

Workforce Development Working Group Resolution 2023-05

Whereas the Workforce Development Working Group was formed in 2021 at the request of members of the communities closest to the road to provide input on workforce development, contracting, and general economic development in regards to the Ambler Access Project ("Project");

Whereas the Workforce Development Working Group is a non-partisan group that functions independently of the Project sponsor, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA); and

Whereas the Workforce Development Working Group is committed to serving the Project area community members' interests to ensure that opportunities are made available to local communities and community members;

Whereas the project sponsors and mining companies have provided several years of economic benefit in the form of jobs and investment during the current pre-construction phase;

Whereas the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (D-SEIS) that introduces project uncertainty surrounding the existing and approved permits and authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Park Service;

Whereas these uncertainties have caused the project sponsors to cancel the 2024 field season, eliminating hundreds of job opportunities and tangible investment into our communities which will have had a negative affect on our communities.

Now, therefore, be it resolved,

That the Workforce Development Working Group:

1. Acknowledges the current high cost of essential goods and services in area communities as a contributing factor the need to support job creation during every phase of the project;
2. Acknowledges the devastating and destructive results from lack of opportunity, meaningful engagement, employment, and the affordability of essential goods and services that manifest in high rates of self-harm;
3. Understands that the on-going SEIS process has impacted upcoming project plans and job opportunities;
4. Supports enhancement of and investment in community and individual pride through meaningful employment and local improvement projects such as those planned in association with the project;
5. Demand the BLM to efficiently complete the SEIS and expeditiously re-instate the Joint Record of Decision (JROD) to enable the AAP to continue pre-development activities that provide crucial job opportunities and economic opportunities for local residents and businesses;
6. Encourages the project sponsor, AIDEA, to continue to focus on job opportunities for local residents and shareholders;
7. Recommends the project sponsor, AIDEA, to continue to provide contracting/business opportunities for shareholder-owned companies; and
8. Insists that the project sponsor continue to identify and engage with the WDWG and local communities for future workforce development opportunities/training and specific projects that will support the readiness of the community for supporting the potential construction and operation of the AAP and economic development.

Approved December 7, 2023, Fairbanks, Alaska



Fred Bifelt
SAC Co-Chair



Larry Westlake
SAC Co-Chair

Members (list here):

Fred Bifelt, Larry Westlake, Gordon Bergman, Wayne Musser, Harding Sam, Nellie Griest, Henry Horner, Morgan Johnson, Wilbur Howarth, Stanley Ned, Elizabeth Cravahlo, Andy Baker, Sharon Harrington

