

Alaska Public Broadcasting Incorporated (APBI) and CoastAlaska, Inc. (CA) have entered into a Joint Venture (JV) to explore opportunities to create organizational efficiencies and expand public media services in the State of Alaska.

"We are excited to be creating a joint venture with such a high level of technical and professional expertise. We look forward to identifying new projects to support and strengthen public media operations in Alaska," says APBI President John Clough.

APBI is focused on statewide services to all public media entities and provides professional staff services for the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. APBI provides engineering services to rural public radio stations and manages the Alaska Rural Communication System (ARCS), a television service reaching 192 locations within Alaska. APBI provides representation to state and federal agencies for the public media system.

CoastAlaska is a collaboration of Southeast Alaska public media entities in Sitka, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Wrangell and Juneau. CoastAlaska regional services include financial management, fundraising, engineering, editorial leadership and regional news content. CoastAlaska also provides contractual services to several other public media stations in the state.

The first action of the new Joint Venture is a shared Executive Director. Mollie Kabler, the current CoastAlaska Executive Director, has been appointed to that position for both Alaska Public Broadcasting Inc. and CoastAlaska Inc.

The Joint Venture committee consists of three members from each organization. This committee is charged with working with Kabler to align the two organizations to work together to provide the same high level of services in a time of shrinking state funds.

"There is tremendous synergy between APBI and CoastAlaska" Kirk Duncan says "With Mollie's leadership, we look forward to supporting public media throughout Alaska."

No immediate service changes are anticipated from either organization. Both believe they can grow capacity for public media operations by working together.

For additional information, please contact Mollie Kabler, 907 747 5877 or mollie@coastalaska.org, John Clough, chair of APBI at 907-209-7901 or jcloughak@hotmail.com and Kirk Duncan, chair of CoastAlaska at 907-321-3525 or duncan503@gci.net