

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

DEC 18 2025



Chairman – LaMarr Anderson (01)	Tony West (03)	Dylan Blankenship (06)	Kenneth Hoffman (10)
Vice Chair - Misty O'Connor (09)	Alexandria Hoffman (04)	Adam Jenski (07)	Thomas Bergey (11)
VACANT (02)	Jozef Slowik (05)	Craig Hanson 08)	Abby Raisanen(12)

### **MINUTES**

# REGULAR MEETING DSJ BUILDING LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

November 19, 2025 4:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Members present and establishing a quorum were: LaMarr Anderson, Misty O'Connor (via teleconference), Tony West, Alexandria Hoffman, Jozef Slowik, Dylan Blankenship (arrived 5:22 p.m.), Adam Jenski, Craig Hanson, Kenneth Hoffman, and Abby Raisanen.

Members absent: Thomas Bergey

Staff present: Suzanne Reilly/Asset Manager and Margie Cobb/Department

Administrative Specialist

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Agenda approved as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 15, 2025 Minutes were approved as presented.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Limit 3 minutes)

Mr. Stahl: Expressed support for Board and desire to serve on Board if there is a

vacancy.

Mr. Wells: Thanked the Board for serving.

### V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- A. Staff Report: Suzanne Reilly
  - 1. Mr. Slowik has been approved by the Assembly for an additional term. Currently Seat 2 is vacant, and two current Board members can still reapply for their seats.
  - 2. Ms. Reilly shared there are currently no ag land matters in process.
- B. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule
   The 2026 Board Meeting Schedule was presented.
- C. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2026 Board Meetings

Mr. West nominated Mr. Anderson for Chairman; Ms. Hoffman seconded. No other members were nominated. All in favor.



Mr. West nominated Ms. O'Connor for Vice Chairman. Ms. O'Connor shared a reason she might not be able to serve. Board agreed to table this nomination for the December meeting while staff talk to Clerks regarding Ms. O'Connor's situation.

### D. Goals for Upcoming Year

- Complete Legislation
- Identify Borough land that may be available for lease for either small farmers or grazing lands for farmers.
- Education sessions on agriculture; build knowledge base to help current farmers know what is allowed for, exemptions they qualify for, etc., and new farmers understand farming in Alaska.
- Request to Assembly to expand Board oversight of Agriculture in the Borough.

### E. Discuss Formation of Committee

- Multiple informal meetings each month in order to research, build template for legislation and CCRs for Board review and input at monthly meetings.
   Can have input for research from outside individuals, but they cannot make decision.
- Meetings must be advertised; must know about meetings at least five business days prior to meet advertisement deadlines.
- Maximum 4 members. Members nominated: Mr. Slowik, Mr. West, Ms. O'Connor; everyone accepted nomination. Ms. O'Connor's participation will be pending an answer on her situation from the Clerks. All in favor.

### VI. MEMBER COMMENTS (Limit to 3 minutes)

Mr. Anderson thanked everyone for attending. Other Board members expressed stated that there was good discussion.

VII. NEXT MEETING: December 17, 2025

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

LaMarr Anderson, Chairman

DATE

ATTEST:

Margie Cobb

Department Administrative Specialist

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Care and Regulation Board was called to order at 10 a.m. by Acting Chairperson Daniel Bowen.

### II. ROLL CALL

Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Sally Pollen

Terry Dennison

Daniel Bowen

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Acting Chairperson Bowen queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- A. AC&R Case No. 25-05, Appeal the Level 4 Classification of Jewels, Matthew Ostrander, Appellant
- 1. Opening Presentation by Borough Staff (15 minutes collectively the Board and the owner/appellant shall have the opportunity to question all Borough staff that make a presentation or otherwise offer testimony to the board)
- a. Raegan Visker, Legal Intern

[Clerk's note: the opening presentation time was shared.]

Raegan Visker, Legal Intern, provided an opening statement.

Matt Hardwig, Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer, provided his opening statement.

- 2. Opening Presentation by Animal Owner (15 minutes collectively the Board and the Borough shall have the opportunity to question the owner(s)/appellant(s) who make a presentation or otherwise offer testimony to the board)
- a. Matthew Ostrander, Appellant

Matthew Ostrander provided an opening statement.

- 3. Victim Statements (15 minutes the Board, the Borough, and the owner/appellant shall have the opportunity to question the victim or victim owner)
- a. William Recknagle (Board will call Mr. Recknagle to testify telephonically)

William Recknagle provided telephonic testimony.

Raegan Visker asked questions of William Recknagle.

Matthew Ostrander asked questions of William Recknagle.

- 4. Witness Statements (5 minutes the Board, Borough staff, and the owner/appellant shall have the opportunity to question witnesses)
- a. Angela Costa, Animal Care and Regulation Officer

Raegan Visker asked questions of Angela Costa.

Matthew Ostrander asked questions of Angela Costa.

- b. Any Witness Designated on Mr. Ostrander's list
- c. Any Witness Mentioned in the record on Appeal
- d. Any Witness Needed to Impeach the Testimony of Another Witness
- e. Any Witness Necessary to Lay the Foundation for the Admission into Evidence of any Exhibit or Document Contained in Mr. Ostrander's Exhibits
- f. Any Rebuttal Witness as May Become Apparent at the Time of the Hearing.

[Clerk's note: no witnesses were called to testify under items b. through f.]

Matthew Ostrander moved the board to submit late filed evidence, specifically, a recording from a witness that could not be present for the hearing.

Raegan Visker objected.

Chairperson Bowen requested a motion to enter into adjudicatory session to discuss the Appellant's motion.

MOTION: Terry Dennison moved to enter into adjudicatory session.

VOTE: There was no objection noted and the Board moved into adjudicatory session at 10:34 p.m.

MOTION: Terry Dennison moved to exit adjudicatory session.

VOTE: There was no objection noted and the Board exited adjudicatory session at 10:37 p.m.

Chairperson Bowen queried if the Board wanted to allow a witness for Mr. Ostrander to testify.

VOTE: The motion failed unanimously.

Chairperson Bowen queried if there was any objection to the Board calling Mr. Ostrander's witness.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. Henry requested the name and phone number of Mr. Ostrander's witness.

Matthew Ostrander stated that his witness's name is James Hartsfield and provided his number.

Ms. Henry dialed James Hartsfield and ensured he could hear the proceedings.

James Hartsfield provided his witness statement.

Matthew Ostrander asked questions of Mr. Hartsfield.

Raegan Visker asked questions of Mr. Hartsfield.

- 5. Closing Remarks by Animal Owner (10 minutes collectively)
- a. Matthew Ostrander, Appellant

Matthew Ostrander provided closing remarks.

- 6. Closing Remarks by Borough (10 minutes)
- a. Raegan Visker, Legal Intern

Raegan Visker provided closing remarks.

### IV. ADJUDICATORY SESSION

MOTION: Terry Dennison moved to enter into adjudicatory session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Board entered into adjudicatory session at 10:51 a.m.

MOTION: Terry Dennison moved to exit adjudicatory session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Board entered into adjudicatory session at 11:31 a.m.

Acting Chairperson Bowen requested that Ms. Henry read the draft final decision into the record.

Ms. Henry read the draft final decision into the record.

MOTION: Terry Dennison moved to approve the final decision as read into the record by the Clerk.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Acting Chairperson Bowen queried if the Board would like to take a brief recess or continue with the regular meeting.

The Board opted to continue with the regular meeting.

Ms. Henry advised the Board that Becky Bond-Knuth, a newly appointed member of the Board, was in the audience, had completed her oath of office, and invited her to the dais to participate in the regular board meeting.

#### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

(Immediately following appeal hearing. The Board may recess briefly before conducting the regular meeting)

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- A. April 25, 2025

Chairperson Bowen queried if there were any changes to the minutes.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

Chairperson Bowen queried if there were any changes to the minutes as presented.

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3 minutes each)

There was no one present who wished to testify.

- III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS
- A. Report from Animal Care and Regulation Staff

Matt Hardwig, Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer, reported on the activities of the shelter.

B. Discussion regarding possible request for removal of member confirmed on February 18, 2025, pursuant to MSB 4.05.030(2)

Ms. Henry noted that the Board had Destiny O'Daniel confirmed in February of this year and that Ms. O'Daniel had failed to execute her oath of office and had not responded to any email, texts or phone calls that were sent to her. Advised that the last time a request like this was made, it was for a member who had been participating on the Board but had acted inappropriately. Noted that code provides for the Board to request removal of Ms. O'Daniel for failing to assume the duties of the office.

Chairperson Bowen queried if the Board had any objection to requesting the Mayor to remove Ms. O'Daniel.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. Henry advised that she would email Madam Mayor with the request.

### V. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments provided.

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ANIMAL CARE AND REGULATION BOARD

DANIEL BOWEN, Chairperson

ATTEST:

BRENDA J. HENRY, N

Assistant Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved:

### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### ANIMAL CARE AND REGULATION BOARD

IN RE:	)
Appeal the Level Two Classification Of Cayenne	) ) ) AC&R 25-08
Appeal the Level Four Classification Of Sangria	) ) AC&R 25-09
Thomas Hannam, Appellant	) ) )

### NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL AND FINAL DECISION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Care and Regulation Board, on December 12, 2025, made the following final decisions regarding the level 2 classification of Cayenne and the level 4 classification of Sangria in the above-captioned matter. This final decision may be appealed to the Superior Court within 30 days of the date of distribution pursuant to MSB 24.30.050 and the Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure, Part VI, Rules 601-612.

### FINDINGS

1. On October 16, 2025, the shelter received a statement through the Borough's online Problem Reporter from Chad Isaacson for an incident that occurred on 09/27/25 @ 1050.

Mr. Isaacson reported that there were two rottweilers that were in his yard and attacked his dog. Mr. Issacson stated that he had a video of the incident. R. 2.

- 2. On October 17, 2025, the shelter received a complaint from another neighbor, Valerie Koivunen, complaining about two aggressive female Rottweilers running loose and being aggressive almost daily. This incident was alleged to have occurred on 10/11/25 at 1630 and 10/15/25 at 1340. R. 32, 34, 38
- 3. Officer Costa called the complainant, Valerie Koivunen, and asked her about the incident. Ms. Koivunen said that for the last several months, two female rottweilers owned by Thomas Hannam, have been running at large and unrestrained on her property. She reported that they come to her property almost daily and are very aggressive. R. 32
- 4. Ms. Koivunen further reported that the dogs charge anyone who is outside and that they also try to attack her dog. She reported that she had spoken to the appellant, but that he had done nothing to restrain the dogs. Ms. Koivunen reported that she reached out to the Appellant multiple times about the dogs being off his property, which he always denies. R. 32, 35
- 5. Officer Costa asked that Ms. Koivunen to continue to document any incidents involving the dogs. R. 32
- 6. Officer Costa called complainant Chad Issacson and asked him about the incident he experienced. He said that the two Rottweiler females run loose almost daily and aggressively

- charge anyone on his property. He said that he has video footage of the dogs charging aggressively at him and him jumping in the back of his truck to avoid being bitten.

  Officer Costa asked him to send the video over to her for review. R. 2, 9, 56
- 7. Mr. Issacson explained that on September 27, 2025, both the dogs came onto his property and charged and attacked his dog, causing bite wounds to his dog's chest. R. 2
- 8. Mr. Issacson also reported that his dog's upper canine snapped in half and was broken. He took his dog to North Star Animal Clinic, and his vet bill was \$1,200. R. 2, 65
- 9. Mr. Issacson reported that the two dogs have been loose almost daily since the incident. Officer Costa asked him if he had contacted the dog's owner about the attack and he said he had tried calling the owner, but he did not answer.

  R. 2
- 10. Mr. Issacson reported that everyone in the neighborhood is afraid to go outside because these dogs are always loose and aggressive. R. 2
- 11. Officer Costa advised both complainants that the appellant has been previously cited many times for his aggressive dogs being unrestrained and that Sangria is already a Level 2 Classified dog and is supposed to be contained on the appellant's property. R. 2, 32

- 12. Officer Costa said that she was going to recommend that Sangria be classified as a level 4 dog and Cayenne be classified as well. She further said that she would be contacting the appellant as soon as possible. R. 2
- 13. Mr. Issacson sent in the video of the incident of the dogs charging him. The dogs in the video are both Rottweilers; one with a long tail and one with a docked tail. The dogs in the video match the description and earlier photos of Sangria and Cayenne. R. 2, R. 95 video of incident
- 14. The video shows that both dogs were clearly unrestrained and off of the owner's property. Both dogs aggressively charged the complainant, causing him to fear for his safety and causing him to jump into the bed of his truck to avoid being attacked. R. 95, video of incident
- 15. After the incident, Mr. Issacson yelled at the dogs several times and they ran off down the driveway. R. 2, R. 95 video of incident
- 16. On 10/18/25, Officer Costa responded to the appellant's residence arriving at about 1230 hours. As she pulled down the driveway, she could see Cayenne the Rottweiler with the docked tail running loose on the property. Cayenne came up to the truck as Officer Costa pulled in. R. 2

- 17. Officer Costa noted that a male was standing outside in the driveway. She introduced herself and explained the complaint to him. R. 2
- 18. The male on the porch said he was Thomas Hannam and that Sangria could not be running loose because she had injured her foot and was being kept in the garage. Officer Costa said that the shelter had actually received two separate complaints from two different neighbors. Both complaints listed several different dates and times the dogs were running at large and unrestrained. Officer Costa explained that complainants had sent in photos of the dogs at large and also a video of the dogs aggressively charging a neighbor causing him to jump into the bed of his truck to avoid being attacked. R. 2
- 19. Officer Costa explained that one of the complaints was about a dog bite that reportedly occurred on 09/27/25.

  Sangria and Cayenne had been running at-large onto a neighbor's property and aggressively attacked the neighbor's dog causing a puncture wound to the dog's chest and a broken canine tooth. R. 2
- 20. The appellant said he had been unaware of the incident and that the neighbors don't like his dogs. Officer Costa asked the appellant if he was aware of Sangria's Level 2

- Classification and he said yes that she is supposed to be contained on the property. R. 2
- 21. Officer Costa advised both dogs must be contained on the appellant's property at all times and that failure to do so may result in the dogs being impounded. She further told the appellant that he was being cited for both cases and issued citations as follows:
  - a. MSBZP00543099 for Fail to Restrain Animal 3rd Offense. R. 25, 72
  - b. MSBZP00543100 for Failure to Notify of Running at Large Classified Animal. R. 27, 74
  - c. MSBZP00543111 for Failure to Comply with Written Release Order. R. 29, 76
  - d. For case number C0009266585 she issued MSBZP00543112 for Fail to Restrain Animal - 3rd Offense. R. 42, 49
  - e. MSBZP00543113 Fail to Notify of Running at Large Classified Animal. R. 32, 44
  - f. MSBZP00543114 for Failure to comply with written release order 1st offense. R. 32, 46
- 22. Officer Costa explained the citations to the appellant and explained how to file an appeal of the classifications. The appellant said he understood. R. 2
- 23. Officer Costa explained that the Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer would review the case and the

- recommendation that Sangria be classified as a Level 4 and Cayenne as a level 2 for the incident on 09/27/25. R. 2
- 24. Officer Costa noted that failure to contain the dogs may result in recommendation of forfeiture of the dogs and reiterated that the appellant must keep the dogs contained on the property at all times. R. 2
- 25. The Board finds that they have no jurisdiction over the citations that were issued as that jurisdiction belongs to the Court.

### CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the above Findings, the Animal Care and Regulation Board now makes the following Conclusions:

- 1. The Animal Care and Regulation Board has appellate jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to MSB 24.30.020(A).
- 2. The Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer has the authority under MSB 24.26.010 and 24.26.030 to classify the animals as it pertains to the captioned case.
- 3. The Animal Care and Regulation Board has the authority under MSB 24.30.040(C)(2) to affirm, reverse, or modify the classification and may modify the written administrative order issued by the chief animal care and regulation officer.
- 4. The Board concludes that the actions of Cayenne meet the code requirements of MSB 24.26.010(A)(2): "Level 2

- Classification" is established if an animal bites or causes physical injury to any domestic animal.
- 5. The Board concludes that the actions of Sangria meet the code requirements of MSB 24.26.010(A)(4): "Level 4 Classification" is established if any of the following occur:
  - a. (a) an unrestrained animal inflicts an aggressive bite or causes physical injury to any human; or
  - b. (b) an unrestrained animal causes any serious physical injury to a domestic animal; or
  - c. (c) an animal, regardless of whether it is restrained, for the second time causes physical injury to a domestic animal; or
  - d. (d) an animal, regardless of whether it is restrained, causes the death of a domestic animal.
- 6. Pursuant to MSB 24.26.085 After one year and payment of any outstanding fees, the classification of a Level 1 or Level 2 animal shall be automatically removed if there have been no further incidents or violations of this title. The Animal Care Director shall issue an advisement in writing if there are any outstanding fees. This subsection (A) does not apply retroactively to animals classified prior to its adoption.
- 7. Pursuant to MSB 24.26.085, Restrictions for Level 3 and Level 4 animals may be reduced, modified, or removed. An

owner of an animal classified at a Level 3 or Level 4, including an animal classified under repealed a classification scheme, may apply in writing to the chief regulation officer animal care and to have classification reduced, modified, or removed in accordance with this section upon payment of outstanding including a review fee set by Assembly resolution, showing that:

- a. A Level 3 or Level 4 animal has been classified for two years, has not had any further incidents, including any violation of this title; or
- A Level 3 or 4 animal that went before the animal care b. and regulation board for a classification hearing at which the board recommended that the animal be classified for 18 months instead of two years, animal has been classified 18 months, and has not had any further incidents, including any violation of this the owner presents evidence of having satisfactorily completed an animal obedience training course; and Notwithstanding the time provision of subsection (B)(1) of this section, the chief animal regulation officer must review care and the classification of animal an upon an application presented after 18 months if advised to do so by the animal care and regulation board. The advisement by the board shall be included in the findings conclusions of the final decision made after a hearing

on the classification. Requests for removal, modification, or reduction of a classification may only be submitted once each year.

### FINAL DECISION

Based upon the above Findings and Conclusions, the Animal Care and Regulation Board now makes the following final decision:

IT IS HEREBY DECIDED, that the Animal Care and Regulation Board affirms the level 2 classification of Cayenne and the level 4 classification of Sangria.

DATED at Palmer, Alaska this 12 day of December, 2025.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ANIMAL CARE AND REGULATION BOARD

DANIEL BOWEN, Chairperson

ATTEST:

BRENDA J. HENRY, MMC

Assistant Borough Clerk

x_	President: Jodi Riddell		Carlo Carlo
	Vice President: Margaret Billinger (res	igned prior to meeting)	The
x_	Secretary: Lisa Behrens	>	Ria Pabo
x_	Treasurer: Irene Crowley (early depart	rture due to illness)	Big Lake Community Council
x_	Director at Large: David Haggard	THEOLIVED	Community Council
	Director at Large: Lindy Moss	DEC 1 0 2025	PO Box 520931
x_	Director at Large: Michael Dale	CHERNIC DECICE	Big Lake, AK 99652-0931

Executive Board Meeting – August 26, 2025 – 6:00 PM Susitna Brewing Co. Cafe

### MINUTES

1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum

By: Jodi Riddell

Quorum: Yes

Time: 6:07pm

Guests: none

2.) Pledge of Allegiance

3.) Agenda Approval

Motion: Michael Dale

Second: Yes

4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (May 27, 2025)

Motion: Michael Dale

Second: Yes

Copy signed: Jodi Riddell

5.) Presentations none

6.) Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$ Sa

Savings: \$

Money Market (Jordan Lake Park): \$11,998.42

7.) Correspondence

Checks for Jordan Lake Park project coming in

### 8.) Unfinished Business

- 1. Liability Insurance Needed for both Jay Nolfi and Jordan Lake parks. Jodi Riddell is researching and waiting for quotes to come in: Update insurance has been purchased, this item is closed.
- 2. Big Lake Chamber of Commerce membership See the new website <a href="www.biglakechamberak.org">www.biglakechamberak.org</a> \$75 membership fee for nonprofits: Update Question: Does BLCC want to have a membership? Yes, Board members present voted unanimously to apply for membership. Jodi Riddell will make the membership application.
- 3. Jay Nolfi Park Building Rental, ongoing improvements & funding update. Bookkeeper recommends opening a separate account for managing rental deposits, and park improvement & upkeep expenses: Update Doing great. Two rentals this week already. Venue users have been taking good care of the property. Jodi will follow up with the bookkeeper and MVFCU for the additional accounts.
  - a. The Board members who will be authorized signers for the new accounts are: President Jodi Riddell, Secretary Lisa Behrens, and Vice President Dave Haggard
  - b. The permanent authorized signer for these accounts will be Tara Rice from Alaska Tax Lady.
  - c. Action needed to make the changes with Mat Valley FCU. Jodi Riddell will coordinate.
- 4. BLCC AV resources: Projector, Screen, Camera, Streaming GM meetings? Per Assembly Representative Bill Gamble, there will be MSB IT support for these types of needs, once the building is purchased. Further discussion tabled to this meeting from May 27 Board meeting: Update waiting for further information on Mat Su Borough improvements to the property.



### **Unfinished Business - continued**

5. Skeetawk lift tickets and \$2500 grant money held by Valley Transit since 2021. Need to have a BLCC Board member contact Jennifer Busch, Valley Transit about fulfilling the terms of the grant.

### 9.) New Business

- 1. Future speakers for General Membership meetings
  - a. September none scheduled
  - b. October
    - a. Parker Bradley ADF & G Invasive Species Biologist

1 1 1

- b. Michael Mazzacavatto ADF & G Habitat Biologist
- 2. Jordan Lake Park Care Agreement Document review. Lisa will follow up to develop a Workman's Comp waiver for the agreement.
- 3. Bylaws review and updates recommended for (but not limited to) the following:
  - a. Donations and fees handling for Jay Nolfi and Jordan Lake Park venue use
  - b. Permanent subcommittee for community park matters
  - c. Expense sharing agreement among Jordan Lake Park, Jay Nolfi Park, and BLCC
  - d. Board of Directors conduct
  - e. Board of Directors conflict of interest disclosure
  - f. Recommendations to reconsider Board Officer term limits
  - g. Consider assigned roles for 3 Board Directors at Large, such as:
    - i. Website Manager (Michael Dale currently filling role)
    - ii. Membership and Voting Eligibility Coordinator (Secretary currently filling role)
    - iii. Mailing List and Communications Coordinator (Secretary currently filling role)
- 4. Action to fill vacated BLCC Vice President position, with nomination of Dave Haggard to finish term.

