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MARCH 1, 2012

Dear Members,

**Board of Directors**

Kate McLaughlin  
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Spring is a few months out yet and the storms keep on coming. But Alaskan's are used to tough times and severe weather; we just pull together and get the job done. Such was the can-do spirit in Cordova this past January when the huge snow loads threatened to collapse many of the homes and buildings in Cordova, including the building in which Prince William Soundkeeper's office is located. After the National Guard cleared off the roofs and the building inspector gave the all clear, we were able to access the office again after several weeks. No internal damage was done and PWSK once again has a place in which to open the mail.

2012 has started off strong with a very welcome general operating grant from **The Ocean Foundation**, supporters of our work since 2007. Their financial support has been invaluable in maintaining the PWSK office and executive director position.

**Alaska Wet Dog Race Proposal** – Disaster may have been averted for the time being after massive negative public comment from Prince William Sound residents and users regarding the proposed Alaska Wet Dog Race. The proposed event is a personal watercraft race of over 2000 miles from Whittier to Lake Iliamna. PWSK was extremely concerned about the potential for the State's Department of Natural Resources to approve this event. However, after extending the comment period and hearing from several of the proposed race communities expressing their concern and requesting that they be removed from the race route, and the other comments regarding the impact to the local environment, safety issues and many, many other concerns regarding this poorly planned proposal, DNR seems to have shelved the idea for the moment. PWSK's comment to DNR can be read on our website under "What's News": [www.pwsoundkeeper.org](http://www.pwsoundkeeper.org) PWSK will be keeping an eye on this issue and will keep our members updated as to the status of this proposal.

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Designated Member

PWSK joined a meeting regarding the **Cordova Harbor** with representatives from the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Alaska Sea Grant, Prince William Sound Science Center, Cordova Fisherman's Union, and local volunteers on February 2 in Cordova. The meeting's intent was to discuss the best way to pool resources, ideas and man power in order to provide a summer harbor intern to

educate about and promote clean harbor practices in Cordova Harbor this year. By combining our strengths together, we can avoid duplicating effort and be able to offer a solid summer position that will be focused entirely on addressing Clean Harbor Issues.

Prince William Soundkeeper needs your help and support, and not just monetarily. Do you have a harbor cleanup issue that you feel should be a priority? Do you have extra time and would like to spend it volunteering on PWSK's behalf? What are your thoughts on water quality issues in the Sound? How are we doing as an organization? Please drop us a letter, an email ([email@pwsoundkeeper.org](mailto:email@pwsoundkeeper.org)) or leave a message at 424-5701, we'd really like to hear from our membership!

When you are online be sure to check into our web page: [www.pwsoundkeeper.org](http://www.pwsoundkeeper.org) for news and information on what is happening with water quality issues in and around the Sound.

Don't forget to use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), this online search engine service allows you to give a penny to a charity of your choice every time you use the search engine. Prince William Soundkeeper is signed up and received \$138 from goodsearch.com in 2011. Let's see if we can beat that total in 2012!

Thank you for your continued support.

Kate McLaughlin, President/Executive Director  
Prince William Soundkeeper