

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 16, 2016  
3:15 p.m.

Taken at:

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120  
Anchorage, Alaska

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

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Trustees present:

Russ Webb, Chair  
Mary Jane Michael  
Carlton Smith  
Laraine Derr  
Larry Norene  
Paula Easley  
Jerome Selby

Trust staff present:

Jeff Jessee  
Steve Williams  
Heidi Wailand  
Carley Lawrence  
Michael Baldwin  
Miri Smith-Coolidge  
Kevin Buckland  
Katie Baldwin-Johnson  
Amanda Lofgren  
Carrie Predeger  
Valette Keller  
Lucas Lind

Trust Land Office:

John Morrison

Others Participating:

Kathy Craft; Kate Burkhart; Patrick Reinhart; Denise Daniello; Donna Mong; Lisa Cauble;  
Brenda Moore; Charlene Tautfest; Richard Wright; Karl Garber; Bill Herman; Bob Weinstein;  
Deb Gazaway Johnson (via Speakerphone); Eliza Eller (via Speakerphone) Teri Lorkowski (via

Speakerphone); Becky Knight (via Speakerphone); Brett Glidden; Brenda Stanfill (via Speakerphone); Karen Nugen-Logan; Annette Alfonsi; Albert Wall; Marvin Scott (via Speakerphone); Mike Sallee (via Speakerphone) Monika Carhart (via Speakerphone); Marta Poore (via Speakerphone); John Hartle (via Speakerphone); Mary Elizabeth Rider.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

CHAIR WEBB calls the meeting to order and states that all the trustees are present. He asks for any approval of minutes of prior meetings.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion to approve the agenda.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion to amend the agenda and suggests at 10:00 a.m. the status of the interim CEO appointment tomorrow morning; and a 2:30 p.m. discussion by the board of the legislative priorities that were talked about at the last meeting, which are not on the agenda.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

MS. LAWRENCE notes that tomorrow morning at the joint advocacy discussion there is 30 minutes allotted for the RFI's report, EDs and trustee and staff discussion surrounding that memo.

TRUSTEE SELBY states appreciation and adds his concern that that is not very much time for the board to have a discussion about those priorities.

CHAIR WEBB states that the motion has been made and seconded and asks Trustee Selby how much time should be allotted.

A short discussion continues.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a friendly amendment to change the time from 2:30 to the 9:05 time frame, and move the nonfocus area funding to immediately thereafter.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks for the motion to be restated.

TRUSTEE SELBY states that the original motion was to have a brief report at 10:00 o'clock on the status of the interim CEO appointment, and the second is to have the legislative discussion at 9:05 a.m., and move the nonfocus area allocation immediately thereafter.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR WEBB asks for any further discussion about the agenda. There being none, he asks for a motion to approve the agenda.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion to approve the agenda, as amended.

TRUSTEE NORENE seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR WEBB moves to the minutes.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2016.

TRUSTEE DERR seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to approve the minutes of August 24, 2016.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to approve the minutes of September 7 and 8, 2016.

TRUSTEE SELBY seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR WEBB moves on and asks for any ethics disclosures from the trustees or staff. Hearing none, he dispenses with review of the guiding principles and bylaws which are in the packet, on the Web site, and available for review at any time. He recognizes Amanda Lofgren to introduce some guests.

MS. LOFGREN introduces Richard Wright and Karl Garber. She states that Mr. Wright is a family caregiver, and Mr. Garber is the executive director of Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. She adds that they are here for the mission moment.

MR. GARBER states that Mr. Wright is a very special person that he finds inspiring when working with family caregivers. He is the caregiver for his mother, who has Alzheimer's. He asks Mr. Wright to share his message.

MR. WRIGHT states that before he had to move in with his mother he worked with autistic children at North Star Elementary, which did not prepare him for what he is facing today. He continues that Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska prepared him to give his mother the care she

needs. It gives her a place to go with a social atmosphere that is needed, and also helps him. The staff is professional, knowledgeable, warm and sincere; it feels like family, and is more than what the rest of his family provides. He adds that it is a community created out of these wonderful people and what they do. He states that he had to quit his jobs and retire early to do this for his mother, who is probably one of the sweetest people, even before Alzheimer's. He continues that it is an honor to serve her, but it is extremely stressful. He thanks the trustees for what they do, and hopes that Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska will be recognized during this allocation.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks how old his mother was when she began to have symptoms of Alzheimer's.

MR. WRIGHT replies that it was slowly coming on in the '90s, and it is now really accelerating at a much greater pace. She was around 61 when he began noticing forgetfulness and fishing for words. Now it is like having a special ed two-year old, and it is quite a challenge. He adds that he is glad that he has a group that supports him.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks if he could have additional resources for his mother, what would they look like.

MR. WRIGHT replies that it would look like more respite because of the extreme stress. He states that for his mom any kind of financial help would be great. He adds that she is on a fixed income, and it is tough because everything associated with caregiving is extremely expensive.

TRUSTEE EASLEY comments about the need for respite care, which is heard across from every beneficiary group. She appreciates hearing that the Trust is doing what it is supposed to be doing to make sure that is being provided. Thank you.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL asks if the Alzheimer's Resource Center provides respite.

MR. WRIGHT replies that they used to, and it is getting harder and harder to do the routine with his mother. He states the need to be able to take care of himself so that he can take care of her.

CHAIR WEBB asks Mr. Garber if he has a comment regarding respite.

MR. GARBER replies that it was an administrative board decision that was made on January 1, 2016, to either continue to do in-home services, which respite was a part of, or do conflict-free case management, care coordination. He states that was a difficult decision for the board. He continues that the board made the decision to provide conflict-free care coordination and then contracted with an agency here in Anchorage and in other areas of the state with other agencies to have the successful transition. He also offers to get some help with some respite services for Mr. Wright.

CHAIR WEBB thanks both and moves to the updates from the CEO and the Trust Land Office executive director. He notes that all the trustees received an e-mail from the Governor's office approving the requests made to appoint Greg Jones as interim CEO and Jeff Jessee as a program

officer within the Trust Authority. He states that those waivers were granted. He continues that a request was made to seek a permanent CEO, and the Governor, in doing so, wants consultation with the advisory boards.

MR. JESSEE states that there are about 40 people on-line for public comment and makes a public service announcement as to the rules. He reports that the big thing right now is the new federal administration and there is a lot of concern, not only about the federal level, but also how that may affect the activities in Alaska. He talks about this for a bit and states that all the issues that have been talked about pursuing in this legislative session are still alive, if not more critical. The key thing will be to encourage the Legislature to not make hasty or rash decisions in an effort to anticipate or control the Medicaid program in the way that they can control it. He adds, that is very important. He states that all are looking forward to the discussion of the advocacy agenda and legislative priorities so that meetings can be arranged with those legislators.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Jessee, and recognizes John Morrison.

MR. MORRISON introduces Aaron O'Quinn, the new real estate manager.

MR. O'QUINN states that he has been working with Katie and Amanda at the Trust Authority on some exciting projects, and looks forward to working on many more.

CHAIR WEBB welcomes Mr. O'Quinn.

MR. MORRISON states that the last time there were some interim results from the land sale. There was one outstanding parcel that went to a live auction status. The update is that parcel sold for \$270,000, which was significantly over appraised value. That brought the total sale up to \$822,000, which is about 31 percent over appraised value. He begins his presentation with some examples of the outreach efforts undertaken since the last meeting in Petersburg, Saxman, and Ketchikan. He continues that with the help of the PR firm, great lengths were made both in print media, as well as radio and on-line, to invite as many people as were interested to come engage in discussion about the ongoing land exchange and activities surrounding the land exchange. There was fairly good participation with good discussion, with representatives from each side of the issue that expressed their support and/or concerns. He moves to change at the federal level that is being anticipated at the TLO in terms of some of the opportunities that might be provided for some of the resource development and some of the support that would be received there. Specific to the land exchange and the legislation, he states that there are strong indications for a successful passage of the language in the lame-duck session, and we continue to work with the Senators' offices and the congressional delegation to make sure that it comes to fruition. He continues that great strides have been made in coming to terms on the issues outstanding with the Yosemite Drive process. He moves on to the vials which are the samples taken this past summer; about 8,000 pounds of concentrated samples were taken from over 100 sample sites. They made their way to Virginia and the Global Mineral Sands Lab, and they were successfully tested in methods of separation. He explains this in greater detail, and states that the news coming from this effort is excellent. He concludes his report.

CHAIR WEBB calls a five-minute break, after which, comments will be taken from the public.

(Break.)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIR WEBB begins with the protocols and purposes of the public comment period which allows individuals to inform and advise the Board of Trustees about issues, problems or concerns. He states that this is not a hearing, and individuals are invited to speak for up to three minutes. He recognizes Bill Herman.

MR. HERMAN states that he is a former 20-year employee at the Trust and is retired. He continues that after reading the minutes of the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, he is fearful of the Trust's future. First, by statute, the Trust Authority must use resources to improve the lives of beneficiaries in perpetuity and within State law. Land development is only a tool. It seems that now the primary goal is producing money without real direction. The trustees have migrated to an organizational structure that is a two-headed dragon with unclear goals, unclear leadership, unclear accountability, and frequent conflict. This inappropriately pulls trustees into day-to-day decision-making, causing further conflict. No. 2, abrupt decisions, accusations of closed meetings, a quick CEO resignation, an interim CEO who knows very little about beneficiaries, frequent 4-3 votes all seem to further confirm his suspicions that some trustees have lost their way as described in No. 1. He adds that the actions of the narrow 4-3 majority may also put the Trust in violation of Alaska statutes and regulations. No. 3, the board of trustees seems out of balance with way too many land managers and developers, and insufficient programmatic expertise and interests. Some new trustees are needed. No. 4, he fears that Harry Noah's and Bruce Botelho's concerns about trustees inappropriately withholding Trust funds from the Permanent Fund are well founded. No. 5, he fears that if the Governor and the Legislature get heavily involved with audits and studies, reviewing the Trust and its future, the whole settlement could come unraveled. He adds that new statutes can be created to increase their control of the Trust and its assets, to the huge detriment of beneficiaries. He states that he has some recommendations: Slow down. There is no crisis, unless you create one. The framework is over 20 years old; be brave, listen to each other, and work towards consensus votes in open meetings. He continues, stating that they backtrack and keep their existing CEO, who has decades of success. Ask him and his staff about what is best for beneficiaries. He knows that they keep this in mind every day, but is unsure about the trustees. He suggests putting the Trust Land Office back under the tracks of the Trust Authority, and have one head of the dragon. Be open to input. Ask the four boards and the advocacy groups. Finally, he suggests getting some board training on the appropriate level of involvement of trustees in day-to-day staff work, on managing open meetings, and on good board decision-making. He thanks the Board.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Herman, and moves to on-line callers.

MS. SMITH-COOLIGE states that there are about 60 people on the phone, and recommends asking by region.

CHAIR WEBB asks if there is anyone from Ketchikan who would like to comment.

MS. CARHART states that she is Monika Carhart, and was just calling in to listen.

MS. POORE states that she is Marta Poore in Ketchikan and talks about Deer Mountain, which is a major tourist spot. She states concern on the 40-percent logging take and explains that there have already been landslides on that mountain, which is quite a steep incline. The City of Saxman is down below, with water concerns. She adds that to do logging in there would devastate not only the community mood, but also the quality of life.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Poore, and asks for comments from Petersburg.

