

Minutes for the  
ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION  
FEDERAL GRANT SYMPOSIUM

April 14, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

Taken at:  
Dena'ina Center  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Agencies Giving Presentations:**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Alaska Department of Public Safety  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Economic Development Agency  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
Denali Commission  
U.S. Department of Labor  
U.S. Treasury CDFI Fund  
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development  
U.S. Department of Energy

**Kevin Sween:** Welcome to the second Alaska Congressional Delegation Federal Grant Symposium, which started last year under the leadership of Senator Stevens. With the scrutiny that earmarks and appropriations have been undergoing in Washington, D.C., it is important for us to focus on grant opportunities. Peter Comstock was hired a couple of years ago as a grants coordinator and he can help non-profits and municipalities identify available grants. Senator Lisa Murkowski was introduced.

**Senator Murkowski:** The large turnout indicates the needs of the communities, the non-profits, and the entities throughout Alaska as opportunities for federal support may be reduced. We need to be adaptable and work together for needed projects. There needs to be a collaborative effort with a compilation of federal, state, local, and private dollars. Peter Comstock is our grant coordinator. Not all of your questions may be answered today, but we will facilitate networking, introductions, and opportunities for you to make connections in areas that you otherwise would not have considered. My purpose this morning, along with Senator Begich and Congressman Young is helping you at the federal level. We look forward to working with you on great projects for Alaskans around the state.

**Kevin Sween:** Reviewed the agencies that had tables in the Dena'ina Center.

**Senator Begich:** Senator Murkowski, Congressman Young, and I are working as a solid team to bring resources back to Alaska. The Economic Recovery Act was part of the equation to jump-start the economy. Once fully implemented, we estimate the money that will flow through the state will be about \$900 million. About \$450 million has already started coming through federal agencies. Depending on how you do in your applications, there could be another \$200 million. The following has already come

through: \$152 million for a new hospital in Nome; \$40 million for housing improvements for tribes; \$26 million for energy efficiency projects; \$3.6 million for health centers across Alaska; and \$20 million for NOAA, who does projects all over Alaska. In addition, there are over 100 statewide projects for the Defense Department. This is a great opportunity for you to learn what is in the Stimulus Bill and access some of those grants. Thank you for being here today.

**George Canelos:** The Denali Commission, the Alaska State Legislature, the Rasmuson Foundation, and Housing and Urban Development started the Alaska Clearinghouse. Any questions about the bill can be directed to our office at 271-1414. The Alaska Clearinghouse will process your information requests. The team lead, Adison Smith, will now further describe the Alaska Clearinghouse.

**Adison Smith:** I am the team lead for the Alaska Clearinghouse. We have information at our table on competitive federal funding opportunities with the actual funding opportunity numbers. The Alaska Clearinghouse will collect information via the telephone or emails. We will then analyze that information to see if there are any competitive opportunities available. It usually takes us about a week to respond to requests, because we want to provide quality information. The information will include deadlines, points of contact, and places that you can go to find this information. We are also on Twitter. On our website, under the Alaska Clearinghouse announcement, you can click on Twitter and review the most current announcements, as well as sign up to receive instant messages. Our website is [www.Denali.gov](http://www.Denali.gov). Please call or email us with any suggestions or feedback.

**Kevin:** Introduced Congressman Don Young.

**Congressman Young:** My job today is to help anyone seeking stimulus money or other monies through my office. I am somewhat confused as to how these dollars will be distributed. The agencies are not yet up to speed, but it is not their fault. However, the money will come around. I voted against the stimulus package, because it was such a huge amount of money. However, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to seek funding. The State of Alaska needs to be aware of the challenges in this country related to energy. This is not a new problem. We have the ability to solve it and we should use the monies available to do so. On the federal level, I will do everything I can to make sure those monies are distributed to produce energy, because the state's growth factor is important for future generation. Thank you for attending the meeting.

**Kevin:** We are adjourned until 11:45 p.m.

*Recess until 11:45 a.m.*

**Kevin:** Noted that Virginia Walker, a representative from the Veterans Administration, was over at the Department of Public Safety and Labor's table and could address veteran-related questions.

## **U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – Martha Barber**

**Ms. Barber:** Grant information can be access on EPA's website at [www.EPA.gov](http://www.EPA.gov), Subjects A to Z, and then clicking Grants. The focus of this forum is competitive grants. The EPA works through the states through categorical grant programs, which in turn have sub-grant programs. The Recovery Act gave \$4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) nationally; \$2 billion for the Drinking Water SRF; \$100 million for Brown Fields Competitive Grants; \$300 million for grants and loans dealing with diesel emission reductions; \$200 million for leaking underground storage tanks; and \$600 million for Super Fund Hazardous Waste Cleanup. The majority of the money for Alaska goes to the Drinking Water

and Clean Water State Revolving Funds. There is \$23,455,000 for the Clean Water SRF and \$19,500,000 for the Drinking Water SRF. These are typically low-cost loan programs, but the Recovery Act stipulates that a minimum of 50 percent of the state grant be used to provide additional subsidization in the form of forgiveness of loan principal, negative interest rates, or grants. There is also a provision that 1 percent of the allocation be used for water quality management planning, and a certain percentage of that be passed through to local planning agencies. There is also a provision that the Governor, or her designee, can waive that pass-through. The contact for the Planning Grant is Nancy Sonafrank. The primary contact for the Revolving Fund is Mike Lewis. The Intended Use Plan for FY10 is posted on the ADEC website and will incorporate all of the ARRA funding, which is out for 30-day comment. For tribal communities in Alaska, 1.5 percent of the national Clean Water SRF and Drinking Water SRF appropriations are set aside to provide water and wastewater infrastructures to tribes. These funds were allocated in the form of an interagency agreement with Indian Health Services. Dennis Wagner is the contact for that program. The contact for Brown Fields is Mary Goulie. There is \$100 million nationally for Brown Fields grants. We are using the existing solicitation system for the ARRA funds, but we will be able to fund more projects from that solicitation. The EPA nationally received no applications from Alaskan entities. Susan Morales, the coordinator in Region 10, would like me to encourage you to ask for that money in the future. The Brown Fields Job Training grant is open, but closes April 20. For the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program, the EPA will fund verified retrofit technologies up to 100 percent of the cost of eligible exhaust controls and engine upgrades; verified/certified clean fuel use; verified idle reduction technology up to 100 percent; and more as outlined in the handout available at our table. For leaking underground storage tanks, the Alaska allocation is \$999,000 and will be a direct action by the state instead of individual grants. The key to the entire world of federal grants is the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Each grant has a first name, which is the first three digits, separated by a period, and then the last name, which for the EPA is 66. If you plug that number into the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, you will find all the attributes for that grant program. You can then use that number in many other useful ways. The website [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov), which contains grants as well as a wealth of other information, was reviewed. To view all of the EPA funding opportunities pertaining to the Recovery Act, type EPA-ARR-\* in the funding opportunity box. Grants.gov also allows you to subscribe to email notifications for the attributes you specify. You can also get helping managing your grant by using “The Grants Office Nearest You” link. The Anchorage operations office is a satellite office to EPA Region 10. Our Region 10 site has a lot of useful information on managing your grants. Thank you very much.

