



PO Box 1368, Cordova, Alaska 99574  
Phone: 1-907-424-5701  
www.pwsoundkeeper.org  
[emailpwsk@pwskeeper.org](mailto:emailpwsk@pwskeeper.org)  
Tax id # 45-0538213

April 15, 2014

Hello Soundkeepers!

**Board of Directors**

Kate McLaughlin  
President  
*Chenega Bay*

Dean Rand  
Vice-President  
*Whittier*

Liz Senear  
Treasurer  
*Cordova*

Vince Kelly  
Secretary  
*Valdez*

Joe Banta  
Member  
*Anchorage*

The year began with PWSK in full defense mode against the continued attacks by the Parnell Administration on our rights as Alaskan citizens as they affect water quality and resource development. Here is a brief summary of what we've been keeping an eye on the last few months:

**Fortunately/Unfortunately: Legislative Actions to Disenfranchise Alaskans:**

The good news for April was that **House Bill 77** was removed from consideration this legislative session. HB77 specifically addressed water use allocation and permitting and would have further restricted, if not cut out altogether, citizen's ability to adequately address and receive water permitting rights and usage.

The bad news is that while we were all celebrating the defeat of HB 77, **House Bill 47** was slipping through committee in the House and is currently sitting in the Senate Rules Committee. This bill, supported by Senators Dyson and Giessel, addresses the Preliminary Injunction procedure. If passed, it would make those asking the Courts to delay industry development and/or actions (place an injunction) while their concerns are addressed, post a security deposit for any potential "costs incurred and damages suffered" by the industry should the industrial operation be "wrongfully enjoined or restrained". There already exists in our legal structure plenty of checks and balances against so-called frivolous lawsuits. This bill would further restrict citizens, Native Alaskans, and Non-profits from having their concerns heard. PWSK finds this "Pay to Play" type of bill particular offensive in the way it specifically cuts out the little guy from the grievance process.

Contact Governor Parnell and Senator Gary Stevens and let them know how you feel about only the wealthy being heard on natural resource development and use issues:

Governor Sean Parnell: (907) 465-3500

<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/contact/email-the-governor.html>

Senator Gary Stevens: 1-800-821-4925

<http://senate.legis.state.ak.us/senator.php?id=stg>

**Alaska State Senate Joint Resolution 25:**

On February 19, 2014 Senator Berta Gardner, District H introduced **Senate Joint Resolution 25**, which urges the state and federal governments to finally stand up to ExxonMobil's stonewalling and file a motion in U.S. District Court to compel the payment owed from the 1991 EVOS settlement in

Lingering 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill oil in shoreline sediments of Prince William Sound in 2014. Photos by Djanka auklet.com



Herring Bay, Knight Island - Feb. 18, 2014 site #KN0113A1



Northwest Bay, Eleanor Island #1 - Feb. 19, 2014 site #PBS-10V2



Northwest Bay, Eleanor Island #2 - Feb. 19, 2014 site #EL056C



the Re-Opener Clause. The *Reopener for Unknown Injury Clause* allowed the state and federal governments to submit a claim for up to \$100 million for damages not foreseen at the time of settlement. The federal government stood neutral, and after a sustained effort to prod the state by fishermen, community members and advocacy groups including Prince William Soundkeeper, the state submitted a \$92 million claim in 2006. ExxonMobil has refused to pay for over seven years and the Palin and Parnell Administrations have never sought reparation. The resolution further urges the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council immediately to initiate subsurface lingering oil restoration work. SJR25 was heard in the Judiciary committee in March and seems to be now stuck there.

With only 13 of the 32 “injured” resources and resource industries listed as “recovered”, and plenty of EVOS oil still to be found in the Sound, PWSK will continue to push the 2014 Legislature to ask ExxonMobil to fulfill their legal obligation and support the effort to continue oil spill recovery and restoration work in Prince William Sound.

PWSK submitted a Letter of Support for SJR25, as well as calling and writing directly to the State Legislature regarding House Bills 77 and 47. A Letter of Support was also submitted to the House Resources Committee for **HB 325**, a bill increasing the surcharge for the Oil Spill Protection Fund. This bill doesn’t look like it will be passed due to strong opposition from the Industry Lobby. Things are moving fast through the Legislature during these last days of session. We will continue to work to bring these issues to your attention so that you are informed and can take effective action.

Don’t forget to “like” us on FaceBook to receive up to the minute alerts, happenings, and pictures of what’s happening in Prince William Sound. Be sure we have your email address on file if you would like to receive our quarterly Letter To Our Membership, and other news and alerts electronically.

Thank you for your continued support.

See y’all out in the Sound.



Kate McLaughlin, President & Executive Director  
Prince William Soundkeeper  
PO Box 1368  
Cordova, Alaska 99574  
907/424-5701  
emailpwsk@pwsoundkeeper.org  
[www.pwsoundkeeper.org](http://www.pwsoundkeeper.org)