



Haines Borough Administration
Robert Venables, Manager
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Report

January 8, 2008

Successful Grants!

As reported in the local media, the Denali Commission's Transportation committee voted to award the Haines Borough **\$800,000 for the float replacement project**. We have not yet received the official notification but are moving forward with workshops to finalize design specifications for bid purposes. Also, Governor Palin included the replacement of the Barnett Drive **water pump station**. This matching grant (the state pays 70% of the \$340K) is timely as this facility will be pumping water up to the new storage tank on Young Road. We were also just notified that Catholic Community Services has been awarded a grant to replace the **fire suppression system** in the Haines Senior Center. Special thanks to Larry Bussone and his staff for their partnership and work on improvements for this facility!

The Dayboat is Back!

The AMHS has just released its proposed FY09 operating plan (highlights attached). The number one need identified for Lynn Canal is dependable, daily service that connects all three communities on a schedule you can set your watch by. The Malaspina is set to begin daily service around May 11. The plan is to base the vessel in Skagway and leave Haines every day at 9 am for Juneau, have a 3 hour layover in Juneau and return to Haines at 4:30 each afternoon. More information is online (refer to the attachment) and a teleconference is scheduled for January 10, 2008 at 2 pm.

Excursion Inlet Request

The Borough received a request (attached) from many residents and property owners at Excursion Inlet to support the creation of a special personal use/subsistence zone for Dungeness crab. I am researching this and will bring it forward for action once more information is available.

Lutak Road Update

The state is moving forward with the Lutak Road rehabilitation project. They are reviewing the final set of plans now and hope to have the project out to bid in the next month.

Congressional Priorities

Each year the borough nominates five priority projects for the lobbyist to work on during the year. In their recent report (attached), the lobbyist is asking for any changes to be sent in as soon as possible. The harbor has always been the top priority. The other projects we are seeking funding for are: waterfront development, road improvements, water & sewer needs, Historic Fort Seward Revitalization, and alternative energy. If you would like to revise the list, perhaps the topic could be set for the next assembly meeting.

Vacation Time

I will be trying to take a couple of weeks off during the coming month but do not anticipate missing any assembly meetings. I plan to take a few days off this next week and then 7-10 days around the beginning of February.

To: The Honorable Fred Shields
The Haines Borough Assembly
J. Robert Venables, Borough Manager

From: Brad Gilman & Sebastian O'Kelly

Re: Washington Update

Date: January 3, 2008

1. FY 2008 Appropriations: The President signed an Omnibus Appropriations Bill in late December that Congress passed in the closing days of the legislative session. This “catch all” spending bill encompasses 11 separate appropriations bills (every appropriations bill except Defense which passed in October) providing \$555 billion in Federal spending. It represents a series of long and difficult negotiations between Congressional Democrats and Republicans and the President. The Democratic leadership had to cut \$22 billion from the bills in order to meet the President’s spending targets and avoid a veto.

You may recall that last year, FY 2007, Congress passed a long-term continuing resolution in lieu of the regular bills that included no earmarks for any domestic community projects. The FY 2008 Omnibus included a substantial number of community projects, although at a lesser amount from high water years in FY 2006 and 2005.

The Energy & Water Appropriations Title of the Omnibus contained \$151,000 for the Haines Harbor under Army Corps General Investigations/PED funding. With the project authorization now enacted under the WRDA reauthorization bill, our goal this year will be to secure funds under the General Construction account so the project can proceed into its construction phase.

2. FY 2009 Appropriations: AK Delegation deadlines will soon be set for submission of paperwork relating to community appropriations requests for FY 2009. We urge you to submit your projects list to us by **February 1**. This will give us time to complete the required forms, typically due mid-Feb to early March, and consult further with you in their preparation if necessary.

