



Haines Borough Administration
Robert Venables, Manager
(907)766-2231 • Fax(907)766-2716
rvenables@haines.ak.us

Report

October 23, 2007

Harbor OMB Report

The WRDA bill is slowly working its way to the President. The Office of Management and Budget is supportive of the project (letter attached) and congressional leaders are planning for a possible veto-override (see attached news article).

We continue to move forward in planning for more immediate replacement and renovation of much of the current harbor. Our goal is to design a \$5-7 million "phase-one" project using grant funds and a combination of local harbor monies (from the state) as well as matching funds that are being held by the state for the harbor project.

School Landscaping

Work continues to go well with the high school renovations (Dec. 17 completion date). The contractor is turning the gym back to the district this week and the sheetrock work is about 80% complete. The District has requested additional work for office space and the new entrance by the gym should be framed in next week.

George Campbell and Don Abel's Ace Hardware supplied the project with approximately \$10,000 worth of trees and shrubs for \$2,500. George also transported them to Haines and planted them on his own time (big thank you to both!).

Tank Farm Update

I participated in a conference call with the CIA, Army, GSA and Congressional staff to pursue the transfer of the tank farm. There will be an update on the clean-up status when the local RAB board meets tonight at the Chilkat Center. The new contractor (Northwind) has installed new monitoring wells and has a multi-year contract to clean up the property and present a final plan for remediation. It is still unclear the best route to pursue (or the timing) for the ownership transfer, but the Army, GSA and the CIA will continue dialogue toward this goal.

Ferry Terminal Project

Four bids were received for the "Haines Mooring Improvements" project. The low bidder was Western Dock & Bridge (\$2,137,280). They will fabricate the components and install the pilings, etc. next June.

At the last MTAB meeting, AMHS announced that they were moving forward with plans for major improvements at the Haines terminal. They plan to spend "multiple millions" for upgrades that will accommodate home-porting a ferry in Hanes.

Construction Update

Construction on 3rd avenue resumed following the signing of the compromise RSA. It appears that the primary failure in the portion of the road excavated to date was due to poor work installing the sewer utility. The trench was backfilled with wood, debris and unsuitable material which had no structural integrity. The cone on the manhole was the wrong size and incorrectly installed leaving large holes for infiltration.

New Hires

The borough would like to welcome our newly hired employees: Steve Ritzinger, Planning & Zoning Technician; Melina Shields, Library Interim Children & Youth Coordinator; John Spencer, Public Works Equipment Operator; Carrie Walker, Police Dispatcher. We will schedule a time for them to come in and meet the assembly next month.

Travel & Training

I will be joining the harbormaster in Juneau this week for the Port Administrator and harbormaster's Conference, then heading to Anchorage for a day-long training course in government procurement and contracts.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108
OCT 01 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Madam Speaker:

In response to a December 2, 1970 resolution adopted by the Committee on Public Works of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am providing the report of the Chief of Engineers on a navigation improvement project for Haines, Alaska. The resolution requested review of the reports of the Chief of Engineers on Rivers and Harbors in Alaska, published as House Document Numbered 414, 83rd Congress, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether or not modifications to the original recommendations are advisable. The study was initially authorized under the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) for navigation as specified in Section 107, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960 (PL 86-645), as amended, and was later converted to a General Investigations study. The Haines Alaska Navigation Improvements Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment, dated March 2004, was prepared as a decision document in response to the resolution, and the proposal is described in the report of the Chief of Engineers dated December 20, 2004, which includes other pertinent reports and comments. The views of the State of Alaska and the Department of the Interior are set forth in the enclosed report. The Secretary of the Army supports the authorization and plans to implement the project through the normal budget process at the appropriate time, considering national priorities and the availability of funds.

