

City of Edna Bay - Special Meeting

1 — Meeting Date, Place and Call to order:

This Special meeting was held on Friday, February 12th, 2021 via Cisco WebEx teleconference. Mayor Poelstra called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.

2 — New Roll Call:

Tyler Poelstra	- Mayor / City Council	(Present)
Karen Williams	- Vice Mayor / City Council	(Present)
Myla Poelstra	- Clerk + Treasurer / City Council	(Present)
Mike Williams	- City Council	(Present)
Sandy Henson	- City Council	(Present)
Doris Greif	- City Council	(Present)
Lee Greif	- City Council	(Absent)

2.1 — Public Participants:

Katie Buss	Sharon Wargi	Paul Haag	Joe Wargi	Camille Cattani
Bruce Cattani	Roger DiPaolo	Louise DiPaolo	Brian Mortenson	Becky Tenant

Special Guest Attendee(s):

Leah Fjeldstad

3 — Consent Agenda:

A: Approval of Meeting Agenda:

The current agenda was read by Mayor Poelstra.

Consensus of the public attendants was taken in favor, and no objections were noted.

Motion:

Mayor Poelstra moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- *Seconded by Councilor (Mrs.) Williams*
- **Approved by unanimous vote of the council**

3.1 — Special Business:

- a: *Letter of Consent for Dept. of Energy Prototype Tidal Generator Study, Discussion and Decision.*

4 — Special Business

Item A - Letter of Consent for Dept. of Energy Prototype Tidal Generator Study (...):

Mayor Poelstra read back and opened discussion on the draft documents provided by Arrowsmith Consulting. He noted that Leah Fjeldstad from Arrowsmith Consulting will be joining the call in a few minutes and can better answer question on the program and the prototype. He then read back the draft letter of consent to those in attendance and said after Leah had spoken and everyone had questions answered we would revisit the letter for a decision.

Mayor Poelstra emphasized that this project is a study and may eventually result in possible power system being available at no cost to the City. However, he noted that there are many years of approval process, funding windows and steps that could ultimately result in the program failing. The City will reserve the right to terminate its partnership at any point it chooses, should there be interest in participating in the study.

Leah Fjeldstad joined the meeting and Mayor Poelstra directed all questions on the project to him for detailed answers. Leah gave a brief overview of the timeline on the proposed project. The first phase will happen in the next 9 months and will determine if the study will be funded. After approval, the next phase starts and will take up to 1 year to complete. During this time a prototype will be built and installed for testing. As each new revision to the design is built, the old model will be swapped out with the new one.

At the end of the Dept of Energy funded project, if testing concludes adequate energy can be produced with the system, it would eventually be turned over to the City of Edna Bay. The City would then need to establish a local utility to manage the system.

Edna Bay was selected for a few reasons. The project was originally planned to work through the Dept. of Defense. However, due to regulatory changes the funding from Dept of Energy was prohibited for expense on a Dept. of Defense location. Therefore, an interested municipality close to Oregon was needed for a test site. Sea Otter Sound appears to be a good location for testing and Edna Bay is very close by. Locations from San Diego all the way to the Aleutian Islands were evaluated, including some private locations.

Leah noted that at this early stage it is unknown at what point the undersea cable and power distribution system would be evaluated or funded. That stage of the project will depend on available funding sources. He underscored that regardless of the funding source, all of the likely ones require a municipal entity to work with and agree to participate in the project.

He noted that the power system is scaleable, starting at 100Kw and going up from there. The end goal of the project is to operate at no cost to the City and/or locals, other than the possibility of each home owner needing to pay for a power transfer switch to receive power from the plant when it is running and swap to their local power when it is not.

Leah emphasized that this is a very early stage of a study and the team is still in the planning stages. The project is not a done deal and there are still many phases of permitting that must be navigated through before a prototype could even be placed in the navigable waters of the area.

The project aims to be fully funded by Dept. of Energy during the prototype phase, and Leah expects that the Alaska Energy Authority and other sources may participate in the later stages of the project. The facility would create a few local jobs including caretaker, electrician and maybe a position for carpenter / laborer.

If it makes it far enough, the project will eventually include evaluating power distribution. Questions were raised on if the power lines could be buried. Leah noted that generally buried power infrastructure costs 5-10 times what distribution poles cost to install, so that would be a factor. He emphasized we are not at the point where those details can be considered yet.

The project will request that applicable maintenance equipment (i.e a man lift, testing equipment, etc) be included in the final stage proposals to the AEA, for example.

After questions concluded, Mayor Poelstra again read back the draft letter of consent prepared for Arrowhead Consulting. Attendees thanked Leah for joining the meeting and sharing this opportunity.

Consensus of the public attendants was taken in favor of entering into a partnership with Arrowhead Consulting and submitting the draft letter, no objections were noted.

Motion:

Mayor Poelstra moved to initiate the partnership with Arrowsmith Consulting and submit the letter of support as presented.

- *Seconded by Councilor (Mr.) Williams*
- **Approved by unanimous vote of the Council**

5 —

Persons to Be Heard

None.

Adjournment

Mayor Poelstra moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion to adjourn seconded by Councilor Henson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.