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – Colleen Bickford**

**Colleen Bickford:** Everything in the Recovery Act coming through HUD is available at our table, as well as on our website. The Recovery Act includes \$13.6 billion nationally for programs and projects through HUD. Our mission is to provide safe, fair, and affordable housing. Alaska’s share of the money is \$54.2 million. Most of HUD’s money goes through entitlement jurisdictions and our various partners award the competitive awards. Our primary delivery system for HUD funding is tribes or tribally designated housing entities; Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development; the Municipality of Anchorage; and the City of Fairbanks. Those entities will use these dollars to fund housing and community development projects in every corner of Alaska. Most of those projects are ready to go and almost all of the entitlement money is committed, but there are opportunities to participate as contractors. Our funding carries a preference of contracts being awarded to small, minority owned businesses. Most of the money will be used for energy efficient modernization of homes around the state. In some cases, the money will be used for site improvements and to assist families that are on the brink of homelessness or have recently become homeless. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) is a part of HUD. HUD is also involved in implementing the Recovery Act through the 2008 Making Home Affordable Plan, which was launched to support recovery in the national housing

market. It will assist families on the edge of foreclosure, as well as educating people in ways to avoid predatory practices. Out of that source, Alaska received \$19.6 million. Although Alaska did not have a severe mortgage crisis, there were issues and challenges that qualified for the funding. Those funds were passed to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), who administers the Neighborhood Stabilization Plan. Minority populations have been disproportionately affected by the housing crisis. As you start implementing projects in your community, it is important to be familiar with the fair housing laws, which HUD and our federal partners enforce. FHA has instituted a temporary increase in FHA mortgage insurance limits in higher cost markets. We currently have historically low interest rates and a national tax credit program for first time homebuyers. Alaska's allocation under the Native American Housing Block Grant was \$39.9 million. The expected uses are affordable housing money, housing construction, acquisition, rehab, and energy efficiency and conservation. All federal agencies are expected to coordinate the investments of the Recovery Act and ensure energy efficiency whenever possible. We are still waiting for the specifics on the Native American Block Grant competitive grant, which was appropriated \$242 million nationally. The Indian Community Development Block Grant is funded nationally at \$10 million and is part of a set aside for the National Community Development Block Grant. Eligible participants are tribes or villages that received Indian Community Development Block Grant funding in 2008. Now some information about our Office of Community Planning and Development. In Alaska, \$680,000 in State Block Grant money will go to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, who has a long history of administering money for HUD. The City of Fairbanks will receive \$67,000 for their formula allocation. The Municipality of Anchorage will receive \$508,000 and will award priority project contract in 120 days for housing and community development projects benefiting low and moderate-income people. Congress awarded \$2 billion nationally for the 2009 Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which will be a national competition. We are waiting for more details, but eligible entities include states, units of local government, and non-profits or consortia of non-profits, but proposals can be submitted in partnership with for-profit entities. Our selection criteria include areas with the greatest number and percentage of foreclosures. I would encourage anyone interested in this source of money to talk with AHFC, the other partners, and our Community, Planning and Development staff. Under the Home Investment Partnerships Program, AHFC will receive \$5.5 million as a state housing credit agency. They will distribute the money competitively and it is closely tied to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Under the Homeless Prevention Fund, Anchorage will receive \$776,000, and the balance of the state of will receive \$1.1 million. That money is intended to address short- or medium-term rental assistance, housing relocation or stabilization, and other issues to help people at risk of becoming homeless. AHFC is the only public housing agency in Alaska. Through HUD, they will receive \$3.3 million in Capital Fund Recovery Act money to help manage and improve their public housing stock throughout the state. The Recovery Act is providing us with a lot of resources and we will see many community's priorities being met in the next few years. I wish you all the best of luck and please take advantage of the resources here today at the symposium.

**Kevin:** Feedback on the symposium, as well as suggestions for future symposiums, would be appreciated and can be made on the following websites: Senator Murkowski at [www.Murkowski.Senate.gov](http://www.Murkowski.Senate.gov); Senator Begich, [www.Begich.Senate.gov](http://www.Begich.Senate.gov); Congressman Young at [www.Young.House.gov](http://www.Young.House.gov).

#### **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – Dan Spencer**

**Dan Spencer:** I am the Director of Administrative Services for the Department of Public Safety. This PowerPoint presentation will be placed on the Department of Public Safety's webpage. I am presenting on behalf of the Department of Justice. The Department of Public Safety is the state administering agency for many of the Department of Justice grants and programs. The Office of Justice Programs has five bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office for Victims of Crimes, the

