

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING MSB 17.59 LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TO UPDATE DEFINITIONS RELATED TO MOTORIZED AND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT.

AGENDA OF: October 21, 2025

ASSEMBLY ACTION: Adopted with Assemblymembers Sumner and Fonov opposed 02/03/26 BJH

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Refer to Planning Commission for 90 days.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	10/9/2025 X Alex Strawn Signed by: Alex
Department Director	10/9/2025 X Alex Strawn Signed by: Alex
Finance Director	X Cheyenne Heindel Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel
Borough Attorney	10/9/2025 X Nicholas Spiropoulos Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos
Borough Manager	10/9/2025 X Michael Brown Signed by: Mike Brown
Borough Clerk	10/13/2025 X Brenda J. Henry for Signed by: Brenda Henry

ATTACHMENT (S): Ordinance Serial No. 25-123 (3pp)
MSB 17.59 (12pp)
Planning Commission Resolution No. 25-24(3pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: This ordinance is at the request of Manager Brown.

This ordinance is necessitated by a 2022 decision of the Board of Adjustment and Appeals (BOAA), which created regulatory confusion and ambiguity by excluding watercraft such as jet skis, wave runners, and similar acrobatic or stunt equipment from the interpretation of "motorized watercraft" under MSB 17.59, Lake Management Plan Implementation.

The proposed ordinance creates a definition of "motorized

watercraft" and revises the definition of "personal watercraft." These changes are intended to eliminate ambiguity in interpretation. The definition of "motorized watercraft" clearly encompasses all forms of propulsion other than human muscular power, gravity, or wind, including electric motors, fuel-powered engines, hybrid systems, and jet propulsion units. The definition of "personal watercraft" is revised to explicitly state that watercraft such as jet skis and wave runners are included within the broader category of motorized watercraft. Together, these changes ensure consistency in application and provide clarity for staff and the public at large, while maintaining the intent of the original ordinance.

This ordinance also makes clerical updates to improve clarity and consistency within MSB 17.59.005. Specifically, the definitions section has been reformatted from numbered entries to a bulleted style. This change is clerical in nature, intended to improve readability and to align the section with other definition sections of the MSB code.

The proposed ordinance is consistent with the MSB comprehensive plan.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan

Goal E-3: Create an attractive environment for business investment.

Policy E3-2: Institute appropriate land use guidelines and regulations that reduce land use conflicts and protect residents and businesses.

Goal I-1: Encourage flexibility in the implementation of the Borough's comprehensive plans.

Policy I1-1: Provide a variety of methods, including land-use regulations, subdivision standards and capital improvement plans, to implement the comprehensive plan.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Refer to Planning Commission and then introduce and set for public hearing.

CHAPTER 17.59: LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Section

17.59.005 Definitions

17.59.010 Intent

17.59.020 Applicability

17.59.060 Limitation of uses

17.59.070 Violations, enforcement, and penalties

17.59.005 DEFINITIONS.

(A) For the purpose of this chapter the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

- (1) "Ice house" means a structure utilized for ice fishing and left on the frozen surface of a lake for a period of more than 24 hours.
- (2) "Motor vehicle" means an automotive vehicle with rubber tires for use on highways.
- (3) "Motorized watercraft use" means the operation of watercraft powered or propelled by a force other than human muscular power, gravity, or wind. This definition does not include airplanes as motorized watercraft when landing, taking off, or taxiing on a water body.
- (4) "No wake" means the slowest possible speed a boat or personal watercraft can go and still provide maneuverability.
- (5) "Personal watercraft" means vehicles known as jet skis, wave runners, and similar acrobatic or stunt equipment.
- (6) "Special permit" means a permit approved by the planning director for a special purpose and limited to a specific time to conduct an event that otherwise would involve activities in violation of one or more provisions of this chapter.
- (7) "Time share" means restrictions do not apply on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and all three-day weekends mandated by federal holiday (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and

Labor Day).

(8) "Wake" means the track in the water left after the passage of a watercraft or other vehicle.

(Ord. 06-107, § 4, 2006; Ord. 99-052(AM), § 2 (part), 1999)

17.59.010 INTENT.

This chapter is a measure to implement and to further the goals and objectives of the lake management plans adopted by the borough as part of the borough's comprehensive plan referenced in MSB 15.24.030(C).

