September 28, 2018

Via Email
To: Sarah Marrinan <sarah.marrinan@noaa.gov>
Cc: Shannon Gleason <shannon.gleason@noaa.gov>

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Re: Nomination of Erica McCall Valentine for NPFMC’s Social Science Planning Team (SSPT)

Dear Ms. Marrinan:

Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak (STK) represents the largest Native community in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and is centered on the Kodiak Archipelago. For over 7,500 years, our Sugpiaq/Alutiiq ancestors have relied heavily on the local marine environments and the open ocean area resources found in the North Pacific. We are very concerned about marine resources that sustained our ancestors, and now our many individuals today, who rely on the same resources for economic support, sustenance, and cultural identity. To ensure the well-being of future generations of the Alutiiq People, maintaining the health of marine resources is critical for our survival as well as for others in our sharing communities of the Kodiak Archipelago.

With the above introduction and urgency of our concerns regarding the GOA, we believe the NPFMC should add social scientist Ms. Erica McCall Valentine as a new member of the Social Science Planning Team. We have known and worked with Erica for about six years. Her educational and interdisciplinary experiences and interests in Native cultures give her unique qualifications for investigating local and traditional knowledge, contemporary resource use and management, and ecosystem monitoring. With Erica’s easy-going personality and helping demeanor, she is ideal for the Social Science Planning Team’s required level of academic and professional experience needed to deliver science-based research to NPFMC.

Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak strongly supports nomination of Erica McCall Valentine to NPFMC’s “Social Science Planning Team.”

Sincerely,

Jeannine Marsh
Tribal Administrator
Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak
Dear Ms. Marrinan:

Please consider my application for the vacancies on the Social Science Planning Team for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. I am excited about this position because it integrates my interdisciplinary social science research interests in human geography, natural resource policy and management, and community psychology and well-being with my field experience conducting qualitative and quantitative research and track record of teamwork and leadership.

I am a social scientist who conducts cross-disciplinary research exploring human interactions with natural resources – specifically the human use of natural resources and the drivers influencing use. I completed my Master of Science from the School of Society, Resources, and Environment at The Australian National University in Canberra, Australia, in 2002, where I defended my findings from a two-year analysis examining the cooperative fisheries management regimes in Australasia and applying said findings to a (then) newly instituted federal subsistence fishing management regime in Alaska. Since then I’ve been working in Alaska with Tribes, agencies, universities, and non-profits to conduct co-produced social science research and improve the flow of social science information supporting analyses and decision-making processes. While continuing this important work, in 2017 when my family and I moved to Fairbanks, I began the pursuit of a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. My research interests lie within the intersections of human geography, community psychology and well-being, environmental sociology, and resource management.

I am qualified to serve on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council’s Social Science Planning Team for several key reasons. First, in a variety of capacities I have worked with several interdisciplinary teams across Alaska to better understand how natural resources are used and managed, most notably as a co-investigator on a number of state and federal fish and wildlife research projects and as an evaluator of the Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center’s co-production of science projects. Second, over the course of my career, I have overseen numerous collaborating partnerships; reviewed and adhered to project proposals, and work plans and flows; completed peer reviews, and bridged organizations and agencies to best serve communities, employees, partners, and research needs. Thirdly, in research, I draw from broad practical and theoretical experiences in qualitative and quantitative research methods honed from undergraduate and master’s coursework, and many years of community-engaged primary and secondary fieldwork. And fourthly, as an Alaska resident of nearly 30 years, I am passionate about our state, maintaining its many fisheries, and the diversity of livelihoods statewide.

In closing, thank you for your consideration to serve on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council’s Social Science Planning Team. I wish you and the Council the best and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Erica McCall Valentine, M.S.
Erica McCall Valentine, M.S.

2565 Allen Adale Road, Fairbanks AK 99709 | 907-230-1169 | ericamccall@yahoo.com

Summary

Social scientist with 17+ years of extensive experience in research, meeting facilitation, and fundraising with a focus on building culturally-appropriate relationships between agencies, academia, indigenous communities, and donors in the fields of natural resources management and community development to improve the flow of data and information that supports analyses and application. Utilizing my professional background in project management and business operations, I develop and support comprehensive programs based on the needs and mission of indigenous and rural communities, non-profit organizations, and federal and state agencies. I am an energetic team player, relationship builder, and effective communicator who is well-organized and proactive in conducting fieldwork, developing and establishing innovative programs, addressing co-produced community and research information needs, and providing timely and accurate information and support to executives and colleagues.