National Institute of Justice, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We have two program offices: the Community Capacity Development Office and the Office of Sex Offenders, Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. We regularly work with the Office of Justice Programs and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Recovery Act programs that are administered by the Office of Justice Programs are the Edward Burn Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, the Victims Compensation Grant Program, the Victims Assistance Grant Program, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and the Department of Public Safety. They will likely end up with about \$500,000. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will receive additional funding from a Stop Grant, which will later be sub-granted through a public grant solicitation process and posted on our website. There are four active programs for competitive grants. The deadlines for some of the formula programs for state agencies have already passed. There are also general competitive grant programs. The Edward Burn Competitive Grant Program promotes hiring for the implementation of strategies designed to prevent and deter crime. A broad range of public, private and non-profit entities are eligible for these grants. The total funding is \$225 million nationwide and will be very competitive. The application deadline is April 27 and the Department of Justice can help with your applications. The Local Youth Mentoring Program is a competitive grant solicitation with a total award of \$500,000 nationally. The application deadline is April 20. The Correctional Facilities and Tribal Lands Program has \$225 million available nationally with applications being due May 4. The eligible applicants include Alaska Native villages and corporations. The Assistance of Rural Law Enforcement, which combats crimes and drugs, has \$123.8 million available nationally and applications are due April 22. Eligible applicants are state and local law enforcement agencies in rural areas. The total allocation to the State of Alaska for the Burn Formula under the Justice Assistance Grants is \$9.6 million. Of that, \$5.8 million will go to the Alaska Department of Public Safety with \$1.4 million being sub-granted out to local governments through competitive grants. About \$3.8 million will go directly to local governments, which have already been calculated and can be viewed on our website. The communities that will receive direct awards are Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, Ketchikan, the Northwest Arctic Borough, Kodiak, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Sitka, Bethel, Juneau, Dillingham, and the Bristol Bay Borough, assuming they apply for it before the May deadline. If you are interested in applying for a grant, talk to the people at our table, visit our website, or visit the Bureau of Justice Assistance's website. DUN numbers are required for all grant applications and can be obtained from our website. The Office of Justice's Office of Communications main phone number is 202-307-0703. For questions on Justice Assistance Grants, call 1-866-268-0079. The State of Alaska Online Public Notice System is available on the State of Alaska's website. The Office on Violence Against Women Recovery Act website is [www.OVW.usdoj.gov/recovery](http://www.OVW.usdoj.gov/recovery). Much of the funding that will go through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault goes out through competitive grants and would include shelters. The Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Program, is at [www.COPS.usdoj.gov](http://www.COPS.usdoj.gov). The deadline for the COPS Competitive Grant was today. However, the Department of Justice has many of the same programs in their annual budget, so if you missed the deadline, there may be upcoming funding opportunities available. Thank you very much.

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – Peter Sorano**

**Peter Sorano:** I am with the Federal Highway Administration, based in Juneau. The Department of Transportation includes the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Maritime Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Administration, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, the Surface Transportation Board, and the Office of the Secretary. The top priorities of the DOT are to keep the traveling public safe and secure, increase mobility, and have our transportation system contribute to the nation's economic growth. The Recovery

Act has a number of objectives: preserving and creating jobs; promoting economic recovery; investing in transportation, environment protection, and other infrastructures that will provide long-term economic benefits; providing investments needed to increase economic efficiency through technology advances in science and health; assisting those most impacted by the recession; and stabilizing state and local government budgets to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services. The Recovery Act, a \$787 billion investment, targets key areas that will immediately save or create jobs while laying the groundwork for long-term economic growth. The act provides a total of \$48.1 billion for transportation including \$27.5 billion for highways, \$80.4 billion for transit, and \$1.5 billion for the National Surface Transportation Discretionary Program. The Federal Highway Administration is taking steps to ensure accountability and transparency. Out of the \$27.5 billion, we have \$550 million for the Federal Lands, Highway, and Indian Reservation Program, of which \$310 million is for the Indian reservation road projects, \$170 million for park roads and parkways, \$60 million for highways, and \$10 million for refuge roads. We also have \$20 million for highway surface transportation and technology training, \$20 million for disadvantaged business enterprises and bonding assistance, \$45 million for territorial highways, \$60 million for discretionary programs for construction of ferryboats and ferry terminal facilities, \$105 million for a Puerto Rico highway program, and \$40 million for program management and oversight. Out of the \$27.5 billion for highways, removing the amounts listed above, we have \$26.6 billion left. The \$26.6 billion is portioned to the states with 50 percent using the STP formula and 50 percent using the same ratio as FY08. Eligible uses for state funds include restoration, repair, construction, and other activities eligible under the Surface Transportation Program including passenger and freight rail transportation and port infrastructure projects. The federal share is 100 percent. The law includes unprecedented accountability, transparency, and reporting requirements including the establishment of a Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board and a Recovery Independent Advisory Panel. The Recovery Act includes several types of reports including certifications, periodic reports on specified dates, and quarterly reports. If you go to [www.FHWA.gov](http://www.FHWA.gov), you can see how much of these funds have already been spent. The collected information will include the name of the project, a description, the estimated completion date, the number of jobs created, the number of jobs retained, purpose, cost, rationale, subcontract information, total funds received, and total amounts expended. The successful delivery of the Recovery Act is critical to the nation's economy and our top priority. The expected workload has been analyzed and we are taking steps to redirect existing staff, as well as adding additional support staff. While we will do all we can to be flexible in our approach, we will follow existing federal requirements. Our normal stewardship agreement provisions, as well as those modified by the Recovery Act, will be used to administer projects. President Obama made the commitment that all stimulus projects would bear a recovery emblem so Americans could see which projects were funded by the act. We encourage agencies to use the Economic Recovery Sign and the detailed design is posted on [www.FHWA.gov](http://www.FHWA.gov). A listing of the websites that contain information on the highway portion of the Recovery Act is available at our table. We would like to thank the Congressional staff for holding this symposium, as well as the public for their attendance.

**Kevin:** We will break for lunch and reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

*Recess until 2:00 p.m.*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY – Bernie Richer**

**Bernie Richer:** The Economic Development Administration has a single focus, the creation and retention of private-sector jobs. Our three biggest issues are job creation and retention, investment by the private sector, and regional impact. We can fund anything that targets these issues. There has not yet been an allocation to our regional office, but we can assist you in funding for planning, technical assistance, or

construction as long as it is directed at improving the local economy. With that in mind, we urge you to consider smaller projects that can be done sooner rather than later. Working in partnership with other agencies is becoming even more critical. Our partners include the Denali Commission, HUD, Rural Develop, and a number of other agencies. We work very closely with three state agencies: the Division of Investments, who has a small business loan program with money currently available; the Division of Tourism and the Office of Economic Development of State Commerce, who also has Developing Alaska Rural Tourism and the Center for Economic Development. Their statewide mission is working with statewide entities, especially Native entities, on feasibility studies and planning. Please talk to us directly about your individual projects, because we can work with you to determine their feasibility.

