



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Southcoast Region Office  
6860 Glacier Highway  
P.O. Box 112506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

D. Lance Mearig, P.E.  
Southcoast Region Director  
[lance.mearig@alaska.gov](mailto:lance.mearig@alaska.gov)

Re: Papke's Landing Float

February 6, 2023

Mr. Mearig;

As you may be aware, the Petersburg Borough is working with your staff and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) to acquire ownership of the Papke's Landing tidelands, uplands and associated above water facilities. This includes the launch ramp, dock, transfer bridge and float. On September 20, 2022, the Petersburg Borough filed applications to acquire both the tidelands and uplands properties associated with the Papke's landing facilities from ADNR. Once the Borough has ownership of the uplands and tidelands, it is our intention to seek ownership of the above water assets managed by ADOT. It is our impression that ADOT is amiable to this.

On November 29, 2022, Rachel Longacre telephoned my office and let me know the Land Conveyance Section of ADNR felt the uplands property in question was not eligible to be acquired through the municipal entitlement program despite the Borough having significant unfilled land allocations. She followed up by email on November 30, 2022 and outlined the Alaska Statutes which were used to justify this decision. While the Borough has not yet been provided a formal position letter from ADNR, the Petersburg Borough Assembly has agreed to pursue the option of using the Public and Charitable Use program to acquire this property from the State of Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Transportation and Public Facilities have been unable to maintain this property to the level required for its continual and safe use for users and the community. This situation has created a hardship for users of the facility including various lodges, residents, subsistence users and both recreational and commercial entities. The Petersburg Borough Assembly has approved the future development of this facility, but the recent delays with the ADNR process have us concerned about the current state of the dock and floats. We are unsure if this facility can safely last long enough for the Borough to obtain ownership and raise the money to make the needed repairs.

The Borough would like ADOT to consider the possibility of a potential cost sharing arrangement between our two organizations to acquire and install a new float and dock that will allow the facility to remain operational while the Borough continues to work towards ownership and a 100% rebuild.

Your comments on our request would be appreciated. I have attached a copy of an email from one of our Assembly members who has done some research on proposed costs.

Sincerely,

Stephen Giesbrecht  
Borough Manager  
Petersburg Borough  
907-772-5402



Papkes.msg

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Bob Lynn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 9:35 AM  
**To:** Stephen Giesbrecht; David Kensinger  
**Subject:** Papkes

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I stopped at Reed Brothers yesterday. Reeds replaced the Kupreanof float about 2 years ago during Covid. The float there is 100' x 10' same as Papke's. The float was built down south and shipped up. It is foam filled. Cost \$40,000. They removed old float and towed away. It was in very bad shape--fell apart when trying to get it out. Papke's and Kupreanof floats put in about same time.

Reed Brothers have just ordered another dock like the Kupreanof dock only 40' long for a project this summer down the narrows. Cost to Petersburg \$40,000.

He told me the old dock could be removed and a new one inserted. He estimated cost for the dock (same as the Kupreanof dock) at \$80-100,000. Add on to that the 40' tee at another \$40,000. Plus, he recommended digging out by the ramp and taking materials upland.

We looked and based on their experience with Kupreanof float, Bojun believes we would be wasting money trying to fix bull rail. He questions whether we could even get new bolts to hold.

We talked about dredging where the ramp comes down, but I did not ask for an estimate.

Based on his comments I would suggest we not plan for replacing bull rail. I would suggest we put some contingency money in the budget for Papke's.

We can talk about.

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