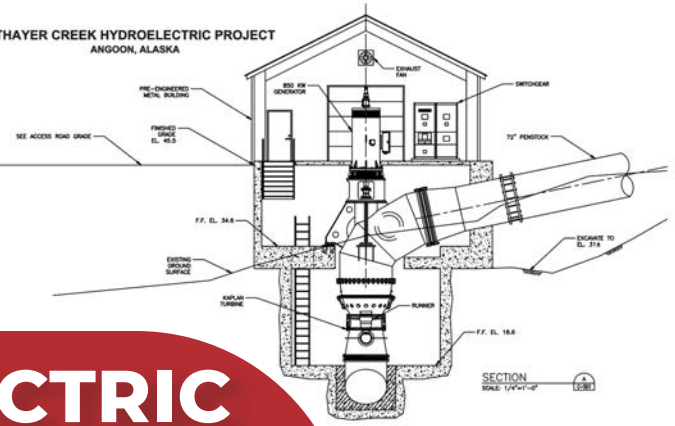




KOOTZNOOWOO

News

THAYER CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
ANGOON, ALASKA



THAYER HYDROELECTRIC AT NEARLY FULL FUNDING

The Kootznoowoo Tourism & Natural Resources (KTNR) department was recently notified that it had been awarded over \$28 million in grant awards for the Thayer Creek Hydroelectric Project. The applications for these grants were submitted in 2023 under KTNR.



The largest award was from the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) within the U.S. Department of Energy, which awarded KTNR \$26.8 million. In early March, OCED announced awards of more than \$366 million for 17 projects across 20 states and 30 Tribal Nations and communities to accelerate clean energy deployment.

In addition to the OCED grant, KTNR also received notification that it was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Electrification Program and a \$987,000 grant from the Denali Commission.

These grant awards will support building an 850 kilowatt run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility and transmission line at Thayer Creek just outside of Angoon. Once completed, the facility will provide the power supply for Angoon. It will relegate the existing diesel power plant to an emergency backup system which will displace approximately 120,000 gallons of

diesel fuel for electrical generation and has the potential to displace an additional 130,000 gallons of heating fuel annually.

“For several years now, Kootznoowoo, Inc. has been working with key partners to bring hydroelectricity to Angoon,” said Kootznoowoo President & CEO Thomas E. Wilbur. “These grants provide the hydro project with most of the funding needed. Once complete, Thayer will ensure cost stable energy in Angoon for decades to come.”

Meetings have already been conducted with both the DOE and BIA to begin budget revisions and contract negotiations. Additionally, meetings continue with project engineers to revise project budgets and outline contracts.

In 1980, Congress granted Kootznoowoo, Inc. the

right to develop hydroelectric resources on Admiralty Island as part of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. This act was an effort by the federal government to reconcile the national need to preserve the natural and recreational values with the economic and cultural needs and expectations of Kootznoowoo, Inc., due to the establishment of the Admiralty Island National Monument. However, the agreement did not include funding. This project aims to provide an avenue to address this historical oversight and support access to reliable and affordable energy for the people of Angoon.



2024 Annual Meeting

The 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, in Angoon, at the Elementary School Gym. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. (Alaska Time).

From The Chair



Dear Shareholders,

On March 1, 2024, Thomas E. Wilbur celebrated his one-year anniversary as Kootznoowoo's President & CEO. On behalf of the Board and shareholders, I wanted to congratulate Tom and thank him for all that he has done for our corporation over this year.

Under Tom's leadership, the Board has been able to make significant progress on reaching our strategic goals for operating high-quality businesses. We are continually mindful of our responsibility in transforming Kootznoowoo into a competitive, profitable, and stable corporation.

One year ago, Kootznoowoo only had a small handful of full time employees, which made it difficult to handle even some of the most general day-to-day functions of running a corporation. Under Tom's watch, he has worked hard to bring on a team of professionals that manage important key functions of corporate business such as finance, business development, human relations, and administrative support.