  Motion: Michael Dale Second: Yes Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- 5. BLCC Letter of Support Mat Su Regional Medical Center behavioral health hospital. Draft letter from Jodi Riddell? Yes, two possible versions available. Board Members present voted unanimously for letter of support from BLCC to Mat Su Regional. Jodi to follow up on finalizing letter.
- 6. November BLCC Board election
  - a. Need to email announcements and collect bios from interested candidates. (Jodi has 3 interested candidates so far). Lisa will distribute recruitment info to BLCC Gmail group.
  - b. Verification of Board seats up for election this year.
    - i. Jodi Riddell elected for 2023/24, re-elected for 2025/26
    - ii. Dave Haggard elected for 2023/24, re-elected for 2025/26
    - iii. Lisa Behrens appointed 3/2023, elected for 2024/25 (up for election 11/11/25)
    - iv. Lindy Moss Elected for 2024/25 (up for election 11/11/25)
    - v. Irene Crowley Elected for 2024/25 (up for election 11/11/25)
    - vi. Michael Dale Elected for 2025/26
    - vii. Vacant seat as of August 2025 (up for election 11/11/25)
  - c. Determination of term-outs per 2024 BLCC Bylaws: No term-outs for this election cycle.

### 10.) Persons to be Heard (3 Minute Maximum time per person) No sign-ups

#### 11.) Announcements

<u>Jodi Riddell</u>: don't forget the September 12 Big Lake Rec Center reopening from 3-7pm

Jodi Riddell:

**Lisa Behrens:** 

Irene Crowley:

**Dave Haggard:** 

**Lindy Moss:** 

Michael Dale: Have a safe trip Jodi, and congratulations to our new VP Dave Haggard

### 13.) Adjournment

Motion: Michael Dale

Second: Yes

Time: 7:08pm

Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council

8-26-25

8-26-25

Date

Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council

Date

# Big Lake RSA #21

Monday December 8, 2025

6:30 pm@

12/09/2025

Big Lake Lions Recreation Center located at <u>2942 Lion Circle, Big Lake Alaska</u>
RSA 21 Meeting is live on site or via TEAMS or phone in

Microsoft Teams Via computer or phone in Teams

Meeting ID: 265 089 220 463 8

Passcode: pH7Tu9Wq

RECEIVED

or

DEC 1 0 2025

Dial phone

CLERKS OFFICE

+1 907-290-7880, 526 203 324# USA, Anchorage

Phone conference ID: 526 203 324#

**AGENDA** 

\*\*\*Note to all attending RSA 21 meeting: recorded and transcribed using Apple Summary Note Taker

CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** 

APPROVAL OF AGENDA- December 8, 2025

### APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES for

October13, 2025, Regular meeting.

### **COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATES**

 RSA Board update, zone 1-4 (zone 1, Garlin Morrison) - (zone 2, Terry Gorlick) -(zone 3, Nate Suing) - (zone 4, Randy Richard & Andrew Traxler)

### Acknowledge Staff, Assemblyman and Special Guests

<u>Dustin Spidal O&M</u> / Public works update. – Winter updates

come

- Any possible projects delayed due to funding changes
- Review final available funds in Schedule A, B, C
- Review Periodic Maintenance Upcoming Public Winter Construction
- New or leaving personnel and vacation schedules that effect RSA 21
- <u>Seth Hansen MSB RMS update</u>. Contractor update, Problem Reporter follow-ups, Road Failures
- Bill Gamble MSB Assembly update.

# PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- RIP list considerations from last meeting and new considerations
- Note new considerations added to RIP list or discussions that cause meeting to go beyond 9:00 pm may require an additional meeting December 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> or in January.
- Rip list existing as present by Dustin Spidal working draft dated 10-3-2025
- Additions listed in minutes October 13,2025
- Updates per primary Andrew Traxler regarding considerations additional details on West Susitna, additional new request on Puritan Rd and Goldstreak

# NEW BUSINESS (note: RIP list is priority and may move to position one, primary discretion)

- Project, and Community concerns carry over from prior meeting or brought up during current persons to be heard.
- Review Problem Reporter use and training for Board
- Review Problem Reporter use and training for RSA 21 citizens if requested
- Next meeting Scheduled February 9, 2026
- Board Duties and zone coverage review- changes if necessary

# **PUBLIC COMMENTS / ANNOUNCMENTS (2-minute limit)**

### **BOARD COMMENTS / AGENDA REQUESTS-next meeting**

### **NEXT MEETING**

Official Monthly Meeting; February 9, 2025, live @ Big Lake Lions Recreation Center located at 2942 Lion Circle, Big Lake, Alaska, or with Teams or phone in option

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- RSA boards can recommend mill rate changes to accelerate project funding and construction timelines.
- Engineering designs for catch basin systems now owned by borough, allowing reuse on future projects with in-house PE approval.
- Capital project programming now allocates known annual amounts, improving transparency and predictability via ClearGov a software program that strategically creates, tracks, present and future capital project plans in concept and design.

### **Seth Hansen presentation**

Reported on Contractor Performance, Maintenance Reports, and Problem Tracker and updates

- Project funds for Big Lake Heights subdivision were never allocated or spent due to project cancellation at award stage. As well as Animal roads similar.
- As of October, \$173,193.70 available for periodic maintenance (mainly crack sealing), \$14,910.88 for public construction, \$188,104.58 in maintenance contract balance.
- Sand storage: 6,550 tons in central landfill, 1,000 tons of chips remain for winter use. McKenna ordered and had delivered considerably more salt and sand for their use on various RSA's they manage.
- Gonder road, Gate limits motorized access to Musher's cabin; area is a public-use, non-motorized conservation easement; maintenance cost \$13,300/year under review for reduction/removal as Borough maintenance due to not being an approved road. Confusion and considered error that it has been maintained for the past few years.
- problem reporter for RSA 21 had Since August 1: 33 contractor requests, 24 grading, 5 thank you, 3 damage, 1 brush cutting; 31 in-house crew requests.

Public Comments, Safety Concerns, and Signage Requests

- Road survey quote obtained; Alamo Road Hammerhead turnaround not possible due to private flag lot, requiring alternative turnaround solution.
- Horseshoe Lake Road experienced chronic RAM failures; worst 0.6 miles and additional 200 feet identified for urgent repair.
- Maintenance included application of CSS -1 oil on multiple roads; two coats applied with day interval for absorption.
- Legal constraints prevent installation of four-way stops or speed changes; State and Federal standards govern signage and traffic control.
- Average of four tons of asphalt applied monthly to maintain failing road, costing several thousand dollars per month on Horseshoe Lake Road.

### RIP List Review, Future Projects, and Funding Strategies Rip list recommendations

1) - Beaver Lake Road should be prioritized for overlay/redesign; target completion within 2-3 years 2028. - Terry Gorlick requested paving from Big Lake Road to Westlake's Blvd., option1 Garland Morrison requested consideration from Westlake's to Victor option #2

Requested summer of 2026 traffic study on road prior to Westlake's and one after Westlake's to determine usage priority.

- 2)- West Susitna Parkway/Susitna Avenue inter-tie was requested by Terry Gorlick to RIP list as major future project; target date 2030; requires federal funding.
- 3)- Traffic studies proposed for Beaver Lake Road and Puritan Road to assess usage and safety. With maintenance modifications in springtime estimated under \$15k

Contracts with specific verbiage left out of maintenance contractor contract recently are not being deployed; in purchasing, need modification to contracts to include line items like paving, with details. Basically, if it is not in the contract purchasing is needed to move forward. Delays and rejections in small paving projects due to contract limitations and lack of competitive bidding for certain items is an example.

Bill Gamble, Dustin Spidal and Tom Adams are reviewing.

- Recent contract bids have come in lower based on average cost per mile some include traction control and sand. It is difficult to compare RSAs as condition of roads differ
- State funding for unmaintained roads and dust control has been reduced or eliminated; borough may need to cover full costs. Unmaintained roads will be first to be eliminated.
- Hidden driveway sign in zone 4 request was inspected recently; work order expected soon after multiple years of delay. Seth Hansen spearheading

Board Comments, and Meeting Adjournment approx. 8:45pm 2 hour 23 minutes.

- Funding constraints may delay projects to 2050 without tax increases or external funding.
- Next meeting scheduled for December 8, 2025 at Big Lake Lions Club.

Minutes from Big Lake RSA #21

Monday October 13, 2025

Fire Station 73, 10073 W. Parks Hwy, Big Lake 6:30pm

Attending: Andrew Traxler- Primary, Terry Gorlick- Secretary, Member: Randy Richards

Borough Staff: Dustin Spidal- Ops Branch Manager, Seth Hansen- Road Maintenance Superintendent O&M

Regular meeting with focus on support information and input for RIP list, deadline December 8, 2025

### **Action Items**

<u>Bill Gamble and Dustin Spidal</u> - Follow up on Jolly Creek funding reimbursement Check with state funding sources and report back on whether RSA funds can be reimbursed if state funding covers the project.

<u>Seth Hansen</u> to-Coordinate with engineer for road survey, FUGRO, new engineer to survey roads Thursday with poor scores and report findings at the next meeting.

<u>Terry Gorlick</u> possible attend Thursday (16<sup>th</sup>) Road inspection and join the engineer and others for a ride-along during the upcoming road inspection to learn and provide input.

Andrew Traxler and Randy Richards- Update on hidden driveway sign request Work with the engineer to inspect and process the sign request for the hidden driveway and report progress.

### Overview

- Focused on road maintenance, upgrades, and funding for the Big Lake RSA 21.
- Key discussions on Jolly Creek drainage project, Horseshoe Lake, Beaver Lake Road, and West Susitna Parkway.
- Debate over funding sources, state/federal grants, and mill rate increases.
- Concerns about ATV damage, road safety, and maintenance priorities.
- Detailed review of project lists (RIP), contractor performance, and public feedback.

### Meeting Opening, Roll Call, and Agenda Approval

- RSA meeting held October 13th; called to order at 6:34 PM.
- Roll call: Andrew Traxler (primary) present, Terry Gorlick (secretary) present; Randy Richards present Nate Suing and Garland Morrison on vacation. Quorum approved.
- October 13 meeting agenda and Minutes from August 11, 2025 meeting, approved without opposition.

# - RIP list final vote postponed to December 8th, 2025 meeting to ensure more board members present. Voted and approved unanimous

Zone Updates: Road Conditions and Maintenance

### Zone reviews

- Zone 1 and 2 road grading and gravel issues addressed; no major potholes found in Zone 2.
- Zone 4 had grading needs that needed to be better addressed, Nate had made a special request
- Minor washboard present; no major potholes reported in Zones 2 and 4.
- ATV traffic causes significant edge damage to tar-bound roads, leading to tarmac loss and shoulder failure.
- Road design recommendations include extending tar 18-24 inches beyond the white line to mitigate ATV damage.

#### **Dustin Spidal presentation**

- Fugro and DOT completed 100% asphalt road scanning; PCI (Pavement Condition Index) used for project prioritization integration support project forecasting and budgeting.

### Dustin discussed:

Jolly Creek Drainage Project: Funding, Design, and Right-of-Way Issues

- \$914,000 available in capital account for FY26.
- Jolly Creek drainage project at 95% design; one right-of-way holdout remains.
- Design adjusted to avoid holdout property, saving \$40,000-\$50,000 and minimizing utility conflicts.
- Army Corps permitting required; qualifies for standard nationwide permit with ~6-week review.
- \$310,000 on RIP list reserved as funding gap placeholder; unused funds can revert to RSA fund balance.

### Capital Programming, Budgeting, and Project Prioritization

- State funding for Jolly Creek project remains undetermined; Will be finalized by February.

Expecting State to fund entire project so that none of the \$1.9M bond package which requires 50% match Wii be required. Those funds came from Borough wide taxes. Jolly Creek is a TIP 2023 funded project in design.

- Mill rate increased from 2.87 to over 3; half-mill increases in Big Lake RSA 21 yields \$400,000/year.

Reso # 25-02

A RESOLUTION OF ROAD SERVICE AREA #21, BIG LAKE SUBMITTING AFFICE APPROVED 2026 ROAD SERVICE AREA IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

WHEREAS, the Annual Road Improvement Project List is developed for road improvement projects in each road service area; and

WHEREAS, the Road Improvement Project List has been presented to area residents by this Road Service Area Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly reviews and approves the Road Improvement Project List; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Road Service Area #21, Big Lake Supervisors concur with this Road Improvement Project List and request the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly approve it as submitted.

ADOPTED by Road Service Area #21, Big Lake Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Signature

Supervisor Signature

Signature

Date: 12/08/2025



1 of 1

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 2026 ROAD SERVICE AREA ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LIST ACCOUNT # 30043

**ROAD SERVICE AREA #21** BIG LAKE

ASSEMBLY: Dist 5, Bill Gamble ASSEMBLY: Dist 7, Ron Bernier RSA SUPERINTENDENT: Seth Hanson

RSA ALT: Randy Richards

RSA PRIMARY: Andrew Troxler RSA ALT: Garland Morrison RSA ALT: Nate Suing

RSA ALT: Terry Gorlick						
PRIORITY STATUS	ROADS / LOCATION	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	ESTIMATED COST	Target Design	Target Construction	
N/A	RSA WIDE	PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE	\$250,000	N/A	Bi-Annually / Tri-Annually	
1	Jolly Creek Drainage & Cherrywood Dr.	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements	\$310,000	In Design	TBD	
2	S. Horse Shoe Lake Rd (1.1 mi)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements	\$1,540,000	. In Design	2028	
3	Muskrat (0.20 mi) Musk Ox (0.20 mi) Martin (0.20 mi) Fox (0.14 mi)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements	\$950,000	Design Complete	2029	
4	Henry Aaron (0.31 mi) Lotus (0.12 mi) Shotgun (0.22 mi) Lodge (0.55 mi)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements	\$1,100,000	In Design	TBD	
5	S. Lake View Loop (0.90 mi)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct improvements	\$840,000	2025	TBĐ	
6	Burma Rd. (2.08ni)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct improvements	\$300,000	2026	TBD	
7	W. Susinta Parkway (2:011mi) →	Construct improvements	\$150,000	TBD	-T8D- Z.02	
8	Beaver Lakos Big Lake to Lakos	& Dasign/Util Relo / ROW / Construction	\$1, tcc, ccc	THD	CB'F	
9	Puntain Rd Timeround	- Punchlist work	#15K	NA	2026	
10	Gold streak.	Balance, Fill + purpue course	#45K	N/A	2026	

12/08/25 - Approved.

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough Butte Fire Service Area Board of Directors Minutes

RECEIVED
DEC 1: 2025
CLERKS OFFICE

Regular Meeting: 9 October 2025

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Butte Station 21

I. Call to order: As the meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Gregory Nilsson, Butte FSA Chair.

II. Roll Call: Gregory Nilsson, Mitzi Van Asdlan – Present Fire Department Staff: Chief Michael Shipton, Director Brian Davis, Director Ken Barkley — Present

- III. Stood for the Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Minutes of the 10 July 2025 meeting were read and approved.
- V. Reports/Correspondence: Chief Shipton reported the Butte fire service area had a total of 91 calls during the second quarter of the year. We are managing to keep and train a good number of personnel with 28 active at this time. Training in the department continues with firefighter survival, rapid intervention, hazardous materials identification, pump operations and vehicle extraction being a few in this quarter. We were informed the department vehicle involved in an accident last quarter should be back in service in December or January. A contract has been awarded for work at the Maud Rd. location for clearing trees, doing soil testing, putting in monitoring wells and other preparatory work for the new site.
- VI. Financial: Review of the budget to date indicates the department is within the parameters set out for FY 2025.
- VII. Director's Report: Director Davis indicated that 500 smoke detectors have been acquired for distribution borough wide and IT is in the process of activating security cameras at department facilities. Chief Shipton was recognized for his



# **Butte Fire Service Area Board of Directors**Regular Meeting 9 October 2025

help during the recent flooding working with the Community Risk Reduction Group. He also wanted to commend O & M for an outstanding job on maintaining buildings and other infrastructure around the area.

Director Barkley spoke about accidents and insurance concerns which are well managed at present. We were informed that Station #39 will be moving to a facility on Marsh Rd. once the building is completed. This location will allow faster response to calls.

VIII. Other Business: It was decided that another meeting would be held in December to address any changes or concerns with the upcoming proposed budget. We also agreed on the meeting dates for CY 2026 which will be 12 February, 14 May, 13 August and 12 November 2026.

IX. Adjournment: 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitzi Van Asdlan

Assistant to the Chair

Mity Van asdlan

### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Enhanced 911 ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES



October 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Enhanced 911 Advisory Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman, Casey Cook.

Advisory Board members in attendance establishing a quorum were:

Michelle Hoyt, MSB IT Casey Cook, MSB EM Lori Criqui, MatCom Luke Szipszky, Palmer Police Andrew Gorn, AST Aleeha Travis, MTA

Also in attendance were: Kenneth Kleewein and Nick Srebernak, MSB GIS; Zack McRae, MSB Telecom; Donny Lane and Erica Bishop, DPS; Whitney Daw, Palmer Dispatch; Christine O'Connor, Alaska TeleCo; Kid Chan, AST; Rusty Bellanger and Justin Michaud, MSB SD; Stephanie Nowers, Borough Assembly; and Iain Miller, Fairbanks North Star Borough.

A quorum was present, and due notice had been published.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was no objection to the approval of the August 12, 2025, minutes.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None

REPORTS

<u>GIS</u>

Mr. Srebernak stated: They awarded a three-year aerial imagery contract with the same contractor. They will keep the cadence going of getting new imagery into MatCom every year. They will be collecting data in the main core and out toward Skwentna.

**OLD BUSINESS** 

Telecommunication Service Priority Program (TSP)

Ms. Hoyt stated: Katie was working with Tracy, but they weren't able to connect. There is no other information to provide at this time.



### **ACS Circuits**

Ms. Travis stated: That office (ACS) has been cut by now. They have a new move of the AT&T toll office in Anchorage. She doesn't believe this will affect any of the 911 services because the transport is not moving, just the toll office. She doesn't know if we need to look into that or not, but she has been working on it with MTA and wants to make everyone aware it's happening.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### MSB School District Request for Funding - \$450,000 Digital Mapping

### Mr. Kleewein stated:

- An annual ArcGIS Indoors license is around \$12,000 to bring that option onto the borough's infrastructure but doesn't include any of the actual digitizing and mapping of the current floor plans.
- A 3D scanner would be needed to create the augmented 3D scape. A Leica scanner can run between \$30,000 to \$40,000 depending on the options.
- We don't currently have accurate map data of the school facilities. If we were to get it, it
  would be a heavy staff commitment to digitize and create the indoor scenes and then go
  through and scan and associate the oriented imagery inside a building inside of ArcGIS
  indoors.
- The biggest consideration is the long-term upkeep. It is going to be an ongoing expense working with someone at the school district. They would have to report on when they change the inside of the school, move a wall, change the classroom layout, etc. Those changes would then need to be re-configured in the system.
- ArcGIS Indoors requires a separate login and a separate screen to view the information, so when a call comes in, it won't be connected to the system so the dispatch center will not know exactly where the issue is in the building.
- If a 911 call was made from the VoIP phone or the teacher's desk phone that is integrated with the CAD system, you would know what room that is.
- The other key piece of this is when someone's calling 911 they're probably not going to know the room number, and if it comes from a cell phone, you're not going to know the room number. They're most likely going to give you a teacher's name that can be tracked on the Esri side. That's an attribute that can be associated with every single room, but that would mean same process needs to be kept up and updated as teachers reside in their classroom or then move classrooms from year to year.

### Mr. Michaud stated:

- The system Kenny commented on was looked into as an option but wouldn't necessarily be the system that would be selected.
- The whole point would be integration as we don't want it to be something difficult to use.
- Kenny talked about how Esri has some capabilities where you can integrate to the 911 system but the field stuff would be a little bit different. We'd have to make sure that the first responders in the field have the ability to get the information.
- Giving dispatch and the first responders map information right at their fingertips is key.

- We're looking at making updates to our phone system to better provide data such as room numbers and staffing, which can change from day-to-day.
- The main objective is to improve response times and help keep the students, teachers, and the community safe.

### **Discussion Summary:**

- MatCom does not feel that this type of system is something they would use, even if it was supported by the technology they currently have in place due to the separate log in and authentication to the system. It would be too clunky to use during an active incident. They also do not feel that dispatchers should be viewing live feed of school shootings. It would be more appropriate for the incident command center. This is technology that Palmer currently uses. They have cameras at this time that work with the system they have and the VESTA system they will be going to.
- Law enforcement concluded that they wouldn't have the time or resources to utilize this
  type of information during an incident and that cameras down main corridors would be
  more efficient.
- Previous feedback from the Borough Attorney via e-mail: "The internal mapping would potentially be an allowed use of E911 funds so long as the current E911 system can incorporate the data into the ALI system to help locate the exact location of the call. If the current software/programs/hardware for the E911 cannot incorporate and give meaningful output with enhanced ALI with internal building mapping data, then it is not something that can be funded with E911 funds at this time. It would become an allowed use when the system has the functionality to actually use the data. The second half of the request is to conduct pre-disaster documentation of the building. This is not an allowed use of E911 funds and cannot be paid for with E911 funds."
- After discussion, it was determined that the request as written wouldn't qualify for E-911 funding because it wouldn't be supported by the systems currently in place in either MatCom or the Palmer Dispatch Centers.
- It was discussed that a more pertinent and applicable use of the funding might be to do digital mapping of the school district buildings that would work with the systems the dispatch centers currently use. It was recommended that the school district look into revamping their request in that direction.