## **THE DENALI COMMISSION – George Cannelos**

**George Cannelos:** All of today's presentations will be posted on the Denali Commission's website after the symposium. Senator Stevens started the Denali Commission 10 years ago. We have invested about \$1 billion of federal money and another \$1 billion when you consider leveraging with other entities. We have 1,200 projects on our database. We believe that much of rural Alaska resembles the third world, which is inexcusable. Many people are surprised to learn that the disparities in health, economics, and social conditions around our state resemble the developing world. We have a small staff, but many partners. We receive no project earmarks from Congress. Congress allocates programmatic money for energy or health and it is up to us, through a public process, to make decisions on projects. Over the past 10 years, our money has gone to the following: \$390 million for energy, \$270 million to health facilities, and the remainder to transportation, training, and community facilities. Our budget started with \$20 million for the Bulk Fuel Program and rose to a peak of \$140 million. In FY09, our funding will be \$65 to \$75 million, depending on how some energy funding turns out. We made the decision to keep all of our programs intact at reduced levels, rather than cancelling one program in favor of another. Our work plan is out for public comment for the next 30 days and will then be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce. Our base funding, which is where our energy projects come from, has been dramatically reduced. Three or four years ago, it was \$50 million and now it is \$11 million. For energy, we have replaced over 100 bulk fuel facilities in rural Alaska and we are working on more with our partners, the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) and Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC). We upgraded many rural power plants, but we have many more to go. We do some competitive RFPs through AEA on conservation and energy efficiency programs. In an attempt to lead the way in renewable energy, we have done a number of small hydro projects primarily in the southeast. We partnered with AVEC on eight wind diesel hybrid power systems, which are winning awards across the world and leading the way in wind and diesel design for cold, small places. We completed a study on power line inter-ties across the state, recognizing that you cannot scale up renewable energy until you are connected to each other. We do capacity building and training to help develop a sustainable economy. Health facilities are a mainstay of the Denali Commission. With our partners, regional health corporations and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, we built over 100 primary health care clinics across Alaska. It is a source of great pride to know that people in the villages can be seen and treated locally by qualified medical professionals. Multiple funders are important when you go after a grant. For example, the \$6.6 million project for the Sand Point Sub Regional Clinic was funded by the Denali Commission, HUD, Commerce and Economic Development, U.S. Rural Development, the Rasmussen Foundation, Public Health Services, the City of Sand Point, the Aleutians East Borough, the Shoovigan Corporation, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. This also provides for ownership of the project at the local level, which is crucial to the successfulness of the project in the end. We are very proud of the Transportation Program, which came out of the Highway Bill four years ago. AFN's original vision was to have transportation dollars flowing into rural Alaska for small communities. Under the act, the Governor appointed a Transportation Advisory Committee. The Transportation Program has an annual cycle of publicly requesting project

ideas in August through September, with decisions being made in December and January. We have over 120 transportation projects in play. We recently completed a barge and landing study with the Corps of Engineers. As you know, very few rural communities have barge, mooring, or dock facilities along their riverfronts. We have partnered with AHFC to do over 200 Teacher Housing projects. In Tooksook Bay, the old BIA school was recently renovated, which is more economical than new construction. The project will be energy efficient and ready by September. The School Districts have indicated that when teachers have adequate housing, they stay in the communities for a longer period of time. The hope is that this will translate into better student performance. We are looking for more of these types of projects. We are concerned about the Training Program, whose funding has dropped from \$7 million to \$3.5 million a year. We use training dollars for projects like training rural Alaskans to operate village wind turbines, as well as training for allied healthcare, carpentry, and construction trades. The Denali Training Program has a continuous application process and is currently available. We often visit Rural Alaska. I prefer that agency/village relations are done while looking each other in the eye, which leads to a more thorough knowledge of their needs and mutual respect. As you look for grants, try to find synergy between programs. As an example, AVEC put wind turbines in Hooper Bay last summer. We used our energy dollars for the wind turbines, training dollars for the training, and transportation dollars to build the access road. The Alaska Clearinghouse will provide you with information on what is in the Stimulus Bill that can help you and how you can go after those dollars. The Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program's deadline is April 27 and is through the Department of Justice. It has \$225 million available nationwide for ideas related to improving law enforcement. The Local Youth Mentoring Initiative's deadline is April 20 and is through the Department of Labor. It is open to communities, tribes, and non-profit organizations. We have recently discerned an energy program that is available to every tribe in the country, but they must submit an application, which is quite burdensome, before the deadline to receive any money. We will be talking to the Delegation and the Department of Energy to see if there is some way for the Alaska Clearinghouse to submit one statewide application and then distribute the funding.

**Adison Smith:** All the information discussed today will be posted on our website after the symposium. The Alaska Clearinghouse team includes Adison Smith with the Denali Commission, John Bittner with the Alaska State Legislature, Chris Perez with the Rasmussen Foundation, and Patrick Hatch with HUD. We look forward to working with you on these projects.

**George Canelos:** Rural Alaska is a special place and there is nothing else like it in the world. It is up to us to make sure it has a great future. Does anyone have any questions?

**Unidentified Male:** Can Denali Commission funding be used as a match if someone was able to obtain stimulus funding for libraries?

**George Canelos:** We can help you locate match funding, but our dollars cannot be used as match funding.

**Unidentified Female:** Can you help with the applications or the reporting requirements?

**George Canelos:** This issue is beyond our capabilities, but Dennis McMillan with the Foraker Group, which trains non-profit groups, is considering this issue.

**Unidentified Male:** Has the Denali Commission talked to the tribes about the Energy Program you discussed earlier that had a cumbersome application process?

**George Canelos:** No. That is a great idea, but we just learned about it.

**Unidentified Male:** What is your advice in terms of aggregated funding approaches? Should we send in a combined application to multiple agencies that qualify for different programs or should we send in a single grant proposal to a single program?

**George Canelos:** I would recommend a single grant to a single agency, provided that you are convinced that the agency is talking to the right people and then in turn talking to you.

**Lisa Lang:** I appreciate your respect for rural communities. Many of us have incurred a great deal of expenses to travel to Anchorage for the symposium. I would like to visit your office tomorrow so the Alaska Clearinghouse can steer me in the right direction to obtain the specifics for the projects we are considering. My hope is that when I leave this conference with the information necessary for our grant writers to get busy and get us on the right path.

**George Canelos:** Everyone is welcome at our office and we have lots of coffee.

**Darrell Thompson:** The City of Togiak is in the process of starting up a project to create a youth activity center, a multi-use facility, and a tech center in our old school. We have spent \$1.8 million to remove the hazardous materials from the old site. We are spending \$.5 million to preserve the remaining building and are in the process of looking for funding to renovate the interior in the next year.