The project recommended in the report of the Chief of Engineers would provide protected moorage for a total of 279 permanent stalls and 3,153 linear feet of transient floats for vessels ranging in length from 18 feet to 140 feet. Additional protection for the existing 6-acre mooring and maneuvering basin, and a new adjacent 16-acre basin with an additional entrance channel would be constructed. The mooring areas would be protected by several breakwaters including a 338-ft long north spur breakwater, a 505-ft long first portion of the main breakwater, a turnaround portion of the main breakwater with a radius of 61 feet, a 1,037-ft long second portion of the main breakwater, a 153-ft long stub breakwater attached to the existing breakwater, a 170-ft long extension of the existing breakwater to the south, and a 109-ft long south spur breakwater. These breakwaters will provide the additional moorage area and improve protection to the existing moorage area.



Dredging and relocation of the existing entrance channel would be necessary because of the breakwater extension providing additional protection for the existing basin. Dredging of the new mooring area and construction of the float system would provide required and properly sized moorage for the fleet utilizing the harbor. The existing south basin entrance channel depth would remain the same at -15-ft mean lower low water (MLLW). The depth required for the entrance channel for the north basin is -18-ft MLLW, which occurs naturally. Basin depths would range from -14-ft MLLW near the entrance channel to -16-ft MLLW at the far end of the north basin. The south basin would remain unchanged with depths ranging from -11-ft MLLW to -14-ft MLLW. Dredged material will be disposed in a designated area, approximately three-quarters of a mile offshore and east of the harbor.

Mitigation for the general navigation features includes restoration work on Sawmill Creek to improve fish passage and habitat, at an approximate cost of \$61,000. Upon completion of the construction, 295 feet of the existing breakwater from the northeastern end would become obsolete and would no longer require maintenance by the Federal Government. This portion is to be abandoned in place and deauthorized as part of the Federal project. During agency review, all concerns were addressed and a finding of no significant impact was signed on November 29, 2002.

Total costs estimated for the national economic development plan (NED) project amount to \$22,029,000, and are allocated to the commercial navigation purpose. The estimated first cost of the general navigation features (GNF) of the recommended plan, based on October 2006 price levels, is \$13,674,000. The GNF cost includes channel excavation and breakwater construction. In accordance with Section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended by section 201 of WRDA 1996, the Federal and non-Federal shares of GNF are estimated to be \$10,843,000 and \$2,831,000, respectively. In addition, the Federal Government would incur the costs of navigation aids currently estimated to be \$15,000. The non-Federal portion includes 10 percent of the cost for the GNF which is based on an overall project depth less than -20 feet MLLW and an additional cash payment of 10 percent of costs allocated to GNF, less credit for land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations that may be paid, with interest, over a period not to exceed 30 years. Creditable non-Federal lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations are estimated to be \$21,000. In addition to this amount, the local sponsor, the Haines Borough, will be investing \$8,319,000 in local service facilities, which include a float system, dredging of the moorage basin, and real estate for the non-Federal moorage basin.

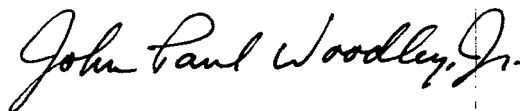
The non-Federal sponsor plans to construct an access road on top of the south breakwater at a cost of \$2,238,000. This feature is considered a betterment and would be funded at 100 percent non-Federal cost. The total cost

of the project, including the betterment, is \$24,267,000, and the final cost-sharing for the project would be \$10,858,000 Federal, and \$13,409,000, non-Federal.

Total average annual charges for the recommended plan, based on a discount rate of 4 7/8 percent and a 50-year period of economic analysis, are \$1,240,000. Average annual benefits are estimated at \$1,665,000, for a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.3 to 1. The average annual cost for operation and maintenance of the national economic development (NED) plan is estimated to be \$57,000, including \$6,000 for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance of the breakwaters, conducting periodic hydrographic surveys, and maintenance dredging of the entrance channel and maneuvering basin. The annual cost for the non-Federal sponsor to operate and maintain the piles and floats, maintain depths within the harbor, and provide for a part-time harbormaster is \$50,000. The U.S. Coast Guard would maintain the navigation aids at an estimated annual cost of \$1,000. The recommended plan has the same features as the NED plan and includes local betterments that would be provided at 100 percent sponsor cost.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of the report to Congress. A copy of its letter is enclosed. I am providing a copy of this transmittal and the OMB letter dated August 1, 2007, to the House Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development, and Water Resources and Environment in accordance with the requirements of the Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-103).