(Ord. 99-052(AM), § 2 (part), 1999)

17.59.020 APPLICABILITY.

This chapter shall apply only to lakes, waterways, water bodies and watercourses specified herein.

(Ord. 99-052(AM), § 2 (part), 1999)

17.59.060 LIMITATION OF USES.

(A) The limitations noted herein shall apply only to lakes specified.

(B) *Quiet hours.* Motorized uses producing continuous or repetitive noise are regulated for the hours and lakes specified below. Examples of regulated uses include high-speed joyriding, practicing aircraft "touch and goes," engine testing, and racing. This restriction does not prohibit the operation of aircraft, boats, or other vehicles traveling directly to their destination.

(1) The hours of 11 p.m. to 8 a.m., Sunday through Saturday, are designated as quiet hours for the following lakes:

- (a) Big Lake.
- (b) West Papoose Lake.
- (c) Whiskey Lake.

- (d) Morvro Lake.
- (2) The hours of 10 p.m. to 8 a.m., Sunday through Saturday, are designated as quiet hours for the following lakes:
- (a) Crystal Lake.
 - (b) John Lake.
 - (c) Lake Five.
 - (d) Little Question Lake.
 - (e) Memory Lake.
 - (f) Question Lake.
 - (g) Rainbow Lake.
 - (h) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 30, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.
 - (i) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 31, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.
 - (j) Walby Lake.
 - (k) Diamond Lake.
 - (l) Christiansen Lake.
 - (m) Neklasen and Lower Neklasen Lakes.
 - (n) Marion Lake.
 - (o) Long Lake (Houston).
 - (p) Three Mile Lake.
 - (q) Wolverine Lake.
 - (r) Little Lonely Lake.
 - (s) Jean Lake.

- (t) Liten Lake.
- (u) Shirley Lake.
- (v) Florence Lake.
- (w) Carpenter Lake.
- (x) Stevens Lake.
- (y) Sunbeam and Suncrest Lakes.
- (z) Little Beaver Lake.
- (aa) Caswell Lake.
- (bb) Beverly Lake.

(3) The hours of 7 p.m. to 9 a.m., Sunday through Saturday, are designated as quiet hours for the following lakes:

- (a) Honeybee Lake.
- (b) Lake of the Woods.

(4) The hours of 10 p.m. to 8 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 11 p.m. to 8 a.m., Friday and Saturday, are designated as quiet hours for the following lakes:

- (a) Blodgett Lake.
- (b) Knik Lake.
- (c) Twin Island Lake.

(5) The hours of 9 p.m. to 9 a.m., Sunday through Saturday, are designated as quiet hours for the following lakes:

- (a) Paradise Lake.
- (b) Jacobsen Lake.

(C) *No-wake zone.* No-wake zones along shorelines are established as noted below. The no-wake zone shall extend from the shoreline of the lake, the designated horizontal distance into the water as noted below:

- (1) 150 feet from the shoreline.
 - (a) Big Lake.
 - (b) Whiskey Lake.
- (2) 100 feet from the shoreline.
 - (a) West Papoose Lake.
 - (b) Diamond Lake.
 - (c) Marion Lake.
 - (d) Long Lake (Houston).
 - (e) Shirley Lake.
 - (f) Florence Lake.
 - (g) Carpenter Lake.
 - (h) Stevens Lake.
 - (i) Morvro Lake.
 - (j) Jacobsen Lake.
 - (k) Suncrest Lake.
 - (l) Caswell Lake.
- (3) 50 feet from the shoreline at the public boat dock.
 - (a) Crooked Lake.
- (4) 100 feet from the shoreline except when a waterskier is leaving dock or shore.
 - (a) Neklasen Lake.
 - (b) Beverly Lake.
- (5) No wake speed zone on lake.
 - (a) Little Lonely Lake.

(b) Liten Lake.

(D) *Motorized watercraft use.* Motorized watercraft uses are restricted as noted on the following lakes and waterways.

(1) Motorized watercraft uses are prohibited on:

(a) Lake Five.

(b) Little Question Lake.

(c) Meadow Creek.

(d) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 30, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.

(e) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 31, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.

(f) Lower Neklasen Lake.

(g) portions of the inlet creek and outlet creek on Whiskey Lake.

(h) Liten Lake.

(i) Oriana Lake.

(j) Little Beaver Lake.

(2) Personal watercraft are prohibited on:

(a) Blodgett Lake.

(b) Bonnie Lake.