MS. WOOD states that she is Suzanne Wood and is a co-founder of the Mitkof Highway Homeowners' Association in Petersburg, located in Southeast Alaska. With respect to the Trust P-1 timber sale, MHT 9100855, item 1, Petersburg, she offers the following public comment: For 11 years this group of 95 homeowners has actively supported the Trust Land Office not logging or selling their steep and unstable hillside parcels in Petersburg, and instead progress with the land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service. There have been nine natural landslides above the homes, Mitkof Highway and the Tyee hydroelectric utility corridor, closing the highway to through-traffic, damaging residential property and infrastructure, and disrupting residential utility service. The reason this group opposes logging behind our homes is because the slopes are already unstable, and there is no question that logging would further destabilize them, causing potentially catastrophic results. She continues that Trust logging, followed by such a tragedy here in Petersburg, would clearly put the Trust corpus at risk from litigation. At no time since the Mitkof Highway Homeowners' Association was formed in January of 2006 has it been the intent to enter into litigation against Trust logging. She states that their primary efforts in resolving the public safety concerns brought to the community by potential Trust logging have involved substantial efforts by the group, as well as the TLO. However, any Trust actions taken to begin logging after the Trust arbitrary deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, should Senate Bill 3006 fail, can be considered nothing less than a danger to the community and, unfortunately, will leave the MHHA no other choice than to enter litigation in defense of life and property. The MHHA requests that the Trust board vote today to, at the very least, extend the arbitrary deadline out another six months to a year so that all can work together in furtherance of a resolution to alleviate all of the concerns. She thanks all for the opportunity to comment.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Wood, and recognizes a caller from Juneau.

MR. HARTLE states that he is John Hartle from Juneau, and is speaking for two purposes: First, he is the parent of a disabled child who depends on the good work that this Trust does; secondly, he is the state president of the NAMI Alaska whose affiliates also depend on the support of this terrific Trust. He continues that the Trust was created at statehood which was flittered away and had to be reconstituted. None of us want that to happen again. He states concern on investing in an Alaskan gold mine. He adds, that is not the type of safe, long-term investments that are appropriate for a Trust. He suggests taking the opportunity to undo that decision, get an Attorney General's opinion to try to get on track for a long-term, safe investment of the Trust. He thanks the trustees for their service on this board, and the opportunity to speak.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Hartle, and recognizes a caller from the Peninsula.

MS. ELLER states that she is Eliza Eller and is on the Kenai Peninsula. She continues that she is calling as a founding member of Ionia, which has been around about 30 years. She adds that she is an individual who has recovered her life and emotional wellness using primarily simple foods, simple seasonal activities, and close peer support. She states that under Jeff Jessee's long, strong and wise leadership, the Trust has been able to seek out and recognize positive, evidence-based programs that are innovative and alternative, and has used its funds to backfill the gaps in the standard mental health systems that the Legislature did not want to fund. She adds that Mr. Jessee has understood the vision of protecting beneficiaries and creating things that work for them. She echoes Bill Herman's comments, and states that he was absolutely right on. After reading the minutes of the last board meeting, she fears that a majority of the trustees may not understand and see that vision that Mr. Jessee and his staff have so closely protected, nurtured and negotiated all these years. She begs the trustees to not throw away the Trust through politics and to the punitive measures that may come for reasons that have nothing to do with the beneficiaries. She states that as a beneficiary and a provider of mental health services and peer support, she feels that Jeff Jessee has been the best partner, and that Alaska is so lucky to have the Trust.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Eller, and recognizes Donna Mong.

MS. MONG states that she is Donna Mong, the executive director of the Alaska Peer Support Consortium. She continues that the goals she would like the trustees to focus on is how can you create this system, the Trust Authority system, to be a recovery-oriented system, and a model for the rest of the state. She adds that a recovery-oriented system is beneficiary-driven. She states, that is what the Trust asks the Division and the providers to do with their services. She asks the trustees to turn around and look at what they do and if they do that. On a personal note she states that in all the time that she has been involved in Alaska, she aspires to be the kind of leader that she sees in Jeff Jessee, in the way he pieces together the politics, the people and the money. She adds that if the right financial adviser could be found to work with Mr. Jessee, she feels that he could do this job effectively.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Mong, and moves back to a caller in Ketchikan.

MR. WEINSTEIN states that he is Bob Weinstein and speaks about Deer Mountain, which is on tomorrow's agenda. He continues that there is an alternative suggested motion which is to consider a sale rather than a timber harvest at Deer Mountain. He urges the Trust to give that consideration. He adds that there is some support from Ketchikan, as noted in the memorandum from staff. He thinks that doing that will get the public in Ketchikan behind the goal of the changed legislation as the primary goal. Secondly, it will also allow for the beginning of whatever processes need to take place regarding what the purchase process and related matters are. He suggests that, at least in the case of Deer Mountain, where controversy could be reasonably anticipated, that communication with the community and with concerned persons would have been a more positive process for all concerned. He thanks the trustees.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Weinstein, and asks for anyone in Juneau to comment.

MS. JOHNSON states that she is Deb Gazaway Johnson, and has an adult son with developmental disabilities. She continues that the State made a promise to people with disabilities and families that they could return home to their communities and live a safe and awesome quality of life. This occurred in the 1980s when a developmental center was closed. She adds that the resources under the care of the Trust are to be managed in a manner to promote independent living, lifelong learning, inclusion in the community, transportation, and a healthy beneficiary. She states concern on plans to divert funding and resources, and also that Mr. Jessee is now gone. She encourages the board to reconsider their relationship with him. She appreciates the opportunity to provide comments today, and asks the trustees to consider the needs of the beneficiaries rather than politics.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Johnson, and recognizes a commenter from Fairbanks.

MS. LORKOWSKI states that she is Teri Lorkowski and serves on the board of Fairbanks NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and asks to keep things as open and visible as possible. She continues that their consumers love the mini-grants which helps them in their quality of life. She asks that the Mental Health Trust stay strong, and to remember the consumers that they were organized to protect. She thanks the trustees.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Lorkowski, and recognizes a caller from Petersburg.

MS. KNIGHT states that she is Becky Knight and -- as the first order relative of someone who has received long-term mental health care elsewhere -- fully understands their needs and absolute support assistance of the mental health beneficiary. She continues that logging of Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands should be immediately removed from further consideration. Logging of exchange lands are equally problematic, as these are also uplands. She supports a federal buyout of all of the lands included in the proposed exchange legislation. This would result in multiple and guaranteed benefits for the public, beneficiary, and landscape. She states that the Trust Land Office is in serious need of oversight, including a compete audit and independent investigation into its operation. She adds that she did not arrive at this conclusion lightly. She continues that she has concluded, from review of the record, that AMHT had no real intent to log Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands and issued the ultimatum to move forward with the timber sales if federal legislation failed to pass. That was intended solely to create a stampede of support for controversial legislation which could only be advanced through political trickery via a congressional rider attached to unrelated must-pass legislation. She explains more fully and adds that her written comments that accompany her verbal testimony today, as well as her October 25<sup>th</sup> comments, are not included in the meeting packet. She requests that they be posted and added as an addendum to the comments today.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Knight, and recognizes Brett Glidden from Anchorage.

MS. GLIDDEN states that she is Brett Glidden, lives in Homer on the Kenai Peninsula, and is representing herself today. She continues that she is a certified chemical dependency counselor for the State of Alaska and is the parent of a beneficiary, a guardian of a beneficiary, and a beneficiary herself. She adds that it is obvious that she is a stakeholder in the decisions made by the Trust Authority. She states that when the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory

Board on Alcoholism need to hold an emergency meeting to discuss events that have occurred at a Trust Authority Board of Trustees' meeting, she and many others are going to be concerned as to how the trustees are making decisions and how stakeholders are being informed of these decisions. She looks forward to a discussion concerning how to improve collaboration with consumers and partner advocates, how to better maximize the beneficiary input into the programs, and how to better educate public and policymakers on the beneficiaries' needs, and how those decisions are being made.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Glidden, and asks for the next testimony.

MS. STANFILL states that she is Brenda Stanfill from Fairbanks. She continues that she has been very honored and privileged to work with the Alaska Mental Health Trust for many years in her position as executive director of the Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living. She adds that they work with many Mental Health Trust beneficiaries. She adds that she also works with them serving on the board of the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and recently as a Commissioner on the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission. She echoes a lot of what Bill Herman said, but is also opposed to the trustees moving away from an advocacy model of business -- that has been so strong and proven to be so effective for so many years -- toward a revenue-generating model with someone in the lead position that has more revenue on the mind than advocacy. She states that changing the leadership in such challenging times, with a heroin epidemic going on, and so many things happening with the beneficiaries, that the need is for the leadership that has been enjoyed for so many years to be continued. She adds that she will strongly oppose making the type of change that is suggested being made into a revenue model.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Stanfill, and recognizes Aaron Wolf in Anchorage.

DR. WOLF states that he has testified before the trustees a number of times representing either programs or as a consultant. He also reiterates what Bill Herman has said without repeating it all. He also comments on the wonderful staff who are focused on many things, not the least of which is the welfare of all of the beneficiaries, and whatever support the trustees can give the staff is absolutely necessary. He states the need to keep to the original mission statement of the board. Sustainability is necessary, but the focus on the beneficiaries and their needs is primary. Thank you.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Dr. Wolf, and recognizes Alan Green.

MR. GREEN states that he is the executive director of CHOICES in Anchorage. He continues that he has only been in Alaska a short time, but has seen the importance and the effect the Trust has on the lives of an incredibly large number of people. He implores the trustees to remember the mission and to stick to the mission. He finds that the Trust is a very special, very unique resource that does not exist anywhere else. He also talks about the importance of the recipient voice. He thanks them for the opportunity, and is very impressed with the participation across the state.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Green, and recognizes Lizette Stiehr.

MS. STIEHR states that she is executive director for AADD, the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities. AADD is the voice for the providers that provide support to the beneficiaries. She talks about the incredible support the Trust has been, especially Jeff Jessee and Amanda Lofgren, who is the connection and program officer. Ms. Lofgren helped to bring Lynne Seagle to Alaska, whose TED talk is amazing. She explains that Ms. Seagle is the executive director of Hope House in Virginia, which has moved all of its beneficiaries into independent living and deep communication and connection within the community at lower cost. There is a lot of excitement with this model, and she asks the Trust to help with an IDD system assessment. She states that she just did the evaluations which 62 people filled out. Almost everyone wrote how inspiring and uplifted they were. They were given hope in a time when there is not a lot of it. She thanks the Trust and staff very much.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Stiehr, and recognizes Karen Nugen-Logan.

MS. NUGEN-LOGAN states that she is the executive director of Alaska Addiction Rehabilitation Services, otherwise known as Nugen's Ranch. She thanks the Trust for all the support given over the years, and the work with Jeff Jessee for many years. She continues that her agency was one of the agencies involved in the Weiss case and in creating the Trust, and it has a lot of history here. She states that she has some concerns, one of which is with the State and their expanding Medicaid, which is great, but unfortunately for her agency -- which is a long-term residential substance abuse treatment program -- is not able to access those funds because of the IMD exclusion. She continues that the State is not going to go after that. It is a grant-funded agency, and if grants go away there will be a loss of a very good program. She agrees with Bill Herman and others about what is going on and invites the trustees to come to Point MacKenzie and see the beautiful new agency that the Trust helped build. It was Trust money that helped build that agency and helped people recover.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Nugen-Logan, and recognizes Annette Alfonsi.

MS. ALFONSI states that the Criminal Justice Reform Initiative is a great direction to go and has heard great things about it and about reducing recidivism through various approaches, including education. She continues that she was a passenger in a rollover car accident and now has a mild traumatic brain injury. She became concerned about her future treatment when the only TBI specialist in town was leaving. She needed someone able to plan and organize a training, and the Brain Injury Network was planning their own training. She states that she received a small grant from the Trust and was able to record the training, and DVDs of this training means that this can be disseminated across the country. She adds that it is currently being copied and will be ready to be shared. The Trust name is listed as a sponsor on the DVD with specialists. She states that the Trust was willing to work with a patient motivated to succeed with education, and thanks all for helping it to succeed. She thanks all for the opportunity for public testimony and humbly suggests keeping the previous CEO with clear trust and buy-in from beneficiaries.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Alfonsi, and asks for anyone else that would like to testify.