In order to provide consistency

and structure, as well as protect the corporation from potential liability and ensure compliance with state and federal laws, Tom oversaw the development and approval of several new policies and handbooks. This included the creation of a donation policy, employee handbook, financial policy handbook, and OSHA Compliant Safety Handbook. Additionally, under the new leadership of the President & CEO Tom also established a formal process for preparing the corporation's annual budget to ensure it not only aligns with best practices but will continue to support Kootznoowoo as a growing entity.

By utilizing his vast network of business contacts and industry professional, Kootznoowoo is well on the way to making huge strides in our re-entry into the federal contracting arena. Most recently, Kootznoowoo has brought Robb Wong on board to help streamline Kootznoowoo's reentry into 8(a) certification. Mr. Wong is the former Associate Administrator of the Office of Government Contracting & Business Development.

Recognizing the importance for the board and staff to have a greater understanding of the federal marketplace, Tom has sought out and provided multiple opportunities for the board and staff to receive training and participate in learning opportunities. These efforts have been key to getting the Kootznoowoo board and team prepared for the decisions that will have to be made as Kootznoowoo grows in this area.

Major improvement to the corporation's internal technological infrastructure which included updating hardware and software, adding additional cyber-security needed to be in compliance and

8(a) ready, as well as streamlining technology costs by hiring a new IT contractor to oversee all technology needs. This upgrade also included adding Kootzcam's in Juneau and Angoon, which have been very popular and increased Kootznoowoo's visibility in our local communities.

Finally, we are very proud about the new Artist's Workshop that was completed this past winter in Angoon. With Tom's support, over \$250,000 was raised in funding for the project. The community now has a safe and inviting space for artists to gather together and work on traditional crafts. In October and November, the first cultural classes were hosted in the space by the Kootznoowoo Cultural & Educational Foundation. We look forward to more classes being offered in the future.

While the list above isn't exhaustive of all that Tom has worked diligently to achieve this past year, it is a clear representation of his dedication to Kootznoowoo and commitment to helping steer us forward. As the corporation shifts away from dependence on the monies it receives from 7(j), we are proud of the work that has been done thus far and are excited for the future of our corporation.

On behalf of the board, we hope you have a wonderful spring and look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting on June 15, 2024, in Angoon.

Gunalchéesh,

Eunice E. James

Board Chair

From The CEO



Dear Shareholders,

As we move into a new season, I hope that your winter was well-rested, and you are ready for a productive and blessed spring. This winter, the Kootznoowoo team stayed busy with a focus on developing activities and initiatives that will grow and strengthen your corporation while also providing benefits to shareholders.

I am particularly proud that for the first time in years, we were able to payout a dividend to shareholders. The December dividend of \$3.18 per share, was paid out of operations and not from the Kootznoowoo Permanent Fund Settlement Trust. This was accomplished by merging our bank accounts, adjusting the capital formula of our monthly net income payments, and consolidating carbon credit and 7(j) revenue streams. We look forward to building strong businesses that will position Kootznoowoo to provide consistent dividends to shareholders.

As I pass my one year anniversary of serving as Kootznoowoo's President & CEO, I reflect back on all that we have accomplished over the past 12 months. It has been

a busy year filled with a variety of important actions. These included cleaning-up internal processes, developing corporate policies and procedures, aligning benefits and insurance options, and completing an in-depth review of the financials. All of these activities have been necessary to prepare Kootznoowoo for life beyond dependence on 7(j).

Your board and staff have also taken a deep dive into learning about the 8(a) federal marketplace. In the past year, they have attended what I refer to as "the big three" conferences that are essential for Native business in the federal contracting arena. They include the National 8(a) Association Annual Conference; The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's Reservation Economic Summit (RES); and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME).

Participation in these conferences provides many individual and organizational benefits including keeping current with the myriad of changing laws and regulations. These conferences also position us to seek out matchmaking opportunities with federal agencies looking to fulfill their disadvantaged goals; network with industry professionals; and have face-to-face meetings with potential teaming partners that may be willing to form a joint venture. For these conferences, staff members are also routinely invited to participate to allow them a cursory understanding of what the corporation is involved in. As we move forward, Kootznoowoo will continue to have a presence at these conferences as a part of our business strategy.