(c) Doubloon Lake.

(d) Island Lake.

(e) Ravine Lake.

(f) Upper Bonnie Lake.

(g) West Papoose Lake.

- (h) Diamond Lake.
 - (i) Christiansen Lake.
 - (j) Marion Lake.
 - (k) Long Lake (Houston).
 - (l) Three Mile Lake.
 - (m) Wolverine Lake.
 - (n) Whiskey Lake.
 - (o) Little Lonely Lake.
 - (p) Jean Lake.
 - (q) Liten Lake.
 - (r) Shirley Lake.
 - (s) Florence Lake.
 - (t) Carpenter Lake.
 - (u) Stevens Lake.
 - (v) Paradise Lake.
 - (w) Jacobsen Lake.
 - (x) Sunbeam and Suncrest Lakes.
 - (y) Lake of the Woods.
 - (z) Caswell Lake.
- (3) Motorized watercraft uses are restricted to electric motors only on:
- (a) Honeybee Lake.
 - (b) Upper Bonnie Lake.
 - (c) Toad Lake.

(d) Wolverine Lake.

(e) Jean Lake.

(f) Paradise Lake.

(g) Sunbeam Lake.

(h) Lake of the Woods.

(4) Motorized watercraft uses are restricted to a maximum of five horsepower motor limit on:

(a) Fish Lake.

(b) Knik Lake.

(c) Marilee Lake.

(d) Question Lake.

(5) Motorized watercraft uses are restricted to a maximum of six horsepower motor limit on:

(a) Wolf Lake.

(6) Motorized watercraft uses are restricted to a maximum of 10 horsepower motor limit on:

(a) Blodgett Lake.

(b) John Lake.

(c) Memory Lake.

(d) Rainbow Lake.

(e) Ravine Lake.

(f) Twin Island Lake.

(g) Walby Lake.

(h) Diamond Lake.

(i) Long Lake (Houston).

(j) Three Mile Lake.

(k) Little Lonely Lake.

(l) Florence Lake.

(m) Jacobsen Lake.

(n) Suncrest Lake.

(7) Motorized watercraft uses are restricted to a maximum of 15 horsepower motor limit on:

(a) Christiansen Lake.

(8) A lake wide no wake zone, except for Thursdays, Fridays, the first and third Saturdays of the month, the second and fourth Sundays of the month, national holidays and three-day weekends resulting from national holidays:

(a) Neklasen Lake.

(9) Motorized watercraft used are restricted to a lake wide no wake speed zone except on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and all three-day weekends mandated by federal holiday (Memorial day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day):

(a) Marion Lake.

(10) Motorized amphibious vehicles, which are a type of motorized watercraft, are prohibited on the following lakes:

(a) Three Mile Lake.

(11) Motorized watercraft uses are restricted to a maximum of 10 horsepower motor limit, on a time share basis, on:

(a) Carpenter Lake.

(b) Stevens Lake.

(12) Motorized watercraft uses are restricted to a maximum of 25 horsepower motor limit on:

(a) Morvro Lake.

(13) Motorized watercraft uses over 15 horsepower, excluding electric motors, are prohibited except for Sunday through Tuesday and all three-day federal holidays on:

(a) Beverly Lake.

(14) Personal motorized watercraft uses are prohibited except for Sunday through Tuesday and all three-day federal holidays on:

(a) Beverly Lake.

(E) *Special Permit.* A special permit may be issued by the planning director waiving boat motor limits for the transport of building materials on the following lakes and waterways:

(1) Lake Five.

(2) Little Question Lake.

(3) Question Lake.

(4) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 30, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.

(5) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 31, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.

(6) Christiansen Lake.

(F) *Winter motor vehicle control.* Motor vehicles are prohibited from the surface of the following lakes when ice covered.

(1) Lake Five.

(2) Little Question Lake.

(3) Question Lake.

(4) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 30, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.

(5) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 31, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road.

(6) Walby Lake.

(7) Wolf Lake.

(8) Carpenter Lake.

(G) *Ice houses.*

(1) *Registration.* Prior to locating an ice house on the frozen water of the lakes designated below, the ice house must be registered with the borough; pertinent registration information must be prominently displayed on the exterior of the ice house structure:

(a) Big Lake;

(b) Lake Five;

(c) Little Question Lake;

(d) Question Lake;

(e) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 30, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road;

(f) Unnamed lake located within T25N, R4W, Section 31, S.M., AK between Question Lake and the Talkeetna Spur Road;

(g) Diamond Lake;

(h) Little Lonely Lake.