MR. WALL states that he is Albert Wall and over the years has had the opportunity to work with the Trust in a couple of different capacities, and has been tremendously blessed and impressed with trustees and staff, the amount of work that they do on behalf of Alaskans, and the tremendous impact they have. He continues, stating concern on the conversation becoming more and more about money and less about the people. He comments on responsibility in leadership and what is expected of trustees. They have been entrusted with the care of the beneficiaries. He urges them to stay true to the course. He adds that many people, literally thousands of people, are counting on trustees to do the hard thing, not the easy thing, and stay the course.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Wall, and asks for any other comments.

MR. SCOTT states that he is Marvin Scott and is a lifelong resident of Ketchikan, Alaska. He has a relative that is a recipient of mental health services in Alaska and is speaking today to express his belief that the decision to proceed with the timber sales on Deer Mountain and Petersburg are not in the best interest of the beneficiaries. He continues that to proceed with the timber sales is a violation of the fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of the beneficiaries. He adds that the landslides on the slopes of Deer Mountain and Mitkof Highway are a very realistic concern, even without logging activity. He realizes that Mr. Slenkamp reports that AMHT has completed its own risk assessment, and he questions the due diligence of this assessment and states his concerns. He continues that proceeding with this timber sale is a direct violation of the Trust's fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of the beneficiaries.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Scott, and asks for anyone else who would like to comment.

MR. JESSEE states that public comment is scheduled from 4:00 to 6:00.

MR. PAGE states that since it was noticed until 6:00, and since there has been some interest in making sure that there is plenty of public comment opportunity, he suggests leaving the line open, and suggests the trustees be available for public comment.

CHAIR WEBB takes a recess pending any further interest in public comment.

(Break.)

CHAIR WEBB calls the meeting back to order, and states that there is a caller interested in commenting. He asks the caller to identify himself.

MR. SALLEE states that he is Mike Sallee. He was born and raised in Ketchikan, lived part-time and full-time on Gravina Island since 1956 when his mother started homesteading there. He states that while commercial fishing has contributed to most of his lifetime income, wood has played a substantial role, both for home heating and as a secondary source of income. He adds that he owned and operated a small sawmill, providing lumber for his own use, as well as for many other people, for over 30 years. He continues that his brother, who passed over a decade ago and was taken by Alzheimer's, worked nearly his whole life either as a logger or in some capacity closely associated with logging. He states that his primary complaints for Alaska

Mental Health Trust logging are as follows: The very best wood is exported with most of its value being realized by nonresidents. Global Manufacturing Company, that builds and sells sawmills, told him that there are over 400 of their mills in Alaska, over 100 in Southeast, and 19 in Ketchikan. There are other brands, not to mention homemade mills and a variety of chainsaw mills. To suggest there is insufficient manufacturing capacities and that wood should be exported unprocessed like mined ore is ludicrous. No. 2: The landscape is left as an industrial sacrifice zone for decades to come with no effort to even cut up and disperse the logging slash. After walking through the Health Trust Healy log lands on Gravina, it became clearly evident there was little incentive to recognize or even minimally accommodate historical uses of lands transferred to the Health Trust. No. 3: While helicopters are potent and valuable management tools, way too much valuable Health Trust timber ends up felled and left to rot in order to make the whole operation cost effective. There are no laws to assure felled trees and virtual wood from Trust lands are fully utilized. The U.S. Forest Service dictates felled sound trees must be removed down to 6 or 8 inches' top diameter. It is ironic that the Health Trust claims wanting to make wood available to shore up a wood-starved industry, yet wastes so much when its timber is logged. No. 4: There is virtually no recognition of mitigating the drivers at climate change. Instead, the issue is deflected by pointing out what other parts of the world are doing or failing to do that exacerbate climate change.

CHAIR WEBB asks Mr. Sallee to wrap up and states that he realizes that he has previously submitted written comments for which he thanks him. He adds that those are available, and asks him to summarize.

MR. SALLEE continues that the Health Trust will eventually run out of timberlands to liquidate, and its timber-centric motif will be forced to evolve. Meanwhile, it does not seem fair to taxpayers to be subject to an extortion that involves Health Trust unloading its log liquidations in exchange for more virgin ground while the public picks up the tab for the failing timber industry's externalized cost. Of the options available, he strongly supports a Federal buyout and would also probably go along with some other combination of a buyout. He is not enthusiastic about land trades.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Mr. Sallee, and recognizes Kate Burkhart.

MS. BURKHART states that she lives in Douglas, Alaska, and her comments are her own. She continues that Douglas, Alaska, is part of the City and Borough of Juneau, and there is an agenda item tomorrow about the disposition of a Trust asset in Juneau related to the property that is referred to as the Subport. She continues that Develop Juneau Now was presented as the buyer, and Trustee Smith commented that he has been in real estate in Juneau for years and had not heard of this buyer. She adds that she did a search and could not find an Alaska corporation with the name. She did find a New Mexico LLC that was created about six months ago, with no named principles. She states that the information in the packet in October and again for tomorrow does not include an intended use by the buyer. As a member of the Juneau community it felt like that the information before you did not provide enough information to determine if this was a buyer and a use that was in the best interest of the public. She states that she just wanted to raise the issue.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Burkhart, and states that there will be an opportunity for the Land Office folks to address the issues tomorrow. He asks for anyone else to comment.

MS. RIDER states that she is Mary Elizabeth Rider, lives in Anchorage, and was the third hire at the Mental Health Trust Authority a long time ago. She continues that she now has a contract with the Mental Health Trust for technical assistance to the beneficiary groups, and adds that it has been a true delight to be part of the Trust from before the settlement, through the settlement process, and then to get hired with the Trust after that. She admires and respects the work that this group does. She talks about things that have happened in Alaska because of this organization and states that the spending policy is where the Trust has made the big difference in this state. She asks the Trust to please reconsider some of the decisions that were made recently and look at what is best for the Trust and the beneficiaries. She asks that they consider rescinding their acceptance of Jeff Jessee's resignation and to find a different way forward that is a bit more thoughtful given what just happened in the last week. She thanks them and appreciates their time.

CHAIR WEBB thanks Ms. Rider, and asks for anyone else. If not, the Trust Board will stand in recess briefly until 6:00, or until there is someone else interested in commenting.

(Break.)

CHAIR WEBB brings the meeting back into session to determine if there is anyone on-line who wishes to comment. At 6:00, there being no one, he asks for a motion to recess.

TRUSTEE NORENE makes a motion to recess until tomorrow morning.

TRUSTEE MICHAEL seconds.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR WEBB thanks all for their time, patience, and willingness to wait.

(Full Board meeting recessed at 6:00 p.m.)

# **Written Public Comment**

**(received by 11/14/16)**

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["Carol/Kent Wegener"](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Petersburg Land Exchange Legislation  
**Date:** Monday, November 14, 2016 7:13:00 AM

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Hi Carol & Kent:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Carol/Kent Wegener [mailto:[wegener@aptalaska.net](mailto:wegener@aptalaska.net)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 13, 2016 8:41 PM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Petersburg Land Exchange Legislation

We wish to thank Carlton Smith and John Morrison for their Guest Commentary that was published in the Petersburg Pilot on November 10, 2016. We have written to our three members of Congress using the addresses in that article. We are also submitting a copy of that letter to you for your consideration on this important issue. Thank you. Kent and Carol Wegener

Please support Petersburg Land Exchange Legislation.

Since 1977 we have lived at our home at 694 Mitkof Highway living below land now owned by Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. We are certainly in favor of land exchange legislation that would allow The Trust to generate a needed source of funding and also protect homeowners below the proposed logging areas.

We have never had any problems at our residence with flooding, erosion, or slides and want to keep it that way. Additionally, State of Alaska Water Rights Certificate No. 380 was issued on a water source originating and

passing through the proposed logging area. This water source protected by State of Alaska Water Rights Certificate No. 380 and Alaska EPA regulations has provided quality drinking and domestic household use water for over 50 years. We maintain the system carefully and it takes care of us in return.

Thank you again for your consideration.

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Norbert Chaudhary](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Save Deer Mountain  
**Date:** Sunday, November 13, 2016 4:55:00 PM

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Hi Norbert:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a good evening!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Norbert Chaudhary [mailto:[saltyseadude@yahoo.com](mailto:saltyseadude@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 13, 2016 9:51 AM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>; [mhtlo@aska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@aska.gov)  
**Subject:** Save Deer Mountain

Dear Board Members,

My wife and myself are strongly opposed to clear cutting or selective harvesting of timber on Deer Mountain. In the event that the land exchange legislation does NOT pass, we urge the Mental Health Trust Authority to strongly consider an outright sale of the Deer Mountain parcel.

We hike Deer Mountain regularly and have witnessed the hurricane force winds that slam the slopes of Deer Mountain repeatedly in the spring, fall and winter months. If selective harvesting were to take place on Deer Mountain holes would be opened up in the forest canopy on this steep fragile mountainside guaranteeing blow downs of other trees not harvested. This in turn which lead to more blow downs and massive slides on this steep slope ruining any chance for regrowth for hundreds of years.

Deer Mountain is not only the back drop of our city it is our very soul.  
Please take this comment into consideration at you next meeting.

Regards,  
Norbert and Diana Chaudhary

862 Forest Park Drive  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 617-2704

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Mike Sallee](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AMHT's Deer Mountain logging and land exchange extortion  
**Date:** Sunday, November 13, 2016 4:54:00 PM

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Hi Mike:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a good evening!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

**From:** Mike Sallee [mailto:mikesallee@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 12, 2016 11:26 PM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** AMHT's Deer Mountain logging and land exchange extortion

My name is Mike Sallee. I was born and raised in Ketchikan, lived both part time and full time on Gravina Island since 1956 when my mother started homesteading there. While commercial fishing has contributed the most to my lifetime income, wood has played a substantial role, both for home heating as well as a secondary source of income. I've owned and operated a small sawmill, providing lumber for my own use as well as for many dozens of other people for over thirty years. My brother worked nearly his whole life either as a logger or in some capacity closely associated with logging.

My primary complaints with AMHT logging are:

- 1) The very best wood is exported with most its value being realized by non-residents. Mobile Manufacturing Co. that builds and sells small sawmills like mine tells me there are over 400 of their mills in Alaska, over 100 of those in SE Alaska and 19 in Ketchikan. There are other brands as well, e.g. Miteymites, Woodmizers, Lucas, and others, not to mention homemade mills and a variety of chainsaw mills. To suggest there's insufficient manufacturing capacities and therefore that wood should be shipped out unprocessed like mined ore is ludicrous.
- 2) The landscape is left as an industrial sacrifice zone for decades to come with no effort to even cut up and disperse the logging slash. After walking through

AMHT heli-logged lands on Gravina, places I'd been deer hunting for decades it became clearly evident there was little incentive to recognize or even minimally accommodate historical uses of lands transferred to AMHT.

3) While helicopters are a potent and valuable management tool, way too much valuable AMHT timber ends up felled and left to rot in order to make the whole operation cost-effective. There are evidently no laws to assure felled trees and merchantable wood from Trust lands are fully utilized. The USFS dictates felled sound trees must be removed down to six or eight inches top diameter and if something like one third of the log is sound it needs to be utilized. Even the State of Alaska's hunting regulations do not allow wanton waste of game. Dall sheep cannot be killed for their horns alone. Black bears cannot be killed for gall bladders. It's ironic AMHT claims they want to make wood available to shore up a wood-starved industry yet wastes so much when its timber is logged.

