

Mayor's Report July 9

The Southeast Conference is soliciting letters of interest from individuals interested in filling the seats on the Board that are open to residents from Northern Southeast: One public, one private, one at large. Southeast Conference is the Alaska Regional Economic Development Organization for Southeast. I believe that any Haines resident sitting on the Southeast Conference Board of Directors will increase our understanding of the economics of the region and of economic development in general. Haines residents can stand for a private seat, a public seat, and an at large seat. Letters of interest must be submitted to the SEC nominating committee by individuals, not by organizations. To help us gain a clearer understanding of the work and focus of Southeast Conference, I have asked the Haines Chamber of Commerce to consider hosting a presentation by Shelly Wright, the Executive Director. Shelly is willing to visit Haines. I am waiting for the Chamber's response. There is a document titled Board Responsibilities in your blue folders.

I attended all the heliski map committee meetings and I would like to commend the committee members for their thoughtful approach. The Committee was chaired by Daymond Hoffman. Members included Scott Sunberg, Dave Long, Barb Mulford, and ADF&G representatives Randy Bachman and Mark Soggee. ADF&G wildlife biologists Ryan Scott, Kevin White, and Stephanie Sell attended most of the sessions to explain and advise on habitat issues. All but the first session was recorded. The committee formulated 22 recommendations which are depicted on the map by line and number. The map will be presented to you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The map is accompanied by a narrative that gives the committee's rationale for the changes. I think the map that the committee has produced is easy to talk about and will lead to rationale discussion of each change. Given the interest in this map, I have requested the manager to publish the final version as soon as possible. That may be tomorrow.

It became clear to me that all the community work that goes into the heliski map is for naught if the boundaries are not upheld. To this end, I will be asking you to consider some changes to our heliski GPS data collection, submission and compliance policies in the near future.

I will also be asking you to consider some changes to the ordinance that governs the map committee itself. A couple of underlying presumptions need to be examined. I hope you will consider reserving to the authority to open or not to open the heliski map to the Assembly. As the ordinance is presently written, the manager shall solicit proposals annually, and then process the proposals through the committee as structured. I have no problem with the committee process itself; although I was initially concerned, after observing each and every session, I now believe the process to be efficient, fair, and effective. I do believe, however, that the process

should be preceded by a deliberate decision to entertain or not to entertain alterations to the map. It seems like that debate should take place by itself.

I will also recommend that the 500 word limit on proposals be lifted and that proposers be encouraged to submit attachments so that their positions can be fully supported by the record they submit.