

Agency: Legislature**Project Title:****Project Type:** Planning and Research

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

State Funding Requested: \$403,272**House District:** Statewide (1-40)

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Completion of Alaska Arctic Policy Commission's statutorily obligated deliverable.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,208,272
Funding Already Secured:	(\$805,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$403,272)
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Created in 2012 with HCR 23. Direct appropriation.**FY13: 272,600**FY14: 266,600**FY15: 66,300**Re-appropriation Senate District K**FY14: 200,000***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission (AAPC) was created in House Concurrent Resolution 23 (2012) as a direct recommendation of the Northern Waters Task Force. Its mission is to develop an Arctic Policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic Policy. To accomplish these objectives the Commission has conducted a baseline review of the Alaskan Arctic by evaluating strengths, gaps and opportunities, and produced a "Preliminary Report" which was delivered to the legislature on January 30, 2014. The final report along with implementation plan will be delivered to the Legislature on January 30, 2015.

The Commission operates under the conviction that the state is an active and willing leader and partner in arctic decision making, bringing expertise and resources to the table. Furthermore the Commission remains committed to producing a vision for Alaska's Arctic that stands the test of time; delivering policy statements that capture not only the opportunity of the Arctic but also the need to mitigate the challenges; and completing a final product that elevates the priorities and perspectives of Alaskans to a national and international stage.

The AAPC consists of 26 commissioners and three staff. The AAPC has held meetings that include public testimony and listen-only sessions in Juneau, Barrow, Unalaska, Fairbanks and Anchorage that have proved invaluable for information gathering as well as community buy-in, outreach, and networking with various entities. As well, a select group of AAPC legislative commissioners have traveled to Iceland and other areas to participate in Arctic Policy talks at an international level and further Alaskan objectives. The funding appropriated in HCR23 assumed that meetings could be held around the

state at local LIOs, thus reducing the cost. That proved to be impractical at all locations due to the size of the Commission and the need for public space. Additionally, travel and lodging for 26 individuals and staff to remote communities has proven to be very expensive, for example: the single two-day meeting in Unalaska cost \$55,000, this cost consists of travel, lodging, required per-diem above lodging expenses, meeting space rental, and materials. many of the Commissioners live in remote communities themselves, therefore, travel expenses alone are high. For example: a round trip plane ticket from Juneau to Barrow is roughly \$1500.

The requested funding will cover what is needed to complete the final report that will be delivered to the legislature on January 30, 2015. This work will include conducting Commission meetings in Anchorage (x2), Seward, Nome, and Kotzebue. As well, it will cover what is needed for the design and printing of the final report to the legislature as well as web-site maintenance, contractual services, and ancillary travel.

Project Timeline:

Full Commission Meetings: 250,000

May: Anchorage, Seward

August: Nome, Kotzebue

November: Anchorage

Other/ancillary Travel: 80,000

May 2014: Vancouver, BC

June 2014: Seattle, Wa

June 2014: Finland

September 2014: Iceland

October 2014: Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow

Contractual Services: 25,000

Ongoing through January 2015.

Materials, web-site, outreach: 48,272

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

n/a

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No