4) There's virtually no recognition of the substantial part old growth forests play in mitigating the drivers of climate change. Instead the issue is deflected by pointing out what other parts of the world, (Washington, Canada, China, Russia, etc) are doing or failing to do that exacerbate climate change, and;

6) As for Viking Lumber and their warnings of imminent closure if they can't get more old-growth logs, I'm reminded of a very similar argument by Ketchikan Pulp Co. in the 1990s. My late lifelong logger brother's response was "They can learn how to tighten their belts up just like the rest of us. Or they can get to hell out"

*If* AMHT could be held to staying away from landslide-prone ground, away from public water supplies, away from trails, and leaving the view shed no worse than other view sheds around Ketchikan that have already been selective heli-logged, I suppose some people would not have much heartburn with logging Deer Mountain.

A land exchange may take Deer Mountain and critical lands near other communities off the chopping block but does nothing to address the fact that the unsustainable logging feeding frenzies of the pulp mill era and the more recent liquidations of ANCSA timberlands usurped the easy pickings from our remote and inherently market-challenged region. Yes, we still have some very good timber here in SE Alaska. Barring some catastrophic tree die-off due to climate change there will always be room for a limited timber industry. But that industry will be something quite different from past industries that depended upon high-volume old-growth timber extractions and round log exports in order to keep even small to medium production mills in wood.

AMHT will eventually run out of timberlands to liquidate and its timber-centric motif will be forced to evolve. Meanwhile it doesn't seem very fair to taxpayers to be subject to an extortion that involves AMHT unloading its logged over liquidations in exchange for more virgin ground while the public picks up the tab for the flailing timber industry's externalized costs.

Of the options that are available I strongly suggest a federal buyout, not another

kick-the-ball-down-the-road land exchange.

Sincerely,  
Mike Sallee

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Deborah Gideon](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J. \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K. \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Mental Health Trust  
**Date:** Friday, November 11, 2016 12:02:56 PM

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Good afternoon Deborah-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

-----  
**907.269-7697 (direct)**  
**907.748.7418 (cell)**  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Deborah Gideon [mailto:debagideon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 11, 2016 11:56 AM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Mental Health Trust

Dear Mr. Williams,

Given the recent changes in leadership and direction made by the Board of Trustees of the Mental Health Trust Authority, I have grave concerns about the direction the Trust is going in serving our beneficiaries. As a provider of mental health services to citizens of Alaska since 1988, I recognize the tremendous needs for mental health services we have in Alaska and how many people in need of services are underserved. Please do what you can not only to insure that the current level of services is provided, but to increase services to meet the needs of so many who are unserved.

Sincerely,

**Deborah A. Gideon, Ph.D.**

Clinical Neuropsychologist  
Advanced Neuropsychology of Alaska  
3820 Lake Otis Parkway, Suite 108, Anchorage, AK 99508  
Mail: P O Box 242503, Anchorage, AK 99524  
P 907-569-9000 F 907-569-0900

[www.drdgideon.com](http://www.drdgideon.com)



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*Alaska at the telephone number listed above (collect, if necessary) and delete this communication, and all files attached or transmitted with it, without retaining a copy in any form. Dr. Gideon cannot ensure the security and confidentiality of unencrypted communications transmitted by e-mail and assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from unauthorized access, disclosure, or tampering which could have occurred during transmission. Thank you.*

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Ramey Wood](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Regards AMHT "open letter" & testimony accessibility  
**Date:** Friday, November 11, 2016 9:27:00 AM

---

Good morning Ramey-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

**From:** Ramey Wood [mailto:rameywood@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 11, 2016 1:02 AM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Regards AMHT "open letter" & testimony accessibility

There needs to be more options for testimony. Period.

I *can* email, but that's a lot to line out in the few days, given these days, health, etc.

There *must* be made available more time or others to record testimony of individuals ... but 'accessibility', and the dynamics of our communities, the environmental circumstances, the political climate,...

It is not fair nor really legit, to call for such input, but to leave such little time and offer so few options to participate.

Maybe, there's an idea how the Trust Authority might begin to be more response-able with it's own choice to make it's mission, and practice.

In respect, I look forward to learning of more options for all of we.

---Ramey Wood  
Fairbanks

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Loree Rayback](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comment on AMHT  
**Date:** Friday, November 11, 2016 9:26:34 AM

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Good morning Loree-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Loree Rayback [[mailto:loree\\_rayback@hotmail.com](mailto:loree_rayback@hotmail.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 11:32 PM  
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: Comment on AMHT

Steve Williams,

I am writing you in my personal capacity as a beneficiary of the Alaska Mental Health Trust, and as the mother of a beneficiary, the daughter of a beneficiary, and as the sister of a beneficiary.

The unfortunate shenanigans the AMTH board have been going through seem motivated by a sincere wish to provide competent leadership in spite of their disunity over a collective vision of the future.

I am sure it would be best for everyone involved if we heard some suggestions from beneficiaries.

I would like the board to keep its focus on mental health. I want the board to know why the beneficiaries need them, who the beneficiaries are, and have some ideas of how to help the people who are entrusted to them. The board should be able to guide where the Trust money is spent, but surely the board members do not need to be bogged down with the specific management of lands, minerals and timber, this should be the responsibility of the Land Office. The board should be involved only on a conceptual level. For example, we must insist on sustainable practices in the management of our lands.

I do not want the board to lose sight of its mission. More money does not always improve lives. Thoughtful allocation of those resources is much more important.

Personally I would love to see the AMHT build, in or near every town and hub village in Alaska, a nature retreat, which includes a suitable community building, devoted to beneficiary use.

Sincerely,

Loree Rayback  
PO Box 4274  
Palmer, AK 99645

# Comment Sheet

If you are unable to provide comment at the November 17, 2016 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees meeting in Anchorage, you may use this form to write your comments now and these comments will be provided to the board at their November 17 meeting. Name and Email is required.

Janice Jackson	11-1-16	jjackson2008@	yahoo.com
Name of Commenter	Date	Email Address	Affiliation

I oppose any logging on Deer Mt. in Ketchikan. My sister-in-law buried her daughter's ashes on Deer Mt. So my family, it is now a sacred place, in addition to being a landmark for our town.

I urge passage of land exchange legislation which in effect would prevent logging on Deer Mountain.

Sincerely, Janice Jackson, Ketchikan AK

# Comment Sheet

If you are unable to provide comment at the November 17, 2016 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority board of trustees meeting in Anchorage, you may use this form to write your comments now and these comments will be provided to the board at their November 17 meeting. Name and Email is required.

<i>Kathleen Yarn</i>	<i>11/1/16</i>		<i>Son is beneficiary</i>
Name of Commenter	Date	Email Address	Affiliation

1<sup>st</sup> choice: exchange land

2<sup>nd</sup> choice: helicopter log Deer Mt. (selective harvesting)

Protect against landslides. Protect water.

Disappointed logging, harvesting, will not benefit local loggers & mills. Understand Trust has a fiduciary responsibility to maximize assets for beneficiaries.

If Deer Mt is logged, the mt will look bad a couple years, then it will green up again. In 20 yrs, we will hardly be able to determine which parts have been logged. Already there are "bad" spots of the mt because some areas are too steep to grow trees, & some areas have slid away on their own.

People are part of the environment. We deserve to benefit live & work here. Beneficiaries deserve to have the Trust responsibility of the AMHT upheld.

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Jessee, Jeffrey L. \(DOR\)](#); [Morrison, John S. \(DNR\)](#); [Menefee, Wyn \(DNR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J. \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K. \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Forest Service Land Trade  
**Date:** Friday, November 04, 2016 11:10:03 AM

---

Good morning-  
For your information, below is an email I received last night from Gail Sterling regarding the Land Exchange and my response to her.

Have a nice day! Steve  
----- 907.269-  
7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2016 11:06 AM  
**To:** 'Sterling/Nichols' <lilpelican2003@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** info@seacc.org  
**Subject:** RE: Forest Service Land Trade

Good morning Gail-  
Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. I will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a nice day! Steve  
----- 907.269-  
7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Sterling/Nichols [<mailto:lilpelican2003@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 03, 2016 6:48 PM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** [info@seacc.org](mailto:info@seacc.org)  
**Subject:** Forest Service Land Trade

I see in a report by KFSK radio Petersburg, your staff was there telling residents that the land swap will prevent possible logging in their area by trading land on Prince of Wales Island to log instead. I live on Prince of Wales Island. How much more land can you and Ms. Lisa Murkowski take from the island to log?? So you push off the NIMBYs of Petersburg, (not in my back yard, in case you haven't heard the term) onto the residents of POW as if they don't count at all. I don't think that is very honorable. The article also states you make about \$700,000 a year on timber sales. Really? Does that even begin to cover your salaries and expenses? I hope you consider other options at your November meeting. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Gail Sterling  
Port Protection, AK

# **Written Public Comment**

**(received between  
11/14/16 – 11/15/16)**

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["Marta Poore"](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Deer Mountain Logging  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 4:33:00 PM

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Hi Marta:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great evening!

-----  
Miri K. Smith-Coolidge  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Marta Poore [<mailto:martapoore@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 12:47 PM  
To: Trust Land Office (DNR sponsored) <[mhtlo@alaska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: Deer Mountain Logging

I want to express my concern with the way AK Mental Health Trust has threatened my community with logging. This was not an attempt to garner community support but a threat to destroy Ketchikan's primary tourist icon. My concerns include the following:

I hike the trail weekly during the summer. It is heavily used by tourists as well as locals. There was a landslide on Deer Mountain within the last 5 years without logging. The steep incline makes logging dangerous for anyone living below not to mention effects on water and sewage. Liability costs in case of instability would not be worth the income from logging this site. There is talk of 40% logging. This cannot be done without a significant impact to Ketchikan.

Obviously we all support a land exchange. Equally obviously, we cannot log Deer Mountain.

Marta Poore  
POB 7801  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
[martapoore@gmail.com](mailto:martapoore@gmail.com)

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["Rep. Andy Josephson"](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Deer Mountain and Petersburg Area Tracts  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 4:31:00 PM

---

Hi Representative Josephson:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great evening!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Rep. Andy Josephson [mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 12:31 PM  
**To:** Trust Land Office (DNR sponsored) <mhtlo@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Deer Mountain and Petersburg Area Tracts

Dear Trust:

I oppose your logging the above-noted areas. Strongly. I don't doubt that your enabling statutes call for aggressive capital investments. I do wonder what the impact on the mental health of southeast Alaska residents would be if you continue to promote logging in people's backyards.

I would recommend you generate revenue from a tourism-related operation.

The real question is this: at what point will authorities like yours (and the Universities) with lands in trust, take account of sustainability, and the overall quality of people's lives? I suspect, without reviewing your enabling act, that there is some discretion that you could properly utilize to change course and do something with your assets that is less destructive.

Thanks for your consideration,

Andy Josephson  
4859 Pavalof Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Rebecca Knight](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 3:29:18 PM

---

Good afternoon Rebecca-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

Steve Williams  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Direct (907) 269-7697  
Cell (907) 748-7418

On Nov 15, 2016, at 4:18 PM, Rebecca Knight <[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)> wrote:

Please see the attached for the upcoming, Nov. 16-17 AMHT Board of Trustees meeting.

Please include it in the packet for the meeting.

Thank you,

Rebecca Knight

<Knight\_Cmts. to AMHT Bd. Trustees\_15Nov16.pdf>

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Mike](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Comments for 11-17-2016 AMHT meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 2:02:30 PM

---

Good afternoon Mike-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

Steve Williams  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Direct (907) 269-7697  
Cell (907) 748-7418

On Nov 15, 2016, at 2:58 PM, Mike <[mstainbrookak@hotmail.com](mailto:mstainbrookak@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for taking my comments regarding Mental Health Land near Petersburg. The AMHL adjacent to Petersburg that has been identified as a risk for landslides should Not be logged. If the land exchange does not go through gambling with public safety should NEVER be an option.

The financial goals of the Trust should never compromise the the health and safety of the public.

