



Legislative Update From Representative Bryce Edgmon



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Rep. Edgmon and Sen. Hoffman visit King Cove

On September 3rd and 4th Sen. Lyman Hoffman and I had the pleasure of looking in on the community of King Cove. Our hosts included Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack, King Cove Mayor Ernie Weiss, and City Manager Gary Hennigh. King Cove is celebrating its sixtieth year of incorporation as a city this month, and we came for a firsthand look at recent improvements to the town as well as plans for future development, some of it imminent. See the stories and photos below.

Plans for New Hydro Facility Carry On History of Energy Innovation

When King Cove's Delta Creek Hydroelectric facility went online in 1994, it was one of the first such plants to be built in remote Alaska. Considering that diesel fuel was only about 75 cents a gallon at the time, the city was truly ahead of the curve with its decision to lock in

this source of alternative energy. The low-impact, run-of-the-river, 800 kWh plant creates about 50 percent of the town's electricity, displacing thousands of gallons of diesel fuel every year and keeping King Cove's electricity costs the lowest among the scores of

communities eligible for Power Cost Equalization.

King Cove now has a plan to expand Delta Creek to the tune of an additional 1.5 million kilowatts annually by tapping the potential of nearby Waterfall Creek. The existing powerhouse would be enlarged to accommodate a second turbine and generator, and the same transmission line built for the original facility would be used for the added output. With this second project



King Cove's Hydroelectric facility at Delta Creek

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online, King Cove estimates that hydro power would supply more than 80 percent of the city's electricity needs.

What's more, there is the possibility that

high water flow in the summer months would create surplus energy that the city could sell to the local Peter Pan Seafoods processor—one of the largest plants in the state. The city has already initiated talks with Peter Pan in an-

anticipation of drawing up a formal proposal for such an arrangement.

There are other examples of thrifty innovation in King Cove showing the city's savvy ap-

proach when it comes to affordable, sustainable energy use. A new diesel generating facility that came online in 2008 was purposely built near the new school so that its waste heat could be piped over to save on heating

costs. In a single year the school saved the equivalent of more than 19,000 gallons of diesel fuel. City officials are now considering a similar system for heating the town's medical clinic.

If King Cove can

secure the necessary funding for the Waterfall Creek project in time for construction to begin in 2010, it could be up and running as soon as 2011.



Visiting the Delta Creek powerhouse. Left to Right: Sen. Hoffman, Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack, Power Plant Supervisor George Simmons, King Cove City Manager Gary Hennigh, and Bryce.

Firsthand Look at the King Cove's Route to the Cold Bay Airport

For more than a decade the people of King Cove have been seeking the go-ahead for a land swap that would allow the community to build a reliable link to the Cold Bay airport, particularly for use in times of medical emergencies.

In March this year President Obama signed a public lands bill giving federal approval for this exchange, which trades state and King

Cove Corporation lands for a single-lane road corridor through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Just days later, I introduced HB210 in the Legislature, a bill to give state authorization for the agreement. HB210 passed the House unanimously and has been transmitted to the Senate for action during the upcoming session.

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Our visit to King Cove gave Senator Hoffman and me a firsthand look at the planned 13-mile route through the refuge. Although I had been told that World War II era roads and trails still exist on part of the federal land, I was surprised at their extent, and I saw the logic in the plan for more than 50 percent of the route to use existing pathways. In all, there would only be about six miles of new road.

I will be working hard to advance HB210 during the next session. Assuming it passes the Senate, the federal government will begin an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Secretary of the Interior Salazar will also need to issue a finding that the plan is in the public interest.

Certainly it is in the interest of the residents of King Cove, who have strived for this increased measure of public safety for nearly a generation.

Visitors and Hosts



Left to Right: King Cove Mayor Ernest Weiss, Rep. Edgmon, City Councilman Larry Babcock, AEB Assemblyman Marvin “Bigshot” Mack, Sen. Hoffman, former KC Mayor Henry Mack, and Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack.

Local Boatwright Gives Vessel Broader Shoulders



Top: Sen. Hoffman speaks with KC City Councilman Warren Wilson near Leonard Harbor. Last winter Warren took on the most ambitious boatyard project ever in King Cove, designing and welding ten feet of additional beam to local skipper A.J. Newman's limit seiner Lady Lee Dawn, above.

Local Lore



In 1955 Jay Hammond was a Naknek-based bush pilot who had yet to begin his political career and AEB Mayor Stanley Mack was a King Cove teenager. One winter day Stanley looked up to see Hammond's Supercub buzz the frozen Heart Lake (below, in the foreground) three times before attempting a landing. When the plane did touch down, its wheels had no traction on the glare ice, and Stanley was astonished to witness Hammond jump out of the cockpit, grab a wing strut, and dig in his heels in an attempt to slow the plane before it ran out of "runway." Hammond did stop the cub, but not before his feet slammed into the edge of a crate frozen into the ice. The future governor shattered both ankles and was laid up in King Cove for days. Above: Outside the City Offices, Mayor Mack points to Heart Lake as he recounts the story to Sen. Hoffman, City Manager Gary Hennigh, and Rep. Edgmon.





Sen. Hoffman and Rep. Edgmon meet with members of the community at the King Cove City Offices



I want to express my sincere appreciation to Mayor Ernest Weiss (right, in Juneau during the 2008 session) for his years of valuable service to King Cove.

Ernie's determination and hard work have contributed to many landmark achievements for the city.

Send us your thoughts and concerns!

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