(2) *Separations.*

(a) Registered ice houses shall not be located closer than 75 feet from the high water mark of the lake;

(b) Registered ice houses shall not be located closer than 30 feet in any direction from another ice house.

(3) *Sanitation.* During any time period a registered ice house is being used and public toilets are not available, the ice house shall be equipped with a portable toilet or other device to capture human waste. Human waste shall be removed from the ice house and deposited in a private or public sewage system or composting toilet.

(4) *Removal of ice house.* The owner of the registered ice house shall remove the ice house, together with its contents and debris, before the ice loses its ability to support equipment to move the ice house out of water. (Ord. 23-065, § 2, 2023; Ord. 22-078, §§ 4—7, 2022; Ord. 14-082, §§ 4—6, 2014; Ord. 13-102, § 2, 2013; Ord. 10-039, §§ 4, 5, 6,

2010; Ord. 08-073, §§ 4, 5, 2008; Ord. 08-042, §§ 4—8, 2008; Ord. 08-019, §§ 4—7, 2008; Ord. 08-006, §§ 4, 5, 6, 2008; Ord. 07-035, §§ 4, 5, 6, 2007; Ord. 07-024(AM), §§ 4—8, 2007; Ord. 06-107, §§ 5—9, 2006; Ord. 06-079, §§ 4—7, 2006; Ord. 06-074(AM), §§ 4, 5, 6, 2006; Ord. 06-019, §§ 4, 5, 6, 2006; Ord. 06-018, §§ 4—7, 2006; Ord. 05-063, §§ 4—8, 2005; Ord. 04-146, §§ 2—5, 2004; Ord. 04-140, §§ 2, 3, 4, 2004; Ord. 02-209, § 2, 2002; Ord. 02-201, § 2, 2002; Ord. 01-191, §§ 2—5, 2001; Ord. 00-177(AM), §§ 2—5, 2000; Ord. 00-006(AM), §§ 2—5, 2000; Ord. 99-149, §§ 2—6, 1999; Ord. 99-067, §§ 2—6, 1999; Ord. 99-052(AM), § 2 (part), 1999)

17.59.070 VIOLATIONS, ENFORCEMENT, AND PENALTIES.

- (A) Except as otherwise specified in this chapter violations of this chapter are infractions.
- (B) Remedies, enforcement actions, and penalties shall be consistent with the terms and provisions of MSB 1.45.

(Ord. 99-052(AM), § 2 (part), 1999)

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By: A. Strawn
Introduced:
Public Hearing:
Action: *Approved*

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 25-24**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THE ASSEMBLY FAIL ORDINANCE 25-123 AND CONSIDER INCORPORATING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEFINITIONS WITHIN 17.59 INTO ORDINANCE 25-128.

WHEREAS, Assembly Ordinance 25-123 includes both clerical and substantive updates to improve clarity and consistency within MSB 17.59.005; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance creates a definition of "motorized watercraft" and revises the definition of "personal watercraft"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance is intended to eliminate ambiguity in interpretation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance ensures consistency in application and provides clarity for staff and the public at large, while maintaining the intent of the original ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the proposed standards support the goals and objectives of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan;

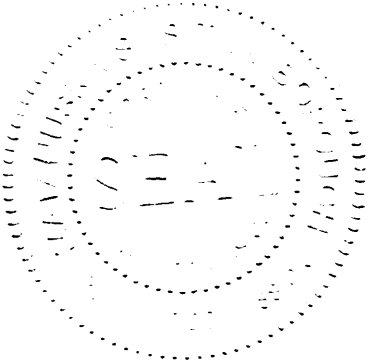
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WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-128 is a comprehensive overhaul of the lake management plan process and was referred to the Planning Commission on November 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Planning Commission to consider MSB 17.59 holistically instead of looking narrowly at definitions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends the Assembly fail Ordinance 25-123 and consider incorporating the definition changes within Ordinance 25-128.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission on this 1st day of December, 2025.



ATTEST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Allen", written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD ALLEN, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lacie Olivieri", written over a horizontal line.

LACIE OLIVIERI, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: Collins, Zagorodniy, Carpenter, Allen, Scoggin, McCabe, Glenn

NO: none