Thank You. Michael Stainbrook

PO 2052

Petersburg AK 99833

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["Marvin Scott"](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on proposed timber sale on Deer Mountain  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:49:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)

---

Hi Marvin:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

**From:** Marvin Scott [mailto:[marvinscott@gmail.com](mailto:marvinscott@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:47 AM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments on proposed timber sale on Deer Mountain

**Marvin L. Scott**  
706 Bayview, Ketchikan, AK 99901 | 907.617.7091 | [marvinscott@gmail.com](mailto:marvinscott@gmail.com)

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016

Board of Trustees  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office  
2600 Cordova Street, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Board of Trustees:

I'm writing you today to express my belief that your decision to proceed with timber sales on Deer Mountain and Petersburg are not in the best interest of your

beneficiaries. To proceed with these timber sales is a violation of your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries.

The Trust has a responsibility to avoid incurring risks to the corpus of the Trust. The risk I refer to is the realistic risk of a life threatening land slide that is likely occur if logging proceeds on the slopes of Deer Mountain in Ketchikan, and the slopes above the Mitkof highway in Petersburg.

I wish to present to you two probable scenarios that illustrate my point about how timber sales in these two areas are a violation of your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries.

As you should be well aware, recent landslides on logged slopes in Oso, WA killed 43 people, and resulted in out of court settlements of \$60 million dollars. When compared to the projected \$2 million profits from the Deer Mountain timber sale, this is a small profit compared to the huge liability of potential landslide risk and subsequent class action lawsuits.

The steep slopes of the proposed Deer Mountain timber sale are located directly above two residential developments of Forest Park and Saxman. In each of these areas, many more than just 43 people reside. I personally have relatives that live in both Forest Park and Saxman. I care for these family members and fear for their safety should development be allowed on the mountain slopes above them.

Local residents are well aware of the landslide potential of Deer Mountain. Only a few years ago a medium sized landslide swept down Deer Mountain near your proposed timber sale, taking out a portion of the trail and traveling hundreds of yards down the mountain side. Landslides on the slopes of Deer Mountain and the Mitkof Highway are a very realistic concern, even without selective logging activity. I realize that Mr. Slenkamp retorts that the AMHT has completed it's own risk assessment, however, I must question the due diligence of this assessment. Has a Geotechnical Survey been conducted? Even then, don't you realize that logging on steep slopes above residential developments poses a very realistic liability? No one can guarantee that landslides won't occur on a steep slope if even light selective logging occurs. The fact that trees would be taken and if a subsequent landslide happens, the AMHT is then liable. Let's further keep in mind that out of court settlements are usually far less than in court settlements. Picture a landslide destroys half of Forest Park and kills 100+ residents of Ketchikan. In court damages could exceed \$200+ million. This potential liability is not in the best interest of the AMHT beneficiaries.

The second scenario I wish to illustrate today is in regards to your own beneficiaries. I also have a close relative that is a beneficiary of Mental Health services in Alaska. Should a landslide occur killing people, and should a lawsuit seeking damages be successful, the AMHT board will have inconclusively violated your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries. At this point, you are not only liable to the people who your decisions killed, but also to your beneficiaries. A realistic scenario then, is to be presented with another class action lawsuit from your own beneficiaries this time. The lawsuit would contend that the AMHT board knew the potential of a landslide on slopes of Deer Mountain. And yet proceeded anyway.

Thus putting the beneficiaries' Corpus at risk and thus violating your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries. The potential settlement for this second class action lawsuit could reasonably meet or exceed whatever settlement that would be reached with the victims of said landslide.

In conclusion, two potential class action lawsuits and many lost lives, all for a very small profit in terms of the overall value of AMHT's Corpus. As mentioned. I have both relatives whose lives you put at risk for landslides and relatives that are beneficiaries of the AMHT. Should a landslide occur, myself and my family will be the first of many to sign on to the subsequent class action lawsuits that are likely to follow. We will seek the maximum settlement and bring full accountability to the AMHT for these shortsighted profits.

I ask you to seriously consider these scenarios. To proceed with timber sales on both Deer Mountain and above the Mitkof Highway is a direct violation of your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries.

Sincerely,



Marvin L. Scott  
Alaskan Native and lifelong resident of Ketchikan, Alaska

**Marvin L. Scott**

706 Bayview, Ketchikan, AK 99901 | 907.617.7091 | marvinscott@gmail.com

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016

Board of Trustees  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office  
2600 Cordova Street, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Board of Trustees:

I'm writing you today to express my belief that your decision to proceed with timber sales on Deer Mountain and Petersburg are not in the best interest of your beneficiaries. To proceed with these timber sales is a violation of your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries.

The Trust has a responsibility to avoid incurring risks to the corpus of the Trust. The risk I refer to is the realistic risk of a life threatening land slide that is likely occur if logging proceeds on the slopes of Deer Mountain in Ketchikan, and the slopes above the Mitkof highway in Petersburg.

I wish to present to you two probable scenarios that illustrate my point about how timber sales in these two areas are a violation of your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries.

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The steep slopes of the proposed Deer Mountain timber sale are located directly above two residential developments of Forest Park and Saxman. In each of these areas, many more than just 43 people reside. I personally have relatives that live in both Forest Park and Saxman. I care for these family members and fear for their safety should development be allowed on the mountain slopes above them.

Local residents are well aware of the landslide potential of Deer Mountain. Only a few years ago a medium sized landslide swept down Deer Mountain near your proposed timber sale, taking out a portion of the trail and traveling hundreds of yards down the mountain side. Landslides on the slopes of Deer Mountain and the Mitkof Highway are a

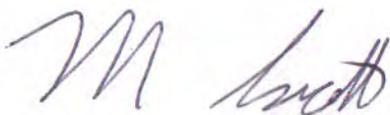
very realistic concern, even without selective logging activity. I realize that Mr. Slenkamp retorts that the AMHT has completed it's own risk assessment, however, I must question the due diligence of this assessment. Has a Geotechnical Survey been conducted? Even then, don't you realize that logging on steep slopes above residential developments poses a very realistic liability? No one can guarantee that landslides won't occur on a steep slope if even light selective logging occurs. The fact that trees would be taken and if a subsequent landslide happens, the AMHT is then liable. Let's further keep in mind that out of court settlements are usually far less than in court settlements. Picture a landslide destroys half of Forest Park and kills 100+ residents of Ketchikan. In court damages could exceed \$200+ million. This potential liability is not in the best interest of the AMHT beneficiaries.

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In conclusion, two potential class action lawsuits and many lost lives, all for a very small profit in terms of the overall value of AMHT's Corpus. As mentioned. I have both relatives whose lives you put at risk for landslides and relatives that are beneficiaries of the AMHT. Should a landslide occur, myself and my family will be the first of many to sign on to the subsequent class action lawsuits that are likely to follow. We will seek the maximum settlement and bring full accountability to the AMHT for these shortsighted profits.

I ask you to seriously consider these scenarios. To proceed with timber sales on both Deer Mountain and above the Mitkof Highway is a direct violation of your fiduciary mandate to make decisions in the best interest of your beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Scott".

**Marvin L. Scott**  
**Alaskan Native and Lifelong resident of Ketchikan, Alaska**

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [none none](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ketchikan mental trust lands, deer mt logging comment  
**Date:** Monday, November 14, 2016 7:20:54 PM

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Good evening Perry-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!  
Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: none none [<mailto:perryk@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 6:55 PM  
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: Ketchikan mental trust lands, deer mt logging comment

Hello,

My name is Perry Klein. I grew up in Southeast Alaska, living in small communities such as Hoonah, Angoon, Cape Pole and Thorne Bay. I graduated from Ketchikan high school and went on to earn a BS in Chemistry at the University of Alaska. Then returned to live in Ketchikan. Over the years I've watched the timber industry dwindle, starting around president Bill Clintons first term. Ketchikan is slowly starving with very few quality year round jobs remaining that aren't state or federally funded. Many people feel that logging in general is obscene and damaging to the environment. Quite a few of these people don't realize they live in and around relatively young clear cuts both in the city and borough of Ketchikan, bear valley area, Karlson ford / Walmart area, Totem bight historical park, lunch creek trail and state park. I feel that the selective logging of the Deer Mt parcel is not only your right by law as the trustees but in addition it will provide needed income to locals and the city gov., how ever short lived that it might be. It's my hope that the land is logged and the newer inhabitants of town might come to realize that there is no harm in logging and it is truly a renewable resource.

Sincerely

Perry Klein

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Valerie Brooks](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Deer mtn  
**Date:** Monday, November 14, 2016 1:26:28 PM

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Good afternoon Valerie-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

Steve Williams  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Direct (907) 269-7697  
Cell (907) 748-7418

On Nov 14, 2016, at 2:15 PM, Valerie Brooks <[vebrooks@icloud.com](mailto:vebrooks@icloud.com)> wrote:

The AK mental health trust risks betraying its responsibility to AK citizens by proceeding with the sale and logging of Deer Mtn.

No dollars are worth the destruction of this pristine watershed and recreational area.

We will raise the amount estimated to be the profit to you from this logging and buy the parcel of the trade doesn't take place.

\$350,000 will be a small price to pay for our peace of mind and piece of old growth.

No logging

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [cheryl.kilgore@inhc.org](mailto:cheryl.kilgore@inhc.org)  
**Cc:** [Jennifer Lopez](#); [Smith, Miri K. \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J. \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AMHTA CEO comment letter  
**Date:** Monday, November 14, 2016 1:03:08 PM

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Good afternoon Cheryl-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!

Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Jennifer Lopez [<mailto:Jennifer.Lopez@inhc.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2016 11:44 AM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Cheryl D. Kilgore <[Cheryl.Kilgore@inhc.org](mailto:Cheryl.Kilgore@inhc.org)>  
**Subject:** AMHTA CEO comment letter

Dear Mr. Williams,

As ICHC is not able to attend public comment, I've attached a letter sent to Governor Walker to use in our stead.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lopez

**Jennifer Lopez**  
Executive Assistant  
Interior Community Health Center  
(907) 458-1559 – phone  
(907) 458-1580 – fax  
[jennifer.lopez@inhc.org](mailto:jennifer.lopez@inhc.org)



# Interior Community Health Center

*Quality primary care accessible to all*

1606 23rd Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 455-4567  
(907) 458-1580 Fax  
(907) 458-1587 TTY

Tri-Valley Community Center  
Usibelli Spur Road  
P.O. Box 246, Healy, AK 99743

(907) 683-2211  
(907) 683-2112 Fax

November 10, 2016

Governor Bill Walker  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker:

I write this letter in hopes you'll intervene with the Trustees of the Mental Health Trust Authority on behalf of those of us who serve the beneficiaries of the Mental Health Trust and, in particular, their Chief Executive Officer Jeff Jessee.

Over the last 30-plus years in working in public health and health care, I have so appreciated Jeff Jessee's advocacy and business acumen. He always keeps his clients' in mind and advances their needs while at the same time focusing on the sustainability of the Trust. He's uniquely qualified to do the job he's doing and does it well. For these reasons, and I appreciate the sensitivity of this issue, I hope you'll intervene with the Trustees so he's retained as their CEO.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Kilgore  
Chief Executive Officer

# Written Public Comment

(received between  
11/15/16 – 11/16/16)

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Christine Schut](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J. \(DOR\)](#); [Smith, Miri K. \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: beneficiary input  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 10:25:37 AM

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Good morning Christine-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment.  
Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!  
Steve

-----  
**907.269-7697 (direct)**  
**907.748.7418 (cell)**  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Christine Schut [mailto:cschut@ahfc.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 10:22 AM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** beneficiary input

Mr. Williams,

I am unable to call in for the teleconference but would like to state that as a Service Coordinator for Senior and Disabled Housing, I work with several people who are currently beneficiaries of the Trust. What troubles me is that I seem to be having a great deal of difficulty finding public access information regarding the Board of Trustees and what the focus of a 'new organization' might be. I received information from Alaska Commission on Aging, but I am not confident that the vast majority of beneficiaries would have access to this information. Without contacting a representative sample of beneficiaries, it would be impossible to judge input; especially, as it seems, the decision appears to have been made without even the knowledge of all the Trustees. It also troubles me that this new organization focus seems to be mainly on things that have not been terribly sustainable in the past and do not look to be that fruitful in the future. For example, timber harvesting has not shown itself to be a sustainable industry in Alaska and has serious environmental drawbacks. One industry that has proven to be financially viable is the healthcare industry. Perhaps investment into a facility that treats those with mental health issues, trains providers, and provides employment/job training opportunities for beneficiaries to reach a higher level of inclusion might be a more effective way to spend/invest the money in trust.