3. Secure Schools: Secure Schools legislation failed to pass this Congress after it was stripped from the Energy Bill along with the tax package in the legislation. The offset used to pay for a multi-year reauthorization remains problematic for many Members who are averse to any tax increases. We tried to see if Senator Stevens would offer a one year emergency extension (the “emergency” designation would not require an offset) when the Omnibus Appropriations Bill came to the floor in late December but the parliamentary situation prevented the offering of amendments other than the previously-agreed upon Iraq war funding amendment.

There is a package of tax extenders that Congress will take up early in 2008 and it might present an opportunity for a one year emergency extension (the same action Congress took in 2007) or possibly a multi-year reauthorization if the offset issues can be resolved. We will continue to press the cause with the Delegation to look for an opportunity in the early part of this year to get an extension.

4. **Miscellaneous:**

- **Denali Commission Funding** – The FY 2008 Omnibus includes over \$90 million for the Commission to be spent as follows: \$21.6 million for general Commission activities; \$38.5 million for the construction of rural health and social service facilities; \$10 million for grants to subsidize high-cost energy; \$4.9 million for rural roads, docks and waterfront development; an additional \$7.35 million specifically for rural roads; \$6.75 million for rural job training programs; and \$434,000 to combat contamination of drinking water by deficient solid waste disposal sites.
- **Comprehensive Energy Legislation** – The President has just signed comprehensive energy legislation. The bill includes a host of provisions to further renewable energy development including a Renewable Energy Deployment Grant program that Senator Murkowski authored with Senator Stevens. The measure authorizes Federal grants of up to 50 percent of the cost of building a wide variety of renewable electricity projects: wind, geothermal, ocean (wave, tidal and current), biomass, solar, landfill gas and small hydroelectric projects in Alaska. The grant program would still need appropriations. Rep. Young introduced separate legislation late in the session that would authorize similar programs but would place a greater emphasis on hydroelectric power.
- **Sealaska Native Corporation Land Entitlement Legislation** – Representative Young has introduced legislation to allow Sealaska to select up to 85,000 acres of land to meet its original ANSCA entitlement. The lands would be selected from a pool of land in Southeast Alaska outside of designated withdrawal areas. The bill was reviewed at a House hearing on a number of Alaska lands bills but has not been scheduled for a Committee mark up.
- **Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Tax Treatment Legislation** – The Senate passed legislation sponsored by Senators Murkowski and Stevens that would provide beneficial tax treatment to plaintiffs, the vast majority commercial fishermen, harmed in the Exxon Valdez spill. The legislation would: allow individual plaintiffs to income average any payouts from this case over a three year period in the same manner they currently average their fishing income; permit individual plaintiffs to contribute up to \$100,000 to a traditional IRA, Roth IRA, SEP (Simplified Employee Pension) IRA and other retirement plans, such as 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans and 457 plans; and exempt plaintiffs from having to pay self-employment taxes or payroll taxes on any payouts from the case. The Supreme Court is expected to render a final decision on the case in the spring.
- **Coast Guard Reauthorization** – Legislation to reauthorize Coast Guard programs remains pending in both the House and Senate. The bills contain a

number of Alaska-related provisions advocated for by Sen. Stevens and Rep. Young, including: authorizing construction of a helicopter hangar in the Aleutian Islands/Bering Sea area; authorizing construction of a multi-mission response station in Valdez; transferring the USCG Cutter Storis to the Storis Museum and Education Center; fully funding the Oil Spill Recovery Institute; providing a small vessel exemption to the definition of fish processing vessel to allow the processing of up to 5 metric tons of salmon per week by small vessel operators; and directing the Coast Guard to conduct a vessel traffic risk assessment in the Aleutians and Cook Inlet.