**George Canelos:** Our Multi-Use Program was one of the casualties of our funding cuts a couple of years ago. We used to co-fund such facilities, but we are no longer able to do so.

**Jerry Woods:** Seward is planning a co-located museum and library facility. We are not shovel ready so are we out of luck?

**George Canelos:** There are different deadlines in this bill. You may be out of luck for most of the stimulus, but you are not out of luck for the regular programs. Our Predevelopment Program is a collaboration between the Denali Commission, the Rasmuson Foundation, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority where projects in the predevelopment stage are reviewed by consultants at the Foraker Group for their viability.

**Steve Bradshaw:** I am from Sitka. Most of the money we have talked about today is under competitive grants. Is there any of the money that could still be vetoed by our Governor?

**George Canelos:** That question is beyond my pay grade.

**Doreen O'Brian:** I am with the Pre-maternal Home in Bethel. We are shovel ready for a project to build a new pre-maternal home. We have the land, the architecture, and the plans, but not the construction funds. From what I have heard today, we are going to need partners to make this come to fruition. Is that something that the Denali Commission can help me with?

**George Canelos:** We can help you with that.

**Steve Street:** I am the archeologist at AVCP. The Denali Commission is a federal agency so I assume you are the lead federal agency in many of these projects and they have to comply with the federal statutes and regulations with NEPA. Do you help applicants navigate through that process?

**Tessa Rinner:** Yes, but it depends on program. The Commission has NEPA guidelines that we follow based on the program under which we are administering federal money. Program staff within the Commission works with applicants in the pre-award process to identify what environmental permitting regulations you will have to follow and how we will assist in the process of moving it through NEPA.

**Linda:** I am in Kotzebue. Is there a way for any of our rural Alaskan communities to become participants in the review teams for the grants and proposals in the Stimulus Bill?

**George Canelos:** Many of the federal agencies in Washington that implement these new opportunity are not yet organized. Broadband, under the Department of Commerce, has more than \$2 billion available, but no one is available yet to take applications. That is a great question, but I do not have a good answer.

**Linda:** Whom would you recommend as a contact for us to get involved in that process? If we add more people to the review process, communities in Alaska will have a better chance at receiving funding.

**George Canelos:** We have six advisory committees that guide our direction and project selection at the Denali Commission, but that does not address your question. Someone from the audience just said that in many cases the federal agencies do not let Alaskans review federal projects for Alaska. We will be around all day for further questions and please come and see us tomorrow.

#### **U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – Sam Vickey**

**Sam Vickey:** I am the Deputy District Director for the Alaska Office of the Small Business Administration. We are a federal agency. Our mission is to help support the American economy by supporting small businesses through loans, access to capital, helping people break into government contracting, and advocacy with state and federal governments to help lighten the regulatory burden. We administer a very small array of grants, all of which support small business entities. Typically, all of our grants, which include Women's Business Centers in every state, Veterans Business Centers in each region, and the Small Business Development Centers. The majority of our grants are for Small Business Centers and to qualify you have to be a lead Small Business Development Center. Most of those grants are posted by universities. The grant period opens every July. The Women's Business Center Grant is currently open and taking applications. The Drug Free Workplace Program is open to any non-profit, is a \$100,000, and is renewable every year. The Small Business Innovation and Research Grant helps small businesses bring technological innovations or inventions to the marketplace. Carolyn Pratt is the head of the Trend Program and can be reached at 274-7232. My direct telephone number is 271-4844 and I would be happy to discuss any of our grants with you.

*Recess to 3:00 p.m.*

#### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR – John Humphrey**

**John Humphrey:** I am from the U.S. Department of Labor, the Employment and Training Administration in Region 6, which covers Nevada west to Hawaii, and the Pacific jurisdictions of Alaska, California, and Arizona. The Employment and Training Administration is one of the smaller agencies within the Department of Labor, but we receive 90 percent of the department's budget. Our money goes to supporting the training and stabilization of the workforce. The Workforce Investment Act is primarily job training and provides re-employment services for laid-off workers. We have a special pot of money for senior employment programs and youth employment programs. We are also the agency responsible for the unemployment compensation system in the United States. Most of our money comes down via a

formula. Our grantees are the State of Alaska, the Department of Labor, and Workforce Development. The Recovery Act was signed into law on February 17 in response to the recession. It is intended to create or save 3.5 million jobs and help people who have lost jobs find employment opportunities. Our agency's mission is to help Americans acquire new skills and get back to work to help our country compete in the global economy. Much of our money comes in via a formula, but we have competitive grant opportunities. The Recovery Act provided us with nearly \$4.5 billion, most of which is distributed to state governments. The Dislocated Worker Program received \$1.25 billion nationally to assist workers who were laid-off with re-employment services and job training. Alaska's share of \$3.5 million was distributed on March 13, which was within the 30 days that the law required. We have competitive opportunities through existing grant programs. The Youth Build Program will receive an additional \$50 million to teach construction skills to disadvantaged and at-risk youth. We will have competitive grant applications for alternative energy job in the amount of \$750 million in July or August. We have \$200 million in our national reserve account for mass layoffs or employment dislocations that occur due to natural disasters. State governors apply for these funds. Our money became available February 17 and expires June 30, 2011. Most of the money will flow through existing programs such as the Workforce Investment Act, the Unemployment and Compensation Program, the Wagner-Pfizer Act, and the Trade Act. We strongly believe this money should be spent within the next year, although our grantees have until June 30, 2011. We are not looking for new ways to expend the money, because our past funding has not been able to meet all the existing demands. Key policy drivers of the Recovery Act include the expedited and effective use of funds, transparency and accountability, reporting requirements, and emphasis on services for the hard-to-serve populations. There will be a lot of information available on the website [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov). We are looking to increase our ability to provide re-employment and job training services to public assistance recipients, as well as veterans. While most of the money follows the existing legislation, they did allow our grantees to have additional flexibility in contracting for training, especially when provided by institutions of higher education such as community colleges. Most states have received double the amount of money for the Workforce Investment Act Youth Activities to operate summer job programs. Due to funding reductions over the years, these programs have been reduced and in some cases eliminated. We are encouraging our grantees to have ambitious summer youth programs with a focus on low income and disconnected youth, with a percentage of those being out-of-school youth. Adult Services will receive \$500 million nationally. The Senior Community Service Employment Program is a formula program and the State of Alaska is our grantee in Alaska. There is \$120 million available nationally and Alaska's share is \$507,000. We have money set aside and specifically identified to provide re-employment services to unemployment insurance claimants. On the competitive grants, we will have competitive grant applications available this summer for \$750 million, \$500 million of which will be identified for green jobs and \$250 million to support training and capacity building for healthcare occupations. Our website allows you to be automatically notified of new grant applications or opportunities. The Recovery Act contains a provision allowing recipients of unemployment benefits to receive an extra \$25 a week. There is a provision to waive interest on state unemployment insurance loans for the next year and a half, which does not have an impact on Alaska since the Alaska Unemployment Trust Fund is solvent. Unemployment insurance benefits are subject to federal taxes, but a new provision exempts the first \$2,400 of benefits. The law for the Trade Act Assistance Program has been changed. In the past, the Trade Program was only applicable to companies or workers that produced goods and not for those who provided services. It now provides re-employment services and job services, as well as healthcare benefits, to individuals who have lost their jobs due to foreign competition. Additional information can be obtained from various sources as provided on the handouts at our table. Thank you.