Public access and transparency with this entity needs to improve to the extent that beneficiaries have an informed voice in Alaska Mental Health Trust. If this is truly an Alaskan resource and resource driven, we must not neglect to utilize our greatest Alaskan resource; her people.  
Thank you.

Christine Schut, BSW  
ALPA/AHFC Service Coordinator  
907-460-2773

The information transmitted in this email and any attachments is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the intended recipients. This message may be or may contain privileged and confidential communications. If you as the reader are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error and that any retention, review, use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication or the information contained is strictly prohibited. The sender does not accept any responsibility for any loss, disruption or damage to your data or computer system that may occur while using data contained in, or transmitted with, this e-mail. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original message from your system.

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** "[dh@swiftventure.com](mailto:dh@swiftventure.com)"  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re Comment on Mental Health Trust Upcoming Nov. Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:38:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Hi Deborah:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Deborah Hayden [<mailto:dh@swiftventure.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:58 PM  
**To:** Menefee, Wyn (DNR) <[wyn.menefee@alaska.gov](mailto:wyn.menefee@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment on Mental Health Trust Upcoming Nov. Meeting

Dear Mr. Menefee:

Thank you for the listening session you and the Trust sponsored in Ketchikan.

This is my comment for the upcoming Mental Health Trust Meeting in which you said the Trust will reconsider its decision to start the contracting process to log Deer Mountain if the land exchange does not happen by January 15.

In the event the land exchange does not happen by January 15, I urge you and the Trust to delay the logging contracting process until May 2017. A few more months will give the legislative process time to work out. I realize that the Trust has been going through this onerous and frustrating engagement with the federal government for over 10 years. A few more months on top of 10 years will not be a huge percentage extension of time. Those few months will, however, give enough time to learn the tenor of the new administration toward forest management in general.

So far, the messages that have been coming from the new administration have been oriented

toward more resource development. This may be favorable for an expedited land exchange. Waiting a little longer will give time to find out the new policies and actions relating to forest and land management.

If the new administration moves toward more active use of forest resources, it may allow more timber harvest in the Tongass National Forest and operations such as Alcan Forest Products and Viking lumber will not have to close for lack of supply. The urgency to log before the loggers disappear will diminish. Let's wait and see what happens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,



*Deborah Hayden*, CEcD, EDFP\*

Managing Director  
Swiftcurrent Ventures, LLC  
11011 Victorson Court  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
907 254-5300

\*Certified Economic Developer, Economic Development Finance Professional

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["Perry Reeve"](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Save Deer Mt!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:27:00 AM

---

Hi Perry:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

-----  
Miri K. Smith-Coolidge  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Perry Reeve [<mailto:perryreeve@me.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:16 AM  
To: Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: Save Deer Mt!

Greetings Alaska Trust Members!

Please understand, the Mental Health and well being of Ketchikanites is at stake! Deer Mt and environs is our shelter our shawl of nurturing, our Mother Nature!

I came in 1972 and chose Ketchikan as a place to raise my young, like the childrens story: Make Way for Ducklings, I knew this was the place to nest. The evergreen that surrounded the town in the mountains and the sea below, insured that there would be clean air and no sprawl. Through the years we've raised two children and they now raise their own enjoying hikes up the mountain to celebrate birthdays and also partings, to hike with friends and to say farewell to others.

Having worked at Community Connections, I took special needs children up to the first mile lookout! They found it challenging & empowering, refreshing their sense of self worth and ability to manage their lives below!

If you as deciders of our future have visited the Mt. you would have seen the landslide beyond the first mile lookout. You would know we get 12 feet of rain annually and that any disruption of our ecosystem may have profound affects on our community!

I request that the community purchase the area if a better plan isn't available. I would support our adopting a tree as well!

I just saw the Villages of England story of a few who banded together & bought a barren hill in their midst for a similar price!

Thank you!

Perry Reeve  
907-821-8028  
P.O.Box 23154  
Ketchikan,  
Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["victoriamcdonald@hotmail.com"](mailto:victoriamcdonald@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Deer Mountain  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:16:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [11\\_15 AMHT letter.pdf](#)

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Hi Victoria:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your attached comments. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

**From:** victoria mcdonald [<mailto:victoriamcdonald@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 6:56 PM  
**To:** Trust Land Office (DNR sponsored) <[mhtlo@alaska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Deer Mountain

To Mental Health Trust:

Being one of many opposed to the logging of Deer Mountain, I will repeat many of the issues surrounding this proposal. and why I am opposed to this sale.

Negotiations over this proposal have been going on for 7 years with no immediate result. AMHT has decided that decisions must be made soon, no matter the consequences. Deer Mountain is iconic, which does not concern any of AMHT, who only want to pressure the community into accepting this ridiculous proposal.

Although I am opposed to this sale, moving the sale to another area in Southeast is not a viable answer. Our old growth forests contain massive amount of carbon, no matter where. To consider logging our forests, without regard to the value of how much carbon is absorbed and held, shows how out of touch AMHT is with overwhelming climate change. Leaving our forests intact is more reasonable than eliminating habitat. In addition, old growth forests take anywhere from 300-400 years and should not be sacrificed.

AMHT allows the trees cut to be and shipped out as export. Yet the mills that survive, such as Viking Lumber, scream about lack of timber, as they ship timber overseas. Those panicky statements are untrue. If the few people involved in the logging industry were to plan the future, mills will have plenty to cut and mill and can be sold locally instead of shipping wood from Canada and the US.

Many of the slopes for these timber sales are on steep slopes. Landslides are a common occurrence in Southeast; if Deer Mountain is logged, there will be slides with unknown consequences. But consequences be damned; AMHT will push these sales and deny that logging causes problems. And for years, the landscape is devastated, taking decades to recover.

Hopefully you will consider my comments.

Thank you for your time.

Victoria E. McDonald  
6526 Rodgers Pass  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Faith Myers](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Testimony attached  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:55:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony to Trust Authority November 15 2016.docx](#)

---

Hi Faith:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your attached comments. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees and Katie Baldwin receives them.

Have a great evening!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

---

**From:** Faith Myers [mailto:[faith.myers@gci.net](mailto:faith.myers@gci.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:34 PM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Testimony attached

Dear Miri Smith-Coolidge,

Attached is Testimony to the Trust Authority Board for the public comment period of your Board meeting—Would you give it to the Board members and also Katie Baldwin Johnson...we met with her today in committee. Thanks, Faith and Dorrance

Modest legislative improvements in disabled psychiatric patient rights like improving the grievance procedure law and appeal process would save lives. Forty percent or more of the individuals provided forced psychiatric treatment will be damaged by their treatment; even modest improvements in quality of patient care as an example: recognizing and treating sanctuary trauma would significantly lower that number.

Until the general public and the legislature has an understanding of the types of patient complaints in locked psychiatric institutions there will be no necessary improvements. Today there is no impartial body to pass judgment on a psychiatric patient's grievance or formal appeal, only hospital employees who at too many times have a reason to keep secrets.

Forced psychiatric evaluation and forced treatment is often a physical process. Thousands of individuals go through forced treatment or evaluation each year in Alaska. There is a real potential of a patient arriving at an acute care psychiatric unit in handcuffs, being strapped to a gurney or placed in isolation, degrading conditions that often leads to lack of self-worth. The amount of power given to the managers of private psychiatric units to detain an individual has never been matched with state laws designed to allow the individuals being detained to protect themselves from mistreatment.

When compared to other states, Alaska is very unique. The Department of Health and Social Services turns disabled psychiatric patients over to the staff of locked private psychiatric facilities with very few specific standards of care and protections. (47.30.660 (b) (13)) Two state attorneys have said there is an argument that Alaska's unique way of delegating care of disabled psychiatric patient as probably unconstitutional.

Statistically, by the time a person ends up in a locked acute care psychiatric facility, they have burned many of their bridges with family and friends. That leaves a patient's primary caregiver and protector employees of a psychiatric institution. The patient advocates work for the hospitals with no autonomy and the hospitals write the patient grievance procedure and appeal process. Ninety-eight percent of legitimate patient complaints will never leave the psychiatric hospital to be viewed by the general public or the legislature.

Individuals in Alaska with a severe mental illness are mistreated. What is not obvious to the general public or the legislature is the extent of the mistreatment. In 2005 at state-run Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the three sexual abuse allegations by patients were discounted. Fifty-four complaints of not receiving respect or dignity discounted. Multiple complaints of physical abuse discounted. Eighteen of not being safe discounted. The power of discounting patient complaints even today goes in favor of the managers of psychiatric institutions. API management in 2005 was embarrassed. API's answer: Never again let the general public look at the specific categories of patient complaints in their hospital.

There is no vaccination or preparatory lesson to prevent a person from developing a mental illness. I have an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Development, never smoked, rarely drink alcohol, but still developed a severe mental illness. Because of poor institutional treatment, I had to be treated for post-traumatic stress injury, costing hundreds of hours in treatment and thousands of dollars. The psychiatric institutions working to stabilize my mental illness with medications often valued convenience and economics above quality of care and patient rights.

A female with a severe mental illness is the most likely to be sexually or physically assaulted, or be taken advantage of. A female in an acute care psychiatric unit has a better than even chance of developing or exacerbating some form of Post-Traumatic Stress Injury. Improving rights for psychiatric patients would cut down on suicide, recidivism, assaults and PTSD. Today management of psychiatric units and their employee unions are the major roadblocks to the state making necessary improvements to psychiatric patient rights and quality of care.

Caring for disabled psychiatric patients or individuals with a dual diagnosis has become a multi-billion dollar business and "Alaska's latest gold rush." Practically every major health-care corporation wants in. In the absence of strict state standards, the decision of quality of patient care for the disabled is often decided in a boardroom 2000 miles away. The state of Alaska and the legislature should be setting the grievance and appeal rights and due process—How a patient is informed of their rights. And a dozen other quality of care issues. Acute care psychiatric patients with some evidence believe they have been sold to the lowest bidder.

Mental Health Advocates, Faith Myers/Dorrance Collins, 3240 Penland Pkwy,  
Sp. 35, Anchorage, AK. 99508 (907) 929-0532

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Bob Weinstein](#)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment- Deer Mountain  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 6:48:00 PM

---

Hi Bob:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great evening!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

**From:** Bob Weinstein [mailto:bobalaska@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 5:49 PM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment- Deer Mountain

To Members of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board of Trustees:

With respect to Item II- K-3 Timber Sale, MHT 9100854, the Deer Mountain issue, it now appears that you have been presented with an alternative motion (or amendment) which provides for an option of a sale of the Trust's Deer Mountain interests.

I ask that you consider this as an alternative motion, with the intent that a possible sale replace, and for the time being effectively remove the possibility of, a timber harvest on Deer Mountain.

First, doing so will indicate that the Trust's main goal- one that has strong support- is the exchange legislation, and that, if for some reason it does not seem that the legislation will pass in a timeframe deemed necessary by the Trust, the option of a sale will be considered.

Second, it will allow for a timely consideration of potential processes and funding sources relative to a purchase of the Trust's issues.