- **Indian Healthcare Improvement Act** – Legislation to reauthorize Indian healthcare programs remains pending in both the House and Senate. Hearings have been held and the Senate has reported its bill from Committee. The legislation expands SCHIP and Medicare eligibility for Native Americans and provides scholarship and other incentives to increase the number of healthcare providers serving the Native community. It also establishes a program specifically for training Native Alaskans as community health aides. All three Alaska Delegation members are cosponsors.
- **Farm Bill Amendment For Commercial Fishermen**—Senator Stevens successfully offered an amendment to the Farm Bill to make commercial fishermen eligible for USDA’s Farm Operating Loan Program. Agricultural producers, including aquaculture operators, are eligible for the low-cost operating loans. The Stevens amendment would provide parity to commercial fishermen by defining “farm” to including “commercial fishing enterprise.” The Senate passed its version of farm bill reauthorization late in the session.

Alaska Marine Highway System



Alaska
Marine Highway

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Summer 2008 Proposed Schedule Review

STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

3132 CHANNEL DRIVE
PO Box 112500
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2500
FAX: (907) 586-8365
PHONE: (907) 465-3900

January 2, 2007

Dear Community Members:

Enclosed are the FY09 draft operating plan, proposed vessel deployment and weekly vessel pattern graphs for the Summer 2008 Schedule.

The schedule patterns that are being proposed are based on a funding level for FY09 that will support 396 ship-weeks of service. The operating plan has been designed to balance the needs for community service, staying within available funding, and maintaining regulatory and safety standards for the vessels.

Please take the time to review and comment on this proposal paying particular attention to any need for special events scheduling. Be sure to give the name of the event, date, location, approximate number of potential participants and arrival/departure times needed for each event.

Please provide your written comments prior to January 10, 2008. Information may be faxed to 907-586-8365 or emailed to dot.amhs.comments@alaska.gov. A teleconference to hear comments and consider adjustments is scheduled for Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. for Southeast Alaska schedules and 9:00 a.m. Friday, January 11, 2008 for Southwest and Southcentral Alaska schedules. The meeting will be conducted from the 3rd floor Commissioner's conference room at DOT/PF Headquarters building at 3132 Channel Drive, Juneau, Alaska.

The toll free number to participate in the teleconference is: 1-800-315-6338, conference code 3902#.

If you have any additional questions or need additional information, please contact the AMHS Operations Manager, Chuck vanKirk, at (907) 465-8862 or (907) 228-7252.

Download

Draft FY09
Operating Plan
09.09

FY09 Proposed
Vessel
Deployment

Calendar of
Events

S08 SE Week 1
pattern

S08 SE Week 2
pattern

S08 SW Week
1 pattern

S08 SW Week
2 pattern

S08 SW Weeks
3 and 4 pattern

**Alaska Marine Highway System
FY09 Operating Plan
January 2, 2008**

Vessel Deployment - Summer

- Kennicott will operate 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off from Southeast across the Gulf to Southwest returning to Southeast and then laying 2 weeks in Ketchikan
- Columbia will remain on the Bellingham Friday Route
- Matanuska will sail from Prince Rupert to Skagway and from Prince Rupert to Juneau once per week
- Malaspina will sail in North Lynn Canal on a daily schedule
- Taku will sail from Prince Rupert to Juneau twice per week
- Lituya will sail between Metlakatla and Ketchikan
- LeConte will sail a Northern Panhandle Route
- Tustumena will sail the Southwest Route with Aleutian Chain trips
- Aurora will sail in Prince William Sound
- Fairweather will sail 5 times per week to Sitka and 2 times per week to Petersburg
- Chenega will sail in Prince William Sound

Vessel Deployment – Winter

- Kennicott will operate 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off from Southeast across the Gulf to Southwest returning to Southeast and then laying in Ketchikan
- Columbia will remain on the Bellingham Friday Route except for overhaul when the Malaspina will take over the run
- Matanuska will enter a Federal CIP project and will return to service June 2009
- Malaspina will be in Layup Status until March 2009 when it takes over for the Columbia on the Friday Bellingham Route
- Taku will sail from Prince Rupert twice per week, once to Juneau and once to Skagway
- Lituya will sail between Metlakatla and Ketchikan
- LeConte will sail a Northern Panhandle Route
- Tustumena will enter a Federal CIP Project in November 2008 ending in late April 2009
- Aurora will sail in Prince William Sound
- Fairweather will enter a Federal CIP Project in October 2008 ending in early May 2009
- Chenega will sail in North Lynn Canal plus Sitka from October 2008 through early March 2009