MOTION: Ms. Hoyt moved, and Mr. Szipszky seconded to decline the request for digital mapping funding as currently proposed as it is not a program that would integrate into either of the dispatch centers. All were in favor, none were opposed.

### **Technology Projects**

None

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. FY26 Spending Priorities Agreement Routing for Signatures Ms. Laughlin stated she would be routing the agreement for signature and when it's fully signed, will make the \$144,000 payments to the cities of Palmer and Wasilla.
- B. FY27 Budget Prep Ms. Laughlin stated that the proposed FY27 budget will be on the December agenda for review and possible approval.
- C. FY25 Surcharge Revenue Chart No questions heard.

- D. FY25 E-911 Budget Performance Report No questions heard.
- E. 911 Quarterly Dispatch Call Reports (Mat-Com and Palmer). Reports not provided due to technical difficulties.

### **COMMENTS**

### NEXT MEETING DATE

Chairman Cook announced the next regularly scheduled board meeting would be December 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** 

Casey Cook, Chairman

ATTEST:

Casey Laughlin, Secretary

DEC 1 0 2025



Big Cabbage Radio 88.3 FM

## Glacier View Community Council October 2025 Mtg Minutes

Meeting Date Thursday 10/23/2025

GVCC Meeting 6:00 pm-7:45 pm at the school. -Meeting begins 6:04pm October, 23 2025 Zoom link: ID passcode 592241 Should be able to just click here or call 309 205 3325

Call to Order and invitation to the Pledge

Roll Call -sign in sheet and zoom attendees

Review Minutes September 2025 Minutes -Motion to approve the minutes of last meeting made by Sarah Barton, seconded by Joseph Davis, Discussion, Minutes approved Review Treasurer's report-Jamie Schroeder --Motion to review and accept Treasurer's report made by Joseph Davis, seconded by Susan Saltmarsh Discussion, Report approved Community Archives Update- Muddy Creek Overflowed the highway again, happened 2 years ago. Fed Hirschmann captured video and pictures. Culverts are plugged, damage will happen to property no matter what solutions are posed.

Emergency & Cert Committee Update- AED update Cell phone texting for emergency. - looking into an emergency texting network for those not on facebook. - would we be willing to pay 200\$ a year for this services - a Nixle / Everbridge - good option for services (Dena Mcchargue)

Black Ice - bad

Stop the bleed - blood clotting info for our emergency packs- ask Rachel Cote to host a stop the bleed event. Shall we all get turnakits and bleed stop? And would people be interested in this training? Fred Hirschmann - there are bleed stops and truncates in CERT training and CERT packs. Joseph Davis says looking at putting it into peoples homes

AED are all good here- are we legally responsible if we don't put in a battery? No 7 CERT emergency packs - do we want to put a symbol on the emergency phone list so that people know who have the bags in the community

Water Committee Update- Well - meeting in a few days and ready to make up a document for the well.

Trails Committee Update-Lorraine/Karl No update

Activities Committee Update - Jamie sent email and radio, no responses and no apparent interest, Motion to disband the committee Jamie Schroerer, seconded by Joseph Davis motion denied (sorry jamie)

<u>Guest speakers</u> Dena school board candidate district 7 Dena Mcchargue (Facebook, Instagram) - <u>denamcchargue7@gmail.com</u> - running for the school board teach at UAA in culinary arts, points of focus- rural representation, (as a rural resident) channel parent and teacher voice. Manage fiscal stability though a competitive business model. Nov 4th election day. Early voting now in Palmer, and can still request a mail in ballot



<u>Old Business</u> Resolution contacting DOT putting us back on the STIP for Long Lake Road, Discussion of sample resolution and vote.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lrxCOSMPBu1YY5jYcB\_x9qU1mUhYj1hzi2YjlHNaufg/edit?usp=drivesdk

Motion to approve the resolution by Lexi Althens, second by Sarah Barton Discussion - Joseph Davis makes motion to amend the resolution to add falling rocks to where as, Tessa Wynthein to add this. Discussion Joseph Davis, second Susan Saltmarsh, passed amendment. Motions passed

<u>Topic:</u> Review supportletter: Mat-Su Regional Medical Center behavioral health hospital <a href="https://www.lookforwardmat-su.com/">https://www.lookforwardmat-su.com/</a>

To write a sample letter and to be tables this discussion to till next meeting, Joseph Davis moved to table , Garry Wolske second

### **New Business**

<u>Topic:</u> donation to Big Cabbage Radio request that we donate 2,000 to big cabbage radio, Joseph Davis moves to donate, Sarah Barton Seconds. Discussion to follow. Vote, passed, 5-3 <u>Topic</u>: vote necessary? For grant acceptance unsure but Jamie will find out, discussion, no **Topic**:

Topic:

Call for the good of the order: 3 Minutes max per person

- 1. MATSU ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 4
- 2. EARLY VOTING BEGINS OCTOBER 20

Beth - Holiday Bazar, November 14th 12pm-4pm, need vendors, and card board boxes Garry - winter hours for the Honey Hut, Sat 12pm6pm, Moose Beans and Brew Mon, Tue, Fri, Sat 10am-3pm??

Joseph - would like to recognize Garry and Beth for their work in the Glacier View Community and specialty in the markets

Future Meeting Dates 2025 Amended Bylaws Emergency Phone List Membership

Please contact 5 days prior to the meeting for suggestions to the agenda. Motion to adjourn Joseph Davis, Seconded by Susan Saltmarsh Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm - Joseph Davis



Attendees-Alexis Althens Tessa Wynthein Jim Tebow Sarah Barton Joseph Davis Susan Saltmarsh

Peter Loewen
Dena Mcchargue
Garry Wolske
Dan Lee
Sandy Lee
Beth Wolske

Fred Hirschmann Randi Hirschmann Garth Morgan ZOOM Jamie Schroerer

Zessallynthem Ay Wally

RECEIVED
DEC 1 8 2025

A RESOLUTION OF ROAD SERVICE AREA #28, GOLD TRAIL SUBMITITION OF FICE
AN APPROVED 2026 ROAD SERVICE AREA IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR ROAD
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

WHEREAS, the Annual Road Improvement Project List is developed for road improvement projects in each road service area; and

WHEREAS, the Road Improvement Project List has been presented to area residents by this Road Service Area Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly reviews and approves the Road Improvement Project List; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Road Service Area #28, Gold Trail Supervisors concur with this Road Improvement Project List and request the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly approve it as submitted.

ADOPTED by Road Service Area #28, Gold Trail Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Signature

Supervisor Signature

Supervisor Signature

Date: 12/16/25

d

our

TIKS DEFICE

1 of 2

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 2026 ROAD SERVICE AREA ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LIST ACCOUNT # 30048

ROAD SERVICE AREA #28 GOLD TRAIL



ASSEMBLY: Dist 1, Michael Bowles ASSEMBLY: Dist 6, Dmitri Fonov ASSEMBLY: Dist 7, Ron Bernier RSA SUPERINTENDENT: Alex Forkner RSA PRIMARY: Jermy Hongslo

RSAALT! William Swenson RSAALT: Harry Zola

PRIORITY	ROADS / LOCATION	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	ESTIMATED COST Target Des		Target
STATUS		DESCRIPTION OF WORK	ESTIMATED COST	rarget Design	Construction
N/A	RSA WIDE	Drainage Improvements	\$150,000	N/A	Annually/ Bi Annually
N/A	RSA WIDE	PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE	\$150,000	N/A	Bi-Annually Tri-Annually
1 🗸	Paradise Ln (0.73) Duke Dale Cir (.13)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$1,215,000	Design complete	2027
29	Aycock Dr (0.20) Greensward Rd (0.90)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$1,760,000	In Design	2029
X2	Sarah's Wy (0.21) Brocton Ave (0.16)	Drainage Improvements and Paving	\$175,000	In Design	2029
X3	Talgach View Dr (0.57)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$627,000	In Design	2030
-5	Ct Hawes Dr (0.25)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$350,000	2027	2030
84	Moose Meadow Rd (0.30)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements	\$250,000	2027	TBD
MA	Sushana Dr (Drainage Improvement) (0.60)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$1,455,000	2028	TBD
8	Gold Mint Dr (0.74) Gold Bar Rd (0.20)	Paving (Surface conver?)	\$750,000	2028	TBD
9-11	Gordon Ct (0.20) Gordon Cir (0.03)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$350,000	2028	TBD
167	Caribou Loop (0.58) White Hare Circle (0.05) Caribour Circle (0.06)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$760,000	2029	TBD
115	Greay Wolf (0.55) Musk Ox(0.04) Black Bear (0.35) Red Fox(0.35)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$1,420,000	2030	TBD

Approved 12/16/25

2 of 2

226	N. Wolverine Dr. (0.18) E. Wolverine Cir. (0.14) E. Gizzly Bear Dr. (0.60) E. Grizzly Bear Cir. (0.07) E. Lynx Cir. (0.05) N. Grizzly Bear Ct. (0.03) N. Lemming Cir. (0.07) N. Artic Fox Dr. (0.29) N. Artic Fox Cir. (0.06)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct Improvements / Paving	\$1,600,000	2030	TBD
200	N. Dartmoor St. (0.19) W. Canterbury Dr. (0.40)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct	\$650,000	2030	TBD



DEC 1 2 2025

## Greater Talkeetna Road Service Board of Supervisors Minutes of Regular Meeting October 16, 2025

**OLERKS OFFICE** 

A regular meeting of the Greater Talkeetna Road Service Area Board of Supervisors (RSA 29) was held via Zoom at 6:30 pm on October 16, 2025. Board members John Strasenburgh, Billy FitzGerald, and Robert Gerlach attended. Dustin Spidal, Operational Branch Manager for Roads and Seth Hansen, Borough Road Superintendent, and Dawn Harris of D&S Road Services also attended. Note, Seth Hansen was present for the first 20 minutes of the meeting.

- 1. There was a quorum, and the meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.
- II. Minutes of the August 14, 2025 RSA 29 meeting were approved as written. Note that the September 11, 2025 RSA 29 meeting was cancelled. Note also that due to a scheduling issue, our regular October 9, 2025 was postponed to October 16, 2025.
- III. Seth reported that the North and South Alleys need work, but, otherwise, maintenance was proceeding satisfactorily. Seth also informed the Board of a second collision involving an over-height excavator being towed across Montana Creek Bridge on Yoder. Similar to the earlier incident, an over-height excavator on a trailer hit the upper beams on the bridge structure. It was a hard hit that knocked the excavator off the trailer onto the road. It appears very unlikely that the Borough will be able to collect more than a pittance from the responsible party. Efforts are being made to combine into one project the repair of the bridge (from both collisions) with the lead paint removal and repainting project. The amount and sources of funding was discussed. It is hoped that the project will go out to bid in July 2026.
- IV. Dustin reported that the fish passage culvert project at Mastodon where it crosses Birch Creek is underway. Even though there has been some vandalism at the site, the main structure work is expected to be completed this season. It does not appear that RSA 29 funds will be needed to complete the project.
  - The street sign and stop sign at Denali Way, which had been stolen, is in the process of being replaced.
- V. Dustin reported on the various Public Construction projects that have been completed, including Hoss, Lichtenwalner, Striping downtown, and a set-aside to pre-fund call-outs for winter parking lot plowing. Considerable funds remain in our Public Construction and Periodic Maintenance accounts.





 $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{H},\mathcal{H}^{\circ})$ 

Dawn proposed striping be done earlier this coming spring, and that it be preceded by crack sealing. Regarding Calcium Chloride, all agreed that it was desirable to apply the material earlier in May.

VI. Potential RIP list projects were discussed, including primarily the improvement of the North and South Alleys downtown. Paving and other options were discussed. The quality of the subbase helps determine what is practical to improve the surface layer. Also considered was drainage and ensuring that water is channeled toward the rivers. A swale down the middle of the road will likely be necessary.

There was some discussion of fixing the sight distance problem, east bound on Birch Creek Blvd near Riven.

And there was discussion of the Susitna River Coalition embankment stabilization project along Montana Creek at the Yoder bridge. Still need to learn amount of funding needed to complete the project.

VII. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Sincerely,

John Strasenburgh

RSA 29 Primary Supervisor

Attested to by Board member Robert Gerlach at December 11, 2025 meeting of RSA 29 Board of Supervisors held via Zoom



Greater Willow

RSA 20 Advisory Board Meeting September 8, 2025 Willow Community Center

RECEIVED

**CLERKS OFFICE** 

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting Called off at 7:02 PM by Tom Phillips

II. Pledge OF ALLEGIENCE

**Tom Phillips** 

III. DETERMININATION OF QUORUM— QUORUM

A; Tom Phillips, Wes McClure, Todd Smolden

+ Bill Shary & Larry Hovers Others in attendance; , , Wade Lyndake Dustin Spidel, Mike Klawitter, , Brian Grnier

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA- Approved Wes And Todd

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- April 30 2025 approved Wes And Todd

VI. AGENCY REPORTS -= None

VII. Staff Report - Erica Final inspection completed.

Repair work to start soon Willow Station Road and Willow Creek Parkway

VIII. Contractor - McKenna: None

**ix. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** Tom Phillips received 65% project plans for Honey Bee Lake Rd.

Lynx Lake Road—Mike inquired about bridge work-refered to Mike Canfield Mat Su Borough Bridge Engineer

Dust Control—Mr. Thomas –An LID was mentioned with a cost estimate of \$1200/ton. Speed limit signs are also desired.

Bill Shary dug out fire hydrant. Residents and visitors park in fire lane where it's posted no Parking. Bill states there are 29 residents are blocked from the lake access.

The bridge over Nancy Creek is sinking into the swamp, the bridge is breaking down. We are hoping to add Lynnx Lake

Road to the RIP List to help acquire funding for it's improvement to meet maintenance requirements.

Request made as a for need weight limit signs on the bridge over Nancy Creek. Brian mentioned the train honking for the crossing of Mike Ardaw road not adequate only 15 to 20 seconds prior to crossing.

XI. NEW BUSINESS: Received a request to add dust control to Pilot Drive.

XIII. CORRESPONDENCE. none

XIV. Next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025.

XV. Motioned to adjourn, at 8:09pm

Thomas N Rhistoga

sept. 8 2025

**RSA Supervisor** 

Date.

Reso # 25-01

DEC 15 2025

A RESOLUTION OF ROAD SERVICE AREA #20, WILLOW SUBMITTING AN APPROVED 2026 ROAD SERVICE AREA IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

WHEREAS, the Annual Road Improvement Project List is developed for road improvement projects in each road service area; and

WHEREAS, the Road Improvement Project List has been presented to area residents by this Road Service Area Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly reviews and approves the Road Improvement Project List; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Road Service Area #20, Willow Supervisors concur with this Road Improvement Project List and request the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly approve it as submitted.

ADOPTED by Road Service Area #20, Willow Board of Supervisors:

Supervisor Signature

Supervisor Signature

Date: 12/16/25



t of 1

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 2026 ROAD SERVICE AREA ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LIST ACCOUNT # 30042

ROAD SERVICE AREA #20 **GREATER WILLOW** 



ASSEMBLY: Dist 7, Ron Bernier RSA SUPERINTENDENT: Wade Lynaker **RSA PRIMARY: Tom Phillips** RSA ALT: William Date RSA ALT: Tod Smoldon

PRIORITY STATUS	ROADS / LOCATION	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	ESTIMATED COST	Target Design	Target Construction
N/A	RSA WIDE	PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE	\$150,000	N/A	B-Annually / Tri-Annual
ı	Honeybee Lake Drive (1.0)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct improvements / Paving	\$1,300,000	In Design	2027
2	Crystal Shores Rd (1.0) Clover Dr (0.37)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct improvements / Paving	\$1,500,000	2027	TBD
3	Michigan Rd. (0.50) From Shirley Lake to just past the Y	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct improvements / Paving	\$650,000	2028	TBD
4	Shirley Lake Rd (0.50)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct improvements / Paving	\$500,000	2029	TBD
56	W. Long Lake Road (1.92 mi)	Design / Utility Relocate / ROW Acquisition / Construct improvements / Paving	\$2,200,000	TBD	TBD
<del>-&gt;</del> 5	Lnx Lak Rd (0.90)	Lį	.∯800,000°	TBD	TRD

RSA 20+

RECEIVED
DEC 0 5 2025
CLERKS OFFICE

#### MATANUSKA-SUITNA BOROUGH

#### LOCAL ROAD SERVICE AREA RSA 17 KNIK BOARD

#### **REGULAR MEETING by TEAMS and IN PERSON**

December 2, 2025, 7:00 PM, at Point Mackenzie Community Council Building 20810 W. Point Mackenzie Road

Teams Meeting ID: 272 369 070 627 8 Passcode: c95Pf3vT

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

ROLL CALL – Dustin Spidali MSB Operational Branch Manager of Roads, Seth Hansen MSB Road Maintenance Superintendent, John Jobe RSA-17KNIK Board member-Secretary, John Szymik RSA-17KNIK Board member Chair

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – John Szymik motioned, John Jobe seconded

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM previous RSA 17 KNIK board meeting: John Jobe motioned, John Szymik seconded Approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Draft RIP. Maintenance Update

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Appoint Alt 1 and Alt 2

Alt 1 – John Szymik motioned for John Jobe to fill position, John Jobe Seconded, No Dissentions , No Discussions, Approved.

Alt 2 – John Szymik motioned for Joe Cizek to fill position, John Jobe Seconded, No Dissentions, No Discussions, Approved.

#### B. Maintenance Contractor Updates

- a. Road crew active filling potholes.
- b. Bid Dipper doing winter maintenance and working RSA 17 all day



- c. Rigs Circle ditching is complete. Looking for additional culverts on Rigs, beings still seeing a lot of drainage.
- d. Dog sled drive turn around is trespassing on private. May need to construct a new turnaround.
- e. Maybe next meeting present a 3-year plan for public works projects.
- C. Approve Draft Changes of RIP
  - a. John Jobe Motioned to Approve as written with notations agreed upon by all , John Szymik Seconded, No Dissentions or Discussions, Approved
  - b. RESO # 1 Signed and dated
- D. Member Reports None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - None** 

OTHER BUSINESS - None

**BOARD COMMENTS - None** 

ADJOURNMENT - John Szymik motioned, John Jobe seconded No Dissentions Next Meeting scheduled for Jan 6, 2026 or Discussions, Approved

Board Chair John Szymik Signature and Date

Digitally signed by John Szymik DN: C=US, E=jszymik@hamil.com, O=Hamilton Construction Company, CN=John Szymik Date: 2025.12.05 13:07:52-09'00'

Board Secretary John Jobe Signature and Date

12-04-2025

#### RECEIVED

DEC 1 0 2025

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH LIBRARY BOARD

**CLERKS OFFICE** 

Chairperson – Mary Fischer - Talkeetna Vice Chair – Kathy Kysar - Sutton Chad Scott – At Large 1 Karen Crandall – Big Lake Georgia Knazovich - Wasilla Mark Spohn - Willow Sally Pollen - Palmer Virginia Robson - Trapper Creek Martha Kincaid - At Large 2



#### MEETING MINUTES

Wasilla Public Library and Teams Meeting ID: 289 421 144 590 Passcode: Zw9Cj63Y

REGULAR MEETING

1:00 PM

**NOVEMBER 18, 2025** 

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Called to order at 1:00 pm

#### II. ROLL CALL

- A. Present: Mary Fischer, Chad Scott, Karen Crandall, Georgia Knazovich, Mark Spohn, Sally Pollen, Virginia Robson, Marty Kincaid
- B. Absent: Kathy Kysar

#### III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Ms. Knazovich moved to approve the agenda, unanimous consent

#### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Pledge of Allegiance conducted

#### V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. October 14, 2025 – Marty Kincaid offered a correction as well as staff – Ms. Knazovich moved to approve the minutes, approved as amended unanimously.

#### VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie reported back on the Opt In feature for parents, 1 person has chosen to use this feature so far. He explained the process for today's pulled items from October's list.

LIBRARY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes

**NOVEMBER 18, 2025** 



#### 

#### B. Librarians

- 1. Cassidy Drake Big Lake Reviewed upcoming library programs and activities.
- 2. Marita Crosby Trapper Creek Discussed library events and program offerings.
- 3. Geri Denkewalter Talkeetna Covered details of library programs and planned activities.
- 4. Juli Buzby Sutton Reviewed library initiatives and upcoming events.
- 5. Julie Mitchell Willow Went through the schedule of library programs and activities.
- 6. Joy Bailey Palmer Discussed library events and program offerings.
- 7. Zane Treesh Wasilla Went over library programs and activities and the RFID upgrades coming soon.

#### VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (3 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Jackie Goforth Discussed her opinion on obscenity.
- B. Claire McKay Expressed her appreciation for the libraries.
- C. Emily Forsner Discussed the processes of law.
- D. Angie Fraker Expressed her appreciation for the libraries.
- E. Carol Goltz Expressed her opinion on parents' responsibilities regarding their children's reading materials.
- F. Melinda Dale Discussed her opinion on censorship in the libraries.

#### VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Items pulled from October list
  - 1. Mate by Ali Hazelwood 4 votes Do Not Purchase, 3 votes Purchase, 1 abstain
  - 2. White Lotus seasons 1-3 4 votes Do Not Purchase, 3 votes Purchase, 1 abstain
  - 3. The Most Unusual Haunting of Edgar Lovejoy by Roan Parrish 5 votes Do Not Purchase, 3 votes Purchase
  - 4. Heart the Lover by Lily King 4 votes Do Not Purchase, 3 votes Purchase, 1 abstain
  - 5. Immortal Consequences by I V Marie not voted on, board member who pulled this title rescinded her challenge.
- B. Secretary officer nomination
  - 1. Tabled for January

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2026 Meeting schedule
  - 1. December 9, 2025 meeting date added to the schedule unanimous consent.
  - 2. 2026 meeting schedule approved unanimously.
- B. November library materials list
  - 1. Line 520 When We Were Monsters by Jennifer Niven was pulled by Karen Crandall.
- C. FY27 Library Budgets
  - 1. Presented

LIBRARY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes

- D. Reconsideration of Sept materials list (M Spohn)
  - 1. Informed Mr. Spohn that reconsiderations are not allowed at this time per Robert's Rules of Order.
- E. ChatGPT format for materials review (M Kincaid)
  - 1. Tabled for next meeting
- X. ADVOCACY
  - A. None received
- XI. CORRESPONDENCE
  - A. None received
- XII. MEMBER COMMENTS (3 minutes per person)
  - A. Chad Scott Thanked the librarians and staff.
  - B. Karen Crandall Thanked Big Lake library and Wasilla library for ordering some of her recommendations.
  - C. Sally Pollen Expressed her appreciation for the board and the experience.
  - D. Mark Spohn Requested clarification on the December meeting location.
  - E. Marty Kincaid Thanked the librarians for their work.
- XIII. NEXT MEETING
  - A. December 9, 2025 Big Lake Lions Recreation Center
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjourned at 2:54 pm

ATTEST:

Sarah Thomas - Staff support

Date



CLERKS OFFICE

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH LIBRARY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman—Chad Scott (MBR 7) Vice Chair—Michelle Dempsey (MBR 2) MBR4—Bruce Owens MBR1-Nancy Bertels

MBR3—Vacant MBR5-Erik Palin MBR6-Susan Hillman ALT1— Camilla (Nan) Potts ALT2- Aaron Malone



#### MEETING MINUTES ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AND LIVE STREAMED

https://www.voutube.com/user/matsuboroughvideo 350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING

5:00 PM

August 11, 2025

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Called to order at 5:02 pm

#### II. ROLL CALL

- A. Present Chad Scott, Nancy Bertels, Bruce Owens, Susan Hillman, Camilla Potts, Aaron Malone and Michelle Dempsey @ 5:12 pm
- B. Absent Erik Palin

#### III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Agenda approved unanimously

#### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Pledge of Allegiance conducted

#### V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. May 12, 2025 – Minutes approved unanimously

#### VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Jillian Morrissey Community Development Director Ms. Morrissey read her memo on the final decision of "Maybe Now". It will remain in libraries of origin and shelved in the adult section.
- B. Hugh Leslie Recreation & Library Services Manager Mr. Leslie reminded the committee of the next available book and how to use the microphones.



### CLERKS OFFICE

#### VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Jeanne Troshynski Ms. Troshynski spoke about her opinion on reviewing adult books and freedom of choice.
- B. Jo Clark Ms. Clark spoke about her opinion on public library selections.
- Kathy Kysar Ms. Kysar spoke about her opinion on the committee reviewing adult books.
- D. Jackie Goforth Ms. Goforth spoke about her opinion on the school board LCAC.
- E. Linda Spohn Ms. Spohn spoke about her opinion on how tax dollars shouldn't be spent.
- F. Bonnie Cavanaugh Ms. Cavanaugh spoke about her opinion on book availability and affordability.
- G. Lisa Kennedy (attached emailed statement)

#### VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration
  - 1. Verity; Colleen Hoover

ISBN 1791392792

- 1 vote for Remove the book from the library (Scott)
- 4 votes for Keep the book where it is (Dempsey, Potts, Bertels, Hillman)
- 2 votes for Reshelve to the Adult section (Owens, Malone)
- Normal People; Sally Rooney
   The Bluest Eye; Toni Morrison
   ISBN 1984822179
   ISBN 0307278441
- 4. What Girls Are Made Of; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 0823445674
- 5. Water for Elephants; Sara Gruen ISBN 1565125606
- 6. Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic; Alison Bechdel ISBN 0618871713
- 7. This Book Is Gay; Juno Dawson ISBN 1492617830

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

#### X. NEXT MEETING

A. September 15, 2025

#### XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Nancy Bertels Ms. Bertels spoke about her opinion on the committee currently reviewing adult books.
- B. Camilla Potts Ms. Potts spoke about the origination of libraries and her opinion on current library selection.
- C. Michelle Dempsey Ms. Dempsey spoke her opinion on reviewing books in the adult section. Staff was asked to find out which shelves the books on the list are on.
- D. Aaron Malone Mr. Malone asked if the books have been moved to the adult section or not.
- E. Chad Scott Mr. Scott gave his opinion on the book "Verity" and that reviewing books shelved in the adult section would be futile.
- F. Michelle Dempsey motioned to review the next book on the list that is shelved in the Young Adult section. Malone seconded, passed unanimously.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT A. Adjourned at 5:54 pm

Chad Scott - Chair

 $x_{\frac{12-8-25}{\text{Date}}}$ 

ATTEST:

Sarah Thomas - Staff Support

x 12/8/25

RECEIVED

DEC 0 8 2025

CLERKS OFFICE

### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission

Special Meeting: June 17, 2025 DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

II.ROLL CALL - DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

#### Present:

Peter Probasco Andy Couch Kendra Zamzow Michael Bowles Marty Van Diest Jim Sykes

#### Absent:

Tim Hale Gabriel Kitter Bill Gamble

#### III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AC moved to approve the agenda, seconded by GK No objection, motion passed unanimously

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (three minutes per person)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Water Body Setback Presentation and Resolution of Support Alex Strawn
- B. Discussion/Comments on the Waterbody Setback Ordinance

JS moved to establish a subcommittee to draft a Resolution for review by the FWC, the subcommittee will consist of KZ (Chair), MVD and MB, seconded by AC No objection, motion passed unanimously



RECEIVED

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: July 16 at 5pm, Back of the Assembly Chambers

X. ADJOURNMENT
KZ moved to adjourn at 6:47pm, seconded by MB
No objection, motion passed unanimously

Peter Probasco, FWC Chair

Date

Ashley Stick, Planning Division Staff

Date

# DEC 0 8 2025 CLERKS OFFICE

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission SPECIAL MEETING: July 16, 2025

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

#### Present

Peter Probasco Andy Couch Gabriel Kitter Bill Gamble Michael Bowles Marty Van Diest Jim Sykes

#### Absent

Tim Hale

Kendra Zamzow

- III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
- IV. "We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial.
- V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MB moved to approve the agenda, seconded by AC

JS made a motion to add a report on the NPFC before Member Comments

No objection, motion passed unanimously

- VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (three minutes per person)
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Discussion/Comments on the Waterbody Setback Ordinance

oce

#### RECEIVED

JS moved to discuss, make edits, and accept the Resolution included in the packet, seconded by AC.

MB moved to eliminate Section 12 in the Ordinance, seconded by BG

PP - No

AC-No

GK - No

BG - No

MB - Yes

MVD - Yes

Motion fails with 4 - No and 2 - Yes

Vote on the main motion to accept the Resolution as edited

PP - Yes

AC - Yes

GK - Yes

BG - Yes

MB - No

MVD - No

- IX. MEMBER COMMENTS
- X. NEXT MEETING DATE: September 25, 2025, 4-6pm Back of the Assembly Chambers
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

MB moved to adjourn at 6:48pm, seconded by BG No objection, motion passed unanimously

Peter Probasco, FWC Chair

Data

Ashley Stick Planning Division Staff

Date

Disabled Persons Needing Reasonable Accommodation In Order To Participate At An Assembly Meeting Should Contact The Borough ADA Coordinator At (907) 861-8432 At Least One Week In Advance Of The Meeting.

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission REGULAR MEETING: September 25, 2025

RECEIVED

DEC 0 8 2025

CLERKS OFFICE

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

#### Present

Peter Probasco Andy Couch Marty Van Diest Michael Bowles Gabe Kitter Jim Sykes

#### Absent

Kendra Zamzow Bill Gamble Tim Hale

#### III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."

- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: MB moved to remove the Land Acknowledgement from this and all future agendas. The motion was seconded by MVD.

Motion: JS moved to postpone this item until the October 9 meeting. The motion was seconded by AC.

Vote: The postponement failed with 2 in favor and 3 opposed.

Vote: The main motion passed with 3 in favor and 2 opposed.

CUER

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 8, AC moved to approve the minutes, seconded by GK, No obj, Passed May 15, AC moved to approve the minutes, seconded by GK, No obj, Passed June 17, AC moved to approve the minutes, seconded by GK, No obj, Passed July 16, AC moved to approve the minutes, seconded by GK, No obj, Passed

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (three minutes per person)

Stephen Braund- Northern district set netters association.

Jessica Speed- Matsu Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership.

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report

Andy tasked with changes to State Legislative priorities being considered by the Assembly Oct 21.

- B. Chair's Report
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A. Waterbody Setback staff update and discussion
- X. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. North Pacific Fishery Management Council
  - B. Board of Fisheries work session
- XI. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XII. NEXT MEETING DATE: October 9, 2025, 4-6pm Back of the Assembly Chambers
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MB moved to adjourn at 5:27pm, seconded by GK No objection, motion passed unanimously

Andy Couch, FWC Vice Chair

10/9/25 Date

Ashley Stick, Planning Division Staff

Date

## DEC 1 8 2025

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

CLERKS OFFICE

Edna DeVries, Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION
Doug Glenn, District 1 – Vice Chair
Richard Allen, District 2
Brendan Carpenter, District 3
Michael Collins, District 4
Linn McCabe, District 5
Maksim Zagorodniy, District 6
Curt Scoggin, District 7



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Jason Ortiz, Planning & Land Use Deputy Director
Wade Long, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer
Lacie Olivieri, Planning Clerk

Assembly Chambers of the Dorothy Swanda Jones Building 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer

#### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES December 1, 2025

#### I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission's regular meeting was held on December 1, 2025, at the Assembly Chambers of the Dorothy Swanda Jones Building 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Present**: - Commissioner Linn McCabe

Commissioner Richard Allen Commissioner Doug Glenn Commissioner Curt Scoggin Commissioner Brendan Carpenter Commissioner Michael Collins Commissioner Maksim Zagorodniy

#### Absent/Excused:

Staff Present: 3 – Mr. Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director

Ms. Lacie Olivieri, Planning Department Admin Ms. Denise Michalske, Assistant Borough Attorney

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Allen inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

**GENERAL CONSENT:** The agenda was approved without objection.

#### III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Scoggin.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2025



- B. INTRODUCTION FOR PUBLIC HEARING QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS (There were no introductions for public hearing quasi-judicial matters.)
- C. INTRODUCTION FOR PUBLIC HEARING LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Resolution 25-23 A Resolution Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning

Commission Recommending Assembly Adoption Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update.

Public Hearing Date: December 15, 2025 Staff: Taunnie Boothby, Current Planner

Chair Allen read the Consent Agenda into the record.

GENERAL CONSENT: The Consent Agenda was approved without objection.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(There were no committee reports.)

VI. AGENCY/STAFF REPORTS

(There were no Agency/Staff Reports)

VII. LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

(There were no land use classifications.)

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

There being no persons to be heard, Audience Participation was closed without objection.

- IX. PUBLIC HEARING QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS
- X. PUBLIC HEARING LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Resolution 25-24 A Resolution Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning

Commission Recommending Approval Of An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.59 Lake Management Plan Implementation To Update

Definitions Related To Motorized And Personal Watercraft.

Staff: Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director

Chair Allen read the resolution title into the record.

Staff, Mr. Alex Strawn, presented his staff report.

Chair Allen inquired if commissioners had any questions for staff.

Chair Allen opened the public hearing.

There being no persons to be heard, Chair Allen closed the public hearing, and the discussion moved to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner McCabe moved to approve Planning Commission Resolution 25-

24. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Glenn.

Discussion ensued.

**AMENDMENT:** Commissioner McCabe moved to modify the resolution to have this topic incorporated and taken up with Ordinance 25-128. Seconded by Commissioner

Glenn.

**VOTE:** No objection to the Amendment. Passed unanimously.

**VOTE:** The main motion as amended passed without objection.

#### XI. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

(Correspondence and information were presented, and no comments were noted)

#### XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(There was no unfinished business.)

#### XIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### XIV. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Upcoming Planning Commission Agenda Items (Staff: Alex Strawn) (Commission Business was presented, and no comments were noted.)

#### XV. DIRECTOR AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McCabe: No comment.

Commissioner Glenn: No comment.

Commissioner Scoggin: No comment.

Commissioner Carpenter: No comments.

Commissioner Zagorodniy: Thanks for todays meeting.

Commissioner Collins: I appreciate everyone going through this and working together as always,

it's a pleasure and everyone drive home safe.

Alex Strawn: Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by loved ones, we have one more meeting before Christmas and I will wish you Merry Christmas then.

Commissioner Allen: Hope everyone had a nice Holiday. Please be safe out there I know some of you are driving a great distance tonight so please careful and everyone get home safe tonight.

#### XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

RICK ALLEN

Planning Commission Chair

ATTEST:

LACIE OLIVIERI

Planning Commission Clerk

Minutes approved:

12/15/25

#### RECEIVED

DEC 1 1 2025

South Lakes Community Council (SLCC) SLCC Meeting Minutes

**CLERKS OFFICE** 

Date: December 1, 2025

Location: Mat-Su Midwifery & Family Health 5000 E Shennum Dr Wasilla, AK 99654

- A. Call to Order at 7:01 pm by Chair Biederman
- B. Roll Call
  - a. Chair Susanna Biederman present
  - b. Vice-Chair Dan Kennedy present
  - c. Secretary Terry Roth present
  - d. Treasurer Kelley Tedd excused absence
  - e. Member-At-Large Lance Nielsen present
  - f. Member-At-Large Lynn Hallford present
- C. Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2025 Meeting
  - a. Motion to approve minutes by: member Nancy Schramm
  - b. 2nd by: member Cindy Thornburg
  - c. Motion passed
- D. Treasurer's Report no action needed
  - a. Member Dues Invitation to Become a Member no action needed
- E. Community Non-Profit Spotlight Reach907, Linda Kabealo, Program Coordinator, Kristy Haddock, Foster Care Manager and Rhonda Schneider, Volunteer Helper
- F. Borough Spotlight Public Works: Roads and Transportation, Tom Adams
- G. Community Needs or Community Projects no action
- H. Public Comments no action
- I. Adjournment at 8:06 pm by Chair Biederman

our

Signed by: Susanna Biederman, Chair

Date

Attested by:

Terry Roth, Secretary

12-11-25

Date

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER & WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD

Bob Walden, P.E. Chair Terry Gorlick Dan Tucker Danny Noland, Vice Chair Gina Jorgensen Amanda Fleming Matthew Midgett

#### **MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING
MSB Assembly Chambers
350 F. Dahlia Ave

350 E. Dahlia Ave Palmer, AK 99645 June 18, 2025

2:30 p.m.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Water and Wastewater Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at the DSJ Building at 350 East Dahlia Avenue in Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. by Mr. Bob Walden, P.E.

#### II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Water and Wastewater Advisory Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Bob Walden, P.E. - present

Mr. Danny Noland - present

Ms. Amanda Fleming – excused

Mr. Terry Gorlick - present

Ms. Gina Jorgensen - present

Mr. Matthew Midgett - excused

Mr. Dan Tucker - present

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda by Mr. Gorlick.

VOTE: The agenda was approved without objection.

#### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Walden.

#### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Minutes for the March 19, 2025, regular meeting were reviewed by the Board.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Mr. Gorlick.



VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

#### VI. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS

A. City of Wasilla - Mr. Bob Walden, P.E., Public Works Deputy Director

The City of Wasilla is finalizing their wastewater permit for the City's septage expansion. Stantec is still working on 13 different wastewater drainage easements.

#### VII. PRESENTATION

Ms. Stephanie Klaysmat and Mr. George Hoden from HDL Engineering Consultants provided a presentation on Wasilla-Palmer Water Main Interconnect. Project Status Updates. Please see attached presentation slides for additional information.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person)

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. None

#### X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible adoption of: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY REGARDING ASSEMBLY ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 25-073

Mr. Noland moved to use the draft resolution created by Mr. Alex Strawn, MSB Planning Director, as a template to write the WWAB's recommendations regarding ordinance 25-073. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jorgensen.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gorlick moved to add a recommendation to adopt documentation developed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough volunteer water quality monitoring program, resolution 02-060, project no. 20307 as reference material for background water quality under MSB Section 17.55.016 Water Body Setbacks For Pollution Sources. Mr. Noland seconded.

Discussion ensued.

The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Noland moved to adopt Water and Wastewater Advisory Board's resolution 25-01. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jorgensen

The motion passed without objection.

#### XI. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Bob Walden, P.E.:

None

Mr. Danny Noland:

None

Mr. Terry Gorlick:

Thanked everyone for their patience and having been able to ask a lot of questions.

Ms. Gina Jorgensen:

None

Mr. Dan Tucker:

Glad to have found a consent.

XII. NEXT MEETING

A. September 17, 2025, 2:30 p.m., MSB Assembly Chambers

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Tucker.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Mr. Bob Walden, P.E. Chair

ATTESTED:

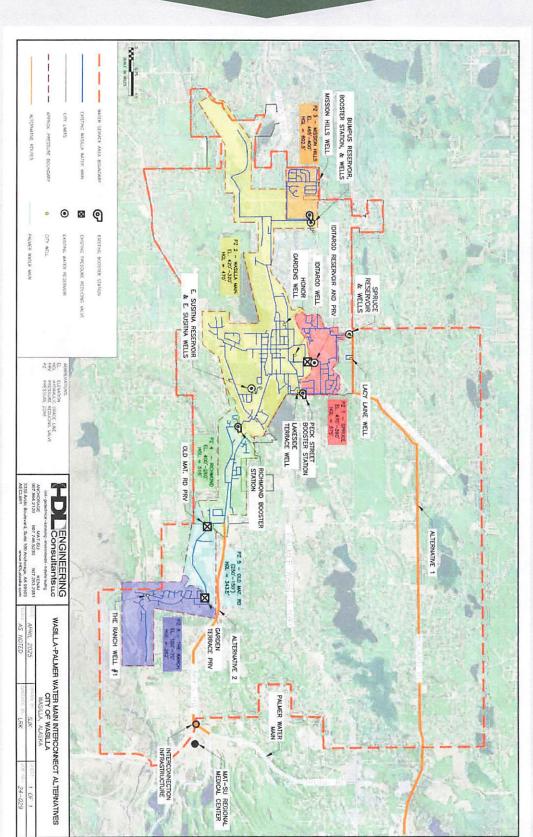
Christina Sands, Board Administrative Support



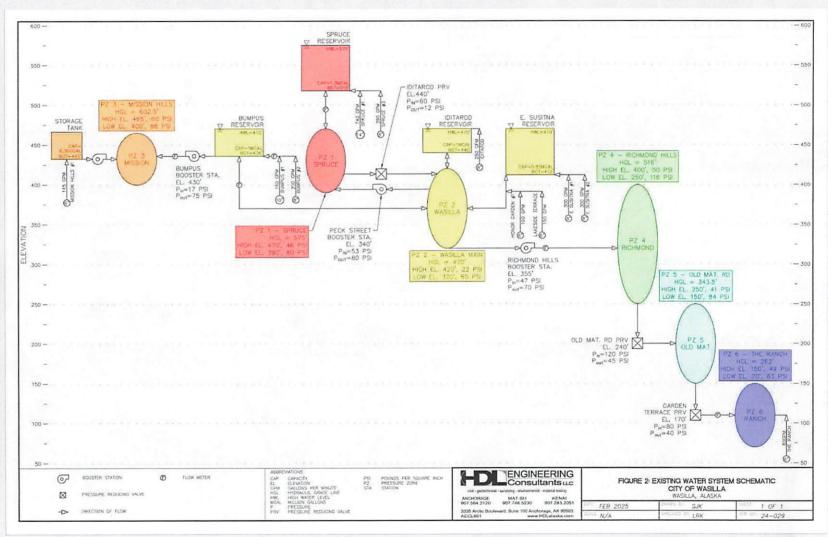


XIV.	NEXT MEETING
	A. June 18, 2025, 2:30 p.m., MSB Assembly Chambers
XV.	ADJOURNMENT
	Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Terry Gorlick
	The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.
	Mr. Bob Walden, P.E. Chair
	ATTESTED:
	Christina Sands, Board Administrative Support

## **Project Background**

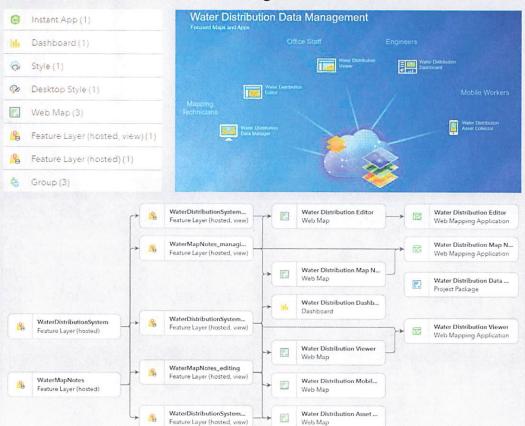


Page 7



### **ArcGIS Solutions**

#### Water Distribution Data Management Solution



#### Included Layers:

- Service Connections
- Service Meter
- System Meter
- Fire Hydrants
- System Valve
- Service Valve
- Flow Valve
- Pressure Valve
- Backflow
- Fitting
- Pump
- Storage
- Supply
- Service Line
- Water Main

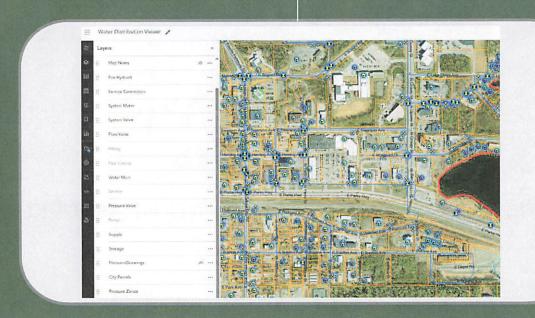
#### Related Tables:

- · Hydrant Maintenance Inspection
- System Valve Inspection
- Backflow Inspection