If a majority of the Board does not support the motion regarding a sale as an alternative, I would then request that you adopt it as an amendment so that a possible sale is at least an option that might be considered.

Finally, I would suggest that sometime in the near future the Board review and direct a

changes in how and when impacted communities and concerned are brought into the process. The Board packet notes that the sale option is a result of hearing what the public had to say during the recent meetings in Ketchikan, Saxman, and Petersburg.

I would suggest that, in the future, the Trust and Trust Land Office engage the communities to listen to opinions and possible concerns about potential actions- especially those in which controversy and public concern can be reasonably anticipated- prior to any action being taken. In this instance, that would have meant prior to the original Resource Management Committee vote on August 11, 2016. Had such a process been in place, it seems quite possible that the Committee/Board would have taken the public concerns into account at the time the Deer Mountain and Petersburg timber harvest issues were being considered for the first time. If so, the decision- and the subsequent public reaction- might well have turned out quite differently.

Bob Weinstein

**From:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [mtpoint@hotmail.com](mailto:mtpoint@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#); [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Deer Mt logging  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:52:00 PM

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Hi Kurt and Marlene:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments below. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great evening!

-----  
**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** kurt kuehl <[mtpoint@hotmail.com](mailto:mtpoint@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 15, 2016 at 3:18:49 PM HST  
**To:** "[info@mhtrust.org](mailto:info@mhtrust.org)" <[info@mhtrust.org](mailto:info@mhtrust.org)>  
**Subject:** SPAM: Deer Mt logging

Dear Alaska Mental Health Trust Board of Trustees:  
I have been a resident for almost 40 years in Ketchikan. Our town's livelihood for locals and tourists alike depends on maintaining the beauty and uniqueness of Deer Mt. As the first city, Ketchikan, and its environs, gives visitors a first impression of how we as a city and state value the natural beauty of Alaska. Deer Mt represents a tradition of beauty and recreation by locals and visitors which, with your help, can be enjoyed and shared for generations to come. Hopefully the decision you make as a trust, which may result in a land exchange, represents those values as you considered the alternatives to logging Deer Mt.

Kurt and Marlene Kuehl  
5646 S Tongass Hwy  
Ketchikan  
AK 99901

Sent from my iPad

# Written Public Comment

**(received between  
11/16/16 – 11/17/16)**

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [farina brown](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 7:02:37 AM

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Good morning Farina-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice afternoon!

Steve

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907.269-7697 (direct)

907.748.7418 (cell)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: farina brown [<mailto:farinabrown@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 8:11 PM

To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>

Subject: Public Comment

Board of Trustees,

As the former executive director of the Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web, a peer run recovery oriented drop-in center, I am extremely concerned about the refocus of the Trust. The Trust has been a longstanding supporter of The Web, both financially and politically as an advocate for peer supports. As such, I recognize and honor the importance for any organization to think proactively about sustainability and optimization, however, staying true to the organizational mission must remain a priority.

The Alaska Mental Health Trust's primary mission is to improve the lives of beneficiaries by ensuring the availability of comprehensive mental health services. With that said, staying the course while remaining open to new ventures that do not compete with nor detract from the primary mission is always welcomed. However, exploration of unconventional approaches and economic ventures must always remain conversation in the context of the benefit to the core principles and mission of the Trust. Additionally, leadership must be equally dedicated to and in synch with the organizations mission to guarantee the original course is firmly adhered to.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Kindly,

Farina Brown

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Rebecca Knight](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 5:07:23 PM

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Good evening Rebecca-

Thank you for taking the time to call-in and provide public comment and pointing out our oversight that your attachment was not included in the packet. We will address this and make sure the board has a copy of the attachment.

Again thanks and apologies. Have a nice evening!  
Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

---

**From:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 3:29 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Knight <[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)>  
**Cc:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>; Lawrence, Carley J (DOR) <[carley.lawrence@alaska.gov](mailto:carley.lawrence@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Good afternoon Rebecca-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!  
Steve

Steve Williams  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Direct (907) 269-7697  
Cell (907) 748-7418

On Nov 15, 2016, at 4:18 PM, Rebecca Knight <[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)> wrote:

Please see the attached for the upcoming, Nov. 16-17 AMHT Board of Trustees meeting.

Please include it in the packet for the meeting.

Thank you,

Rebecca Knight

<Knight\_Cmts. to AMHT Bd. Trustees\_15Nov16.pdf>

PO Box 1331  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
Nov. 15, 2016

Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Board of Trustees  
3745 Community Park Loop  
Anchorage, AK

Hello Trustees,

The Alaska Mental Health Trust is serious need of oversight, including a complete audit and independent investigation into its operations. I did not arrive at this conclusion lightly. Circumstances as outlined below, surrounding the issuance of AMHT's threat to log Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands lead to my conclusion. Further, due to the risky and controversial nature of AMHT's proposed Petersburg and Ketchikan timber sales, the Trust must immediately remove them from further consideration for the purpose of logging. The federal lands intended to be exchanged are equally problematic. [See attached photo].

I support a federal buyout of the all the lands included in the proposed exchange legislation. Trust officials have also said they are open to a federal buyout. It would result in multiple benefits by eliminating contentious Trust lands from the threat of logging while guaranteeing income to Trust beneficiaries. It would also prevent lands on Prince of Wales, Gravina and Revilla Islands from logging under the weak Alaska Forest Resources Practices Act which, for example, allows clearcuts of any size. Appraisals and surveying would be less expensive by roughly half, since roughly only half the lands would be involved in the buyout. Finally, it would remove the Trust's long cited reliance on an unreliable timber industry.

However, aside from the benefits of a federal buyout, a review of the record leads me to conclude that AMHT had no real intent to log these uplands when it issued its threat to "move forward"<sup>1</sup> with the timber sales. Moreover, this hollow threat was intended solely to create a stampede of support for controversial legislation which could only be advanced through political trickery—via a congressional rider attached to must-pass legislation.

Following, are just a few of the facts that lead to my conclusion regarding AMHT's intent to log:

First, in an alleged violation of the Open Meetings Act, on August 24, AMHT issued an ultimatum to log highly controversial and risky Petersburg and

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<sup>1</sup> Deer Mountain, Petersburg timber sales OK'd. Ketchikan Daily News. by Nick Bowman. 8/25/2016. <http://www.ketchikandailynews.com/premium/timber-sales-8-25>

Ketchikan uplands if federal land exchange legislation failed to pass Congress by mid-January.

Second, what the AMHT failed to disclose to the public when they issued their threat, is that they had already, nearly “finalized”<sup>2</sup> timber sale negotiations with the industry for purchase of timber associated with the proposed exchange. This is significant. They did not yet own the lands, but were apparently so confident their legislation would pass, that they had long beforehand entered into lengthy and likely, binding negotiations with the timber industry. It appears that what the AMHT was really after was a stampede of support to seal the deal for the legislation.

In fact, when asked during the recent Petersburg public meeting whether timber sale contracts exist for the exchange parcels, the executive director responded “Yes”. This answer was quickly recanted – twice – by AMHT’s resource manager who added, “No, you can’t sell something you don’t own.” His denial is flatly contradicted by his own email. That this contradiction occurred, followed with a denial raises serious questions.

To be clear, AMHT did not own the lands in question yet were actively expending Trust resources toward finalization of timber purchase agreements. However, for lands they did own (and continue to issue ultimatums to log), they have done absolutely nothing towards timber sale planning.<sup>3</sup> If they really intended to log Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands, then why haven’t they begun sale planning as they have done for land they do not own? I can only conclude that the threat has been a ruse all along.

AMHT’s needless threats have caused much upheaval and discord in our communities. Local citizens have been used by the AMHT as mere tools to advance federal legislation. It is shameful.

As explained in an op ed that appeared in Sitnews on Tuesday<sup>4</sup>, “Congress should be wary of letters supporting a land exchange, since they were solicited under false pretenses. Congress should simply buyout the forestlands, since the Trust has acknowledged it is a viable option. It is a classic win-win.”

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<sup>2</sup> AMHT email from Paul Slenkamp to industry, municipal and agency recipients. August 17, 2016. “We are in final negotiations with Viking Lumber for purchase of all timber on POW associated with this proposed exchange.” While the email was specific to a meeting on Prince of Wales Island and the timber purchase specific to Viking Lumber, located on POW, it follows that similar negotiations had been conducted with Alcan for Revilla Island timber.

<sup>3</sup> As cited repeatedly during recent public meetings in Petersburg Oct. 27 and Ketchikan Nov. 1

<sup>4</sup> AMHT Open to Federal Buyout - But Questions Linger. By Rebecca Knight. Sitnews. Nov. 15, 2016. [http://www.sitnews.us/1116Viewpoints/111516\\_rebecca+knight.html](http://www.sitnews.us/1116Viewpoints/111516_rebecca+knight.html)

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Knight*

Rebecca (Becky) Knight



Recent logging - nearly 4,000 acres - at Leask Lakes, Revilla Island by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Act would give AMHT an additional 8,000 acres adjacent to this for a total 12,000 acre cut.  
Photo credit Rebecca Knight

Follow up Questions:

1. Are insurers of the timber industry who will log the Petersburg and Ketchikan timber aware of the risky nature of logging on these already mapped high hazard soils above and adjacent to residential and other infrastructure? Please remember the Oso, Washington situation where the State was forced to pay \$50 MM and timber companies \$10 MM in damages for violations of logging regulations on oversteepened and unstable slopes that killed 43 people.
2. Has the Trust formally withdrawn from the administrative land exchange process?
3. Please disclose the total cost to the Trust of participation in the administrative land exchange process.

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [Rebecca Knight](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 7:00:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [BK Ltr. to AMHT Resource Cmte. 102516.pdf](#)

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Good morning Becky-

Thank you resubmitting your Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> letter to the Resource Management committee for the board's consideration. Hard and electronic copies will be provided to Trustees as well they will be posted on the Trust website.

Have a nice day!

Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)

907.748.7418 (cell)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Rebecca Knight [mailto:[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 10:31 PM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Hello Steve,

It is very troubling that both sets of my comments were excluded from the record and that my Oct. 25 comments were misplaced.

I converted my Oct. 25 comments to a PDF tonight, but they were submitted through your comment portal the evening of Oct. 25. Fortunately I saved a copy.

Please be sure that these are distributed to the Board tomorrow as well as posted online as an addendum. I will followup with the Board and will check the website to be certain.

Sincerely,

Becky Knight

On Nov 16, 2016, at 5:47 PM, Williams, Stephen F (DOR)  
<[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)> wrote:

Hi Becky-

I'm sorry to bother you with this, but can you please re-email me the comments you submitted on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Much appreciated, sorry for the inconvenience.

Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** Rebecca Knight [<mailto:bknight15@icloud.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 5:20 PM  
**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Thank you Steve,

As I requested, please do not forget my previous comments from Oct. 25 ~ 9:00 PM as well as those from yesterday.

I submitted the Oct. 25 comments through your comment portal and heard someone ask the Board during the Oct. 26 meeting whether they had seen the comments that were received that morning. I assume the comments that were referred to were mine.

Both overlooked comments should be submitted as an addendum on your website, since the public likely downloaded the comments and would naturally think they already had them. Posting as an addendum would overcome this issue.

Sincerely,

Becky Knight  
Petersburg

On Nov 16, 2016, at 5:07 PM, Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)> wrote:

Good evening Rebecca-  
Thank you for taking the time to call-in and provide public comment and pointing out our oversight that your attachment was not included in the packet. We will address this and make sure the board has a copy of the attachment.

Again thanks and apologies. Have a nice evening!  
Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)  
907.748.7418 (cell)  
[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

---

**From:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 3:29 PM

**To:** Rebecca Knight <[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)>  
**Cc:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>; Lawrence, Carley J (DOR) <[carley.lawrence@alaska.gov](mailto:carley.lawrence@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cmts. for AMHT Nov. 16-17 Board of Trustees mtg.

