

TO: Haines Borough Assembly
RE: Lutak Dock

Having retired from the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, I spent a long career working with and around federally funded projects, including projects worth millions of dollars on the Haines Airport. Here's what I know:

- Years of planning, grant writing, engineering and public input mean that as the project moves along, it becomes difficult and costly to change directions. Materially changing a project while under contract to build and plans have been approved at 95% is ludicrous.
- Changing a project in the final stages ALWAYS results in huge costs. Throwing away years of public process and planning has never resulted in a better product. Ever.
- A community that tries to change a project in an untimely manner, after government and elected officials have expended lengthy time, energy and resources to lobby for funding, doesn't just lose money for a specific project. A community that can't follow a clear, steady path to execute a project goes to the bottom of the list for future monies or benefits. The long-term costs of loss of good will goes way beyond dollars.

As a state government official, I made decisions on behalf of the State of Alaska. I knew however, that if I made a negligent decision as a State employee, I might be found personally liable. It appears that Haines Borough elected officials are bordering on making a negligent decision on the Lutak Dock project.

It's completely perplexing why there's even a discussion to change course at this last minute. As a Haines Borough resident, I would be very angry at Assembly members who suddenly voted to throw out years of investigation and prioritizing, years of planning, years of staff work, years of consulting, years of public input, and years of lobbying for federal dollars that resulted in costing the borough millions of dollars and ending up with no new dock and a failing dock that would cost the borough untold amounts of money when it fails. Do you see how crazy this looks to a borough resident? You could not give any resident enough reasons as to why this makes sense.

Please turn the Lutak Dock discussion into a management discussion as the new dock is built. Decisions on how the borough will control dock usage, policies, etc. makes way more sense than expending energy on shooting ourselves in both feet as it appears the Assembly is suddenly contemplating.

Thank you,
Lynette Campbell