

## Marine Transportation Advisory Board

### Minutes

February 9, 2011

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mike Korsmo called the meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Commissioner's Conference Room, DOT&PF Headquarters Building, 3132 Channel Drive, Juneau, Alaska.

#### **ROLL CALL**

*Marine Transportation Advisory Board members present:* Mike Korsmo, Robert Venables, Maxine Thompson, Cathy Roemmich, Shirley Marquardt, Clay Koplín (by phone). A quorum was established by roll call.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF THOSE PARTICIPATING**

*DOT&PF/AMHS staff:* Marc Luiken, Capt. John Falvey, Murry Couzin, Jim Potdevin.

*Members of the public:* Phil Oates, Phil Morris, Ed Schoenfeld, Kendra Kloster, Westin Eiler, Leo Luczak.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Shirley Marquardt moved to approved the minutes of December 14, 2010 and January 24, 2011 as presented. Maxine Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Robert Venables moved to approve the agenda; Mike Korsmo seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Phil Oates, Seward city manager, asked that consideration be given to adding Seward back to the route going from Bellingham, Washington to Whittier, Alaska. Capt. John Falvey explained the route is on a very tight schedule and noted that an additional stop would not allow the route to happen as it currently does.

Phil Morris, Alaska Ferry Adventures (Homer), reported that January was their highest month for tours related to the marine highway in the past 2 ½ years. He asked that consideration be given to improving the relationship between AMHS and independent ticket agents. Capt. Falvey suggested travel agents pursue markets such as the Lower 48 or Europe that AMHS doesn't. Mr. Venables suggested the topic would be a future agenda item. Mr. Morris requested that he be added to the distribution list.

#### **PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR ALASKA CLASS FERRY**

The chair asked Capt. Falvey to update the board on the status of the procurement and design processes. Capt. Falvey reported the preliminary design has been completed

which represents 10% of the final design. He stated the governor wants a competitive bid process. The board expressed its frustration with the slowness of the process. Mark O'Brien, Chief Contracts Officer, will report to the board at the next meeting. Since the state has \$60 million on hand for the Alaska Class Ferry, the board requested that the cash flow needs of the project be explained at the next meeting. This will also allow the members of the legislature to see the timeline and need for additional funding.

Ms. Thompson stated the importance of having the money now to build the Alaska Class ferry and not waiting until some future time when oil revenues have declined. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Marc Luiken shared with the board his list of considerations for the position: (1) a marine background; (2) experience in Alaska, preferably in Southeast Alaska; (3) experience with the Alaska Marine Highway System; (4) live in Southeast; (5) ability to work with the Marine Transportation Advisory Board and with the legislature; (6) background in and a demonstrated ability to be a strategic leader.

Shirley Marquardt read the board's six points into the record: (1) an effective advocate for the Alaska Marine Highway System and an operating fund request; (2) an understanding of marine operations, labor and maintenance needs; (3) solid regulatory background regarding legislative process; (4) team player with leadership skills; (5) a vision of a healthy, responsive marine highway system; (6) experience negotiating contracts with labor groups and contractors.

Commissioner Luiken noted he considered four resumes and several others he talked with.

Robert Venables moved the Marine Transportation Advisory Board go into executive session to discuss a matter which may tend to prejudice the reputation or character of a person or persons. The matter to be discussed is an applicant for the position of deputy commissioner for marine operations. Maxine Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Board went into executive session at 9:30 am and reconvened in regular session at 10:30 am.

Commissioner Luiken announced Michael Neussl as his candidate for the position of deputy commissioner.

Cathy Roemmich moved to recommend Michael Neussl to the commissioner as deputy commissioner for marine operations. Robert Venables seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed the next meeting will be March 18, 2011 in Juneau and a summer meeting in Kodiak.

The board adjourned at 10:40 am.