Good afternoon Rebecca-  
Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice day!  
Steve

Steve Williams  
Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Direct (907) 269-7697  
Cell (907) 748-7418

On Nov 15, 2016, at 4:18 PM, Rebecca Knight  
<[bknight15@icloud.com](mailto:bknight15@icloud.com)> wrote:

Please see the attached for the upcoming, Nov. 16-17  
AMHT Board of Trustees meeting.

Please include it in the packet for the meeting.

Thank you,

Rebecca Knight

<Knight\_Cmts. to AMHT Bd. Trustees\_15Nov16.pdf>

Submitted 10/25/16

Hello Resource Management Committee,

Please consider the following comments during your deliberations tomorrow, 10/26/16.

A legislatively directed and financed federal buyout of all the AMHT exchange lands continues to be a fantastic way to settle the debacle AMHT has found itself in—specifically the overwhelming public opposition to logging Petersburg and Ketchikan uplands. I have also read serious concerns from Meyers Chuck, Hollis, and Nakuti, etc. residents about AMHT logging around their communities. Clearly, our Southeast Alaska neighbors have a similar stake in the potential consequences.

The administrative side of the solution (necessary mapping, valuation etc.) would simply compliment the prevailing legislative process from where the funds would be endowed. From what I read in Ketchikan media, the AMHT has indicated that they are amenable to a buyout.

A buyout would be the simplest option. Additionally, this congressional approach would be not just be a win-win, but a win all the way around. By that I mean that it would solve AMHT's problem and the problems for the communities, while avoiding unconscionable destruction of old-growth forest that otherwise would occur in the administrative trade.

With the endowment approach, only half the surveys and appraisals would be involved since only the AMHT lands would be included—not Forest Service land. It makes fiscal sense because it would cost the Trust roughly only half the estimated \$6 million cited by Trust Board Chair Russ Webb in his KDN op-ed. No NEPA costs would be incurred by the Trust.

The Petersburg Borough Assembly unanimously supported a federal buyout as a "Plan B" if the legislation fails to pass through Congress. With your support, Senator Murkowski could muster the will to pursue the buy out option.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Knight  
Petersburg

## Trust testimony

11/16/16

My name is Bill Herman, a former 20-year employee at the Trust. Since I'm retired, I guess I can speak freely now. I'm currently fearful of the Trust's future. So, mindful of my quick three minutes, here goes:

- 1) Number one: By statute the Trust Authority must use resources to improve the lives of beneficiaries in perpetuity and within state law. Land development is only a tool. Now it seems the primary goal is producing money without real direction. Trustees have migrated to an organizational structure that is a two-headed dragon with poor goals, unclear leadership, unclear accountability, and frequent conflict. This inappropriately pulls Trustees into day-to-day decision-making, causing further conflict.
- 2) Number 2: Abrupt decisions, accusations of closed meetings, a quick CEO resignation, an interim CEO who knows very little about beneficiaries, frequent 4-3 votes, etc. --all seem to further confirm my suspicions that some Trustees have lost their way as described in #1. This narrow 4-3 majority may also put the Trust in violation of Alaska Statutes and regulations.
- 3) Number 3: The Board of Trustees seems out of balance with way too many land managers and developers, and insufficient programmatic expertise and interest. We need some new Trustees.
- 4) Number 4: I fear that Harry Noah's and Bruce Botelho's concerns, about Trustees inappropriately withholding Trust funds from the Permanent Fund, are well founded.
- 5) Number 5: I also fear that if the Governor and the Legislature get heavily involved, with audits and studies reviewing the Trust and its future, the whole settlement could come unraveled. They could create new statutes to increase their control of the Trust and its assets, to the huge detriment of beneficiaries.
- 6) **I have some recommendations:**
  - a) Slow down, there is no crisis, unless you create one. The framework is over 20 years old.
  - b) Be brave. Listen to each other, work toward consensus votes, in open meetings.
  - c) Keep your existing CEO, who has decades of success. Ask him and his staff about what is best for Trust beneficiaries. I know they all keep this in mind every day. I'm unsure about Trustees however.
  - d) Put the Trust Land Office back under the Trust Authority. One head of the dragon.
  - e) Seek and respect advice from the Boards and Commissions Office, the Permanent Fund.
  - f) Be open to input. How about a dialogue with the 4 Boards and other groups? Ask them about recent Trustee actions, about the future, what's best for beneficiaries.
  - g) Finally, get some Board training: on the appropriate level of involvement of Trustees in day-to-day staff work, on managing open meetings, and on good board decision-making.

Thank you.

**From:** [Williams, Stephen F. \(DOR\)](#)  
**To:** [michael mooradian](#)  
**Cc:** [Smith, Miri K \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 2:31:31 PM

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Good afternoon Michael-

Thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts in writing and submitting your public comment. Your email below is being forwarded to the board of trustees.

Have a nice afternoon!

Steve

-----  
907.269-7697 (direct)

907.748.7418 (cell)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

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**From:** michael mooradian [mailto:moravius1@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 2:28 PM

**To:** Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <steve.williams@alaska.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment

Dear Steve,

My question for the mental health Trust is this,

Is there going to be a temporary reduction in available funds (grants etc.) while the trust reorganizes it's funding source to include land management revenue? If yes how long is it estimated it will take to see revenue from the land management source?

Thank you,

Michael Mooradian, CDCII

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** "Ed Wood"; [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AMHTA BOARD MEETING - 16 NOVEMBER 2016 - PUBLIC COMMENT - Suzanne Wood, Petersburg, AK  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 2:26:00 PM

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Hi Suzanne:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your attached comments in writing. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

-----  
Miri K. Smith-Coolidge  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Phone: 907.334.2533  
Cell: 907.632.1836  
Fax: 907.269.7966  
Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

[www.mhtrust.org](http://www.mhtrust.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Wood [<mailto:fvtalon@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 2:10 PM  
To: Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
Cc: Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>  
Subject: AMHTA BOARD MEETING - 16 NOVEMBER 2016 - PUBLIC COMMENT - Suzanne Wood, Petersburg, AK

Dear Mr. Williams,

Attached please find my public comments presented yesterday during the AMHTA Board teleconference. Would appreciate the appropriate distribution of my public comments be made available to AMHTA trustees for their consideration for discussion-making purposes going forward.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Wood  
P.O. Box 383  
Petersburg, AK 99833-0383  
907-772-3480

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Suzanne Wood - Public Comments  
16 November 2016**

My name is Suzanne Wood. I am a co-founder of the Mitkof Highway Homeowners Association in Petersburg, located in southeast Alaska.

With respect to the Trust's P-1 Timber Sale - MHT 9100855 - Item I - Petersburg, we offer the following public comments.

For 11 years, our group of 95 homeowners has actively supported the Trust Land Office not logging or selling their steep and unstable hillside parcels in Petersburg, and instead progress a land exchange with the US Forest Service.

There have now been nine natural landslides above our homes, Mitkof Highway, and the Tyee hydroelectric utility corridor, closing the highway to through traffic, damaging residential property and infrastructure, and disrupting residential utility service.

The reason our group opposes logging behind our homes is because the slopes are already unstable, and there is no question that logging would further destabilize them, causing potentially catastrophic results.

You may be familiar with the recent \$50 million out-of-court settlement in Washington State following the 2014 Oso landslide that killed 43 people. There was an additional \$10 million payout from the logging company, this being the

result of disruptive activity. Trust logging followed by such a tragedy here in Petersburg would clearly put the Trust corpus at risk from litigation.

At no time since the Mitkof Highway Homeowners Association was formed in January 2006, has it been our intent to enter into litigation against Trust logging their demonstrably unstable slopes above our homes from 3-Mile to 7-Mile along Mitkof Highway. Our primary efforts in resolving the public safety concerns brought to our community by potential Trust logging, have involved substantial efforts by our group, as well as the TLO.

However, any Trust actions taken to begin logging after the Trust's arbitrary deadline of January 15th, 2017, should Senate Bill 3006 fail, can be considered nothing less than a danger to our community, and unfortunately, will leave the MHHA no other choice than to enter into litigation in defense of life and property.

It is imperative that the Trust proceed with its land exchange efforts, even if Senate Bill 3006 fails to pass by January 15, 2017. The Trump administration along with a GOP majority in congress should be able to resolve any community land use issues especially with Senator Murkowski chairing the senate energy and natural resources committee.

We request the Trust Board vote today to, at the very least, extend the arbitrary deadline out another six months to a year so that we can all work together in furtherance of a resolution that alleviates all of our concerns.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

**From:** Smith, Miri K (DOR)  
**To:** ["psgfire@hotmail.com"](mailto:psgfire@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Williams, Stephen F \(DOR\)](#); [Lawrence, Carley J \(DOR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Comment  
**Date:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:57:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Mental Health logging.docx](#)

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Hi Jerod:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your attached comments in writing. We will make sure the full Board of Trustees receives them.

Have a great day!

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**Miri K. Smith-Coolidge**  
**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**  
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Email: [miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)

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**From:** Menefee, Wyn (DNR)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:39 AM  
**To:** Smith, Miri K (DOR) <[miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov](mailto:miri.smith-coolidge@alaska.gov)>; Williams, Stephen F (DOR) <[steve.williams@alaska.gov](mailto:steve.williams@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Comment

This came it today for the Trust..

**Wyn Menefee**  
Deputy Director  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office  
2600 Cordova Street, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 269-8753 (Direct)  
(907) 269-8905 (Fax)  
[wyn.menefee@alaska.gov](mailto:wyn.menefee@alaska.gov)  
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**From:** Jerod Cook [<mailto:psgfire@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:21 AM  
**To:** Menefee, Wyn (DNR) <[wyn.menefee@alaska.gov](mailto:wyn.menefee@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment

Just my comments on the subject. Hope it helps.

Jerod Cook

To: Mental Health Trust

From: Jerod Cook (Owner Operator of Falls Creek Forest Products)

Subject: Timber harvest on Mitkof Is on Mental Health Trust land.

Dear Sir/Ma'am

I would like to comment on the issue of logging the Mental Health Trust land on Mitkof Island. I have looked this area over a bit and finally decided to give my opinion. While a large number of people have stepped forward opposed to logging of any kind in this area, because of the threat of landslides and the possibility of logging increasing the possibility of landslides there are only two families that I would consider to actually live in the danger area. The rest are simply against logging. Your land stretches over about eleven miles. About one mile of this could be considered dangerous slide area that could possibly affect some homes. The other ten miles well have very little possibility of reaching or harming any homes if it did slide.

I am fundamentally opposed to the land exchange because it takes possible land that could be purchased out of reach and puts it in the hands of the Forest Service who is not going to sell anything. Having said that, I am not opposing the land exchange because you have put so much time and energy into it already, and I would hate to see that be for nothing.

If the exchange does not happen I would recommend that the whole area that has been put into the exchange be broke up into chunks with different names and advertised separately for logging or sale. I would tell the parties that are worried about slides that you as the owner are worried about litigation if you don't log it as the hillside will no longer hold the weight of all those trees and it is only a matter of time before they come down the hill. Leave the option open to sell the hillside above these home owners to buy so they don't have to worry about it being logged. If they choose to litigate as they are threatening to do then see if you can make them litigate each separate named parcel as they get advertised. This may allow you to put some areas up for timber harvest without litigation where they will fight you on others.

If the exchange does not happen I well be writing you again in late January to try to get a timber sale harvesting regrowth near my mill. This would be a good sale to push forward because it does not have any slide potential, it does not involve old growth and it might get them used to the idea that logging is going to happen on some level.

Just some thoughts. There is a lot of good wood on that hill side and I hope you will not let the loud voices of a few people who simply don't like logging keep you from fulfilling your requirement to make money off your land.

Jerod Cook