### AMOUNT AWARDED

\$20,500.00

### NUMBER OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

18

### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

18

ACADEMIC

\$1,500 Demetry Hoseth	\$1,000 Joseph Bailey
\$1,500 Sawyer Sands	\$1,000 Austin Finkenbinder
\$1,500 Lacy Andrew	\$1,000 Molly Berkoski
\$1,500 David Wetter	\$1,000 Thersa Ann Savo
\$1,500 Kristian Nudlash-Barger	\$500 Amanda Luiten
\$1,500 Abbey Whitcomb*	\$500 Torin Schroeder
\$1,500 Angelica Marx	\$500 Kaylee Lopez
\$1,500 Zach Kolbe	

VOCATIONAL

\$1,500 Sharadon O'Connor  
\$1,000 Carlos Gloko Jr.  
\$500 Janice Cox

\*In 2021 a Scholarship in memory of Dr. Radenbaugh was established in conjunction with the regular Nushagak Cooperative Scholarship. The Dr. Todd Radenbaugh Scholarship award would be \$500 and recognized as a supplemental scholarship to a student that addresses through the essay how their field of study would benefit and/or contribute to improving the environment.

DR. TODD RADENBAUGH SCHOLARSHIP

\$500 Abbey Whitcomb\*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Your Board of Directors at Nushagak has been working alongside the Management team looking for solutions while understanding that we are member owned.

Over the years the Board of Directors have continued to work for cost effective solutions for you the members. I am proud to have a great diverse team on your board.

Energy costs now and in the future are going to be very challenging to everyone that depends on oil for survival and life sustaining services. We are looking for solutions to be self-sustaining and solutions to help keep costs low and sustainable for the future.

Nushagak in the past has studied, Wind, Hydro sites like Lake Elva and Grant Lake to no avail. We are currently looking at Nuyakuk Falls as a potential site to produce electricity. As an electric provider in the region, we recognize that the natural resources (fish) that we rely on are very important to our people and others around the world. Nushagak has a Fish First Policy in place as a promise to members and others, that we will not pursue the hydro concept if the studies prove that it will be detrimental to the natural resources in the area.

Broadband. Over the last few years, we have been working on solutions to bring you better broad band services, with good planning and things falling into place the fiber project from Levelock to Dillingham has started, the first steps are fiber to the home in Aleknagik. Looking forward we did purchase the fiber last year knowing that that availability was going to be questionable. As a Cost saving, we partnered with Choggiung, Ltd., to receive a \$29M grant from NTIA wiping away a need for a 5-million-dollar match required by USDA. Also, I would like to acknowledge the Curyung Tribe for their support resolution allowing this to happen.

Your board and management team recognized that having good Broadband in place will help with economic growth and more available services to our members that want to work in place.

We have a dire need to have young folks get engaged to work and serve on boards and be contributors to our region.

I ask all of you to learn all you can, ask questions about what we do and be engaged.

## **DIRECTORY COVER PRESENTATION**

Angela Thames presented the 2023 Directory Cover Photo Contest front cover winner, Dillon Bennett, with a 16 x 24 framed version of his submission titled *Sunset Looking West of the Nushagak*. Lori Goodell's submission *Eagle by Light Pole* is the back cover winner, and she received an 8 x 10 framed print. Mrs. Goodell was not in attendance.

## **DOOR PRIZE DRAWING #1**

- 5-Shelf Storage Rack – John & Cindy Valenty
- \$150 Gift Card to Bigfoot – John Heyano
- Motion Activated Security Light & Smart Bulbs & Outside Timers – Sandra Long
- Food Saver & Bags – City of Aleknagik
- \$100 Visa Gift Card (Donated by Kempell, Huffman & Ellis) – Thomas & Cynthia Eveslage
- Pillow Lounge Cushion – La'akea Chu
- 50" LED 4K UHD Insignia TV – Louise Lekanoff

## **INTRODUCTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Board Secretary, Annie Fritze thanked the Nominating Committee, Jeanie Timmerman, Jeanie Layland, Alice Ruby and Rachel Tilden

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATES**

Board President Pete Andrew introduced the candidates and gave each of them a chance to speak to the members of the Cooperative. The candidates were: Jean Barrett, Mark Lisac, Chris Napoli and Pete Andrew.

