

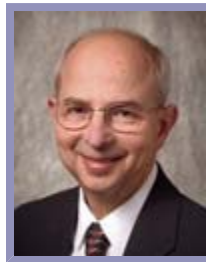
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## The Official Denali Commission Newsletter

### A Message from Federal Co-Chair

*George Cannelos*

#### Dear Friends of the Denali Commission,



By now all of Alaska has heard the news about Governor Sarah Palin accepting the Republican nomination for Vice-President of the United States. No matter what our political views are, it is amazing to see the interest that is being drawn to our state as a result of her nomination.

Since the creation of the Denali Commission in October 1998, we have attempted to educate policy makers on the unique characteristics that define rural Alaska; especially those in the lower 48 who picture a field and a barn when you say the word *rural*. Over the years the Commission's annual reports have added a glossary section for words that Alaskans take for granted, like *break-up*, the *Bush*, *honey bucket* or *washeteria*. Like or dislike, the attention brought to Alaska is important. I hope educating others of our unique characteristics, resources, cultures and needs will bring a greater appreciation of the 49th state. In the meantime, the staff at the Denali Commission remains committed to finding innovative like alternative-renewable energy projects and regional strategies such as interties.

September 2008

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 8 - 9, 2008** - The Denali Commission's *Energy Advisory Committee* will hold its meeting in Kotzebue. For more information on the meeting or committee, please contact [Ms. Jodi Fondy](#) at (907) 271-3011.

**September 10 – 12, 2008** – The Denali Commission's *Health Steering Committee* will have a site visit in Glennallen. For more information on the meeting or committee, please contact [Ms. Kathy Berzanske](#) at (907) 271-5232.

**September 16 – 18, 2008** – The [Southeast Conference Annual Meeting](#) will be held on Prince Rupert Island.

**September 16 – 18, 2008** – [Alaska Energy Authority](#) will hold the [2008 Rural Energy Conference](#) in Girdwood, Alaska. Watch for the Denali Commission booth at this event.

**September 19 – 21, 2008** – The [Institute of the North Annual Alaska Dialogue](#) will be held at the Talkeetna Alaska Lodge.

**September 24 – 26, 2008** - [Philanthropy Northwest 2008 Conference](#) will be held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

This month, the Denali Commission is participating in the [Alaska Energy Authority's 2008 Rural Energy Conference](#) to be held in Girdwood on September 16 – 18 at the Alyeska Hotel. I encourage your attendance to this important conference as we work together to address energy needs for rural Alaska. The Denali Commission is funding travel grant opportunities so that individuals critical to finding appropriate solutions will be in attendance, providing their knowledge and their experience. We need to hear first hand from our rural utility managers, tribal leaders, and tank farm operators to find solutions that make sense to the needs at hand. Not only will alternative-renewable energy projects be explored, but also diesel and energy efficiency solutions will be discussed.

I hope to see you in Girdwood this month, and please stop by our booth at this event.

Best Wishes,



George J. Canelos  
Federal Co-Chair

## Procurement at Denali Commission

In our continuing efforts for efficiency at the Commission, we use the Procurement Team at the US Treasury Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) to conduct our major purchasing initiatives. This team of professional acquisition specialists assists us with contract solicitations, awards and administration. Open market requests for quotes or proposals valued over \$25,000 are advertised on the national federal website FedBizOpps at [www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov)

Upcoming solicitations include:

- 360 degree assessment
- Microsoft Office Suite upgrades

To give all potential contractors the same information, all

**September 24 – 27, 2008** – [Northern Research Forum](#) will hold the *5th NRF Open Meeting* in Anchorage, Alaska.

**October 1 – 3, 2008** – The [Indigenous Planning Division of the American Planning Association](#) Annual Conference "*Leading Change: Blending Indigenous and Western Planning Tools*" will be held in Anchorage at the Anchorage Downtown Marriott. Watch for our booth at this event.

**October 4 – 7, 2008** - The [National Association of Development Organizations \(NADO\)](#) Annual Training Conference - This year's conference will be held in Anchorage. Watch for our booth at this event.

**October 8, 2008** - The *Denali Commission Health Steering Committee* will meet in Anchorage at the Denali Commission. For more information on the meeting, planned activities or committee, please contact [Ms. Adison Smith](#) at (907) 271-1640.

**October 13, 2008** – The Denali Commission offices will be closed in observance of *Columbus Day*.

**October 23 – 25, 2008** – [Alaska Federation of Natives 2008 Convention](#) to be held in Anchorage. Watch for our booth at this event.

**October 27 – 29, 2008** – The [14th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management](#) will be held at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Registration is on line:

**October 29 – 30, 2008** – The [Tongass Futures Roundtable](#) and [The Nature Conservancy](#) will hold the Southeast Wood Energy Workshop in Sitka, Alaska.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

questions about these or other procurement opportunities for the Commission should be directed to: Lisa Gossett or Gina Hanna at psb3@bpd.treas.gov

**View [Monthly Program Updates](#) to get the latest program activities.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Distressed - Non-Distressed Community Report](#) - see report here.

[Fuel Costs, Migration, and Community Viability](#) -This report was featured in an Anchorage Daily News Story on May 14, 2008 titled "Leaving the village".

### Community Highlights: Intern performing field work

*This month's Community Profile is about Jennine Stebing, a Summer 2008 Denali Commission Intern. Jennine Stebing is obtaining her dual Masters in Public Policy and Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University.*

**Photo Inset:** Steve Ivanoff and Jennine Stebing

On July 26th Denali Commission intern, Jennine Stebing, traveled to Unalakleet, a village located on the easternmost part of Norton Sound. Her focus on visiting Unalakleet was to observe the erosion problems and projects that are being enacted to protect the community. Unalakleet sits on a sand spit between the Unalakleet River and the Norton Sound.



On July 29th, she attended a city council member meeting where she introduced herself as a Denali Commission intern to the members. She discussed her interest in erosion to the members and was guided on who to meet in the village. On July 30th, Jennine met with Steve Ivanoff from the Denali Commission Transportation Committee. He currently works at Kawerak Inc. as the Transportation Planner. Steve graciously provided a tour of the village. He showed her the evacuation road, built by the DOT, explaining that many villagers were already moving to the hillside away from erodible coastlines. The evacuation road recently was raised with more gravel. The DOT and the Unalakleet Native Corporation gave the hillside to the city. There is a current plan to install water and sewer in this area.

Erosion has been an issue in Unalakleet for 20+ years. Steve explained to Jennine that there were no floods in Unalakleet from 1974-2003. Then there were three floods in a row in 2003, 2004, and 2005. The greatest erosion occurred at the mouth of the river. Therefore in 2000, a gabion wall was built from the mouth of the river northerly along the beach. The wall protects many key infrastructures in the village. It was given a 5 year lifespan, but the wall has been repaired after

each storm and has held out.

Steve showed Jennine that the water and sewer lines run along the beach (coast) and there are several sections where the lines are just feet away from erosion. The current water line comes from Powers Creek. There exists two plans to address this issue by changing the water source from the North River or by moving the water lines away from the coast to the base of of the hillside.

Unalakleet has many projects going on including: an airport road paving project, a main street paving project, an evacuation road project, the relocation of water and electrical lines, and a rip wall construction project along DOT property and the airport. Jennine noticed that the City of Unalakleet, the Native Village of Unalakleet, and the Unalakleet Native Corporation all got along well and are able to move forward with projects due to the unity of the organizations and the care of the people. Photographs were taken of all city and tribal buildings. Jennine thoroughly enjoyed the trip and hopes to return soon.

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