

Marine Transportation Advisory Board Teleconference  
DOT&PF Headquarters, Suite 325  
Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 2:00-4:00 PM  
Minutes

**1. Call to order**

The Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) Chair Robert Venables called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call to Establish Quorum**

*Marine Transportation Advisory Board Members Present:* Chair Robert Venables, Gerry Hope, Dan Kelly, and Al Koch.

**3. Phone Roll Call**

*Members of the Public on line:* Shelly Wright (Executive Director – Southeast Conference (SEConference)), Dave Kensinger (Petersburg), Dave Worter (Bellingham), Jim Calvin (Juneau - McDowell Group), Jim Potdevin (Juneau).

*Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) staff members present:* Deputy Commissioner Mike Neussl, Captain John Falvey (AMHS General Manager), Matt McLaren (Marine Transportation Service Manager), Mike Lesmann (Legislative Liaison), Jeremy Woodrow (Public Information Officer), Shannon Whistler (Administrative Assistant I).

**4. Minutes (11/16/2015 minutes along with these 5/24/2016 minutes will be presented at the next face to face meeting on 8/19/2016)**

**5. Public Comments**

Shelly Wright (SE Conference) stated that last Thursday (May 19<sup>th</sup>) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the SE Conference and the Governor. The next steps will be looking at the governing strategies.

**6. Chair Remarks**

Robert Venables stated that MOU provides a great opportunity; AMHS has been near and dear to SE Conference who will begin by taking a first look at the governance structure and facilitate a ferry summit on the AMHS mission and goals. MTAB will have a seat at the table during this process. The Governor wants to have all of the statewide stakeholders working together during this process. The MOU is pretty straight forward if you read the materials.

Dan Kelly: the MOU is clear - but would like to know what the next steps/goals/milestones are to which Venables replied DOT&PF will be providing the majority of funds for hiring a contractor and work will begin this summer. A stakeholders group will be established and outreach via communications, announcements and emails.

Gerry Hope feels that MTAB is pulling up the rear and asks regarding MTAB's role. Venables assured Gerry Hope that it is more accurate to state that MTAB pulling up alongside the process; it just started as reported at the previous meeting. MTAB will be very involved in this work.

## **7. AMHS Report – Deputy Commissioner Neussl**

Draft winter schedule was released last week with 330 weeks of service proposed but we are still waiting on the final budget. Our operating plan is to keep all routes and reduce the service level. We will be holding the public comment teleconference on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. Taku is still in layup. Our new ferries are named Tazlina & Hubbard. Representative Munoz put an amendment to reverse a capital budget fund source swap (\$3M), so we should be able to do the inspections on that amount. There is a new policy change for cancellations – a minimum \$25 fee for any change within 2 weeks of sailing. The new reservation system is up and running but we are still experiencing some growing pains with the system. We are experimenting with Kiosks currently in six locations; pro being convenience and the con being that the machines will not accept cash. On another note, Deputy Commissioner Neussl also encouraged the board members to sign up for GovDelivery to stay informed of AMHS issues. Signup is easy at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDOT/subscriber/new?>

Budget Summary (As of 5/24/2016):

Governor's Request \$92.2M UGF, \$51.6M DGF (Operating Budget HB 256)

Governor's Request \$12M Capital (SB 138)

\$6M Operating Budget Conference Committee fund source swap (from UGF to DGF)

\$1.85M Fuel Budget reduction (funded at \$2.35/gal versus original \$2.56/gal)

\$3M Capital fund source swap (from UGF to DGF), Reversed by amendment.

\$12M Capital funding for overhaul work, all UGF.

\$8M DOT&PF department wide Deferred Maintenance (\$3M AMHS) all zeroed out.

Potential Result is that the AMHS Fund Balance, project for \$12M at the end of FY17, may only be \$6M after all the fund source swaps depending upon end of special session actions.

The threat of a partial government shutdown still looms as the budget is not passed. Layoff notices to employees would be sent on June 1<sup>st</sup> to give 30 days' notice. AMHS would do traveling public notifications at the same time to advise of the sailing schedule uncertainty beyond 30 June.

**8. Strategic Planning** - Covered during the Chairman's opening remarks.

## **9. MTAB Roundtable**

Dan Kelly requests that the meeting draft minutes be sent out to the board in advance; he would also like a summary of information provided on the budget by Captain Neussl (provided above).

**10. Next Meeting** -To be determined

**11. Adjourn – 2:55 p.m.**