#### **U.S. TREASURY CDFI FUND – Mark Kudlowitz**

**Mark Kudlowitz:** I work at the Community Development Financial Institution Fund, which manages four competitive programs at the Department of Treasury. The mission of the CDFI Fund is to expand the capacity of financial institutions to provide credit, capital and financial services to underserved populations and communities. We have four separate programs, but I will focus on the ones specific to the Recovery Act. The Community Development Financial Institution Program includes a Financial Assistance Program (FA) and a Technical Assistance Program (TA). The Natives Initiatives Program is the same as the CDFI Program, but geared towards Indian country. We also have a Bank Interpraisal Award Program, a New Markets Tax Credit Program, and a Certification Program. CDFIs are mission-driven, community-oriented financial institutions, which can be for-profit or non-profit. The majority are non-profits that have revolving loan funds and the rest are credit unions, banks, and venture capital funds doing community development. Our purpose is to promote economic revitalization and community development through investments. These programs provide financial assistance and help capitalize loan funds for organizations working in areas where there is very little financial activity. We are not only trying to help capitalize these loan funds, we are trying to build capacity within these organizations so they can continue to grow, have greater self sufficiency, and provide valuable services such as affordable housing development, small business development, and community facilities to low-income areas. We are also trying to leverage our CDFI Fund resources. The first awards were in 1996. With the CDFI Native Initiative and BA, we have awarded almost \$1 billion for depository institutions. As of March 1, we had about 820 certified CDFIs. We have seen large growth in CDFI certifications. For the FY09 Recovery Act, we will have a new notice of funding available in the next couple of weeks and we will waive our match requirements. Traditionally, a 1-4 match is required. FA is only available to certified CDFIs. You must demonstrate that you can leverage nonfederal dollars within your grant application. With TA, you do not have to be a certified CDFI as we are trying to provide new funding to become certified. You can apply for either FA, TA, or FA and TA. You can be certified and still need capacity building assistance. The Native American Program is the same, but geared towards Native communities. We separate the smaller groups from larger groups so they are not directly competing. Rural groups, lower capacity organizations, and new organizations would compete under the SECA Program, which is determined by your asset size and has a smaller total award availability, but allows you to compete for the larger amounts as you grow. It is up to \$2 million for our Core Program and \$500 for our SECA Program. If a non-profit applies for \$2 million, the money can be used for financial products, loan loss reserves, and capital reserves, but 85 percent of the money must be deployed to the low-income community you identified in your application within three years. The remaining 15 percent can be held for operations. TA includes personnel, fringe, training, and travel, but it has to be justified within your business plan. Examples of a TA award uses include strategic plans, a market analysis, developing policies and procedures, underwriting training, and loan software. In scoring of the applications, more emphasis is placed on the financial health and viability of higher capacity groups than the SECA groups. The Native Initiative Program is two-tiered. It is the same as the CDFI Program, except that we have a contracting relationship with First Nations Indian Corporation who provides training and technical assistance to Native communities throughout the United States. Since there is a lack of core financial institutions serving Indian countries, the program allows for a sponsoring entity. A tribal government or a tribal housing authority can start a standalone non-profit that would serve as a vehicle for receiving these funds, which they would then lend out to meet community development needs. They have to become a separate legal entity and a certified CDFI within three years. Within that time, we can provide TA awards to help entities become a certified lending organization, as well as provide onsite technical assistance and training. When we started this program, there were only nine certified CDFIs serving Native communities, which was a problem since banks were not working in these areas. This program received Congressional appropriations each year. As of February 2009, we have 47 certified CDFIs and 60 in various stages of moving towards certification. I will review the Recovery Act and how it affects the CDFI Program. We will be able to make larger awards. We will have a notice of funding availability

within the next couple of weeks for the next round. The applications will have a quick turnaround time and will be due within a month. Traditionally, we have not been able to fund a full FA awards, because we have did not receive enough funding and the FA awards were capped at \$1 million. This year we can do \$2 million FA awards. If you applied in our first FY09 funding round for a TA only award for technical assistance and did not receive an award from FA, you are still on the list and will be eligible when we do our next round. We are also able to make larger awards for the Native American Program. Those awards were usually capped at \$.5 million, but we will now go up to \$750,000 for the FA awards. As part of the Recovery Act, there will be no match requirement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Our website is [www.CDFIfund.gov](http://www.CDFIfund.gov) and includes our contact information as well as a Recovery Act section. I can be contacted at 202-927-9910.

**Unidentified Male:** Are there any CDFIs in Alaska?

**Mark Kudlowitz:** CDFIs in Alaska include Neighborhood Works Anchorage, Neighborhood Works Fairbanks, and Alaska Growth Capital Bidco. Within the New Markets Tax Credit Program, you have to be a community development entity, which is another certification. There have been awards within each of these programs almost every year in Alaska and we have seen a lot of activity within the Native American Program. I do not believe there are enough CDFIs in Alaska for the population. Please come see me and we can help you get started if you are interested in this.