Next, I'd like to congratulate all the Kootznoowoo shareholders and the community of Angoon for the grant

funding that was recently awarded for the Thayer Creek Hydroelectric Project. This incredible amount of over \$28 million will help get the project to completion. Thayer Hydro has been in the making for several years and this success is the result of the work and dedication of many Kootznoowoo board and staff members, partners, and other devoted participants including the U.S. Forest Service. I'd also like to acknowledge Jon Wunrow, Kootznoowoo's Executive Director of Tourism & Natural Resources and Devany Plentovich of Deerstone Consulting who worked diligently on these grant applications.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that the business plan for our newest 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization has been completed and sent to the board for review and approval. Kootznoowoo Tourism & Natural Resources (KTNR) will be dedicated to sourcing grants and completing projects that will benefit the community of Angoon. The Kootznoowoo Cultural & Education Foundation (KCEF) will continue to promote education and culture. While both nonprofit business units have very different scopes of involvement requiring different approaches and sources of grant activity and dollar amounts, they have both been created to contribute to shareholder well-being.

I look forward to Kootznoowoo's continued growth and hope to see you all at the 51st Annual Meeting in June.

Best Regards,
Thomas Wilbur

President & CEO

KOOTZNOOWOO BOARD AND MANAGEMENT ATTEND THE RES 2024 CONFERENCE

March 11-14, 2024, board members Eunice E. James, Mary Jean Duncan, and Melissa M. Kookesh alongside Kootznoowoo executives and staff, participated in the annual Reservation Economic Summit (RES) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

RES is organized by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) which is the largest national Indian specific business organization in the nation. For over 50 years, NCAIED has helped American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and businesses gain access to economic opportunity and growth capital.

This year's conference theme was "Strength in Unity" and the

conference welcomed more than 4,500 participants. RES brings together stakeholders from throughout Indian Country including Alaska Native and tribal leaders, members of Congress, federal agency representatives, state and local officials, and top CEOs. It features a variety of learning and networking opportunities including sessions covering workforce and business development topics, panels with discussion from various industry experts, and multiple events where participants can meet and discuss potential business opportunities and joint ventures.

According to President & CEO Tom Wilbur, "The purpose of Kootznoowoo attending RES is threefold: 1) For Kootznoowoo to gain insight on current business trends in Indian Country business; 2) To learn federal contracting by attending the many seminars conducted by the National Center; and 3) to network and prove Kootznoowoo's commitment to the various programs, financing, and business models we strive to accomplish."

In addition to the busy conference schedule, Mr. Wilbur scheduled several meetings exclusively for Kootznoowoo to meet with business partners and key allies within government contracting including representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Native Procurement Technical Assistance Center, several NCAIED board



Todd Shrader, the Director of the Project Management Division of the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations and his staff were delighted to meet the leadership of their recent \$27M dollar award for Thayer Hydroelectric Project (RES 2024).

members, and CEOs from other success companies working within the 8(a) marketplace.

"As we continue to make strides into 8(a), it's important for Kootznoowoo to have a presence at these events," said Mr. Wilbur. "None of these meetings or ability to meet key executives could have happened without attendance at this event."

In 2023, Kootznoowoo also participated in the Society of American Military Engineers and the National 8(a) Association Annual Conference. For these conferences, all board directors are invited to attend.



Business Analyst Edwell John, Jr. networking with Marla Mesarina, the Midwest Regional Representative for the United National Indian Tribal Youth Organization.

NEWPORT NEWS GETS UPGRADES AND NEW BRANDING

Kootznoowoo's Newport IV building (also known as Favorite Bay) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been a longstanding asset for Kootznoowoo. With over 70,000 square feet of high quality office space, the multi-tenant building has 25 offices suites and is conveniently located near the airport in Albuquerque. It was originally purchased as a real estate investment to earn rental income as a part of the corporation's property portfolio.

After coming on board in 2023, President & CEO Thomas E. Wilbur initially thought that the best strategy for Newport IV might be sell it and use the profits to expand Kootznoowoo's businesses portfolio. However, after visiting the building and exploring the government contracting opportunities in the area, he developed a different strategy.

"The board has been very forthright in their directive to expand into government contracting," said Mr. Wilbur. "As I was exploring ways to do that, it turns out that Kootznoowoo has been sitting on this asset that is positioned right in the middle of Department of Defense contracting activities."

