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**MINUTES**

**April 30, 2002**

**USA/Kodiak Steering Committee**

**United Salmon Association Office, Kodiak**

**Call to Order:** 4:30

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Thom Wischer, Virginia Adams, Matt Keplinger, Chris Myrick, Leo Kouremetis, Don Fox

**Other Present:** Erin Harrington, Andy Edgerly

**Approval of Agenda:**

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Agenda amended to include discussion of a press release on Global's processing proposal under "Correspondence: Out"; amended agenda approved.

**Correspondence In/Out:**

In:

1. Letter from Glenn Haight of Department of Community and Economic Development explaining the rejection of USA's grant proposal.
2. CRSPA sent a letter noting that they have a) paid the balance of their Mundt MacGregor bill, with the exception of \$750 of disputed charges
3. Cindy Hulquist of Thomas, Head & Greisen sent some information about our taxes
4. Coast Guard sent a notice requesting volunteers for a Commercial Fishing Advisory Committee
5. UFA sent word that they will be holding a special board meeting for the purpose of endorsing a gubernatorial candidate

Fox said he doesn't believe USA should endorse a candidate.

Kouremetis noted that the original intent of the Association was to remain neutral on political issues.

Wischer noted that taking a stand on an issue is different than financially supporting a candidate.

Adams said she supports USA abstaining from an endorsement vote.

Out:

1. A letter was sent to Ted Stevens asking him to look into public access to the cold storage facility at the Coast Guard base.
2. A memo for the next salmon branding project meeting is being prepared and will go out shortly. Meeting will be Wednesday, May 8 at the FITC
3. Adams reported that she is preparing a press release on USA's position regarding the Global Seafoods request to process in Area M & Cook Inlet.

### **Salmon Marketing Report:**

Our message on the salmon branding project will be that we are willing to do as much work on this as we can, but that we also need help and cannot do it on our own.

### **Surefish:**

Harrington reported that the cost to bring Surefish to town in late May will be approximately \$1900 and that the Alaska Manufacturers Association had indicated they would be able to contribute some money to the project.

Adams offered a motion:

Motion to approve the funding to bring Surefish to Kodiak for training this spring.

Myrick seconded the motion.

Keplinger said that supporting this project will also allow us to solicit some support from the processors.

Wischer asked what the result would be of having this group here, since we will not be doing a full-blown quality program this summer.

Keplinger noted that fishermen will have a full year to make structural changes to their operations to enable them to adhere to Surefish's standards.

Myrick asked if the project was essential to the goals for this summer, which is to establish a direct marketing program for fishermen.

Thom said that several processors, including John Whiddon and Jean Franquelin, are very interested in a quality program.

Harrington reported that she had spoken with Fiorentino, who said that it is important to have someone *other* than USA talk to fishermen about the steps necessary for a quality program in order for the issue to take on new meaning.

Adams said that Surefish would add legitimacy to what we've been trying to do.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Negotiations:**

Wischer reported that, according to the ASPR data, processors owe 3 cents on fresh/frozen reds. In addition, they owe 1.5 cents on canned reds, based on the initial ASPR info. However, the negotiating committee has told processors they can pay the canned red retro on July 1 after the final ASPR comes out.

He added that USA needs to inform fishermen that if it were not for USA, fishermen would not have seen a penny of this money. For future negotiations, however, Chris said it will be important to change the red canned payment date so there is only one payment at the end of the year.

Wischer said the goal of the negotiating team is to have the price settled by June 9.

<Negotiations discussions: Confidential>

Keplinger asked that Harrington make sure that Fishermen's Hall is reserved for the Sunday of the Fishermen's Memorial.

Negotiation committee will meet Wednesday, at 3:30.

**Chamber of Commerce:**

Adams offered a motion to join the Chamber of Commerce.

Myrick seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Other:**

Myrick recognized and thanked Andy Edgerly for attending the meeting.

**Adjourn: 6:00**