

Fact Sheet



Division of Mining, Land & Water – January 2000

Alaska Water Resources Board

What is the purpose of the Alaska Water Resources Board?

The seven-member Water Resources Board advises the Governor on all matters relating to the use and appropriation of water. This includes reviewing bills, statutes, and regulations governing water rights, multi-purpose uses of water, prevention of pollution, protection of fish and game, water resources studies and plans, water resources development, and dams, impoundments and reservoirs. The Alaska Water Resources Board was established by Article 3 of Alaska Statute 46.15, the Water Use Act, which was enacted in 1966.

Membership

The Board is composed of seven citizen-members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature, who have knowledge about the use, conservation, and protection of water in Alaska. Board members serve four-year terms of office and represent a geographic diversity and a variety of occupations and professions associated with water resources. Persons interested in becoming a member of the Water Resources Board can contact the Director of Boards and Commissioner in the Governor's Office for application information.

In addition to the seven citizen-members, the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation is an ex-officio member, and the Commissioner of Natural Resources is the executive secretary and provides staff to the Board.

Public participation

All Board meetings are open to the public and the public is invited to attend. An evening is set aside for a public comment session specifically to allow members of the public, industry, interest groups, or agencies to discuss water resources matters of concern with the Board.

Board Meetings

The Board is required by AS 46.15.220 to hold at least two meetings a year, with one of the meetings held in Juneau. The Board holds the Juneau meeting each spring when it reviews pending water resources legislation and meets with legislative committees and the Governor. The Board also holds a fall meeting in another part of the state to discuss regional water issues and to allow residents an opportunity to voice their water resources concerns to the Board. Board meetings generally last two to three days. On occasion, the Board holds interim meetings, which may be by teleconference.

The Board covers a wide range of topics at its meetings. In general, a presentation on a topic is given by an agency, industry, interest group representative, or member of the public, followed by a discussion of the topic by the Board members. At the conclusion of meetings the Board adopts resolutions recommending a course of action to the Governor. The Board may also send a resolution or letter to a state agency, the Legislature, or the congressional delegation, or informally discuss problems with agency representatives.

Due to budget cuts, the Board has been inactive since 1994. For more information, contact one of the following:

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