



Update from the Board of Directors
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Grace Merkes, representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Annual and Board of Directors meeting was held April 14th, 2023 at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association building in Kenai. The Board also conducted its Annual Meeting.

CIRCAC recognized United States Coast Guard Capt. Leanne Lusk, Commander Sector Anchorage, as she will be retiring at the end of June. The Board unanimously adopted a resolution thanking Captain Lusk for her service in the USCG and as an Ex-Officio member of CIRCAC. We have been privileged to work with Captain Lusk the past three years and wish her well on her future endeavors, and equally look forward to working with the next Commander for Sector Anchorage, Capt. Chris Culpepper, who begins his deployment in July.

The Board also awarded service recognition to several volunteers with the organization. A. Bruce Magyar was recognized with the 5 Year Service Award as a public member of the Environmental Monitoring Committee. I was recognized with the 25 Year Service Award. I currently represent the Kenai Peninsula Borough on the Council and also serve on the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS), Executive, and Audit Committees. Finally, James McHale was recognized as our 2022 Volunteer of the Year. Mr. McHale has served for many years as a public member and Chair of the PROPS Committee. We thank all of the public member volunteers for their continued dedication to the mission of CIRCAC and applaud them for the time, efforts and expertise they give the organization.

The Council also certified annual elections, welcoming back to the Board for a three-year term Mr. Michael Opheim, representing Alaska Native Groups and Mr. Deric Marcorelle, representing Environmental Interest Groups and also serving as the Council's Secretary/Treasurer. And as you know, I was reappointed to another three-year term by the Kenai Peninsula Borough as was Scott Arndt, who represents the Kodiak Island Borough.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September and will be held in Homer.