Education

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY | IN PROGRESS | UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
- Anthropology
- Coursework completed: Economic Anthropology, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Structures of Anthropological Argument, and Introduction to Flora of Alaska
- GPA: 4.0

CERTIFICATE IN ETHNOBOTANY | IN PROGRESS | UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
- Coursework completed: Introduction to Ethnomycology, Introduction to Ethnobotany, Ethical Wildcrafting, Ethnobotanical Techniques, Seminar in Ethnobotany, and Ethnobotanical Chemistry
- Anticipated completion: Spring 2019
- GPA: 4.0

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE | 2002 | THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- Dissertation: Alaska Natives and Subsistence Fishing: Review of current subsistence fishing issues and the option of cooperative management as a viable alternative
- GPA: High Distinction (A+)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | 1999 | UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
- Anthropology

Professional Experience

SOCIAL SCIENTIST | THE SCHOLAR SHIP | FAIRBANKS AK
September 2012 – present
- As a social scientist, I conduct original project-specific research using qualitative and quantitative methods, including social survey design and sampling, econometric techniques, and experimental design. I also coordinate and lead interdisciplinary teams to conduct socio-ecological and socio-economic research projects, engage constructively with other specialist colleagues regarding the value-add of social analysis to resources management, prepare publications including peer-review articles and public outreach materials, and conduct front-end, formative and summative project and program evaluations.
EXTERNAL PROJECT EVALUATOR | INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC RESEARCH CENTER | UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA | FAIRBANKS AK
October 2017 – December 2017
· Plan, implement, and evaluate activities associated with the Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center which included providing general oversight for regional meetings, technical assistance to local/regional coalitions and partnerships focused on the implementation strategies to develop the long-term involvement of community institutions, organizations and individuals in land and resource management activities and co-production of science.

ADJUNCT FACULTY | UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA | KUSKOKWIM CAMPUS | BETHEL AK
May 2017 – present
· Teach Introduction to Ethnobotany (EBOT 100)
· Complete the 6-week University of Alaska Fairbanks eLearning Center’s iTeach Online program

DIRECTOR OF COPPER RIVER PROGRAMS | ECOTRUST | TALKEETNA AK
January 2009 – September 2012
· As the Ecotrust Copper River Program Director, I developed detailed plans, goals, and objectives for annual and long-range Program implementation and administration. Within these parameters, I administered a suite of programs with $1M to $1.5M annual budgets, created and organized work plans, coordinated with staff and executive personnel, and conducted all phases of business management. I also supervised 3 full-time employees and up to 6 seasonal employees; coordinated with internal and external Program partners to develop annual staffing and program financial plans; formulated, directed, and evaluated staff and programmatic activities; identified potentially controversial findings with widespread impacts and developed mitigation plans to address said issues; and developed criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the Program.

WATERSHED PROGRAMS COORDINATOR | ECOTRUST | TALKEETNA AK
April 2007 – December 2008
· In the Program Coordinator position, I developed an interdisciplinary research consortium involving indigenous communities, Alaska Native tribes and corporations, state and federal agencies, universities, and other stakeholders including commercial, personal use, and subsistence fishers; directed and facilitated a networking consortium to identify regional issues and information needs; and established research teams to address aid issues and information needs.

SOCIAL SCIENTIST | NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK | CORDOVA AK
September 2002 – March 2007
· As a Social Scientist, I served as a co-investigator and collaborator on a variety of ecological and socioecological research projects with annual budgets up to $750,000. In this capacity, conducted original project-specific research using qualitative and quantitative methods, and acted as a liaison between indigenous and rural communities, Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations, and federal and state agencies. I also served on federal funding review committees to evaluate the technical and scientific merit of proposals seeking funding; and served on federal committees to develop strategic plans for statewide and regional fisheries monitoring programs. I supervised 2 full-time employees and up to 12 seasonal employees.
Professional Service

GRANT REVIEWER | NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD | 2002 - PRESENT

PAPER AND BOOK REVIEWER | SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY | 2014 – PRESENT

OBSERVER | CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA | 2018

PEER COUNSELOR | PROVIDENCE KODIAK ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER | 2016

Selected Publications


Selected Presentations


Current Professional Memberships

Alaska Anthropological Association
American Anthropological Association
American Fisheries Society – Alaska Chapter
American Water Resources Association

Society for Applied Anthropology
Society for Economic Botany
Society of Ethnobiology