

Manager's Update – March 7, 2024

Early April Cruise Ship: While the Port of Skagway had been informed of possible NCL cruise ship calls in the early season this year, we have recently been told that the Norwegian Bliss will not be calling in Skagway in April.

Rockslide Safety Maintenance Work Update: Shannon and Wilson (S&W) and Rock Supremacy (RS) arrived in Skagway on Tuesday, February 27. A kickoff meeting was held that day between Municipality of Skagway, White Pass, S&W, and RS to discuss scaling plans for the slope. Three areas that will be addressed during scaling include Half South South (HSS), Main Slide South Chute (SC), and Main Slide North Chute (NC). Additionally, the draped mesh on the NC plans to be replaced after scaling. From this meeting it was determined that work will start on the SC first, since the railroad dock at the base of HSS had no sand.

Upon inspection of the SC, it was found that the lower draped mesh was disconnected on the south side of the SC. The cable anchor was found broken. The full repair of the cable anchor (including grouting) will be done when temperatures warm up, this ensures the grout will set properly. To preserve the integrity of the lower draped mesh, scaling stopped on the SC and RS moved to HSS (since sand was laid by White Pass on 3/2). The rest of the week was spent accessing HSS. RS established access from the dock up HSS but aims to create a safer on slope access trail to the top of HSS. Scaling HSS will begin the week of 3/4.

FY24 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Proposals: The Public Works Department and Administration have been working to move budgeted FY24 capital improvements projects forward. Please see the following information about the following proposals that are on the Assembly's agenda:

Main Street Reconstruction Preliminary Design & Public Outreach Proposal (\$294,080):

The FY24 CIP budget includes \$300,000 for this design effort. The proposal in the meeting packet includes the scope of work below. Task 1, topographic survey and mapping, involves quite a bit of work to complete. RESPEC is estimating 30 days of field survey work and another 35 days of topo mapping after the field survey. The critical timeline on this proposal is getting it approved and executed in March to begin field survey work in April.

Scope

- Topographic Mapping
- Conceptual Designs & Cost Estimates
- Public Involvement Planning & Meetings

Broadway (1st to 8th) Condition Assessment Fee Proposal (\$14,651): The FY24 CIP budget includes \$47,000 for this assessment report. The critical timeline for this proposal is having it approved and executed in time to get the site inspection work completed mid-April before tourism gets too busy.

Street Sign Design Fee Proposal (\$41,215): The FY24 CIP budget includes \$32,000 for this design effort; additional funds will need to be allocated. The proposal includes an information submittal regarding street post requirements to DOT&PF for the State Street Rehabilitation project. The critical timeline for this proposal is getting DOT&PF the sign detail submittal as soon as possible so they can attempt to incorporate it into their project.

West Creek Subdivision Levee & Hydrology Fee Proposal (\$160,000): The FY24 CIP budget includes \$100,000 for West Creek Levee Improvements and \$50,000 for West Creek Subdivision Development and Planning; additional funds will need to be allocated. The proposal includes the scope below. The critical timeline for this proposal is getting it approved and executed before mid-March so they can complete the levee survey work completed before water level in the river starts rising.

Scope

- Levee Design & Bid Documents
- Levee Permitting
- Levee Bid Services
- Subdivision Drainage Study
- Subdivision Percolation Test Pits and Report
- Subdivision Cultural Coordination
- Subdivision ROM Cost

FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Application MOU: Administration is seeking approval from the Assembly to sign the MOU in the meeting packet; the MOU requires the Municipality to “agree to accept the award and accept its respective items as listed in the application in the event of the award” (2.4). Typically, Administration would apply for a grant and then seek Assembly acceptance of the grant if awarded; however, the terms of the MOU require the MOS to agree to accept the grant prior to application. Following is some background information from the Fire Department regarding the grant application MOU in the meeting packet:

- Regional Grant representing 15 fire departments across Alaska, urgently requires financial assistance to meet the demands of a critical communication system upgrade, as mandated by the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system's transition to advanced technology.
- Grant hosted by Capital City Fire and Rescue. Regional grants generally do well with receiving funding awards.
- Cost Share of 10% for 30 radios. Rough estimate~\$18,000 for cost share if approved.
- Deficiencies in Portable Radios identified in 2022. There was an attempt to file for the same grant (AFG) at that time, but it was unsuccessful due to technical issues.
- Current deficiencies include but are not limited to the age of the radios. Current radios are at least 20 years old leaving us to work with outdated, non-reliable communication methods. This is a high priority safety concern for Fire Departments. We need updated equipment that offer reliable communications at all times.