## **15 MINUTE INTERMISSION**

## **CALL FOR BALLOTS**

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP**

Q: DeeDee Bennis: Why was there an increase in the total awarded scholarship amount?

Pete: The scholarship fund gets monies through the sale of surplus items, equipment, and vehicles. Unclaimed capital credits are also deposited into this account. The balance and available award amount will fluctuate each year.

C: DeeDee Bennis. An error in the March 15, 2022, minutes was identified on page 5, Exiting CEO/GM Bob Himschoot (comments). "Mr. Himschoot will be retiring on May 31, 2023," should be corrected to "2022".

Board President Pete Andrew requested approval from DeeDee Bennis and Jean Barrett, who originally made the motions for approval, to modify the original motion to add the correction to 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. There were no objections from the membership.

Q: Inaudible Recording. Question possibly relating to completion of the Fiber Build Project.

Pete Andrew: Fall 2024

Q: Gorden Issacs asked a question regarding Starlink and the potential issues with latency.

Robert Himschoot: Inaudible Recording.

Kevin: Inaudible Recording.

Will Chaney: Nushagak does have a non-firm power purchase rate that is being used by connected services utilizing wind resources. Mr. Chaney agreed that technology has come a long way and that solar energy, and other renewable energy options are advancing.

Q: Ted (?) Understanding that there are still studies to be done, are the upriver villages on board?

Will Chaney: Mr. Chaney explained that he and Annie Fritze made in person visits to some of the villages and that his takeaway on the reception is that Koliganek has some well-founded concerns, that they had some great questions and showed concern through their questions.

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New Stuyahok was welcoming, they were asking when. The intent is to keep these meetings going.

Pete Andrew: Nushagak has a website dedicated to the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Concept where you can review documents and get updates.

Comments received via Zoom Chat:

01:49:42 Nicole Krause: Quyana Malcom! We have been so fortunate to have you and your family for our community, thanks for all your service ❤️🙏

01:52:05 Nicole Krause: Behind every strong man is a stronger woman, Quyana Amy! We love and appreciate your family!

01:53:58 Nushagak Cooperative: Thank you Nicole, we will pass the message.

02:43:26 Nicole Krause: You need to stop sharing so he can share via permission to share

04:03:39 Karl Clark: Can Pete repeat the questions so we can hear please

## INTRODUCTION AND REPORT OF CREDENTIALS & ELECTION COMMITTEE

Committee members: Laticia Swift, Keggie Tubbs and Lola Carpenter

Laticia Swift, Committee Chair, read the voting results aloud as follows:

The voting results were read aloud as follows:

	<u>Mail in Ballots</u>	<u>Cast at Meeting</u>	<u>Final Ballot</u>
<b>Tally</b>			
Total Ballots Received	248	30	278
Total Ballots Invalid	9	0	9
Total Ballots Counted for Votes	239	30	269

Total invalid ballots: 9

### Directors

Peter Andrew	199 votes
Jean Barrett	171 votes
Mark Lisac	161 votes
Chris Napoli	153 votes

**Election Results:** Peter Andrew, Incumbent, Jean Barrett, Incumbent and Mark Lisac, Incumbent were elected for a three-year term ending in 2026.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business at this time.

**Door Prize Drawing #2**

- Emergency Jump Starter – Bryan Sifsof
- Infrared Heater with Stand – Tatiana McCormick
- \$150 Gift Card to Alaska Commercial (AC) – Verl & Carol Luckhurst
- 10" Tablet with Amazon Fire Stick – Bryce Edgmon
- \$100 Visa Gift Card (Donated by Kempell, Huffman & Ellis) – Chrissie Messer
- Apple Air Pods – Sojna Marx
- Home Security System – April Roehl
  
- Grand Prize: DLG to ANC Round Trip Ticket on Alaska Airlines – Marlene Beltran

Note: 4 \$100 Visa Gift Cards will be drawn from our out-of-town members that participated in the mail-in voting.

The members that received the Visa Gift Cards were Henry Wassily Sr., Adam Itumulria, Raymond & Arlene Franklin and Gusty Wassily Sr.


**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the membership, Board President Pete Andrew adjourned the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Meeting at 10:17 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Lopez, Human Resources Generalist/Executive Secretary/Recorder 4/02/2024  
Date

**Approved By:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Fritze, Board Secretary 4/02/2024  
Date

