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Dear Members,

Spring is so close it seems you can almost touch it. Soon the salmon fry will be out migrating from the creeks, the hillsides will turn green, and the bears will come out of hibernation. Far from hibernating, the Alaska State Legislature has been busy the last few months with their continued assault on Alaska's water quality and citizen's right to be included in the comment and decision making process.

Late on the night of March 5, the Alaska House passed HB77 with a vote of 23-14. This bill will further cut public participation from the natural resource development and use decision making process. It also protects government officials from public oversight by blocking citizen appeals. Bills such as this, and the recently passed Cruise Ship Waste Water Discharge bill, are direct threats to the ecosystem health of Alaska's watersheds. Community participation and oversight is essential in making wise and sustainable natural resource management plans and decisions. Please join PWSK in making our voices heard on this very important issue.

The Wet Dog Jet Ski Race has been approved by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, but the start date has been pushed back a year. On May 1, 2014, 500 teams of 2 jet skis each, with support crew, will travel through the heart of the Sound: Whittier, Valdez, Cordova, Chenega, Seward, up into Cook Inlet, past Kodiak, and through the Aleutians all the way to Lake Illiamna.

The PWSK Board met at the PWS RCAC office on Saturday, Feb. 23 for our Strategic Planning Board Meeting. Thank you to PWS Regional Citizens Advisory Council donating their meeting room for this event. The meeting was facilitated by JSC Consulting and was made possible by a grant from the Capacity Building for Charitable Organizations fund of The Alaska Community Foundation.

The Board updated the Prince William Soundkeeper Mission and Vision Statements and developed a Strategic Plan for 1, 3, and 5 years. The New & Improved PWSK Mission Statement: *Grass roots advocacy for preserving water quality in Prince William Sound Alaska for all users.* Vision Statement: *Sustained leadership presence advocating for water quality in Prince William Sound Alaska.*

Keep updated on upcoming events, water quality news and alerts through our web page: www.pwsoundkeeper.org and our new FaceBook page. If you are a fan of Facebook, be sure to Like and Share our page with your friends!

Best Regards,

Kate McLaughlin, President/Executive Director