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2020 AMA Efforts and Activities: What is AMA Doing for You?

AMA's work on Federal issues:

- Leading up to and post-Election, worked with regulatory agencies to retain policies that promote responsible development
- Tracked the transition of Presidency and Congress, evaluated appointees and provided issue background and questions, evaluations of moratoriums, Orders, etc. and provided information about the impact to Alaska miners
- Reviewed Department of Interior Secretarial Order suspending NEPA actions, plans of operations, land conveyances, and more to share the detrimental impact to State of Alaska and our Congressional Delegation
- Formalization of Federal Issues of Concern document that communicates federal issues affecting Alaska's miners
- Introduced AMA's mines and projects, issues, and successes to new Alaska Congressional Delegation staff
- Regularly participated in National Mining Association and American Exploration & Mining Association committee meetings on minerals policy, environmental affairs, government affairs, and safety to inform on federal issues
- Advocated for a fair process for Pebble: evaluated the Final EIS, reviewed US Army Corps mitigation requirements, assessed President Trump independent review, communicated with Senate staff on Interior Appropriations Protection of Bristol Bay language, pushed back on the denial of permits by USACE following conclusive EIS, convened specific AMA workgroup for strategy and communications, and is engaged in ongoing advocacy to promote the importance of a fair and robust permitting process for mining.
- Studied final Waters of the US (WOTUS) final rule, provided media interviews and briefings, delivered evaluation of Alaska impacts to national partners, and prepared for expected litigation
- Submitted comments in support of Roadless Rule Exemption for the Tongass National Forest, Roadless Rule ROD and SEACC litigation, coordination with business organizations for coalition letter, Action Alerts and comment drafts to grow supportive comments across Alaska
- Tracked Proposed Rule to codify mining as covered sector eligible for streamlined permitting under FAST 41 Act, submitted comments in support for confirmed covered sector
- Submitted technical comments on CEQ's NEPA Regulations revisions to improve permitting efficiency
- Participated in advocacy efforts for Supreme Court *County of Maui* case with implications to Alaska water permitting, submitted comments for EPA's Groundwater memo to advise on permitting following outcome
- Mining Law Reform and Dirt Tax Preparation of data for expected introduction of "Dirt Tax" in Congress; preparation with NMA for education and outreach in advance of Mining Law Reform Legislation
- Engaged in outreach on EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) to advocate for transparent education on the data not being a reflection of environmental risk. Successfully gained EPA communication tools to inform public about sites' true environmental performance and worked with Alaska DEC and mines to educate Alaska communities
- Participated in U.S. Army Corps permitting changes, in addition to WOTUS, submitted comments on revisions to Nationwide Permits and Alaska Regional Conditions, General Permits, and participated in awareness of Revolutionize Works Program

- Submitted comments on Bering Sea Western Interior Plan, reviewed final Plan for impacts to Alaska’s miners; engaged in ongoing awareness as new Administration placed hold on Plan
- Prepared for 2021 release of Central Yukon Plan Review to solicit information from affected regions
- Submitted comments and Action Alerts for Ambler Road DEIS and National Park Service EEA; engaged in outreach on Record of Decision and analyzed lawsuit brought against the Final Decision
- Reviewed litigation that Southeast Alaska Conservation Council et al brought to BLM challenging road Plan of Operations at Palmer Project in context of challenging functions of NEPA; saw victory in Ninth Circuit and prepared for next steps
- Engaged with miners, DEC, and BLM on impaired waterbodies in Interior to ensure no burden to placer miners
- Submitted comments on Kensington Mine DEIS for Plan Amendment and USACE permit
- Submitted Comments on Greens Creek Northern Extension Project
- Coordinated with State of Alaska on Federal Abandoned Mines Land funding to ensure accurate portrayal and examination of funding
- Assisted national partners with Alaska information for Critical Minerals Legislation
- Advocated to support BLM Headquarters remaining in Grand Junction, CO for western representation
- Worked with DGGs to prepare information for Dept. of Energy to identify critical minerals for “Minerals Sustainability”
- Supported transfer of Patent for Banjo and Pass Lode Mining Claims per court order
- Developed initial background materials to prepare for US Forest Service locatable minerals rulemaking
- Reviewed final Park Service rule to implement regulations following U.S. Supreme Court *Sturgeon* case
- Promoted National Miners Day on social media and communications
- Submitted comments in support of Stibnite Gold Project’s concurrent reclamation and restoration
- Followed *Earthworks vs DOI* decision challenging mining foundations
- Reviewed 2020 House Majority report with legislation to “Undue Trump actions” like reinstatement of Stream Protection Rule and imposition of new royalties
- Evaluated EPA announcement of new Western Office of Mountains Deserts and Plains to address hardrock mining cleanup
- Reviewed Alaska to Alberta rail line Presidential Permit
- Submitted Comments in support of mining at the Bonanza Channel
- Engaged in BLM decision disregarding reclamation in Fortymile
- Reviewed DOI memo re Reasonably Incident Uses on Lands Open to Operation of Mining Law
- Submitted comments for new Critical Habitat Definition under Endangered Species Act
- Provided analysis of Southeast Alaska Landless Legislation
- Submitted comments in support of Small Remote Incinerators
- Reviewed OSM final Biological Opinion
- Analyzed Executive Order on Modernizing America’s Water Resources
- Coordinated with Fortymile Mining District on video monitoring of stream reclamation performance
- Tracked mining permitting provisions in National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and various COVID legislation
- Reviewed launch of global tailings standard and provided media interviews
- Celebrated ANWR oil and gas program ROD: information distribution and social media
- Participated in Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan Interested Persons Status and Land Management Plan Objection meetings
- Facilitated discussions to propose new definition of withdrawal in ANILCA

