

# MINUTES

## Heli-Ski Map Committee

Meeting Date: November 28, 2016

Date of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Haines Borough Heli-skiing Map Committee was held at the Haines Public Library on November 28, 2016. The meeting convened at 3:37 p.m. Ron Jackson presided.

**Members in Attendance:** Ron Jackson, Sean Brownell, Meredith Pochardt, Lori Smith, Scott Sundberg.

*Note: Sundberg arrived at 5:25 pm.*

**Members Not in Attendance:** None.

### **Public Comments:**

Joe **Ordonez** asked if there was a way to change the structure of the heliski map proposals. There are trust issues between community and heliski industry, but most meetings have been positive, showing compromise between parties. Heliski industry is showing good faith. Propose change when needed, not because it is mandated by a three-year cycle. Ron **Jackson** commented that there is a history of conflict with the mapping process, so trust has been written into code.

Ryan **Johnson** explained that many proposals were requested to avoid small GPS violations when determining safe places to land.

Cary **Weishahn** requested clarification of the prioritization of values to be considered when reviewing map proposals. It was unclear if commerce was valued more than safety or the environment.

Mike **Denker** noted HBC 5.18.010 whereby the intent of the process is to encourage cooperation between private and commercial interests, regulate commercial tours to protect public safety and welfare and to encourage the efficient delivery of commercial tours. He also noted that ADFG and BLM should be involved to every extent possible (HBC 5.18.080(I)(1)(e)).

### **Meeting Notes & Motions:**

**Motion:** **Pochardt** moved to approve November 28, 2016 agenda, noting that AK Heli's proposals would be reviewed with ADFG comments first and SEABA would be reviewed last. **Smith** seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

**Motion:** **Pochardt** moved to approve the November 21, 2016 minutes and **Brownell** seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

**AH1:** ADFG predicts no bear denning, but high value goat habitat in the area. Additionally, goats have been observed near the area during the fall.

**Motion: Pochardt** moved to recommend the Assembly adopt AH1 for the final heliski map and **Smith** seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

AH2: According to ADFG, there is no known threat to goat or bear habitat for AH2a, but AH2b is within 1 km of brown bear dens and lies within the range of slopes and elevations favored by bears. **Brownell** explained that this site would be used infrequently. The location provides safe access to fuel and road during unexpected weather events and the flying pattern not is the location of bear habitat.

**Motion: Pochardt** moved to recommend the Assembly adopt AH2a for the final heliski map and **Smith** seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

**Motion: Smith** moved to recommend the Assembly adopt AH2b for the final heliski map and **Pochardt** seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

AH3: ADFG indicated that AH3a has the potential to affect mountain goats and both AH3a and AH3b have the potential to disturb denning brown bears. **Brownell** explained that AH3b would not be used often, but the area would provide an option during low visibility days.

**Motion: Pochardt** moved to recommend the Assembly not adopt AH3a for the final heliski map and **Jackson** seconded. The motion carried 3-1 with **Brownell** opposed.

**Motion: Pochardt** moved to recommend the Assembly adopt AH3b for the final heliski map **Smith** seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

AH4: ADFG noted probability of high valued goat habitat in this area, though the model did not account for the revisions of the proposal from an earlier Heliski Map Committee meeting. **Brownell** suggested removing a portion of the area to meet ADFG approval, though the committee acknowledged that there was little time to make the revisions before the committee deadline. The purpose of the proposal is to allow filming for one to three days of the season.

**Motion: Pochardt** moved to recommend the Assembly adopt AH4a as amended for the final heliski map, pending ADFG comments on the new version. **Smith** seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

AH6: This proposal had been revised since the November 21 meeting to include area that overlaps with CIV provisional area. **Sundberg** suggested approving the area with a March 31<sup>st</sup> close date. ADFG noted that this opening the area would likely affect goats and denning bears.

**Motion: Brownell** moved to recommend the Assembly adopt AH6 with a close date of March 31st for the final heliski map and **Smith** seconded. The motion carried 3-2, with **Jackson** and **Pochardt** opposed.

### **Next Meeting and Review Schedule (Tentative):**

December 2, 2016                      12:00 pm      Library Conference Room

SEABA Proposals with ADFG  
comments

**Meeting Adjournment:** The committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

---

Holly Smith, Haines Borough Planner