**Unidentified Male:** Is this for new CDFIs or can an existing financial institution open a new branch?

**Mark Kudlowitz:** It is for new or existing organizations.

#### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – RURAL DEVELOPMENT – Marlene Kruz**

**Marlene Kruz:** The USDA Rural Development is an organization that does brick and mortar type projects. We have three distinct areas within our agency: housing, business and industry, and community programs. We have six area offices in Kenai, Bethel, Nome, Dillingham, Fairbanks, and Sitka. At our table is a rural assistance sheet, which lists all the names and contact information for our area offices, as well as our state office in Palmer. Gene King is our liaison with the Denali Commission. The USDA Rural Development says they can build a community from the ground up, because we do the infrastructure and anything else that a community needs. Most of you are familiar with grant writing where you respond to a NOPA and write the grant specifically to that. Most of our programs do not come out by NOPA and you can apply at any time utilizing our process. Under our Water and Environmental Program, we can do water and sewer projects including distribution lines, water tanks, and anything to do with safe and sanitary water and sewer. We can also help you build a new solid waste site and close out the old one. Equipment is also an eligible purpose under this program. Eligible applicants are tribes, public bodies, and community based non-profits. We also have the Technical Assistance and Training Program where applications have to be filed between October 1 and December 31 of each year. There are two pots of money, one for water and waste, and one for solid waste. The program provides money to an organization to render technical assistance on problems related to water and sewer, or waste. We also have another program called the PPG, which is a preplanning and development grant that allows you to get your environmental report and preliminary engineering report completed. Our grants under this program are up to 75 percent of the entire project. Under our Water and Waste Program, the other 25 percent can come from state or federal grants. The Community Facilities Program funds any essential community facility. Eligible applicants are tribes, public bodies, or any political subdivisions of the state. Under this program, we have guaranteed loans, direct loans, and grants. The grants are up to 75 percent of the eligible project cost, but some state or local match is required. The emphasis is on health and public

safety facilities. We have done many projects in the state. We were a large funder of the Haines library. We have been involved with Code Blue for eight years, which provides emergency medical services across the state including ambulances and other equipment. We have financed two squad cars in Fort Yukon. We can do fire engines, docks, roads, substance abuse and counseling centers, clinics, hospitals, museums, transportation including ferries and local transport vans, senior centers, assisted care living facilities, and any project that is essential to a community. We will be having a capacity-building program called the Rural Community Development Initiative, which is a train-the-trainer type approach for anything from economic development to community development. Under our Business and Industry Division, we have loan guarantees where we guarantee up to 90 percent of a lender's loan to induce them to take a greater level of risk. They also typically extend more favorable rates and terms if they have our guarantee. The Rural Business Enterprise Grant helps new and emerging businesses develop. The Rural Business Opportunity Grant is similar to a planning grant for economic development within a region. We have Rural Energy Assistance, which is a renewable energy program. Information on the Broadband Program can be obtained by calling our office. Another division of Rural Utility Service provides for electrical generation plants and electrical distribution. You can obtain more information on that by calling our Palmer office. Our Single-Family Housing Program has a zero down program with subsidized interest rates, up to 38 years, to purchase or construct a new home, although that could change in the future to include refinancing. The 504 Program lends up to \$20,000, at 1 percent interest with a 20-year repayment period, to very low-income people. Under that program, there are also grants up to \$7,500 available for low-income, elderly people. We also have a Housing Preservation Grant in which we partner with other agencies to weatherize homes in rural Alaska. You can apply for most of our programs at any time unless they come out by NOPA and have a specific date. We will go out to a village, sit down with you, and help you fill out our applications if needed. The phone number for the Palmer office is 761-7705. Information on all of our programs is on our website at [www.rurdev.usva.gov](http://www.rurdev.usva.gov). We can also do pre-applications using a standard SF424 application, your financials for the last three years, and a narrative and executive summary of the project. It is very important for Washington to see these applications coming in, because they demonstrate the need for the program, as well as the needs of Alaska. We especially need to leverage resources for larger projects. It is a good idea to talk to all of the partners to see which one can participate in your project and in what capacity. An important note is that we have several different definitions of rural. For our V&I Program, any place except Anchorage is considered rural. For our Community Facilities Program, we consider any community under 20,000 as rural, so the excluded areas would be Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. For the Water and Waste Program, the definition of rural is any community under 10,000.

**Unidentified Female:** Would you talk a little bit more about the Rural Energy Assistance Program?

**Marlene Kruz:** This is a new program and has changed from last year. Rather than giving you outdated information, I would direct your question to Dean Stewart at 761-7733.

**Unidentified Female:** (Indiscernible – away from the microphone.)

**Marlene Kruz:** We have not yet received our stimulus money, but we were very well represented in the Stimulus Bill.

**Linda:** For pre-applications, do we go to [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) or do you take hard copies?

**Marlene Kruz:** Please do not go on [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). We have been told that there are glitches in the system and some of the applications have not made it to their intended destination. We prefer to receive hard copies until they get the glitches fixed.

**Lenny:** I am from Bethel. Why do you have several definitions for rural?

**Marlene Kruz:** We wish we had one definition, but that stems from legislation and the Code of Federal Regulations, which guides the definitions for the various programs.

**Unidentified Female:** OMB identified [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) as an area of risk for applications for stimulus packages and requested that we give alternate means for applications. At the EPA, it is on a solicitation-by-solicitation basis. However, [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) is still the best place to look to find grant opportunities.

**Valdez:** I am interested in developing community gardens, especially for unemployed clients at our Food Bank. Is that something that would be covered under your Community Facilities category?

**Marlene Cruz:** Developing the community garden probably would not be covered, but the Food Bank or the storage facilities for that food would be covered.

#### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY – Brian Hirsh and Brent Sheets**

**Brent Sheets:** I am the Regional Manager for the Department of Energy's Arctic Energy Office, which was started in 2002 with two initial mission areas, fossil energy and remote power. The goal of fossil energy was to bring oil and gas primarily down to the Lower 48 and begin developing coal resources in Alaska. Since our appropriation is primary through the Fossil Energy Program, our focus has not on the remote power sites until recently when Brian Hirsh came onboard representing the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Program. The Arctic Energy Office has worked on Cook Inlet gas supplies issues, the Spur and Bullet pipelines that are currently being discussed, and power assessment projects. When we first opened the office, our strategy was to work with the people who live and work in Arctic environments. Some of our projects include coal gasification studies, coal to liquids for the Healy area, and drilling for natural gas from coal seams at Fort Yukon and elsewhere. Alaska is the United States' premiere storehouse of fossil energy resources with 20 percent of the oil and 50 percent of the coal. What can we do for villages? We commissioned a concept study when there was a gold mine going into Nome and they had a need for a new power supply. This slide shows a coal-fired power plant, which is relatively clean burning by coal standards, that can be brought into a community on a barge and hooked into the existing infrastructure. We are looking for natural ways to capture methane seeps from Arctic lakes, seeking natural gas and an economic way to pipe it into some villages. We are looking at environmentally friendly drilling platforms for the North Slope that removes the need for gravel pads. The idea is that you can construct it in the winter using ice roads and work there all year round. Our 2009 budget does not allow us to expand into many rural energy issues and our 2010 budget is still being formulated. Our typical budgets are about \$7 million and are usually spent on environmental projects on the North Slope and Cook Inlet studies. We have done very little with the villages, but we hope to do more in 2010. DOE Fossil Energy Management is lined up allow us to start looking for unconventional natural gas in some of those areas. On the DOE website, you can find funding opportunity announcements by clicking on the area that you are interested and receiving automatic emails informing you of those opportunities.

