



Committed to the future of rural communities.

### A Successful Trip

Dear Rural Development Team Alaska:

Let me begin by acknowledging the efforts of several members of our staff who went above and beyond the call of duty during the recent visit of Rural Utilities Programs Administrator Jim Andrew to Alaska and the “All Employees” meeting that occurred at the same time.

Jim Pohlman, Kim Wood and Jane Gibson in the Fairbanks office arranged meetings and provided logistical support for the first part of the Administrator’s trip. Merlaine Kruse and Gene Kane were instrumental in organizing meetings and providing background to the Administrator. Of course, Donna Kramer and Connie Cosby put in many hours on logistics and meeting planning. Thanks to you and to everyone else involved for showing RD Alaska’s best efforts to the Administrator.

I also want to acknowledge Kim Wood and Nancy Hayes for 25 and 20 years of federal service (respectively). Thanks for your commitment to our nation and thanks for all you do on behalf of our clients.

Welcome to the newest members of our team: Russel Maxwell in Community Programs, and Gene Harding, Holli Stevenson and Jared Smith in Housing. You are joining the finest team in the nation and we are proud to have you on board.

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**A QUARTER CENTURY OF SERVICE:**

Fairbanks Loan Specialist Kim Wood receives a certificate and pin from Acting State Director Chad Padgett marking 25 years of Federal service during the 2008 “All Employees” meeting in Anchorage.



**TWO DECADES OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE:**

State office housing loan specialist Nancy Hayes receives a certificate and pin from Acting State Director Chad Padgett marking 20 years of Federal Service.



**GRANT:** USDA Rural Development Administrator James Andrew (Left) presents a \$185,000 ceremonial check to Jon Waterhouse of the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council for training village hazardous waste managers. (Energy Fair-Chena Hot Springs)

## Welcome to USDA Rural Development Team Alaska!

Four new loan technicians have joined the State Office staff. Please welcome:



**Russel Maxwell**

**Jared Smith**

**Holli Stevenson**

**Gene Harding**



**Recycling:** Acting State Director Chad Padgett (Left), Director of Community Facilities Merlaine Kruse and Richard Pillans, operator of Threshold Services at the recycling center in Kodiak. The facility, funded with USDA Community Facilities support, not only is expected to recycle tons of material, but about half of those employed have developmental disabilities. “This facility provides an important service to Kodiak and job opportunities for local residents,” said Padgett.



**TEAM ALASKA:** Members of USDA Rural Development Team Alaska at the “All Employees Meeting” in Anchorage in late August. In addition to State Office and Area Office staff Administrator James Andrew and Alaska General Field Representative Eric Marchegiani attended. Marchegiani was instrumental in completing arrangements for the loan to Kodiak Electric Association for the purchase of Terror Lake Hydro. (See below)

## **KODIAK ELECTRIC BORROWS \$38 MILLION FROM RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO BUY TERROR LAKE HYDRO PROJECT**



Administrator of USDA Rural Utilities Programs James Andrew signs a ceremonial check for \$38 million as Kodiak Electric Association Board Chairman Cliff Davidson looks on. Davidson, a former Alaska State Representative, praised USDA Rural Development for being there “from the beginning” as KEA sought to purchase the Terror Lake Hydro Project from the Four Dam Pool. (Photo on Right) Administrator Andrew, Merlaine Kruse and Acting State Director Padgett tour the Terror Lake Hydro powerhouse.

## State Director's Message

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As we approach the end of the fiscal year I want every member of our team to concentrate on the President's and Undersecretary's goals. That includes renewable energy and energy conservation measures. We need not only to redouble our efforts in the business programs area to promote the use of our energy programs; we need to encourage the conservation and efficient use of energy through our housing and Community Facilities programs as well. We all heard Administrator Andrew's message at our meeting about ways to make each kilowatt go farther.

While we strengthen our outreach efforts and make additional loans, especially in the energy area, we also must strengthen our internal and external operations. That includes hiring a new Administrative Officer to backstop the efforts of our current staff, and it means improving our servicing, not just in housing (As Deb Davis noted in her speech at the all employees meeting) but in the monitoring of the Rural Alaska Village Grant program.

A word about training. Every Alaska employee in every mission area needs to be a "generalist." Gone are the days when a housing specialist just did housing, and a CF tech did only CF. I encourage each staff member to learn all they can about all of our programs, and that includes our Rural Utilities programs including telecom and electric.

Finally, a reminder to our area directors. Some time ago I asked you to submit monthly articles highlighting your accomplishments in your areas. These articles are to be used to highlight successes to the National Office and to be included in our annual report. Please get them to me and copy Wayne.

Thanks for everything each of you are doing for our Agency, State and nation. Most importantly, thanks for your work on behalf of the people we serve. If you have a comment or concern, please feel free to call or email me at any time.

Sincerely,

Chad B. Padgett

Acting State Director



**Housing:** As the fiscal year draws to a close, USDA Rural Development continues to make homeownership loans. Statewide, RD has provided about \$31 million in loan guarantees to 160 homeowners. Housing Director Deb Davis (shown above, left) announced awards for five lenders: three in the Mat-Su Valley and two in Kenai/Soldotna. Above, Davis is shown with the staff of Homestate Mortgage of Wasilla.



**Outreach:** Director of Business Programs Dean Stewart and Jane Gibson, Fairbanks Rural Development loan technician, staff a booth at the third annual renewable energy fair at Chena Hot Springs in late August. Among the speakers at the event was USDA Rural Development Administrator James Andrew.



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