PO Box EXI
Juneau, Alaska 99850

July 19, 2007

Honorable
Haines Borough Mayor and Borough Assembly Members:

RECEIVED Haines Borough

DEC 28 2007

Clerk's Office

As residents and property owners at Excursion Inlet we would like you to consider submitting a petition on our behalf to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to create in our Inlet an exclusive personal use/subsistence zone for Dungeness crab. See Attachment A, a map showing the location of this proposed zone.

For the past 20 plus years, Inlet residents and property owners have used this area for Dungeness crab fishing for their personal and subsistence use. In the last five years the commercial crabbers have increasingly dominated the Dungeness fishery in this proposed zone. When the commercial season opens commercial crabbers routinely set their gear directly on top of our personal/subsistence pots already fishing. They have picked our pots, cut buoy lines, moved our gear, and have generally degraded our personal use/ subsistence fishing experience.

Our local fish and wildlife enforcement officer does his best, but does not have the time or resources to effectively deal with the many individual complaints related to this situation, and often incidents go unreported from lack of effective enforcement options. We feel the proposed zone will provide a proactive solution to a serious problem and avoid more serious confrontations and friction over use of this area.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

Excursion Inlet property owners/residents, including but not limited to:

Geoffrey Nelson
GEOFFREY NELSON

Matthew Hunter

Matthew Hunter

Robert NEWSOME

Robert Newsome

Cherie L. Moreland

Cherie L. Moreland

SOUTH EXCURSION INLET
LOT 4 BLK C DUNCANS CAMP SUBD.
Lot 4 BKC Excursion Inlet

FLV DeFishent
P.O. Box 131
Hoonah AK 99829

Bruce Bertram Excursion Inlet Community Lot 3 Block B Excursion Inlet South

Deborah Gordon Lot 3 - Block B Excursion Inlet South
cell - 206-303-9855

Jerry Ken Rowan LOT 5A BLOCK A EXCURSION INLET S.

Laura C. Vivian LOT 10 - Block B Excursion Inlet

Dorothy N. Vinton LOT 10 - Block B Excursion Inlet

Albert M. Lyden LOT 1, 2, 5 - Block F " "

Michael J. Campbell Lot 1, 2, 5 Block F " "

Thomas A. Dean Lot 7+8 Excursion Inlet South
 Elizabeth L. Bear Lot 7+8 Excursion Inlet South
 Jack Campbell Lots 7, 1, 2, 5 " " "
 Charles ~~Scott~~ Lot #2 Block G Excursion Inlet
 Fay Elliott Lot #2 Block G Excursion Inlet
 Wayne ~~Scott~~ Lot 4 Block A Excursion South

Maureen R. Foxen, Resident EXI Property owner
 Ronald W. Ballard EXI Property owner
 Desmond Foxen EXI PROPERTY OWNER

~~Scott Desrosiers~~ SCOTT DESROSIER, Property owner EXI
 Adam Desrosiers EXI Resident Property owner

Norman Desrosiers EXI PROPERTY OWNER

David B. Oustin Ex North Lot I & II

Patty Stidolf " Lot 2 Block A

Robert A. Woolf Ex North Sub. II Block 3, Lot 5

Stephen R. Beasley Ex North Sub I Lot #8

Van L. Hamm Ex North Block 1 Lot 6

Daniel H. Widmann Ex North Block 1 Lot 9

Wendy Powers-Gladmann Ex North BK 1 Lot 9

Stephen C. Maffei Ex North Block 1 Lot 6

Cathie A. Shiff Ex North Block 1 Lot 6

Michael Gerscheffski Lot 1 Block A, Lot 11
 Frank, and Sharon Selt Lot 10 Block A