Tourism Director's Update: Please see the Tourism Director's update, attached.

Recreation Director's Update: Spring break is right around the corner and the Rec Center is ready! The SRC is hosting day-camps 3/15 & 3/18-3/22 for kids grade K-5. There will be games, field trips, and fun activities.

With the kids entertained, it's time to focus on other ages, the SRC is accepting applications for a seasonal Senior Coordinator position until March 8th. Join the team and help lay the groundwork for a long-term senior program at the SRC. Seasonal Rec Attendant and youth program Aide positions are also open.

The Rec Center is updating its pricing structure. Annual Adult Memberships are decreasing in price. Children under 14 are now free. Adult Memberships from 1 day to 6 months are increasing in cost. With children now free, the SRC no longer offers family plans; instead, a lower-priced Youth Membership for ages of 14-17 has been added. All pricing for senior citizens 65 and older is drastically decreasing. Decreases in prices and the removal of family plans are already in effect. Price increases will take effect March 31st. visit skagwayrecreation.org/membership/ to learn more.

The Community may have noticed a bit of construction happening at the SRC this week. Public Works is expertly installing new floors into the men's locker room. They will stop work now to allow people to use the showers this weekend for the Buckwheat Ski Classic, and then start up work again Monday. The project should take a couple of weeks. Anyone in need of facilities during the project can call the SRC in advance and they will coordinate the use of the women's showers.



Explore Skagway Tourism Director Report – January/February 2024

- A. 37th Annual Buckwheat Ski Classic: “A BUCKWHEAT ODYSSEY: Monsters, Myths & Mischief” on March 9th.**
- <https://buckwheatskiclassic.com/>
- B. Alaska Marine Highway Schedule**
- I'd like to thank Representative Story, Buckwheat Race Participants, Log Cabin Ski Society and many others for advocating for ferry service on March 10th to serve Skagway's International Buckwheat Ski Classic. Thanks to Kerri's help at DOT's AMHS, we were successful in getting that ferry service returned to the schedule. However, the ferry will stop in Haines northbound to Skagway and not southbound. SVD will continue advocating annually for our special events in hopes that service will support our special events in a meaningful way.
- C. Skagway Events 2024**
- Add your special event to our calendar and we will promote it for you!
 - <https://www.skagway.com/events/>
- D. Duff's Skagway Marathon Registration opened on February 14th.**
- <https://www.skagwaymarathon.org/>
- E. Your or Update your Business Listing on Skagway.com**
- <https://www.skagway.com/partnership/>
- F. Tourism Best Management Practices 2024**
- Tourism Best Management Practices (TBMP) are intended to minimize the impacts of tourism in a manner which addresses both resident and industry concerns and enhances the visitor experience in Skagway. Learn more here.
 - <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/>
 - This year's program is up and running with an exciting new bonus for participating partners, Skagway's First Annual TBMP Hospitality Excellence Award. Learn more about it here:
 - <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/general-1>
 - Thanks to all of those that have partnered with us to date.
 - <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/partners>
 - You can join too!
 - <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/becomeapartner>
- G. Spruce Root & REO Transformative Scenario Planning for Southeast Alaska**
- Jaime attended a workshop with 40 other participants from the region to brainstorm scenarios for our region that we can plan for. Our first meetings were in Saxman in January. Work in focus groups continues virtually and in

Juneau this week. We will have a planning tool to share with the public at the end of our work in a couple months.

H. Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit

- a. I attended virtually to stay up to date on regional economic developments related to Tourism, Transportation, Fishing, Mariculture, Education, Workforce Development, Healthcare, Natural Disasters, etc.
- b. Southeast Alaska by the Numbers 2023 is available online here:
 - i. <https://www.seconference.org/publication/southeast-alaska-by-the-numbers-2023/>

I. Skagway RV Parks

- a. A Request for Bids to Manage the RV Parks were due February 16th.
- b. Several improvements to the operation were made this winter including capabilities to make reservations and site selections online, capabilities for visitors to “check in” at a kiosk upon arrival and added Visitor Information Resources to the website. I appreciate the work that Heger Construction put into this contract management.

J. Skagway Ambassador Jobs are posted and open for applications until March 15th

- a. <https://www.skagway.org/administration/page/employment-opportunities>

K. ATIA Government Relations Committee

- a. I attended the February 6th meeting to discuss advocating for tourism marketing funds from the State. The FY25 Proposed Budget appropriation includes flat funding at \$2.5 Million. In a highly competitive market where there are barriers to traveling to Alaska, such as high costs to entry.

L. ATIA Cultural Enrichment Committee

- a. I attended the February 15th meeting. Our first as a committee and not just a subcommittee. We are working on a Sustainable Travel Pledge for TravelAlaska.com website among other things.

M. Cruise Line International Association's Pacific Northwest Cruise Symposium in Seattle on January 31st and February 1st.

- a. Alaska's Governor Dunleavy attended and spoke in support of visitors to Alaska at the Opening Reception.
- b. Sessions included:
 - i. Cruise Line Leaders: Charting the Future of Sustainable Cruising in the Pacific Northwest, Canada and Alaska: A common vision
 - ii. Keynote Speaker: John Sage, Accessibility in Cruise
 - iii. Breakout Sessions
 - 1. Port & Destination Infrastructure Development
 - 2. Tour & Attraction Development and Marketing
 - 3. Environmental Practices: Leading the Way
 - iv. Panel Discussion: Cultural Tourism & Indigenous People
 - v. Panel Discussion: Navigating Opportunities: Sourcing strategies for provisioning cruise lines operating in the Pacific Northwest

- c. The Industry is pursuing net zero carbon cruising by 2050. A report titled “Charting the Future of Sustainable Cruise Travel” was shared and lists the following resources and programs information.
 - i. <https://www.cruiseinfohub.com/>
 - ii. <https://cruising.org/en/>
 - iii. <https://cruising.org/en/news-and-research/research/2023/march/2023-state-of-the-cruise-industry-report>
 - iv. <https://www.mercyships.org/>

N. Port Communities of Alaska

- a. We met in Seattle on January 31st and continue to share challenges and brainstorm solutions for our cruise tourism circuit with Ports of Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, Ketchikan, Hoonah, Juneau, and Sitka.

O. MacBride Museum Collection

- a. I delivered a set of “Klondike” themed, velvet banners to MacBride Museum. The tapestries were donated by Princess Cruises, and I hope to see them on display soon amongst many other great historical Skagway related displays in the Round House.

P. Workforce Development Resources

- a. The Alaska Myth (Apple Podcasts)
 - i. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-alaska-myth/id1706145992>
- b. Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)
 - i. <https://www.alaskatia.org/opportunities/education-resources>
- c. Skagway Public Library
 - i. <https://skagwaylibrary.com/>
- d. Skagway's Relocation Guide
 - i. <https://www.skagway.org/svd/page/relocation-guide>

Q. Accessible Travel Resources

- a. The Keynote Speaker at CLIA's event in Seattle was a wealth of knowledge regarding how to accommodate and market to the accessible travel market.
 - i. <https://sageinclusion.com/meet-the-team>
- b. Ken and Cheryl at Traveling With A Chair have been a wonderful resource for people looking to learn more about accessible travel options.
 - i. <https://www.travelingwithachair.com/blog>
- c. Live Interview with Jaime Bricker - Accessibility in Skagway, Alaska
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/live/QZoQSIFra2o?si=flrqUx1PMSNUrxFx>
- d. Ryan Salmon of Safe Accessible Homes in Haines is a resource for consultation also and is great to work with!
 - i. <https://www.safeaccessiblehome.com/>

R. Cultural Host Training

- a. Gunalchéesh to everyone who attended Cultural Host Training on February 15th. I'm delighted that there is high interest from employers and

locals to learn more about Alaska Native Culture so we can share correct information with our visitors.