In order to improve Newport IV for its current and future tenants, as well as better prepare it to serve as Kootznoowoo's 8(a) headquarters, the corporation executed several improvement efforts. This included installing four E/V charging stations and transitioning to LED lighting to become greener and lower the building's carbon footprint. All 950 light fixtures were upgraded.



Albuquerque, New Mexico



A mock-up for the new signage and branding for the re-named Kootz Defense Campus.

The cost of this effort was offset by a government rebate of approximately \$14,000 and will further provide substantial savings against the buildings overall power usage.

The building is also being renamed as the Kootz Defense Campus and will receive new signage to better promote the building and legitimize Kootznoowoo's presence in the local federal marketplace. "This initiative is well under way," said President & CEO Thomas E. Wilbur. "This effort promises to add value to our largest asset and will likely result in additional tenant occupancy."

Other improvements included installing monitors for announcements; adding vending machines to the building for added tenant convenience; placing defibrillators and NARCON wall kits within the building for added safety; and improving the lobby's atmosphere with Tlingit art to demonstrate Kootznoowoo's cultural ties and ownership.

Finally, the Kootz Defense Campus will also have the third and final Kootzcam installed soon on the top of the building. "This camera will provide a view of the Sandia Mountain Range during the day and a view of the gleaming city lights of Albuquerque in the evening," said Mr. Wilbur. "This will provide shareholders a view into another part of the country where their corporation has a presence and perhaps entice some of them to consider working in our defense sector!"

KOOTZNOOWOO LAUNCHES SUMMER GUIDE ACADEMY IN ANGOON

This summer, Kootznoowoo, Inc. is sponsoring a Summer Guide Academy that will prepare shareholders and descendants to become a professional wilderness guide. Up to four trainees will be hired for the 2024 Academy, which will run for three months from mid-April through mid-August.

Currently, the program is recruiting trainees between the ages of 17-25. This is a paid experience where trainees who complete the full summer will be paid \$8,000 for their participation and successful completion of the program.

“The Guide Academy is basically a training course for those who are interested in becoming guides such as wilderness or kayak guides or even becoming charter captains. The intent of the program is to give the youth and young adults an opportunity to get training,” said Matthew Kookesh who is overseeing the program. “The experience will range from interning with a bear specialist and the U.S. Forest Service at Pack Creek to



getting training with kayaking and fly fishing. This is a great opportunity for participants to see how businesses outside of Angoon run.”

This exciting hands-on guiding experience will include activities such as:

- A commercial cross-Admiralty paddle and hike;
- Angoon walking tours and Pack Creek bear viewing;
- Sea kayak paddling and rescue;
- Wilderness first aid and managing guest safety;
- Fresh and saltwater fly fishing;

- Wilderness travel and leave-no-trace camping.

“Our goal is to create opportunities for the community of Angoon that will offer exposure and a chance to gain skills and experience in a new area,” said Matthew. “The Summer Guide Academy is one of those opportunities. When small scale tourism comes to Angoon, participants have completed the program will be able to use their training to possibly work for a tourism company or even start up their own guiding business.”



Summer Guide Academy Program Coordinator, Matthew Kookesh III

SIGN-UP FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT



Kootznoowoo encourages all shareholders to use direct deposit to receive distributions as it's the most reliable method for payments. There are many benefits to direct deposit. These include:

- Shareholders receive their funds directly in their bank account so they don't have to even leave their home to cash their check.
- Payments arrive quickly, often times a week or earlier than payments mailed by check.

- The risk of a lost or stolen check is eliminated.
- Direct deposit payments are easily traceable unlike those sent through the mail which Kootznoowoo has no way of tracking.

Shareholders can sign-up on the MyKootznoowoo Portal or download a form from the Kootznoowoo website and return it to Shareholder Services.

For more questions, email info@kootznoowoo.com.

KOOTZNOOWOO WELCOMES ABOARD NEW COMMUNITY CATALYST

Carmen Davis came on board as Kootznoowoo's Community Catalyst in February. In this role she is responsible for implementing small-scale visitor opportunities in Angoon, including the development of a walking tour. Carmen will also oversee the Artist's Workshop in Angoon and assist with the co-management planning for Mitchell Bay.