## **Desktop Survey**

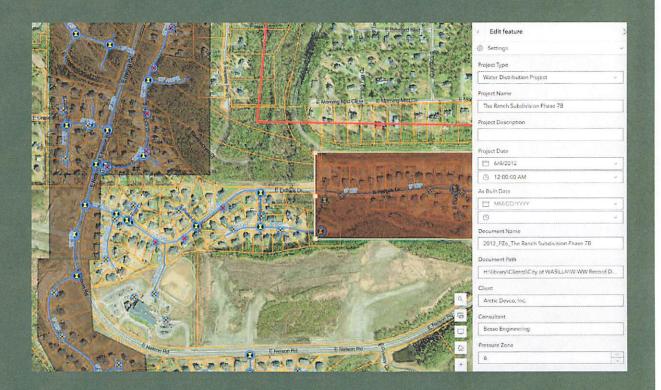
MSB Hydrant Layer (.shp) COW Water Main (.shp) COW Service Connections (.xlsx) COW Record Drawings (.pdf)

HDL Pressure Zones (.dwg)



### **Record Drawing Layer**

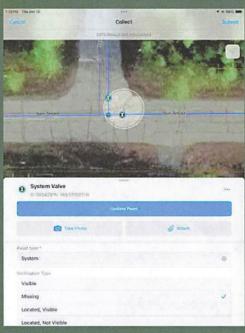
- Plans and Drawings Solution
- Easily view gaps in available record data
- Each node/line within area also has associated record drawing data in attribute table
- Document path can be cloud/internet based for broad user access (field, office and/or public)
- Area boundary created manually or by georeferencing pdf using control points



## Field Maps



- Accessible through IOS & Android app stores
- Maps and editing accessible offline (no cellular service)
- Configure and customize form/view using AGOL







Page 12

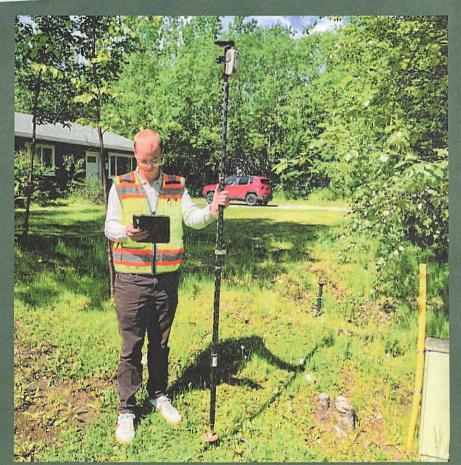
## Field Survey

#### **Equipment**

- Field Maps (mobile app)
- EOS Arrow 100 GNSS (submeter accuracy)
- Tablet
- Survey Pole
- Schonstedt Locator

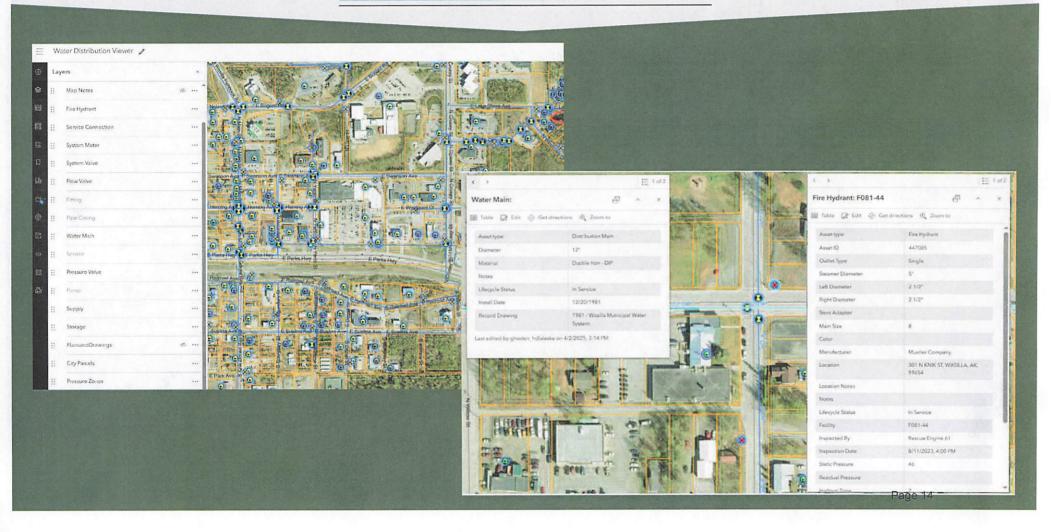
#### **Ground Truthing**

- Service Connection Valves
- System Valves
- Hydrants
- Hydrant Valves



Page 13

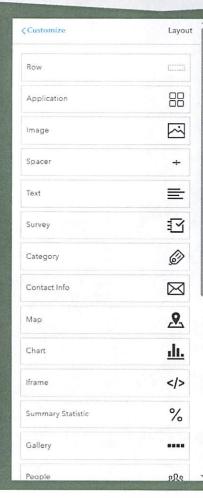
## **ArcGIS Online Map**



#### **ArcGIS Hub**



- Community Engagement Platform
- Share GIS maps and dashboard statistics
- Data stays live by referencing hosted feature layers





#### Project Introduction

The City of Wasilla has received grant funding from the Matanuska-Sustna Borough and other sources for their water distribution system. With this funding the City of Wasilla has commanded HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC (HDL) to evaluate proposed connectivity between Wasilla and Palmar's existing water distribution service areas. Connecting the existing water distribution service areas would provide realizency to both communical systems and would enhance potential development along the selected route with the installation of a new water main.

#### Northern Route

Potential for Land Development

Route Length

8.3 Miles

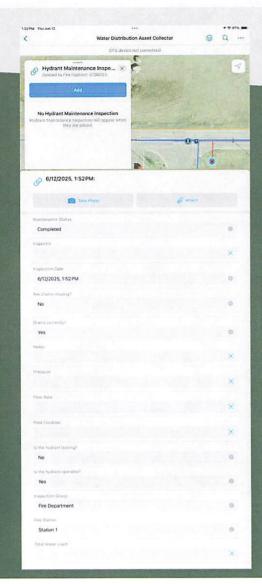
Vacant Land
Adjacent Development Potential

384 Acres

Average Vacant Land (Both Routes)

Potential Developable Land Per Mile

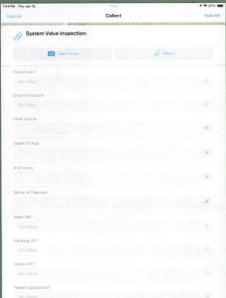
46.2 acres per mile Page 15



### **Other Applications**

#### **Inspection Forms**

- Hydrant Maintenance
- Hydrant Testing
- · System Valve
- Backflow
- Sewer Manhole



#### **Survey As-Built Data**

- During construction, perform as-built surveys by contractor
- Keep GIS map up-to-date without requiring desktop entries

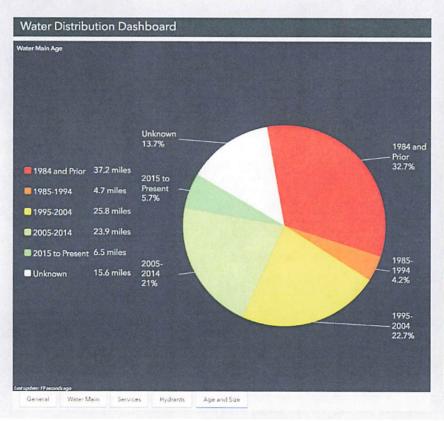
EOS Skadi Smart Handle "Invisible Range Pole"

- Calculates Z values without pole
- Shoot surrounding assets such as pipes in trench without being in trench



#### Pipe Age Analysis

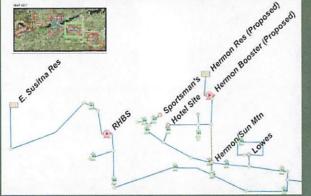
Using the Dashboard online feature and Data Engineering tools to provide visual statics



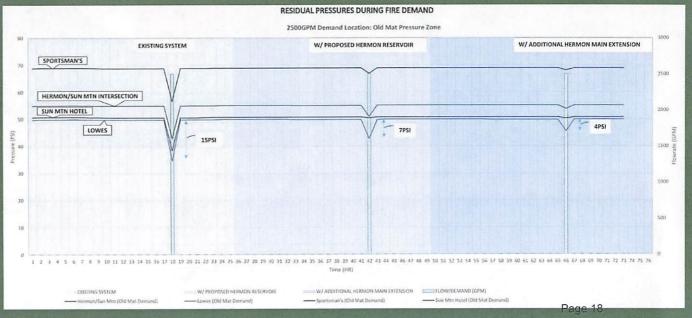


Page 17

## **KYPipe Modeling**



Directly import GIS node, line, and contour data into modeling software to create most accurate model









Contact
Stephanie Klaysmat
sklaysmat@hdlalaska.com
Desk:907.746.5204



### **PLANS/PROJECTS**

#### Moving Forward





Sub-Area Solution Studies (SASS)



Fuller Lake Management Plan



Transit



Historic Preservation Plan Update



Community Cleanup



Enterprise Software Update (Tyler)



Official Streets & Highway Plan (OSHP)



MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission



Alaska Clean Water Actions Grant (ACWA)



South Knik River CC (SpUD)



Borough-Wide/Community Comp Plans



Capital Improvement Program (CIP)



Corridor Access Management Plan (CAMP)



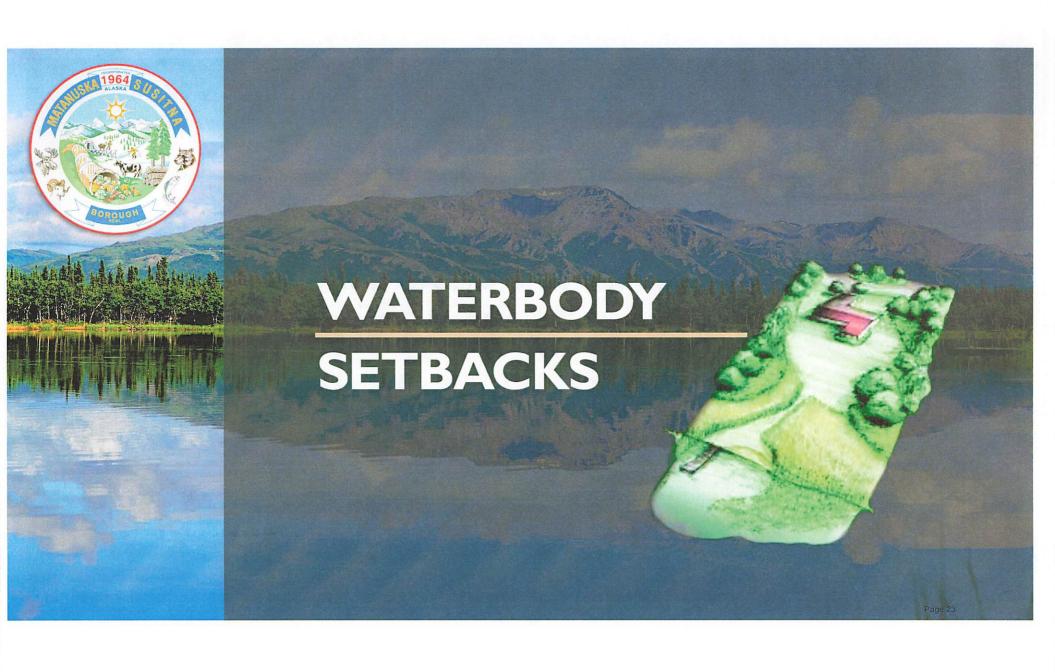
Community Council Boundary Updates

# PLANNING OVERVIEW

#### Assembly Directed Code Changes



CODE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR	ASSEMBLY PUBLIC HEARING
17.60	Homeless Shelter CUP	Sumner	July 2025
17.55	Setback Amendments	Assembly	TBD
17.XX	Large Lot Single Family Residential District	Hale	August 2025
17.60	Mobile Home Park CUP	Nowers/McKee	August 2025
15.25	SpUD/Comp Plan Process	Hale/Gamble	September 2025
17.05	Essential Services Utilities Standards	Gamble/Hale	TBD
17.73	Overhaul of Multi-Family Code	Sumner	TBD
17.59	Standardize Definitions for Lake Management Regulations	Hale	TBD
Title 43	Identification of Sink Holes in Platting Process	Nowers	September 2025
17.73	Multi-Family Platting Link	Nowers	TBD
17.23	Port Development Permit Repeal	Gamble	September 2025



# **CURRENT STATE**

# 1964

#### Setback Violations on Lakes

	Before July 3, 1973	July 3, 1973 May 12, 1987	May 12, 1987 thru Present	
45'-75'	229 Grandfather	377 Grandfather	156 Illegal	
<45' <u>‡€</u> **	362 Grandfather	298 Illegal	309 Illegal	

## STRUCTURES BUILT WITHIN 75'

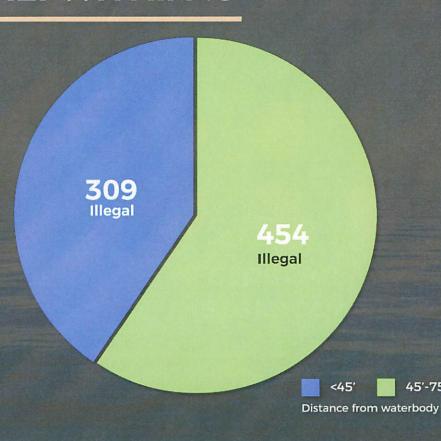
1984 STORES

1987- Present

Lakes Only

763

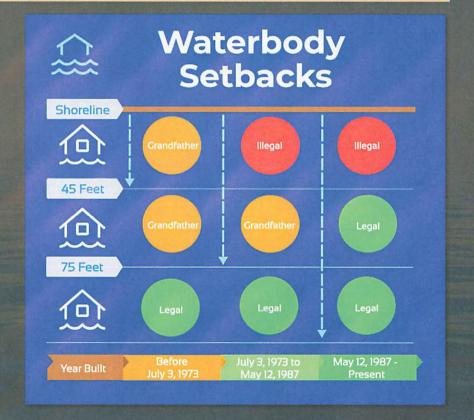
22% On Big Lake



Page 25

# MSB HISTORY

Setback Regulations





## TIMELIME



#### on MARCH 2023

Planning Commission recommends failure of ordinance eliminating waterbody setback

#### 02 MAY 2023

Assembly directs staff to work with Planning Commission on amendments to waterbody setback

#### □ JUNE 2023

Planning Commission opposes the ordinance allowing structures to go within 75 feet so long as certain engineering standards to protect water quality are applied.

#### 04 JULY 2023

Assembly unanimously defeats ordinance allowing structures to go within 75 feet so long as certain engineering standards to protect water quality are applied.

#### > 05 AUGUST 2023

Waterbody Setback Advisory Board is established (OR 23-079)

#### SEPTEMBER 2024

Waterbody Setback Advisory Board extended to March 18, 2025

#### **ADVISORY BOARD**



#### **Board Membership:**

- Design, Constructing Stormwater Abatement (2)
- Home Builder, Lending, Real Estate
- Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership
- MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission
- MSB Planning Commission
- At-Large (3)

#### **ADVISORY BOARD**

#### **Topics of Discussion:**

- Code compliance overview
- Mandatory land use Permit overview
- Analysis of existing setback violations
- Financing and sale of illegal structures
- 1998 Setback Analysis
- Review of riparian buffer ordinance
- Non-point source pollution, riparian buffers, fish habitat, and water quality
- In-depth review: MSB 17.65 Variances
- In-depth review: MSB 17.55 Setbacks & Screening Easements
- In-depth review: MSB 17.80 Nonconforming Structures
- Recommended changes to MSB 17.55 and MSB 17.80





TIMES MET

22

48

TOTAL HOURS



#### 1964 1964 1970 1970 1970

## Clarification & Cleanup

- Deleted unnecessary/outdated language
- Clarifies intent
- Clarifies which homes qualify for pre-existing legal nonconforming status

# 1964

## New general standards near a waterbody

- Kennels, stables, and animal yards no closer than 100 feet
- Stormwater controls for commercial or industrial parking areas within 75 feet
- Storage of liquid hazardous substances within 75 feet requires secondary containment
  - Existing facilities have 5 years to remove or retrofit
- Prohibited within 25 feet
  - Removal of riparian buffer (50%)\*
  - Storage of solid waste including debris and animal yard waste
  - Stockpiling of snow
  - Application of fertilizer or herbicides
  - Paved parking areas

# 1964 (1964) (196

#### Land Use Permit

- Required for all "ground-disturbing activities" within 75 feet of water
- Ensures compliance with general standards
- Impervious surface cap of 20%\*

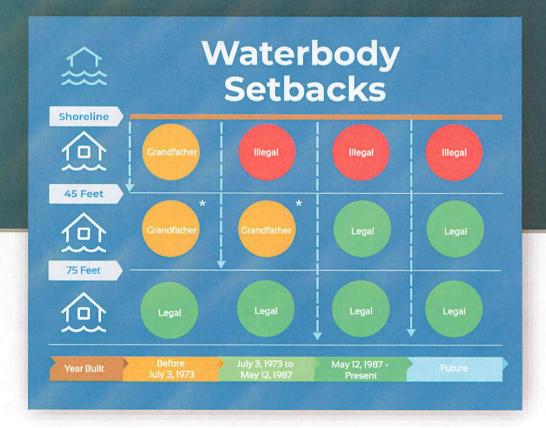




# Homes allowed between 45' - 75' of standing water with the following restrictions

- Land Use Permit prepared by "qualified professional"
- Identification of current and proposed drainage patterns
- Runoff pollution mitigation measures
- Maintain the pre-development function of wetlands
- Landowner responsible for maintenance of mitigation measures





\* Option to become legal

#### 1964 1964 1964 1964

#### Variance

- No longer allowed within 45 feet of a water body
- Results in de facto prohibition of variances near lakes

# 1964 (

#### **Enhanced Enforcement**

- Additional staff to patrol waterbodies
- Early detection of water body development



#### Habitat Protection Tax Incentive

- Recommend exploration of tax incentive for development near water bodies
- Encourages activities that protect and restore shoreline habitat
- This type of tax credit is allowed by State law and is being used within the Kenai Peninsula Borough





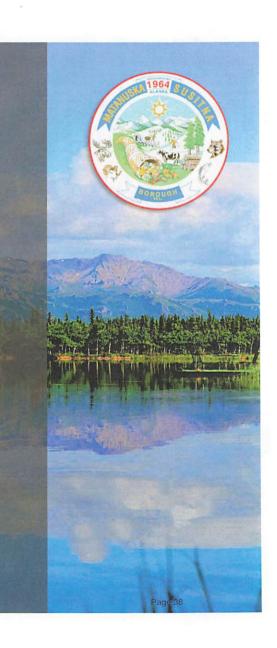
Alex Strawn
Planning Dept Director



alex.strawn@matsugov.us



(907) 861-7850



### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 17.02 - MANDATORY LAND USE PERMITS, MSB 17.55 - SETBACK AND SCREENING EASEMENTS, MSB 17.65 - VARIANCES, AND MSB 17.125 - DEFINITIONS.

WHEREAS, the 75-foot waterbody setback was originally established in 1973 by assembly ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the setback was temporarily reduced to 45 feet in 1986 but reinstated to 75 feet by voter initiative in 1987; and

WHEREAS, over time, enforcement of the 75-foot setback has been limited, resulting in widespread noncompliance, environmental impacts, and real estate complications; and

WHEREAS, between 1987 and present, over 700 shoreline structures have been built in violation of the 75-foot setback ordinance, many of which went undetected due to limited permitting requirements and enforcement options; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-073 offers a pragmatic solution by allowing structures to be built within 75 feet of a waterbody, provided they are designed and built in accordance with plans developed by a qualified professional that ensure water quality is protected; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) continues to experience sustained residential, commercial, and recreational development near its lakes, rivers, and wetlands, increasing the need for clear land use regulations to manage growth while protecting environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, waterbodies in the MSB provide significant public benefits, including clean drinking water, fisheries, recreation, scenic values, and ecological services that can be negatively impacted by unmanaged development, impervious surfaces along waterbodies, and pollutant discharges; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-073 requires land use review and permitting procedures for mechanized development within 75 feet of a waterbody, providing the MSB the opportunity to evaluate drainage and infiltration in order to protect water quality; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance develops several new general standards for development within 75-feet of a waterbody to ensure pollution is minimized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends Assembly adoption of Ordinance 25-073.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this -- day of --, 2025.

	Bob	Walden,	CHAIR
ATTEST			
Christina Sands, Staff Support	-		
(SEAL)			
YES:			
NO:			en e

Action:

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 25-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY REGARDING ASSEMBLY ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 25-073.

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2023, the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board (WWAB) passed Resolution No. 23-01 adopting its goals and objectives, including to assess the current wastewater and septage handling situation and conditions and identify and propose potential alternatives, should the current options be compromised or terminated, and advising the Assembly regarding wastewater issues in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly requested the WWAB to review and comment on Assembly Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 which, is intended to modernize and strengthen Borough regulations related to development activities near waterbodies; and

WHEREAS, the WWAB met on June 18, 2025, and invited the widest public participation possible; and

WHEREAS, there was /no public comments in support/opposition, as it is considered ...; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the WWAB hereby makes the following recommendations to the Assembly (IF THERE ARE ANY...)

1.Section MSB xx.xx:

2.Section MSB xx.xx:	
3.Section MSB xx.xx:	
4.Section MSB	
5.Section MSB	
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WWAB hereby recor	nmends
Assembly approval/defeat of Assembly Ordinance No. 25-073	(with
the above mentioned recommendations - if needed).	
ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Waste	ewater
Advisory Board this day of, 2025.	
ROBERT WALDEN, Chair	nerson
ROBBRI WABBER, Charle	<u>JCI JOII</u>
ATTEST:	
CHRISTINA SANDS, Staff Support	
CHRISTINA SANDS, SCATT Support	

Sponsored by: Hale
Introduced:
Public Hearing:
Action:

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 25-073

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING MSB 17.02 MANDATORY LAND USE PERMIT, MSB 17.55 - SETBACK AND SCREENING EASEMENTS, MSB 17.65 VARIANCES, MSB 17.80 NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES AND MSB 17.125 DEFINITIONS.