Very truly yours,



John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Enclosures

Democratic Leaders Hold Up Water Bill Until After Children's Health Veto Showdown

By Avery Palmer, CQ Staff

- Democratic congressional leaders are holding back a \$23.2 billion measure for water resources projects that President Bush has threatened to veto until after next week's showdown over the president's veto of a children's health bill.

Although confident that they can override Bush's threatened veto of the water projects measure ([HR 1495](#)), Democrats prefer to keep attention focused squarely on the \$35 billion expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program ([HR 976](#)), which Bush vetoed Oct. 3.

The Senate cleared the water projects bill Sept. 24, following House passage in August. Both chambers passed the bill by margins far greater than the two-thirds majority necessary to override a veto. The Senate vote was 81-12 and the House vote was 381-40.

But the bill has not yet been sent to President Bush. Once a bill is sent to the White House, the president has 10 days excluding Sundays to sign or veto the legislation.

"The House leadership is just holding back sending WRDA to the White House until we dispose of SCHIP," said [James L. Oberstar](#), D-Minn, chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which helped write the water projects bill.

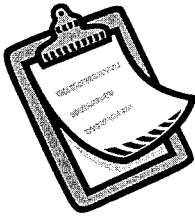
The House is expected to vote on the children's health bill Oct. 18.

But an override of Bush's veto of the children's health measure is seen as a long shot. The water bill could be the first to win enactment over a Bush veto, assuming he carries out his threat.

"It's likely to be his first veto that's overturned," said Steve Ellis, vice president for programs at Taxpayers for Common Sense.

Ellis speculated that Democrats would prefer not to hold a veto override vote on a bill that Bush has criticized for earmarks before moving to the children's health bill. He said, "I can certainly see the public relations and political aspects of why they would do that," he said.

The water resources bill would authorize \$23.2 billion for flood control, navigation and restoration projects by the Army Corps of Engineers. The White House says it costs too much, and criticized the conference report for authorizing more funding than either of the original bills passed in the House and Senate.



Haines Borough Department Reports

Submitted 10-15-07

Ports & Harbors – Phil Benner, Harbormaster:

Small Boat Harbor -

- Continue whaler repair, concrete repair and maintenance.
- Disconnected water to the small boat harbor.
- Moved 4 boats out of permanent slip holder berths
- Inspection of Seaplane float
- Painting of harbor shack

Lutak Dock –

- Received 4 freight barges, 2 fuel barges
- Turned off all outside water and disconnected pipes
- Maintenance to compressors
- Received Landing Craft for AP&T transferring explosives to Skagway
- Building a workshop and lumber rack.

PC Dock -

- Pulled up gangway, removed Lightering float

Letnikof -

- Continued maintenance, including replacing cleats, rub rail boards.

Administration -

- Billing for annual and transient moorage
- Billing for AML, Holland, Chilkat Cruises, Delta and AP&T

Public Works – Bruce Smith, Superintendent:

- Valve repair at Fifth and Union.
- Inspection 9/11 Safety and Health Consultant
- Continued removal of contaminated soil from School Vocational building
- New employee in Public Works – John Spencer
- Repair plugged sewer line in old high school building
- Repair culverts at Young Road
- Fall cleanup and storage (signs, garbage cans, benches, visitor tent, etc)
- Close ball fields and winterize
- Assist with borough and police department auction
- Vehicle maintenance and repair

Volunteer Fire Department – Al Badgley, HVFD Training Officer:

