

Katie Koester

From: Nils Andreassen <nils@akml.org>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Cassidi Cameron; Katie Koester
Subject: FW: AMHS advocacy planning
Attachments: AML AMHS Caucus.docx

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I think it would be good if Seldovia or Homer could attend that first week fly-in, if it's at all possible.

Nils Andreassen
Alaska Municipal League

From: Nils Andreassen <nils@akml.org>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Nils Andreassen <nils@akml.org>
Cc: Dianne Blumer <dianneblumer@gmail.com>; Betty Svensson <Betty@akml.org>; Heather Brakes <hkbrakes@gmail.com>
Subject: AMHS advocacy planning

Happy New Year ferry family,

This email is going out to those local government leaders in ferry system communities who have participated in some of our planning so far, or who we want to keep informed.

As we're getting ready for the legislative session, I wanted to check in and see if there is interest in attending a fly-in the first week of session. **Please let me know if you could be in Juneau January 21 through 23 for meetings with legislators.** The goal of the meetings would be to express the significant challenges that lack of or reduced ferry service has or does mean to you. I know we've talked about advocating for a veto override, too, but the most important thing will be to share your stories with a broad spectrum of legislators. Let's work together to keep this a priority issue throughout session.

I just heard, too, that we may/will have the chance to organize a committee presentation, so we can include anyone who attends in that, and augment with teleconferenced testimony. Again, we want to highlight the need to address the veto in the short-term, but more broadly the need for sufficient funding to restore a level of service that your communities need.

So... let me know if you can be in Juneau in person that week. Maybe by next Wednesday? I should have committee timing nailed down by then, too.

The timing will be good with Southeast Conference taking place two weeks later. We had talked on our last call about staying coordinated with them, and the AMHS Reform effort, so that efforts can be complementary. Robert and I had a good conversation to this end. I know that there's a long-term sustainability approach that they're taking in the form of a public corporation, but also a triage strategy that identifies short term needs, both of which we can contribute to as necessary, from a municipal perspective.

I think MTAB is meeting on January 15th, and we'd assume that the Northern Economics report is out by then, too. **Can we plan on a ferry caucus teleconference on Friday, January 17, at 10am?** We'll discuss the report, finalize messages that municipal leaders want to convey to the legislature the following week, and focus on other next steps.

From the report – based on a couple comments in the media I've seen, I feel like we should be prepared to talk about this idea of municipal port authorities being responsible for parts of the system. I'm not advocating for this as a solution, but I do want us to be prepared at least to respond if that comes out as a recommendation. Maybe this is already a conversation that municipal leaders have had, or are having, but AML would really like your input so that we can be helpful in responding or providing feedback from local governments.

Thanks, everyone, for your engagement in this issue. We're ready to hit the ground running during this legislative session, in collaboration with each of you.

Best regards,

Nils

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