#### BE IT ENACTED:

WHEREAS, the intent and rationale of this ordinance are found in the accompanying Information Memorandum No. 25-126.

Section 1. <u>Classification</u>. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Borough Code.

Section 2. <u>Amendment of chapter</u>. The title and table of contents within MSB 17.55 is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 17.55: SETBACKS [AND SCREENING EASEMENTS]

#### Section

17.55.004	DEFINITIONS
17.55.005	[GENERAL] PURPOSE AND INTENT
17.55.010	SETBACKS FROM RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND LOT LINES
17.55.015	SHORELANDS; DEFINITION [REPEALED]
17.55.016	WATER BODY SETBACKS FOR POLLUTION SOURCES
17.55.020	WATER BODY SETBACKS FOR [SHORELANDS] STRUCTURES
17.55.040	VIOLATIONS, ENFORCEMENT, AND PENALTIES

Section 3. Amendment of Subsection. MSB 17.55.004(A) is hereby amended as follows:

#### 17.55.004 DEFINITIONS.

(A) For the purpose of this chapter, the following

Ordinance Serial No. 25-073

Page 1 of 23

definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

- "Animal waste facility" means any area or structure used to store, compost, or dispose of animal manure, animal byproducts, an animal carcass, or fish waste. The term does not include a dumpster or other closed container provided by a waste service provider.
- "Hazardous substance" means (A) an element or compound that, when it enters into or on the surface or subsurface land or water of the state, presents a danger to the public health or welfare, or to fish, animals, vegetation, or any part of the natural habitat in which fish, animals, or wildlife may be found; or (B) a substance defined as a hazardous substance under 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 9657 (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980).
- "Ordinary high water mark" means the mark made by the action of water under natural conditions on the shore or bank of a water body [BODY OF WATER] which action has been so common and usual that it has created a difference between the character of the vegetation or soil on one side of the mark and character of the vegetation and soil on the other side of the mark.
  - "Private pond" means a natural or constructed

water body less than five acres in size that lacks a surface connection to other waterbodies and is located entirely on property with the same ownership.

- "Pump activated fuel delivery systems" means
  those fuel tanks, such as for home heating oil or
  aviation fuel, where the tank outlet is located above
  the fluid level of a full tank.
- "Secondary containment" means an impermeable diked area or portable impermeable container capable of providing storage capacity for materials which may leak due to the failure, overfilling or improper draining of the primary storage container. Double-walled tanks qualify as secondary containment only where the flow piping includes leak detection coupled to an automatic shutoff valve at the tank outlet.
- "Water-dependent accessory structure" means a structure necessary to support access to or use of the water (e.g., a shed used to store boating accessories) or waterfront (e.g., a gazebo).
- Section 4. <u>Amendment of Section</u>. MSB 17.55.005 is hereby amended as follows:
  - 17.55.005 [GENERAL] PURPOSE AND INTENT.
  - (A) [THIS] The purpose of this chapter is to establish[ES] minimum structural setbacks from lot

lines, [WATER COURSES AND] water bodies, <u>and</u> rights-of-way [, AND SPECIFIC SCREENING EASEMENTS FOR CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN SUBDIVISIONS] in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough except where otherwise specified in special land use district regulations within this title.

- (1) Setbacks provide for light and air, fire protection, traffic safety, preservation of privacy, stormwater management, space for utility lines, and uphold neighborhood aesthetics; and
- (2) Setbacks along flowing waters minimize risks to structures from lateral channel migration and flooding.
- (B) The primary purpose of 17.55.016 to 17.55.020 is to protect human health, aquatic and riparian habitat, the ecologic function of water bodies, the local economy and property values, recreation, viewshed, and quality of life.
- (1) These sections establish requirements related to the development and management of lands adjoining waterbodies.
- (2) Standards will reduce and minimize the discharge of pollutants to waterbodies via surface runoff and subsurface leaching.

Section 5. Amendment of Section. MSB 17.55.010 is hereby

amended as follows:

### 17.55.010 SETBACKS FROM RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND LOT LINES.

- (A) No structure or building line shall be placed within 25 feet from the right-of-way line of any public right-of-way, except no furthermost protruding portion of any structure shall be placed within ten feet from the right-of-way line of any public right-of-way when the pre-existing lot:
- (1) measures 60 feet or less in frontage on a public right-of-way, and is not located on a cul-de-sac bulb; or
- (2) comprises a nonconforming structure erected prior to July 3, 1973. This setback shall be known as the structure or building line setback.
- (B) Except where specifically provided other[-]wise by ordinance, no furthermost protruding portion of any structure or building line shall be located nearer than ten feet from any side or rear lot line.
- (C) Except as otherwise specified by code, eaves may project a maximum of three feet into required setback areas.
- (D) The setback requirements of this section do not apply to property within the cities of <a href="Houston">Houston</a>, Palmer, and Wasilla.

- (E) If a condemnation by a governmental agency reduces the building line setback of a structure below 25 feet, but there remains at least ten feet setback, and the setback reduced by the condemnation met the requirements of this section prior to the condemnation, the resulting setback shall be the setback requirements for the lot.
- (F) For purposes of this chapter, commercial or industrial buildings on separate but [ADJACENT] adjoining parcels, which otherwise meet the setback requirements, may have connecting pedestrian walkways, enclosed or not. Pedestrian walkways:
- (1) shall not contribute to the building area or the number of stories or height of connected buildings; and
- (2) must comply with the current adopted edition of the International Building Code, except that the outside width of the walkway shall not exceed 30 feet in width, exclusive of eaves.
- (G) No furthermost protruding portion of any structure or building line shall be located nearer than ten feet from railroad rights-of-way, except that utilities and rail dependent structures may extend up to railroad rights-of-way.

Section 6. Adoption of Section. MSB 17.55.016 is hereby adopted as follows:

#### 17.55.016 WATER BODY SETBACKS FOR POLLUTION SOURCES

- (A) No part of a subsurface sewage disposal system shall be closer than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any water body.
- (B) Kennels, stables, animal yards and animal waste facilities shall not be located closer than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any water body.

  Drainage from kennels, stables, animal yards and animal waste facilities shall not be concentrated and directed (e.g., such as by a ditch) towards a water body. This requirement does not apply to private ponds.
- (C) Paved vehicle parking areas shall not be located closer than 25 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any water body.
- (1) for commercial or industrial facilities, paved vehicle parking areas within 75 feet of a water body shall demonstrate that the development standards identified in MSB 17.02.035(B) regarding stormwater runoff are met.
- (D) Except as provided in subparagraph (1), all liquid hazardous substances, including petroleum fuels, oils, and lubricants, located or stored closer than 75

feet from the ordinary high water mark of any water body shall include secondary containment of at least 110 percent of the storage volume to minimize the risk of spills. All piping and valves carrying liquid hazardous substances shall have secondary containment.

- (1) Pump-activated fuel-delivery systems with leak detection and auto shutoff may have a drip collection system instead of secondary containment.
- (2) Refined oil fuels such as gasoline, diesel fuel, small engine fuels, etc., with an aggregate total volume of 10 gallons or less do not require secondary containment.
- (3) The owners of pre-existing fixed storage facilities for petroleum fuels and other liquid hazardous substances (e.g., home heating oil tanks) shall be allowed five years from the effective date of this section to fully comply with the secondary containment requirement.
- (E) The following activities are prohibited within 25 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any water body:
- (1) Removing riparian buffer from more than
  50 percent of the surface area except as provided in MSB
  17.02.035(A)(1)(a).

- (a) Dead, diseased, or fallen trees may be removed from the riparian buffer area, and pruning for vegetation health is allowed.
- (2) Ground disturbing activities of more than
  50 percent of the surface area.
- (3) Storing or discharging solid waste, including debris, and animal and yard wastes.
- (4) Stockpiling snow imported from an offsite location.
- (5) The application of fertilizers or herbicides.

Section 7. Amendment of Section. MSB 17.55.020 is hereby amended as follows:

17.55.020 **WATER BODY** SETBACKS FOR [SHORELANDS] **STRUCTURES**.

- (A) Except as provided in subsections (B) and (F) of this section, no structure or footing shall be located closer than 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a water body [BODY OF WATER]. [EXCEPT AS PROVIDED OTHERWISE, E] Eaves may project three feet into the required setback area.
- (1) Compliance with setbacks for structures adjoining waterbodies shall be based upon the location of the structure in relation to the ordinary high water

mark at the time it was constructed. Subsequent movement of the ordinary high water mark that reduces the setback distance does not create a violation under this chapter.

- (B) Docks, piers, marinas, aircraft hangars, boathouses and water-dependent accessory structures may be located closer than 75 feet of a water body and over the water body, provided they [ARE NOT USED FOR HABITATION AND DO NOT CONTAIN SANITARY OR PETROLEUM FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES. STRUCTURES PERMITTED OVER WATER UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL CONFORM TO ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS] meet all borough regulatory standards and receive a land use permit prior to construction in accordance with MSB 17.02.
- (1) Boathouses or aircraft hangars which are exempt from a minimum shoreline setback for structures shall:
- (a) be built over, in, or [IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO] adjoining a water\_body and used solely for storing boats and boating accessories;
- (b) be designed, constructed and oriented for primary access by boats or aircraft directly to a water body;
  - (c) not have more than incidental

accessory access to a street or driveway; and

- (d) not be usable as a garage or habitable structure without significant alteration.
- [(C) IN THE CITY OF WASILLA, THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO STRUCTURES WHERE CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETED PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 16, 1982. ELSEWHERE IN THE BOROUGH, THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO STRUCTURES WHERE CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1987, IF THE PRESENT OWNER OR OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY HAD NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF ANY VIOLATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION PRIOR TO SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION OF THE STRUCTURES. THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL, UPON APPLICATION BY A PROPERTY OWNER, DETERMINE WHETHER A PROPERTY QUALIFIES FOR AN EXCEPTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.
- (1) AN APPLICATION FOR A SHORELINE SETBACK EXCEPTION SHALL INCLUDE A FILING FEE AS ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY.
- (D) IN THIS SECTION, A "STRUCTURE" IS ANY DWELLING OR HABITABLE BUILDING OR GARAGE.
- (E) NO PART OF A SUBSURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM SHALL BE CLOSER THAN 100 FEET FROM THE ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK OF ANY BODY OF WATER. THE PLANNING COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE THIS DISTANCE BE INCREASED WHERE NECESSARY

TO PROTECT WATERS WITHIN THE BOROUGH.]

- (F) A permit in accordance with MSB 17.02 is required prior to construction or placement of any structure, or any ground-disturbing activity within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any water body.
- (1) New structures may be located between 45 and 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a lake, pond, or wetland provided a land use permit in accordance with MSB 17.02 is obtained prior to commencement of construction.
- (2) Existing habitable buildings and garages built between May 12, 1987, and the effective date of this paragraph that are between 45 and 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a lake, pond, or wetland may obtain a land use permit in accordance with MSB 17.02 to comply with this chapter.

Section 8. Amendment of Subsection. MSB 17.02.010(A) is hereby amended as follows:

(A) It is the intent of this chapter to improve the level of compliance with existing borough code by establishing a mandatory land use review process <u>for activities within 75 feet of a water body</u> and directly providing regulatory information to persons proposing [DEVELOPMENT] certain activities within the borough

outside of the cities of Houston, Palmer, and Wasilla.

Section 9. <u>Amendment of Section</u>. MSB 17.02.020 is hereby amended as follows:

# 17.02.020 LAND USE PERMIT FOR ACTIVITIES WITHIN 75 FEET OF A WATER BODY.

- (A) The land owner or authorized agent shall obtain a land use permit from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department prior to the commencement of:
- (6) construction or placement of any [BUILDING] structure within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any [WATERCOURSE OR] water body; or

# (7) ground disturbing activities within 75 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any water body.

- (B) A landowner or authorized agent may voluntarily request a land use permit for any structure or use not required to obtain a permit under this chapter.
- (C) A permit is not required under this chapter when the proposed use is subject to another permit within this title.
- Section 10. <u>Amendment of Subsection</u>. MSB 17.02.030(B)(2)(a) is hereby amended as follows:
  - (a) site plans are not required to be certified but shall clearly identify the following:
    - (i) north arrow;

- (ii) boundaries of parcel;
- (iii) size, location, and setback dimensions
  of proposed structures;
- (iv) names and location of [ADJACENT]
  adjoining roadways;
- (v) location of rights-of-way and public easements within and [ADJACENT TO] adjoining the parcel;
- (vi) location and name of [ADJACENT] adjoining
  water bodies;
- (vii) location of subsurface sewage disposal
  systems; [AND]
  - (viii) intended use of proposed structures;[.]
- (ix) existing cleared areas, structures, and impervious surfaces; and
- (x) any areas of proposed ground disturbing activities.
- Section 11. Adoption of Section. MSB 17.02.035 REQUIRED STANDARDS is adopted as follows:

#### 17.02.035 REQUIRED STANDARDS

- (A) The director may issue a land use permit pursuant to MSB 17.02.020 only upon finding that the development meets the following standards:
- (1) the site plan demonstrates compliance with the provisions of MSB 17.55.016;

- (a) notwithstanding the requirements of 17.55.016(E)(1), a land use permit may be issued where no riparian buffer exists if the requirements of MSB 17.02.050 are met.
- (2) any proposed buildings or structures shall comply with MSB 17.55.020(B), as applicable; and
- (3) the total area of impervious surfaces within 75 feet of a water body shall not exceed 20% of the area within 75 feet of the water body.

Section 12. Adoption of Section. MSB 17.02.050 ADDITIONAL REQUIRED STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES is adopted as follows:

# 17.02.050 ADDITIONAL REQUIRED STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

- (A) In addition to the site plan requirements identified in MSB 17.02.030, structures built between 45 and 75 feet as required by MSB 17.55.020(F)(1)-(2), or a land use permit application in accordance with MSB 17.02.035(A)(1)(a) or 17.02.035(A)(3), must submit the following additional information to obtain a land use permit:
- (1) existing and proposed drainage patterns to and from the parcel, known drainage problems such as flooding or erosion, and potential pollutant sources

from current or proposed land use that may add pollutants
to stormwater runoff;

- (2) current runoff pollution mitigation measures or plans and specifications for proposed runoff pollution mitigation measures, including necessary maintenance, with sufficient detail to support an engineering review;
- (3) current infiltrative methods or plans and specifications for infiltrative methods shall identify soil type and depth to the seasonal high water table providing:
- (a) <u>a minimum of 2 feet from the bottom</u>
  of any basin or swale to the seasonal high water table;
  or
- vegetated surface as the bottom of the basin or swale
  and no standing water during high-water periods of the
  year from April 1 September 30; and
- (4) site-specific analyses conducted by a qualified professional identifying the current or proposed runoff pollution mitigation measures.
- (B) A land use permit may only be issued upon a finding that the applicant's runoff mitigation measures are sufficient as evidenced by:

- (1) review and certification of existing runoff pollution mitigation measures by a qualified professional; or
- (2) design and installation of proposed runoff pollution mitigation under the oversight of a qualified professional.
- (C) Runoff mitigation measures shall meet the following criteria:
- (1) Treat the initial 0.25 inch of post-development runoff for each storm event;
- (2) Provide a minimum of 12 hours of detention for the post-development runoff in excess of predevelopment runoff volumes for the 1-year, 24-hour storm;
- (3) Maintain the post-development runoff peak
  flow from the 10-year, 24-hour storm to less than 1.10
  times the pre-development runoff peak flow at all
  project discharge points;
- (4) Storm water conveyance and drainage ditches shall be sized to pass the 10-year, 24-hour storm event. Control flows in conveyance channels so that transport of particles will not occur for the post-development 10-year, 24-hour storm; and
  - (5) In areas where wetlands are disturbed,

- drainage must be designed to preserve the predevelopment function of the remaining wetlands.
- (D) Upon completion of the project, an as-built survey shall be submitted showing the location of all pertinent structures and features associated with the development.
- (E) A revised stormwater runoff analysis is required if future development could reasonably result in increased stormwater runoff.
- (F) Landowners are responsible for maintenance of approved runoff pollution mitigation measures specified in their land use permit under this chapter.
- Section 13. Adoption of Subsection. MSB 17.65.020(B) is hereby adopted as follows:
  - (B) A variance from the water body setback requirement in MSB 17.55.020(A) may not be granted if the location of the proposed structure is:
  - (1) closer than 45 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a water body.
  - (2) in an area of known erosion hazard adjacent to a river, stream, or other flowing waters.
- Section 14. <u>Amendment of Section</u>. MSB 17.80.020 is hereby amended as follows:
  - 17.80.020 LEGAL NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES

- (A) The following structures qualify as legal nonconforming structures without an administrative determination, however, an administrative determination may be issued if requested by the property owner:
- (1) structures built lawfully and made nonconforming by adoption of subsequent ordinances;
- (a) all structures within 75 feet of a water body that were constructed prior to adoption of the setback requirement on July 3, 1973, and have not subsequently been enlarged or altered.
- (b) Non-habitable structures within 75 feet of a water body that were constructed between September 16, 1988 and the effective date of this subparagraph.
- (2) structures built in violation of the ordinance existing at the time of construction, then made legal by adoption of subsequent ordinance, and later made nonconforming by adoption of subsequent ordinances;
- (a) habitable buildings and garages that were completed between July 3, 1973, and May 12, 1987, and have not subsequently been enlarged or altered, that are located between 45 and 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a water body.

- (3) permanent structures which were constructed lawfully after the date of adoption of the Acknowledgement of Existing Regulations, Chapter 17.01, but which were made unlawful after the date of start of construction due to adoption of subsequent regulations.
- (B) The following structures require an administrative determination in order to be granted legal nonconforming status;
- (1) structures granted a variance in accordance with Chapter 17.65;
- [(2) STRUCTURES BUILT IN VIOLATION OF SHORELINE SETBACK ORDINANCES EXISTING AT THE TIME OF CONSTRUCTION, AND SUBSEQUENTLY GRANTED AN EXEMPTION FROM SHORELINE SETBACKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MSB 17.55.020(C);]
- (3) permanent structures built in violation of ordinances existing at the time of construction, and subsequently granted legal nonconforming status in accordance with MSB 17.80.070.

Section 15. <u>Amendment of Section</u>. MSB 17.125.010 is hereby amended as follows:

• "Cleared area" means an area where existing vegetative cover and surficial soil layers, including organic matter or duff, is removed or altered by ground-disturbing activities.

- "Ground disturbing activity" means an activity that includes the use of heavy equipment, such as a backhoe or bulldozer, that disturbs the soil layers, uproots woody vegetation, or alters preexisting land contours. Examples of such activities include mechanized land clearing, grading, contouring, or placing of fill. "Ground disturbing activity" does not include the cutting or removal of vegetation above the ground (i.e. use of hydro-axe, mowing, rotary cutting, and chain sawing) without disturbing the soil or root systems.
- "Kennel, stable, and animal yards" means any premises used for breeding, buying, selling, keeping, or boarding five or more dogs over the age of six months, whether for profit or not; any facility housing or holding more than three pigs, goats, or animals of similar size; and all facilities housing or holding large animals (e.g., horses, cattle, llamas).
- "Lake" means a standing body of open water that occurs in a natural depression fed by one or more streams from which a stream may flow, that occurs due to the widening or natural blockage or cutoff of a river or stream, or that occurs in an isolated natural depression that is not a part of a surface river or stream. The

excavation, as well as artificial blocking or restriction of the flow of a river, stream, or tidal area (e.g. by a dam).

- "Qualified professional" means a professional [HYDROLOGIST, GEOLOGIST, OR REGISTERED ENGINEER THAT HAS SPECIFIC EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE WITH GROUNDWATER HYDROLOGY] civil engineer or other professional registered with the State of Alaska under Alaska Statute 08.48 qualified to practice the type of work required by this title.
- "Riparian buffer" means native vegetation adjoining a water body that helps to protect the water body from the impact of activities conducted on adjoining land.
- "Runoff pollution mitigation measure" means any combination features designed and intended to treat and retain stormwater runoff associated with a development, such as bioswales, rain gardens, riparian buffers, or filter strips.
- "Stormwater runoff" means any surface flow consisting entirely of water from precipitation including from the melting of ice and snow. Runoff occurs when the water volume or surface gradient overcome the

### infiltrative capacity of the surface.

• "Treat and retain" means to manage stormwater on the parcel through any combination of detention, retention, infiltration, evapotranspiration, or other treatment methods to mitigate a discharge of stormwater runoff to a water body or adjoining parcel.

Section 16. <u>Effective date</u>. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2025.

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk (SEAL)

#### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH INFORMATION MEMORANDUM IM No. 25-073

**SUBJECT:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING MSB 17.02 MANDATORY LAND USE PERMIT, MSB 17.55 - SETBACK AND SCREENING EASEMENTS, MSB 17.65 VARIANCES, MSB 17.80 NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES AND MSB 17.125 DEFINITIONS.

AGENDA	<b>OF:</b> May	20,	2025		
ASSEMBI	LY ACTIO	N:			

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Refer to Planning Commission for 120 days.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	X Alex Straw n
Department Director	X A lex Strawn
Finance Director	X Cheyenne Heindel
Borough Attorney	X Nicholas Spiropoulos
Borough Manager	X Michael Brown
Borough Clerk	X Lonnie McKechnie

ATTACHMENT(S): Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 (23 pp)

Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Reso 24-01 (5pp)

1998 Shoreline Setback Analysis (23 pp)

MSB 17.02 (4 pp)

MSB 17.55 (5 pp)

MSB 17.65 (4 pp)

MSB 17.80 (7 pp)

MSB 17.125 (17 pp)

#### SUMMARY STATEMENT:

This ordinance is at the request of Assemblymember Hale.