Call Outs:

- 0 – fire
- 20 – ambulance

Training:

- Ambulance: poisonings, altered level of consciousness.
- Fire: Fire Fighter 1 training on Salvage & Overhaul. Making salvage tarp rolls, folds, catch basin and water chute, all necessary in preventing water damage.
- Volunteer Hours – September 2007
Fire – 165 Ambulance – 185 SAR – 8

Additional Information:

- Al Badgley, Training Officer, attended training in Juneau on Alaska Metropolitan Mobile Response Cache. There are currently 6 units in the Southeast: Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Prince of Wales and Skagway. Each cache consists of a tent like structure, generator, heater, lights, shower & restroom facilities and miscellaneous items. These are used for temporary housing, remote clinical facilities, and staging areas and can be interconnected to make a complete hospital complex. All of this is related to the HELP disaster plan.

Tourism – Lori Stepansky, Tourism Director:

- Statistics for September 2007 versus September 2006:
 - Vehicles: 2006 not yet available 2007 not yet available
 - Visitors: 2006 – 1841 2007 – 1722 down 119
 - Phone inquiries: 2006 – 75 2007 – 40 down 35
- A tour and luncheon for the 5th grade class was held aboard the HAL Ryndam.
- First draft of the 2008 Haines Vacation Planner was reviewed; cover has been chosen. After business listing updates, planner will be sent to the printer and new planners scheduled to be complete by late November, 2007.
- The Haines Corridor Management Plan has been completed and is being printed. Haines will be in a position to apply for National Scenic By-way designation when nominations open in spring 2008.
- Two new members were appointed to the Tourism Advisory Board
- Christa Rayl began employment as the Visitor Information Coordinator.
- Visitor information booth at the dock has been closed for the season, public restroom closed for the season, but will be reopened temporarily during Eagle Festival week.

Lands – John Wurst, Lands Manager/Assessor:

- Planning and Zoning & Land Use
- 4 residential permits
- Planning & Zoning reviewed, interviewed & reposted position
- Reviewed bank stabilization project approval for Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan
- Prepared Clayton permit for conditional use permit to allow height variance
- Inspected and identified building on Churchill lot, reviewed temporary use regulations for lot
- Assisted Hoffmeister/May with permits & variance use applications
- Reviewed 3rd St. access permit for White's property
- Reviewed Costal Management Plan for grant proposal
- Approved permits for lot clearing and lot preparation for future construction
- Reviewed water permit with Taylor on Mud Bay Rd.
- Strawbridge ROW construction requirements reviewed by staff
- Land Management/Assessment
- Reviewed Planning & Zoning position to post add for replacement
- Reviewed Lutak land acquisition values with DOT Right-of-Way Agent
- Working with realtor regarding Spruce Grove Rd. extension ROW
- Reviewed with CIA the time schedule of the apprentice crew work on the maintenance shop
- Obtained permit data for Spruce Grove Rd access on to Haines Hwy.
- Field inspected island properties at Chilkat Lake 28 parcels
- Ordered Business Personal Property forms for 2008
- Reviewed properties on Letnikof Road Service District with staff
- Working w/Michele Powdrill DNR about 309 Enhancement Grant Funds
- Reviewed with manager information request about shooting shotguns around the golf course
- Reviewed new CIA proposed subdivision with surveyor for potential issues

Pool – RaeAnn Galasso

- Pool opened for an evening swim on 9-28-07.
- Staff training, recertification
- Pool now open for regular swims
- Ongoing cleaning and repairs

Water & Sewer – Scott Bradford, Plant Operator

- Routine testing completed for both water and sewer plants
- Beach Grant sampling is complete for this year. Test results so far have shown very low numbers.
- Furnace rebuilt and pipe replaced.
- Water meters removed from PC dock
- Designs are being completed for Young Road water line, storage tank, sewer force main and water line replacement on 1st Avenue and Willard Street – to go to bid this winter.