AMA’s Work on State Issues:

- Performed elections analysis and tracking, following Legislative session kickoff and organization of bodies
- Hosted Elections Watch as part of Annual Convention kick off to apprise miners of elections results

- AMA State Oversight Committee produced State Issues of Concern Document that communicates state issues affecting Alaska’s miners to State of Alaska Administration, Legislature, agency personnel, and more
- Conducted mining briefings for legislative candidates following Primary Election attended by 40 bipartisan candidates focused on mining activity, environmental, economic benefits, and participated in several other one-on-one candidate briefings and introductions to mining. In addition, coordinated submission of Candidate statements for the Alaska Miner October magazine so that miners could learn about candidates’ positions and priorities
- Facilitated Governor Dunleavy’s attendance at Roundup Event in Vancouver, coordinated meetings with global mining companies, introduced State of Alaska personnel on trade show floor, and held highest-attended Alaska Night event to promote state mining industry
- Strongly advocated for passage of SB155, changes to Alaska’s mineral tenure statutes beginning with extensive efforts by AMA working group to highlight sections of law and proposed changes, and worked with Senator Click Bishop, other legislators, DNR, and others to advance SB155 to pass the Legislature as they quickly recessed for COVID-19. Following, engaged in targeted recognition efforts for key legislators and supporters, media outreach and Press Releases to educate on the issue. Developed comments for scoping period to draft regulations revisions to comport with statutory changes, and evaluated proposed revisions to comment before finalization
- Continued efforts to correct Alaska’s Instream Flow Reservations structure, commented on proposed applications and reviews, submitted comments during scoping phase and reviewed regulations changes and developed coalition to submit technical comments
- Continued efforts on creating process for Tier 3 Waters designation: advocated in support of legislation to ensure Legislative approval of a Tier 3 water designation, deliberated amendments that attempted consensus in Alaska House, provided comment letters and testimony to Legislature, prepared extensive responses to misinformation and continued coalition building. Upon abrupt recess of Legislature, worked in interim to collaborate with DEC.
- Opposed oil tax Ballot Measure; participated in multi-business group lawsuit are: noncompliance with ballot measure law, joined OneAlaska coalition, provided testimony and presentations from mining industry perspective.
- Adopted workgroup on University of Alaska issues, including advocating for retention of mining programs, convened special stakeholder meeting with UAF Chancellor Dan White, advocated for University Lands legislation - the Alaska Fiscal Foundation Act
- Created State Oversight Alaska 404c Primacy working group to work with DEC, US Army Corps of Engineers to identify advantages of Clean Water Act 404 primacy in permitting
- Collaborated with DEC on federal changes and their implications to mining permitting in Alaska on Clean Water 401 certification, County of Maui Supreme Court decision, and ongoing Clean Water Act issues
- Facilitated discussion with DEC and BLM on impaired waterbodies in Interior to ensure no burden to placer miners
- Provided suggestions for Alaska Minerals Commission appointments, assisted with administrative support for meetings and communications
- Held Legislative Reception in February with Associated General Contractors and Alaska Trucking Association
- Attended State of Alaska meeting of resource developers to discuss promotion of Alaska business; held subsequent discussions with State on promoting its regulatory process
- Engaged in Transboundary mining working group and discussions on policies, baseline monitoring, and legacy cleanup
- Testified in support of West Susitna Access
- Provided comments and testimony and coordinated with sister organizations to advocate on Donlin natural gas pipeline
- Submitted comments regarding DNR appeals scoping process
- Reviewed proposed changes to eliminate “sand and gravel” from Alaska Mining License Tax
- Reviewed DGGs Minerals Report and distributed economic mapping survey distribution
- Highlighted DNR mining reclamation awards
- Disseminated information on Nome offshore lease sales
- Supported legislation on municipal air quality tax credit
- Convened meetings with Office of Project Management and Permitting to brainstorm permitting efficiencies