The purpose of this ordinance is to modernize and strengthen borough regulations related to development activities near

Page 1 of 3

IM No. 25-126

Ordinance Serial No. 25-073

waterbodies. The ordinance revises setback requirements, mandates land use permits for mechanized land clearing within 75 feet of waterbodies and establishes environmental protection standards. These changes aim to improve code compliance, reduce pollution from runoff, and protect fish habitat, water quality, and property values.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough first established a minimum 75-foot waterbody setback in 1973. In 1986, the Assembly temporarily reduced the setback to 45 feet; however, six months later, a voter initiative reinstated the 75-foot setback. Over the decades, limited enforcement of the setback requirements has resulted in the construction of hundreds of structures in violation of the 75-foot standard. A 1998 review documented widespread non-compliance, and since then, violations have continued. These issues complicate real estate transactions, affect public trust, and threaten sensitive aguatic ecosystems.

In response, the Assembly created the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board (WSAB), which included members representing home building, lending, real estate, salmon habitat, the Fish & Wildlife Commission, the Planning Commission, and at-large residents. The WSAB conducted an in-depth review of borough code and presented comprehensive recommendations to address the identified challenge. This ordinance incorporates the specific code amendments recommended by the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board.

#### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

This ordinance implements several goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.

**Goal (LU-4):** Protect and enhance the Borough's natural resources including

watersheds, groundwater supplies and air quality.

<u>Policy LU4-1</u>: Identify, monitor, protect, and enhance the quantity and quality of the Borough's watersheds, groundwater aquifers, and clean air resources.

Goal (CQ-1): Protect natural systems and features from Ihe potentially negative impacts of11IIman activities, including, but not limited to, land development.

Policy CQ1-1: Use a system-wide approach to effectively manage environmental resources. Coordinate land use planning and management of natural systems with affected state and local agencies as well as affected Community Council efforts. Policy CQ1-2: Manage activities affecting air, vegetation, water, and the land to maintain or improve environmental quality, to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, to prevent degradation or loss of natural features and functions, and to

Page 2 of 3 IM No. 25-126

Ordinance Serial No. 25-073

minimize risks to life and property.

Goal (CQ-2): Manage the natural and built environments to achieve minimal loss of the functions and values of all drainage basins; and, where possible, enhance and restore functions, values, and features. Retain lakes, ponds, wetlands, streams, and rivers and their corridors substantially in their natural condition.

<u>Policy CQ2-1:</u> Using a watershed-based approach, apply best available science in formulating regulations, incentives, and programs to maintain and, to the degree possible, improve the quality of the Borough's water resources.

<u>Policy CQ2-2:</u> Comprehensively manage activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water quality or quantity. <u>Policy CQ2-3:</u> When appropriate, utilize Borough adopted "Best Management Practices" when managing watershed impacts.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:** Refer to the Planning Commission for 120 days.

Page 3 of 3 IM No. 25-126

Page 69

Action: Approved

### MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATERBODY SETBACK ADVISORY BOARD RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 24-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATERBODY SETBACK ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO MSB 17.55 - SETBACK AND SCREENING EASEMENTS, MSB 17.02 - MANDATORY LAND USE PERMIT, MSB 17.80 NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES, AND MSB 17.65 - VARIANCES.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly established the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board through IM No. 23-175 and Ordinance No. 23-175 on 8/15/2023 to review and recommend any changes to the Borough code relating to waterbody setbacks and related issues. These related issues should include variances/nonconformities, how to deal with structures built in violation of the 1973 and 1987 ordinances, possible remedies for structures in violation, and any other issues the Board believes are pertinent. To the extent possible, the Advisory Board is required to identify possible solutions, identify ways to enforce and implement those solutions and identify resources needed to implement and enforce those solutions; and

WHEREAS, the preservation and protection of our natural water bodies are recognized as essential for the sustainability of ecological balance, ensuring public safety, enhancing the beauty of our community, the conservation of viewsheds, enriching the quality of life, safequarding community characteristics, and upholding property values. These water bodies serve as critical habitats for diverse flora and fauna, including salmon and other fish, contribute to local biodiversity, support recreational activities, and play a crucial role in the broader ecosystem services that benefit both residents and wildlife alike; and

WHEREAS, the activities conducted adjacent to waterbodies, such as construction, grading, clearing, filling, or contouring, are known to have a profound impact on water quality, the preservation of natural habitats, and the overall health and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. These activities can lead to sedimentation, alteration of hydrological patterns, habitat fragmentation, and the introduction of pollutants, all of which threaten the quality of life and community for residents, the ecological balance, and biodiversity crucial to the well-being of these environments; and

WHEREAS, there has been a recognition of the necessity for increased regulation and oversight to prevent adverse effects on waterbodies resulting from unregulated or improperly managed landuse activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board hereby makes the following recommendations to the Assembly:

1. Path to Compliance for Homeowners: The Assembly is advised

to establish a path to compliance for homes built within the 75foot setback area of <u>lakes</u> in violation of MSB 17.55. This
compliance pathway should require the design and construction of
mitigation measures to be developed and overseen by a qualified
professional registered in the State of Alaska, and should maintain
a minimum setback of 45 feet.

- 2. Setback Maintenance and Expansion: The Waterbody Setback Advisory Board recommends retaining the current 75-foot setback requirement for buildings adjacent to flowing water.
- 3. Commercial and industrial development: Recommend waterbody setback be applied to include commercial and industrial projects.
- 4. Land Use Permit Requirement: It is recommended that MSB 17.02 be amended to mandate a land use permit for any grading, clearing, filling, contouring, or construction activities within 75 feet of waterbodies. This measure seeks to ensure thorough review and management of all such activities to minimize adverse impacts on waterbody ecosystems.
- 5. Shoreline standards: Adopt standards for clearing and grading within 75 feet of waterbodies to include provisions for managing runoff associated with the development, and maintaining a vegetative buffer along the shoreline.
- 6. Animal Waste Management: Adopt a setback requirement of 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark of waterbodies for

outdoor kennels, stables, animal yards, and animal waste facilities to enhance environmental protection.

- 7. Prevention of Liquid Petroleum Fuel Contamination: Adopt measures to mitigate the risk of liquid fuel contamination near waterbodies by requiring secondary containment or drip collection for all fuel installations within 75 feet of waterbodies, including both existing and new installations.
- 8. Enhanced Enforcement: Recognizing the importance of enforcing setback regulations effectively, it is recommended that additional staff be hired to patrol water bodies. Their presence will deter violations, ensure adherence to established laws, and offer an immediate response to any observed infractions.
- 9. Structures within 45 feet: It is recommended that a minimum 45-foot water body setback be maintained with no path to compliance for structures illegally built within 45 feet of a water body.
- 10. Limitation of Variances: It is recommended that MSB 17.65 be amended to eliminate the ability to obtain a variance within 45 feet of a waterbody.
- 11. New habitat protection tax incentive: The Assembly is encouraged to consider the establishment of a habitat protection tax incentive, similar to the program in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and advocate for state legislation that extends coverage to all types of waterbodies, not limited to rivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board has attached a draft ordinance reflecting its recommendations for the Assembly to consider.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Waterbody Setback Advisory Board this 5th day of March, 2025.

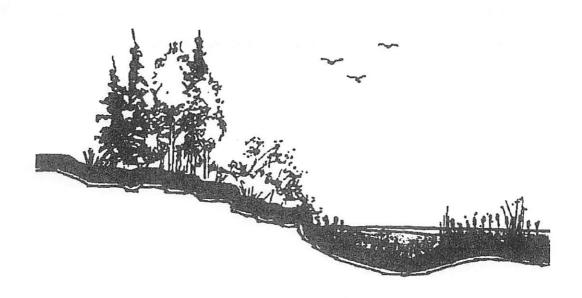
Bill Kendig, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Lacie Olivieri Board Clerk

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough Shoreland Setbacks

**Analysis and Recommendation** 



Prepared by:

Land Design North 510 L Street, Suite 101 Anchorage, Alaska 99501



## Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Setback History	
Function of BufferZones (Setbacks)	
Recommended Setback	
Recommended Minimum Performance Standards	
Conclusion	14
References	
•	

#### **CHAPTER 17.02: MANDATORY LAND USE PERMIT**

Section

17.02.010 Intent and applicability

17.02.020 Land use permit

17.02.030 Procedure

17.02.040 Action on applications

#### 17.02.010 INTENT AND APPLICABILITY.

- (A) It is the intent of this chapter to improve the level of compliance with existing borough code by establishing a mandatory land use review process and directly providing regulatory information to persons proposing development within the borough outside of the cities of Houston, Palmer, and Wasilla.
- (B) This chapter is applicable within all areas of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough outside of the cities of Houston, Palmer, and Wasilla and the Port District, as established in MSB 18.02.020, Boundaries.
- (C) There are federal, state, and local requirements governing land use. It is the responsibility of the individual land owners to obtain a determination whether such requirements apply to the development of their land. Any land within the boundaries of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is subject to land use and development regulations. It is not the intent of this chapter to replace or supersede regulations of other chapters within this title. Additional information and permits, such as flood damage prevention, mobile home park ordinance, conditional uses, and regulation of alcoholic beverages may be required in accordance with the borough code. This title will be amended and updated as necessary when new MSB Title 17 regulations are adopted.
- (D) A land use permit is not required where commencement of construction or placement, as defined in MSB 17.125, occurred before the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter.

(Ord. 10-108, § 2, 2010; Ord. 07-121, § 2, 2007; Ord. 06-192(AM), § 3 (part), 2007)

#### 17.02.020 LAND USE PERMIT.

- (A) The land owner or authorized agent shall obtain a land use permit from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department prior to the commencement of:
  - (1) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 2, 2011]
  - (2) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 2, 2011]

- (3) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 2, 2011]
- (4) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 2, 2011]
- (5) [Repealed by Ord. 13-025, § 2, 2013]
- (6) construction or placement of any building within 75 feet of any watercourse or water body;
- (B) A landowner or authorized agent may voluntarily request a land use permit for any structure or use not required to obtain a permit under this chapter.
- (C) A permit is not required under this chapter when the proposed use is subject to another permit within this title.

(Ord. 22-104, § 2, 2022; Ord. 13-025, § 2, 2013: Ord. 11-073, § 2, 2011: Ord. 06-192(AM), § 3 (part), 2007)

#### 17.02.030 PROCEDURE.

- (A) A complete land use permit application shall be submitted to the planning and land use director on a form provided by the planning and land use department.
- (B) A complete land use permit application will contain the following attachments:
  - (1) [Repealed by Ord. 22-104, § 3, 2022], 2011]
  - (2) site plan;
    - (a) site plans are not required to be certified but shall clearly identify the following:
      - (i) north arrow;
      - (ii) boundaries of parcel;
      - (iii) size, location, and setback dimensions of proposed structures;
      - (iv) names and location of adjacent roadways;
      - (v) location of rights-of-way and public easements within and adjacent to the parcel;
      - (vi) location and name of adjacent water bodies;
      - (vii) location of subsurface sewage disposal systems; and
      - (viii) intended use of proposed structures.

- (3) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 3 (part), 2011]
- (4) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 3 (part), 2011]
- (C) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 3 (part), 2011]
- (D) [Repealed by Ord. 11-073, § 3 (part), 2011]
- (E) An application fee as established by the assembly, payable to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, shall be submitted with the application. If more than one land use permit fee is required under this chapter, the applicant shall pay only one fee, whichever is the highest.
- (F) A copy of the application shall be retained in the planning and land use department files.

(Ord. 22-104, § 3, 2022; Ord. 11-073, § 3 (part), 2011: Ord. 06-192(AM), § 3 (part), 2007)

#### 17.02.040 ACTION ON APPLICATIONS.

- (A) The planning and land use director or designated staff shall determine whether an application for a land use permit is complete. For incomplete applications, a written explanation of application deficiencies shall be provided within seven working days of the date the application is received in the planning and land use department.
- (B) [Repealed by Ord. 22-104, § 4, 2022], 2011]
- (C) In reviewing a land use permit application, the planning and land use director shall make specific findings explaining how the proposal does or does not conform to the requirements of this title. The planning and land use director also may provide options as to how the proposal may conform to these requirements.
- (D) The planning and land use director shall render a decision within ten working days from the date the application is determined complete.
  - (1) Permits under this chapter shall be reviewed and approved based on compliance with borough code, including but not limited to the following:
    - (a) setbacks;
    - (b) special land use districts;
    - (c) flood hazard areas;
    - (d) driveway permits;

- (e) conditional uses; and
- (f) multifamily development permits.
- (E) If a decision is not rendered within the allotted review time, the applicant shall be entitled to a complete refund of fees.
- (F) [Repealed by Ord. 22-104, § 4, 2022], 2011]
- (G) [Repealed by Ord. 22-104, § 4, 2022], 2011]
- (H) [Repealed by Ord. 22-104, § 4, 2022], 2011]
- (I) Appeals from a decision granting or denying a land use permit under this chapter shall be filed and conducted in accordance with MSB 15.39.

(Ord. 22-104, § 4, 2022; Ord. 11-073, § 3 (part), 2011: Ord. 06-192(AM), § 3 (part), 2007)

#### Introduction

Since 1973, the Matanuska Susitna Borough has been struggling with the designation and implementation of an appropriate waterbody setback distance from area lakes, streams, and wetlands to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. From 1973 to the present, structural setbacks from waterbodies have ranged from 45 to 75 feet and have allowed accessory uses such as piers, marinas, boathouses and docks over the water. The setbacks to date have only regulated structure placement and have not regulated uses or activities within the setback zone. For example, there are currently no requirements to maintain natural vegetation or limit the amount of impervious surfaces.

The inherent challenge of the project is that people have varying goals and values relative to the use of water resources and lands. Over the years, arguments have been presented to maintain, increase, and decrease the setback distance. Arguments in favor of a lesser setback generally cite private property rights, undue hardships on developing land, increased views and access to waterbodies. Those in favor of greater setbacks cite improved water quality, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, noise reduction, and improved aesthetic values.

In 1998, a Shorelands Steering Committee was formed to recommend goals and strategies to analyze and improve the management of shorelands and develop a Shorelands Management Plan. The results of their work can be found in Appendix A. In summary, the long-term goal of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Shorelands Management Plan is to determine how inland lake basins, streams and wetlands function as ecosystems within the watershed and how to manage the many resources and values present in these systems in a sustainable manner. While this is an admirable goal, this long-term goal can be reached only through a comprehensive watershed study and the long-term investment of dollars, expertise and collaborative effort by government, universities and the private sector.

This report is intended to meet the more immediate need of resolving the shoreland setback issue and to establish effective performance standards for uses within the setback zone to minimize future requirements for mitigation or restoration of disturbed areas and degraded water quality. As the Mat-Su Borough continues to grow in population and becomes one of the most popular recreational destinations in Alaska, the threat of degradation to its waterbodies increases. An altered water system is not only difficult to restore, it is expensive and may never fully recover. This can mean declining property values, loss of recreational activities, loss of water-dependent businesses, and a decline in fish and wildlife populations. Simply put, no one wants to live, recreate or conduct business on a polluted waterbody.

This purpose of this report is to review and incorporate by reference the work done to date on the Shoreland Management Plan and recommend a setback distance that will protect water quality in the Mat-Su Borough. This interim report also seeks to:

- Understand the intent and history of structural setback regulations in the Mat-Su Borough
- Define and understand the function of the relatively narrow strip of land (the riparian zone) surrounding a waterbody
- Review the role of setbacks as a management tool to enhance and protect
  water quality from residential, commercial and industrial development based
  on the literature review conducted by the Mat-Su Borough and supplemented
  by work done as part of the Big Lake, Lake Management Plan.
- Recommend a structural setback and performance standards

Finally, to help provide information of similar efforts in other jurisdictions, a literature review done by the Mat-Su Borough **as** part of the Shoreland Management Plan is provided in Appendix A. It briefly describes available literature on how other jurisdictions establish setbacks and manage shorelands, the use of buffer zones, the role of riparian vegetation, and the balancing of private property rights, public access and safety, and environmental issues. It should be noted that this review only provided a brief summary of the literature and did not analyze or document the different setbacks studied. For this reason, an analysis of setbacks done as part of the Big Lake, Lake Management Plan is being used for this report.

## Setback History

An important aspect of evaluating regulations is to clearly understand their intent and historical context to determine if the existing regulation has been effective. Presented below is a brief synopsis of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) setback ordinances and the Mat-Su Borough Coastal Management Program policy regarding setbacks to date.

• 1973. Borough adopts a 75-foot Setback (MSB ordinance 73-6). "Structures shall not be closer than 75 feet from the normal high water mark of a water course or body of water in a shoreland. The Commission may require a greater setback if it finds that a specific body of water possesses unique characteristics such as outstanding fish and aquatic life, shore cover, natural beauty or other ecological attribute. Boat houses may be located over the water provided they are not used for habitation and do not contain sanitary facilities." In subsequent years the ordinance was amended to legalize docks, piers and marinas over the water and require that they conform to state and federal regulations.

- 1984. The Mat-Su Borough Coastal Management Program (MSBCMP) goes into
  effect which, as outlined in Coastal Habitats Policy 2, upholds the 75 foot setback but
  eliminates all provisions to allow the Platting Board to reduce setback distances if
  certain conditions are met. Approved by the Coastal Policy Council (CPC) in 1983,
  this policy raised issues of compliance with MSB ordinances and eliminated flexibility
  in the existing regulations.
- 1986. Borough adopts a 45-foot setback (MSB ordinance 86-101). "No structure or footing shall be located closer than 45 feet from the high water mark of a watercourse or body of water, except docks, piers, marinas, and boathouses may be located closer than 45 feet and over the water provided they are not used for habitation and do no contain sanitary facilities." "Exception: Does not apply to structures where construction was completed prior to January 1, 1987 if the present owner or owners of the property had no personal knowledge of any violation of the setback requirements prior to substantial completion of the structure."
- 1987. The MSB submits revisions to the MSBCMP Coastal Habitats Policy 2 in order to create a more flexible policy. The Division of Governmental Coordination (DGC). staff to the CPC, determines that the proposed policy lacks enforceable language, and in cooperation with the MSB and the state, develops alternative policy language consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. The revised policy is adopted by the CPC in March of 1988, with provisions that the proposed uses and activities within 75 feet of the high water line "must be reviewed to ensure protection of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat." Additionally, water-dependent structures (including docks, piers, marinas, boathouses and floatplane hangars) are allowable within 75 feet provided "they are constructed and used in a way that minimizes adverse impacts to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat." Finally, the policy states that other uses and activities within 75 feet are also allowable if the proposed development "will have no significant adverse impacts on water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, and complies with other applicable federal, state, and local requirements."
- 1987. Borough reinstates a 75-foot setback (MSB ordinance 87-59). The setback is changed to 75 feet with the provision that water dependent structures such as docks, piers and marinas are allowable within 75 feet if they conform to all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations, and so long as they "are not used for habitation and do not contain sanitary or petroleum fuel storage facilities."
- 1988. Clarification and amendments (MSB ordinance 88-190). The term "Shorelands" is defined, and the setback remains at 75 feet with the provision that "the Director of the Planning Department or the designee of the director shall upon application by a property owner, determine whether a property qualifies for an exception." There is also a subsection allowing the Planning Commission to increase the distance of a subsurface sewage disposal system from any body of water beyond the 100-foot zone "where necessary to protect waters within the Borough."

Based on a review of above history, the two critical flaws in the current setback have been identified:

(1) The intended purpose of the waterbody setback appears to be to protect water quality and in turn fish and aquatic habitat; however, it is not clearly defined. It is recommended that the intent of the waterbody setback be clearly stated up front in future ordinances to facilitate enforcement and compliance. A property owner is more willing to comply with a regulation if they clearly understand its purpose and believe that the regulation is effective at achieving its purpose. To evaluate the effectiveness of a setback, it is critical to understand what is trying to be accomplished with the regulation. An example purpose statement might read as follows:

"The intent of the waterbody setback is to preserve the integrity of the Borough's lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands by maintaining and improving water quality, shore cover, fish and wildlife habitat, and aesthetic values."

(2) The setback only addresses the placement of structures. It does not address what can and cannot be done within the 75-foot setback area. The flaw with this approach is that locating buildings back from the waterbody may or may not meet the intent of the regulation. One of the greatest threats to water quality is Non Point Source (NPS) pollution. NPS pollution is defined as pollutants carried in runoff originating from various sources; precipitation moves over and through the ground and picks up pollutants from these sources and carries them into rivers, lakes, and groundwater. Some of the major sources and causes of NPS pollution adjacent to waterbodies are erosion and sedimentation (from cleared lots), septic systems, and runoff (carrying oils, chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides). A structure that is placed 75 feet back with vegetation cleared to the edge of the shoreline may increase the threat to water quality and in turn harm fish and wildlife habitat and the aesthetic qualities of the site by increasing the amount of NPS running into the waterbody. Whereas a structure setback of only 45 feet with vegetation retained between the structure and the shoreline may do more to protect water quality. The vegetation can slow runoff, trap sediment, and act as a natural filter to remove pollutants.

Another challenge with the history of setbacks in the Borough is the fluctuating distances and general lack of compliance by property owners. The **low** compliance is at least partially symptomatic of the lack of understanding of the ordinance's purpose. This has resulted in inconsistent development around waterbodies and in turn has made enforcement very difficult.

## Function of BufferZones (Setbacks)

Literature associated with the protection of water quality defines buffer zones or setbacks as corridors of undisturbed natural vegetation or, where this is not present, grass or other erosion resistant vegetation, between a waterbody or wetland and an area of more intensive land use such as residential development. The use of natural buffer zones to protect water resources from pollution is attracting considerable attention within the United States and globally. Early research in this area stemmed from adverse impacts associated with timber and agriculture industries and has since evolved to consider the impacts of urban development including residential, commercial and industrial uses.