**Brian Hirsh:** I have been working on renewable issues in Alaska, primarily with tribal communities in remote applications, for 12 to 15 years. When I first started, people laughed me out of the room because oil and gas was cheap and plentiful. Alaska has a tremendous storehouse of fossil resources. In the recent past, there has been an upsurge in renewable energy interest due to the increased cost of fuel. With the new technologies, there are now good reasons to invest in renewable energies. In the near term, fossil fuels will still be important and something we need to keep in our back pocket for reliability and security.

The Recovery Act is largely focused on energy issues. The Recovery Act addresses new economic issues that are a result of high energy prices and our dependence on foreign oil. As a nation, we need to address some of our energy use from the demand and supply side and shift our areas of emphasis. Goals for the Recovery Act investments including transforming up to 10 percent of our electricity to renewable resources by 2012 with a quarter of all electricity being generated by 2025, as well as an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Similar to the State of Alaska, which recently invested significant funds into renewable energy development, there is an emphasis on short-term shovel-ready projects to create new jobs and/or retain jobs while looking to the future to combine short-term and long-term goals. The Department of Energy is receiving \$32.7 billion nationally for energy investments, of which there is an additional \$12.5 billion for loans and related types of demonstration power barring authority. On the technology basis, biomass is \$800 million, geothermal is \$400 million, discretionary funding is \$1.25 billion and will allow for exciting new opportunities, Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants on the statewide level is \$3.2 billion, state energy programs is \$3.1 million, and weatherization assistance is \$5 billion. For Alaska, the last three funds mentioned are still tied up in the legislature and the Governor, with our input, will decide whether to accept them. The types of funding available include grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, loan guarantees, and energy grant programs. The Denali Commission provides the Alaska Clearinghouse for all of the different federal agencies and information can be accessed at [www.Denali.gov](http://www.Denali.gov). Energy efficiency and conservation retrofits will receive significant funding since buildings consume 40 percent of our energy. Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) and Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) will share the \$28 million allocated to the State Energy Program in Alaska if the funds become are accepted. Commercial and public energy audits and conservation will be the focus for AHFC. On the AEA side, two-thirds of the budget will go to energy renewable projects to supplement the existing Renewable Energy Fund and a third will go to energy efficiency rebates and retrofits. The Weatherization Assistance Program has \$18.5 million pending acceptance and will provide for low-income families in Alaska. That would be distributed to five statewide agencies, distributed based on income, and will essentially be a free program to people who qualify. Last year the state funded this program with \$200 million and if AHFC receives the additional \$18 million, it would go into an existing and well-run program. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Program in Alaska has \$28.5 million, including \$12 million for tribes. The money to the tribes is directly applied to DOE and the Denali Commission is trying to coordinate the technical assistance required to apply for the funding. Both businesses and individuals can take advantage of this and it is unique to energy areas. With production tax credit, participants can be paid for every unit of energy they produce utilizing renewable energy facilities such as wind turbines or solar panels. Marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy systems are exciting for Alaska, because Alaska is widely recognized as having over 90 percent of the nation's marine energy, as well as stream river hydrokinetic systems. There is a 30 percent tax credit available to help individuals cover the cost of installing wind or solar renewable systems that is deducted directly from the amount of taxes owed. There is also a 30 percent tax credit for businesses such for qualified systems like geothermal, solar energy system, and small wind turbines.

**Unidentified Male:** Is there a mandate that the state has to adopt the national model energy building codes as a condition of accepting the energy efficiency grants that are still in question in Alaska?

**Brian Hirsh:** My understanding is that the state would be obligated to adopt some of these energy codes, but it is unclear whether they would have to fully adopt the codes at the end of the eight-year timeframe. However, these codes are now essentially industry standards, but it is viewed as a string that is attached to the money. In addition, other tribal renewable energy grants are available by open solicitation through the U.S. Department of Energy. For more information, Lozona Pierce can be reached through our website.

**Connie:** On one of the slides about tax benefits, it said you could request a grant rather than a tax credit. Can you talk about that?

**Brian Hirsh:** For tribal or non-profit entities that are not taxed in the same way as for-profit entities, there are other types of incentives.

**Carl Olson:** Do you have information about what is going to happen with the Smart Grid money that is being made available through the Department of Energy and is it possible to get copies of your PowerPoint presentation?

**Brian Hirsh:** Copies of my PowerPoint presentation can be made available. It is my understanding that they are still working on the smart grid technology issue. There are interesting applications in smart grid technologies, which is essentially figuring out new ways to take advantage of renewable energies, like wind, that are not always available when you need it and thinking about how to store it. A lot of what they are talking about is research and development, as well as demonstration projects. The hope is that over time we can all benefit from the technology. The grant requirements and what they are going to target with that money is currently being formulated.

**Unidentified Male:** Can you speak to the interface between both of your programs, mandates and visions?

**Brent Sheets:** Brian Hirsh is with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and I am with the National Energy Technology Laboratory. We each receive funding sources through our respective managements. There is going to be a request from DOE management that we put together a joint program to merge our efforts, but we have not officially received that order.

**Brian Hirsh:** Brent Sheets has been here for a lot of time and is providing me with a lot of help and assistance in terms of understanding how the government can best assist people. My program is not a typical program for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. However, with the recognition of the energy challenges in Alaska around fuel prices and migration from rural areas to urban areas, they wanted to contribute to the ongoing effort.

**SchawnaThoma:** There are representatives from the Denali Commission and other agencies to answer any more questions that you may have. The information from the symposium will be posted on the Denali Commission's website in the next few days. Thank you all for attending.