- b. The next class is scheduled for March 29th from 1-5pm. Please join me!
 - i. <https://www.skagwaytraditional.org/stc-store/cultural-host-classes>
- c. Thanks to Rachel at the Skagway Public Library for compiling a list of indigenous authors and books as a resource for people who would like to learn more.

S. Skagway Development Corporation's Welcome to Shgagwéi

- a. SVD is delighted to be working with SDC to help bring this workforce development week to Skagway! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for a detailed agenda coming soon.
 - i. <https://www.skagway.com/event/welcome-to-shgagwei/3093/>

T. Medias, Ads & Internet finds for Skagway & Alaska Industries

- a. Bermello Ajamil & Partners ("BA") has joined Woolpert, Inc., a multinational firm that is the fastest growing architecture, engineering, and geospatial (AEG) firm in the world.
 - i. <https://woolpert.com/news/press-releases/woolpert-acquires-florida-based-architecture-engineering-planning-and-landscape-architecture-firm-bermello-ajamil-partners/>
- b. Skagway: Uncover the Treasures of Alaska's Historic Gem
 - i. <https://www.travelalaska.com/travel-articles/sponsored/explore-skagway-uncover-treasures-alaskas-historic-gem>
- c. Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) appoints Chairman, Royal Caribbean Group President and CEO Jason Liberty.
 - i. https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/jason-liberty-president-and-ceo-of-royal-caribbean-group-named-chairman-of-cruise-lines-international-association-302039692.html?tc=eml_cleartime
- d. Princess says it smashed a January record for Alaska bookings
 - i. <https://www.travelweekly.com/Cruise-Travel/Princess-sets-Alaska-booking-record>
- e. Juneau Assembly greenlights over \$3M in loans for local housing projects
 - i. <https://www.ktoo.org/2024/02/12/juneau-assembly-greenlights-over-3m-in-loans-for-local-housing-projects/>
- f. Skagway's new cruise dock float broke apart in transit
 - i. <https://www.ktoo.org/2024/02/21/skagways-new-cruise-dock-float-broke-apart-in-transit/>
- g. New Alaska Dock Breaks Apart, Port Suffers Unexpected Setback
 - i. <https://www.cruisehive.com/new-dock-for-popular-alaska-port-suffers-unexpected-setback/124101>
- h. Bar Harbor Gets Approval to Radically Limit Cruise Ship Passengers
 - i. <https://www.cruisehive.com/bar-harbor-gets-approval-to-radically-limit-cruise-ship-passengers/124962>
- i. Haines visitor center turns to social media influencers. Will it pay off?

- i. <https://www.chilkatvalleynews.com/2024/02/25/haines-visitor-center-turns-to-social-media-influencers-will-it-pay-off/>

U. National Park Service

- a. Visitor Statistics for 2023
 - i. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/visitor-use-statistics-dashboard.htm>
- b. The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park announced that the Chilkoot Trail on the U.S. side of the border will be open to mile 4.0 for the 2024 season.
 - i. <https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/news/chilkoot-national-historic-trail-to-open-as-far-as-mile-4-for-the-2024-season.htm>

V. 2024 Visitor Stats from US Customs & Border Patrol

16C Monthly Stats for Port 3103 - Skagway, AK													
Data Element by Port	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total
Trucks	185	205											390
Truck Passengers Arriving	185	205											390
Buses	-										-	-	-
Bus Passengers Arriving	-										-	-	-
POVs	181	516											697
POV Passengers Arriving	384	591											975
Pedestrians Arriving	-										-	-	-
Trains	-										-	-	0
Train Passengers Arriving	-										-	-	0
Source													
CBP - 16C													
73103-01X													
Cruise Ship	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total
Passenger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cruise Ship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-