- Contacted State Museum in Juneau to provide feedback about mining exhibits that inaccurately and unfairly portray mining's history in Alaska

AMA's Efforts to operate amid COVID-19:

- Worked with Alaska's six large operating mines and Council of Alaska Producers to advocate for a state and federal designation of mining as a critical and essential
- Coordinated with Alaska's miners to develop Workforce and Community Protection Plans
- Facilitated work session with DNR, Unified Command, health officials to adopt guidelines for placer and exploration field season mobilization prior to spring
- Created dedicated AMA webpage on COVID-19 to post guidance and resources for miners and the public on protection plans and access to government agency offices
- Continuously disseminated State of Alaska travel mandates updates for members
- Distributed information on Payroll Protection Program and CARES Act funding opportunities for members
- Worked with DNR and BLM offices to educate on alternative and remote ways to access, and to ensure miners' physical access to public offices to meet annual deadlines, including email, direct mail, social media, and phone calls to all claim holders regardless of AMA membership status
- Assessed and publicized DNR's option to request deferral of payments for cash in lieu requirement and annual rental for 2020
- Transitioned AMA Statewide Office to blended status of remote and one-person staffing; ensured multiple points of contacts for miners to reach AMA Staff and Leadership, developed safety protocols for essential contacts
- Converted AMA events like Mining Day, weekly branch meetings, and Annual Convention to virtual and performed extensive outreach and education to ensure all miners had equipment, expertise, and access to participate in AMA virtually

AMA Membership Assistance, Networking, Education, and Satisfaction efforts:

- Maintained 925 individual and 346 corporate members in 2020
- Welcomed 139 new members to AMA
- Performed twice yearly membership renewal cycles with automated database capability, performed extensive outreach to ensure no members with financial hardship due to COVID-19 would lose membership benefits
- Organized weekly branch meetings with specific regional or statewide focuses, rotated hosting duties per regional branches of the state, performed outreach to public officials that historically could not attend in person events to attract their attention to this more accessible meeting, evaluated long-term solutions to bring all miners across the state together on regular basis
- Produced 2020 AMA Virtual Convention in lieu of an in-person event, including three full days of 27 Technical Session Speakers, sold out short course, and seven Core Shack and Prospector Tent Exhibitors
- Deployed Sustaining Sponsors Campaign to request financial support in absence of AMA fundraising events; received \$162,220 in supportive funding from 122 companies and 19 individuals to assist in AMA's mission through 2020/2021

AMA's Communications and Publications:

- Produced eight monthly and four quarterly editions of *the Alaska Miner* with timely updates, recognition of members, miner interviews, Executive Director and Board President columns, Miner Calendar, Index of Advertisers, and much more
- Achieved readership of 20,000 industry, government, and business leaders for AMA publications
- Completed survey of mining activity and developed *Annual Economic Benefits of Alaska's Mining Industry Report* by McKinley Group
- Produced Annual AMA Handbook and Service Directory containing miner reference materials, membership listings, advertisements for those who serve Alaska's miners, key dates and information, contacts for public officials, overview of Alaska's landowners, and more



- Managed Alaskaminers.org website to share copies of AMA comments, testimony, and presentations; feature reference and guidance materials; host communications, publications, and reports; share spotlights of Board and Staff; archive event presentations and other materials; and share career postings
- Maintained significant social media presence, including 3,842 Facebook followers and 298 unique posts; 1,771 Twitter followers with 121 unique posts, 577 mentions, and 71,891 impressions
- Produced weekly Executive Director reports available exclusively to members

AMAPAC:

- Despite lack of in-person fundraisers, 43 donors provided \$14,550 in donations to AMAPAC
- 26 bipartisan candidates received \$15,650 in contributions
- Maintained stringent compliance with Alaska Public Offices Commission

AMA Efforts on General Outreach, Public Education, and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Presentations providing overview on Alaska's mining industry to Southeast Conference, Alaska Chamber Fall Forum and Policy Forum, Seattle Chamber Alaska Business Forum, Juneau business group, Alaska Air Carriers, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, and Fairbanks and Haines branches of AMA
- Held Alaska Session at American Exploration & Mining Association; assisted with virtual event tips
- On regular and ongoing basis, participated in Council of Alaska Producers, RDC, Alliance, and Alaska Chamber meetings; Alaska Business Advocacy Committee, Southeast Conference Mining Committee, and Business Education Compact
- Participated in annual meeting with United Fishermen of Alaska board