"I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to work for Kootznoowoo. I hope to make some valuable contributions and I look forward to being a part of all the meaningful projects ahead for Angoon," said Carmen.

Since starting at Kootznoowoo, Carmen has been working on several projects including developing the walking tour for our visitors before



they arrive in the summer season.

Carmen is based full time in Angoon, where she is currently working out of Kootznoowoo's Raven Beaver building. Eventually, she will move her office to the newly renovated Artist's Workshop. "The goal is to get the workshop space well-positioned to host more cultural classes. We want it to be available to

the community and to get more artists in there," said Carmen. "If anyone is interested in utilizing the space they should definitely contact me and I will be happy to assist them with scheduling."

Prior to joining Kootznoowoo, Carmen worked at Angoon's Head Start program and later was employed with the Chatham School District where she worked as a paraeducator.

Originally from Angoon, Carmen is *Desheetaan* (Raven Beaver). She is the daughter of Angela Johnson (Willard) and Gary Daetwiler, and the granddaughter of Robert and Mable (Frank) Willard. Carmen is a Kootznoowoo shareholder.

For more information about the Artist's Workshop or to reach Carmen, email cdavis@kootznoowoo.com.



Kootznoowoo, Inc. is a proud supporter of the Angoon High School Basketball Teams and was pleased to provide a monetary donation to help the teams travel to the regional tournament. Go Eagles!



KPFST PAYS OUT FEBRUARY 2024 DISTRIBUTION

On February 1, 2024, the Kootznoowoo Permanent Fund Settlement Trust (KPFST) paid out a distribution of \$3.46 per trust unit. KPFST distribution amounts are calculated based on the average income to the Trust over a five-year period.

Distributions are typically made in February, June, and October of each year. The Trust is managed by Alaska Permanent Capital Management.

KPFST is overseen by a voluntary Board of Trustees that include Chair Sharon Love and Trustees Anthony Mallott, Jaelene Kookesh, Nathan Soboleff, and Ricardo Worl.

Manage your own information on the Kootznoowoo Shareholder Portal!
Register at www.MyKootznoowoo.com.
It's fast, easy, and convenient!

LOST SHAREHOLDERS LIST

Brian Lee Abbott	Kenneth Charles Demmert	Arnold W. Johnson Jr	Travis Abajar See
Mohammad Ali-Raza Ahmad	Marissa Hazel Demmert	Brandon Wilson Larry Johnson	Kristen L. Shangin
Mohammad Raza Ahmad	Natasha Annette Elgarico	Brittany Marilynn Johnson	Cheryl L. Skaflestad
Jeanette A. Bardi	David M Enright	Katherine L Johnson	Evelonia Strom
Stephen James Barry	Calvin Matthew Fred Jr	Margaret June Keeble	George Strom III
Andrew Lawrence Beaman	Talon Earl Gamble	Jerusalem Augustus Kenworthy	Tawnia C. Tillotson
Laura Nicole Blankenship	Delores Elsie Gardipee	Allan F. Lindstrom	Matthew T. Torgerson
David Lee Braman	Harold Kenneth Hepler	Joshua Elliott Martin	Tallon Colt Westlake
Lisa Annette Braswell	Spencer D.T. Hogue	Felomina G. Mazon	Deborah May Willard
Ryan John Bray	Doris Anna Hunter	Terenty Jay Mercurief III	Elizabeth J. Williams
Amberly A. Brown	Willow Janet Jackson	Alison Lee Netz	Stephen C. Romero Williams
Hayden K. Brown	Christina Elizabeth James	Kenneth Robert Olson	Rodney Willis
Terra Darlene Bruer	Kayley James	Ralph B Scott-Ahmed	Robert D. Wolfe
Micky Compton	Anthony N. Johnson	Matthew Allen See	Lawrence Richard Young

Kootznoowoo, Inc. is seeking information about the following list of shareholders whose contact information is out-of-date or invalid. If you have any information about where we can locate any of the following, please contact Shareholder Services at (907) 790-2992 or via email info@kootznoowoo.com.

KOOTZNOOWOO, INCORPORATED
8585 OLD DAIRY ROAD, SUITE 201
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