To understand the impacts from development, it is important to understand the watershed concept. A watershed includes the entire land form drained by streams and rivers and is the ultimate water source for a lake. The visible area of a watershed is the surface on which rain and snow fall. The larger, invisible portion of the watershed lies beneath the surface where water seeps into the ground. A raindrop travels from a mountain top to a lake in three ways: (1) some is absorbed by the soil; (2) some collects on the ground in depressions; and (3) some flows overland. It is the overland flow or runoff that poses the greatest threat to water quality. With the overland flow, the raindrop forms rivulets, which in turn join to form streams, and the streams join to form rivers, and so on. Whatever that raindrop picks up from the land along its journey ends up in the water. The greater the amount and speed of runoff the greater the potential impacts. The primary benefits of a waterbody setback are:

- Maintain and Protect Water Quality Improve the quality of water passing through the buffer zone by trapping suspended sediments and removal of toxic substances, nutrients and pathogens carried in the surface water runoff.
- Anchor Shoreline and Stream Banks and Control Erosion The shallow water table in the riparian zone makes water available during the growing season, creating a healthy terrestrial plant habitat for both soil and woody-debris-rooted plants. These in turn reduce erosion by anchoring the soil and trapping suspended sediments.
- Provide Flood Control During periods of high runoff riparian and upland wetlands store and convey flood water. This storage function has the dual effect of moderating peak flows during high runoff events and augmenting ground and surface water flows during low runoff periods.
- Protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat Riparian zones typically support greater numbers and diversity of fish and wildlife. Many terrestrial and aquatic animals use this area for foraging and feeding, breeding and rearing their young, and taking protective cover during 1 or more life stage.
- Promote Scenic, Recreational, and Quality of Life Values The setback serves
  as a physical buffer between human activities on land and on the water. Scenic,
  recreation and wildlife assets are enhanced by buffer zones and can increase
  property values. Setbacks around busy recreational lakes and rivers can also help to
  reduce noise impacts on surrounding land uses.

While most people can agree on the function of a buffer zone, research reveals that the width of setbacks varies greatly. It is generally accepted that the use of buffers is most effective when the setback criteria reflect:

- Site-specific characteristics of the development area (slope, topography, vegetation, vulnerability to soil erasion, surface and groundwater hydrology)
- Type of proposed disturbance or land use
- Existing land uses around streams and lakes within the watershed

- Function of the buffer zone (sediment filtering, shading, shoreline stabilization by vegetation root systems, food and cover for fish and other wildlife)
- Resource aspects of greatest sensitivity and vulnerability to disturbance
- Flexibility in implementation

Unfortunately, this site-specific approach to defining setback distances requires significant resources to inventory all lands, develop a fair implementation process to avoid arbitrary and capricious decisions, and to enforce. For this reason, most governing bodies designate a set distance from a waterbody for structures and include minimum performance standards regulating the use of the buffer zone.

A number of studies have been conducted to understand the relationship of buffer strips of various distances to fish populations and aquatic habitat productivity in affected streams and the effects of development activities on lake water quality. Studies have also examined the effects of development activities which occur adjacent to or in proximity to lakes and streams to determine the actual effects of the disturbance and demonstrable reductions in impact with varying levels of separations (setbacks) between the development and the waterbody. Environmental parameters studied have included changes to:

- Stream flows
- Light intensity
- Water temperature
- Concentrations of suspended and settled sediments
- Presence of large woody debris
- Nutrient loads in surface runoff and groundwater
- Water-transported contaminants such as pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides

Below is a summary of some of the studies reviewed and the buffer widths that are recommended for the resource protection and the protection of fish and aquatic populations:

• Stream Temperature: For development or resource extraction activities which entail the removal of overstory vegetation along streams, buffer strips are one of the most effective means for maintaining water temperature in a range and seasonal pattern most beneficial to fish. Buffers greater than 100 feet have been found to provide as much shade as old growth undisturbed forest. Undisturbed buffer strips from 50 to 100 feet in width were found to maintain water temperatures with a normal range under some circumstances, partially dependent on stream course orientation and the buffer placement.

- Erosion and Sedimentation: In the Pacific Northwest, buffer strips 50 to 100 feet wide reduced stream sedimentation from adjacent patch-timber harvest activities; however, the sediment levels in the stream using the 50 to 100 foot buffer were still 50 percent greater than an undisturbed portion of the watershed. A more sensitive indicator of the effects of introduced sediments on streams is the measurement of changes to the permeability of streambed gravels. Streambed permeability has a more direct bearing on the success of survival for developing eggs and egg sac fry present in the gravels of the stream. Logging activities conducted with an adequate stream setback buffer have shown minimal changes to stream gravel permeability. Logging activities that did not incorporated setback buffers were found to decrease stream gravel permeability more than 50 percent for at least 6 years following logging.
- Large Woody Debris: Removal of nearly all riparian trees along streams can
  eliminate the source of large woody debris in second growth forests and old growth
  forests for a period of 40 to 100 years after disturbance. Associated effects on fish
  habitat can include changes to riffle and pool frequency and loss of overhanging and
  undercut banks important to juvenile fish and changes in availability of critical
  overwintering habitat. For logging activities and similar clearing disturbances, studies
  have shown that buffer strips of 50 to 425 feet (British Columbia) and 15 to 130 feet
  (Southeast Alaska) produced more juvenile salmon in the summer and sheltered
  more juvenile salmon during the winter than areas without buffers.
- Water Quality: Buffer strips have been shown to improve or avoid declines in
  dissolved oxygen concentrations in streams primarily by keeping clearing debris and
  sediments out of streams and providing shade conditions that maintain natural water
  temperatures (cooler water contains higher levels of dissolved oxygen). Buffers of
  20 to 130 feet have been shown to be effective in preventing logging slash from
  entering streams in the Pacific Northwest.

Cities and Boroughs throughout the United States and Canada use also setback criteria to protect development structures from the potential effects of flooding, stream bank migration, winter icing and to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Typically the setbacks are included as part of a more extensive zoning ordinance or Shoreland Protection Ordinance and detailed minimum development standards are used in conjunction with structural setbacks. Development standards typically regulate the type of uses, amount of impervious surfaces, and restrict tree cutting and the clearing of vegetation within the setback zones. Presented below is a summary of representative setbacks/buffer strips used by local governments including the key conditions that must be met as part of the setback.

Location	Setback (from ordinary high water mark)			
IMunicipality of Anchorage Title 21- Stream Protection	A minimum of 25 feet wide on either side of the stream  No vegetation may be cleared or disturbed, no grading or excavation may be done, and no structures, fill or paving may occur within 15 feet of the stream.  Within the stream protection setback, located between 15 and 25 feet from the stream, landscaping is permitted.			
Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan 1995 Setbacks from Wetlands	<ul> <li>Minimum setback is 25 feet.</li> <li>100 feet from anadromous fish streams</li> <li>85 feet from certain headwaters and tributaries</li> <li>65 feet from all other water bodies.</li> <li>Allows for customized setback as part of the permitting process</li> <li>Requires undisturbed buffers between 15 and 25 feet depending on wetland types and interactions</li> <li>Setbacks and buffers shall remain undisturbed to the maximum extent</li> </ul>			
Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan Logging Buffer (Undisturbed Vegetation) Strips	Minimum 50-foot buffer, larger setbacks to be determined on a site-specific basis			
Susitna Area Plan - Logging Buffer (Undisturbed Vegetation) Strips	<ul> <li>Minimum 100 feet from anadromous fish streams or other acceptable measures</li> <li>100 feet to ¼ mile (greater than 300 feet for visual quality, recreation, and wildlife habitats</li> <li>100 foot buffer for wetlands greater than 100 acres with a locatable stream outlet</li> <li>60 foot buffer for wetlands 40 to 100 acres with no locatable stream outlet</li> </ul>			
Hatcher Pass Management Plan - Logging Buffer (Undisturbed Vegetation) strips	200 foot buffers on specific streams     100 feet on all other perennial streams to include all riparian vegetation (but not less than 50 feet)			
Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Timber Harvest Activity Buffer (Undisturbed Vegetation) Strips	100 foot setback buffer from stream or lake shoreline, the upland edge of all stream/lake contiguous wetlands, all fish streams, and all lakes connected by surface drainage to fish streams			
Pacific Northwest - Logging Buffer (Undisturbed Vegetation) Strips	Recommended 50 to 100 feet			
Southeast Alaska - Logging Buffer (Undisturbed Vegetation) Strips	Recommended 15 to 130 feet			
Department of Environmental Programs, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments	<ul> <li>A minimum setback buffer of 20 feet is recommended</li> <li>100 to 300 feet for adequate removal of the smaller sized sediment palticles found in urban runoff</li> </ul>			
Bellevue, Washington Shoreline Overlay District	<ul> <li>No clearing, grading, excavating, or fill within 25 feet</li> <li>No commercial parking facilities within 25 feet,</li> <li>25 foot setback for structures except docks, piers, and boathouses</li> <li>Requires plan indicating methods for preserving shoreline vegetation and control of erosion</li> </ul>			

Location	Setback (from ordinary high water mark)			
York, Virginia Watershed Overlay District	200 foot buffer strip from tributary streams and public water supply reservoirs, maintained in natural state or planted with erosion resistant vegetation			
Lake Tahoe Shorezone Tolerance Districts	Explicit development standards are based on physical characteristics tor 8 shorezone districts. Three districts are summarized:			
	Backshore (defined as the area of wave run-up or instability plus 10 feet — whichever is greater) - Allowable base land coverage in this zone is 1%, Naturally occurring vegetation shall not be removed or damaged unless otherwise authorized under a permit.			
	District 1 (generally the beach area that separates lakes from marshes and wetlands) – Access to the shoreline shall be restricted to planned footpaths which minimize the impact to the backshore. Vegetation shall not be manipulated or otherwise disturbed except when permitted.			
	Districts 2 and 3 — Permitted development may be conditioned upon installation and maintenance of vegetation to stabilize backshore areas and protect eroding areas from further destruction.			
Dzaukee County, Wisconsin	75 feet for all buildings except piers, marinas. boathouses			
shoreland Protection	Boathouses must be set back 2 feet.			
	<ul> <li>Tree cutting – No more than 30 percent of the length shall be clear cut to the depth of the strip. Cutting of the strip shall not create a clear cut opening in the strip greater than 30 feet wide for every 100 feet of shoreline. In the remaining 70% length of the strip, cutting shall leave sufficient cover to screen cars, dwellings, accessory structures (except boathouses) from the water.</li> </ul>			
Douglas County, Wisconsin	Minimum protection Zone-75 feet			
	Moderate protection zone –100 feet			
	Maximum protection zone -125 feet			
Minnesota Department of Uatural Resources	Recommends shoreline vegetative buffers of a minimum of 15 to 25 feet			
	30 feet setbacks will accommodate the needs of most shoreline wildlife			
Statewide Standards for (Management of Shoreland Areas - Minnesota	Setbacks based on density and lot size. Setbacks range from 75 to 265 feet.     40,000 square foot lot with single family home requires 150 foot setback			
	At least 10 feet for accessory structures.			
	<ul> <li>Limited clearing of trees and shrubs and cutting and pruning, and trimming of trees to accommodate the placement of stairways and landings, picnic areas, access paths, beach and watercraft access areas, and permitted water- oriented accessory structures as well as providing a view to the water from the principal dwelling site in shore and bluff impact zones is allowed provided that:</li> </ul>			
	- The screening of structures, vehicles, or other facilities as viewed from the water, assuming summer leaf on conditions, is not substantially reduced.			
	<ul> <li>Along rivers, existing shading of water surfaces is preserved.</li> </ul>			
	Impervious surface coverage of lots must not exceed 25 % of he lot area.			
Landscape Planning Environmental Applications William Marsh, 1991.	Buffers widths generally greater than 50 to 100 feet in urban areas have been shown to be extremely efficient in sediment removal (up to 90 percent or more) if they meet the following design criteria:			
	<ul> <li>Continuous grass/turf cover</li> <li>Gentle gradients, generally less than 10 percent</li> <li>Shallow runoff depth, generally not exceeding the height of the grass.</li> <li>In hilly terrain, buffers should be located on upland surfaces and integrated with depression storage and soil filtration measures</li> </ul>			

## Recommended Setback

Properly incorporated into planning, design, permitting, and construction criteria, setback buffers are an invaluable tool for minimizing future requirements for mitigation or restoration of disturbed areas. It is recommended that the Borough retain the 75-foot setback and regulate the activities within the setback using performance standards to ensure that the intent of the setback is met. A 75-foot setback is justified for the following reasons:

- A comprehensive scientific evaluation of effective shoreline setback distances in the Borough has not been completed. Due to the magnitude of such a project and limited resources, it is unlikely it will be completed in the near future. In addition, the literature reveals that the widths of setbacks vary significantly even when based on sound scientific research. Literature generally supports site-specific setbacks; however, this is an unrealistic approach with the Borough's limited resources.
- Lacking scientific data gathered along the shorelands of the Mat-Su Borough, a change in the setback is politically unpopular and is a highly charged issue. Those in compliance with the 75-foot setback do not want to see a lesser setback and are concerned about view obstructions and other impacts to the waterbody environment. Regulating agencies and environmental groups would also resist a lesser setback because of adverse impacts and would like to see at least a 100-foot setback. A larger setback could result in more variances being required, increased noncompliance, and lengthy challenges.
- A process still exists to apply for a variance to reduce the setback if it presents the property owner with an undue hardship.
- Literature supports a setback of between 50 and 100 feet with the inclusion of minimum development standards. This indicates that 75 feet is a reasonable distance to offer at least some protection to natural resources under a variety of development scenarios.

# Recommended Minimum Performance Standards

Effective performance standards or Best Management Practices are enforceable and can be consistently applied to all property owners. This will add increased protection to the Borough's waterbodies as they become more popular and more heavily populated, and it will help to bring Mat-Su Borough ordinances on shoreline development into compliance with the provision of the Mat-Su Borough Coastal Management Program (MSBCMP) that "proposed uses and activities within 75 feet of the high water line must be reviewed to ensure protection of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat."

Regulation of activities within the 75-foot setback must focus on the following two concerns which can have a significant impact on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and the aesthetics of shorelands and waterbodies:

- Loss of riparian vegetation: Removal of existing vegetative cover in the riparian
  zone to provide shoreline access for boats, create lawn, or for other activities is likely
  to lead to erosion and sediment transport in runoff waters into the waterbody.
  Vegetation in this zone helps to filter sediment, nutrients, and pollutants out of
  surface runoff, while stabilizing banks, controlling erosion, and dissipating
  floodwaters. Additionally, many terrestrial and aquatic animals use this area for
  foraging, breeding and rearing their young, and taking protective cover.
- Use of impervious surfaces: An impervious, or nonporous surface is one that will
  not allow water infiltration such as blacktop, concrete and rooftops. Runoff water
  from these surfaces increases the rate at which pollutants and excess nutrients are
  carried the water. Impervious surfaces also interrupt natural drainage patterns and
  can cause shore degradation through concentration of runoff and erosion.

Uniform application and consistent enforcement of specific performance standards can effectively address the above concerns before development starts, at a point when such measures are both inexpensive to the property owner and easy to implement. Moreover, the following measures will also address visual impacts and can serve to buffer and reduce noise generated on the waterbodies.

- 1. Preserve a minimum 25-foot wide buffer of undisturbed native vegetation across a total of 30 percent of the parcel's shoreline. This zone is a permanent planting and should be left untouched, except for the removal of select or fallen trees. In the remaining 70 percent of the buffer zone, limited clearing of trees and shrubs and cutting and pruning of trees is permitted to accommodate the placement of stairways' and landings, picnic areas, access paths, beach and watercraft access areas, and permitted water-oriented accessory structures as well as providing a view to the water from the principal dwelling site is allowed provided that:
  - The screening of structures, vehicles, or other facilities as viewed from the water, assuming summer leaf on conditions, is not substantially reduced.
  - Along rivers, existing shading of water surfaces is preserved.

These provisions shall not apply to the removal of dead, diseased or dying trees.

- 2. In cases where the following land uses are present within the 75-foot buffer zone, an additional 15-foot wide vegetative buffer, the same length as the use, must be in place between the use and the shoreline to intercept runoff. Non-native vegetation can be used in this zone.
  - Driveway
  - Parking lot
  - Road
  - Car wash
  - Dog kennels
  - Boat Maintenance and Other Repair Activities
- 3. Any paved, impermeable, or roofed surfaces within the 75-foot buffer zone must have an infiltration bed of sufficient size to control the velocity and volume of runoff.
- 4. Impervious surface coverage of lots must not exceed 25 percent of the lot area.
- 5. Boathouses must be set back 2 feet from the water's edge, and are of a height and color so as not to detract from the natural beauty of the shoreline and shall not be used for human habitation.
- 6. Development shall be accompanied by a site plan indicating methods of preserving shoreline vegetation and for control of erosion during and following construction.
- 7. All structures, accessory buildings and ancillary facilities, other than those related to water use such as docks, piers, and boat houses shall be set back a minimum d 30 feet from the ordinary high water mark.
- 8. Parking shall not be permitted over water or within 30 feet of the shoreline.

In cases where a property owner seeks a variance from the 75-foot buffer, it is recommended that the above performance standards still apply.

### Conclusion

Some regulation is necessary to preserve the value and enjoyment of the Borough's waterways, especially as they grow in popularity for residential and recreational use. A recommended **75-foot** setback with minimum performance standards begins to address the protection of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, the vegetated setback also serves an important function in the protection of values associated with quality of life to include noise reduction and aesthetics.

However, because water quality is intrinsically linked to the day to day activities of residents and users on and surrounding the waterbody, education is also critical to preserving the resource. Therefore, it is also recommended that in addition to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Property Owner's Guide to Shoreline Landscaping, a booklet containing Best Management Practices for waterfront property owners be developed promoting responsible development. Example Best Management Practices might include the following.

- Protect bare soil surfaces. Vegetation is the best protection because it both absorbs and uses water. Seed and mulch exposed soil within the watershed as soon as possible after disturbance (gardens, construction sites, etc.).
- Use fertilizer sparingly. All fertilizers are carried in runoff and dissolve into the groundwater. Use non-phosphate varieties.
- Do not concentrate or channelize water flow unless absolutely necessary. On undisturbed slopes, water percolates through soil slowly. When all runoff is focused on one spot, such as a culvert or roof gutter, the natural protection of the ground surface is often not sufficient to prevent this extra flow from breaking through to bare soil. If runoff must be directed, protect the outflow area with an energy dissipator, such as rock or securely anchored brush, that will withstand storm flows.
- Prevent water from running off roads, driveways, roofs or lawns directly into lakes and streams. Direct surface runoffs into natural depressions, or flat, wooded areas, where the water can seep into the around slowly.
- Keep septic tanks maintained. Pump every 2-3 years for year-round homes: every 5-6 years for seasonal cottages. This expense is well worth every penny. Pumping is the key to keeping your septic system working. It is far less expensive to pump than to have a new leaching field installed.
- Avoid the use of phosphate containing detergents.
- Don't wash vehicles near the waterbodies.
- Use lawn clippings and leaves as mulch for shrubs and gardens. Pile these where they will not bewashed into the waterbodies by heavy rains.
- Don't provide feed for wild ducks and geese. As pretty as these may be, large numbers of Canada Geese have become major problems and polluters (fecal coliform) of lakes elsewhere in the state.
- Place manure and composting piles as far as you can from the waterbodies or from drains or ditches which lead directly to lakes or streams.
- Limit human use or animal use of vulnerable areas. Trails can channel the flow.
- Establish temporary berms during construction to contain runoff overflow.

## References

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. July 1996. Sediment, total suspended solids, and water quality standards: a review. Division of Air and Water Quality, Water Quality Protection Section. Juneau, AK.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1996. Alaska Water Quality Standards 18 ACC 70, Amended to March 16, 1996. Water Quality Technical Standards.

Alaska Department of ADF&G. Feb. 1996. Letter from G. Seaman, Habitat and Restoration Division, ADF&G, to P. Hendrickson, Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (with attachments).

\_\_\_\_\_. June **1994**. Letter from F. Rue, Director, Habitat and Restoration Division, to P. Rusanowski, Alaska Coastal Policy Council (see p. **10** commentary concerning setbacks in draft Municipality of Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan).

\_\_\_\_\_. 1985. Alaska habitat management guide Southcentral Region map atlas. Division of Habitat. Juneau, AK.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1985 Alaska habitat management guide (reference maps), southcentral Region. Volume II: distribution and human use of birds and fish. Habitat Division. Anchorage, AK.

\_\_\_\_. 1985 Alaska habitat management guide (reference maps), southcentral Region. Volume II: distribution and human use of mammals. Habitat Division. Anchorage, AK.

and Environmental Protection Agency. 1996. Revegetation Techniques and Elevated Walkways.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR). July 1984. Susitna Area Plan: Recreation recommendations for management of recreation lands in the Susitna area. Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and Division of Land and Water Management with assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Anchorage, AK.

\_\_\_\_\_. June 1985. Susitna Area Plan. Prepared by ADNR, ADF&G, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough in cooperation with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Anchorage, AK.

Belt, G.H., J. O'Laughlin, and T. Merrill. 1992. Design of forest riparian buffer strips for the protection of water quality: analysis of scientific literature. Report #8, Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Policy Analysis Group. University of Idaho. Moscow, ID.

Bellevue, Washington. Shoreline Overlay District. Land Use Code.

Budd, W.W., P.L. Cohen, P.R. Saunders, and F.R. Steiner. 1987. Stream corridor management in the Pacific Northwest: I. Determination of stream-corridor widths, and II. Management strategies. Environmental Management, Vol. 11, No. 5, pp. 587-597 and pp. 595-605.

Bulmer, Susan K, Virginia Garrison. Statewide Lakes and Ponds Recreation Management in Vermont. Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

Castelle, A.J., Conolly, C., Emers, M., Metz, E.D., Meyer, S., Witter, M., Mauermann, S., Erickson, T., and S.S. Cooke. 1992. Wetland buffers: use and effectiveness. Prepared by Adolfson Assoc., Inc., W & H Pacific, Inc., Washington State Department of Ecology, and Pentec Environmental for Washington State Department of Ecology, Shorelands and Coastal Zone Management Program. Olympia, WA.

City of Spokane. 1992. Spokane Wetlands Protection Program, Phase 1 Report.

Community and Environmental Defense Associates. **!991.** Protecting the Environment and Waterfront Residents from the Effects **of** Boating Facilities.

Desbonnet, A., P. Pogue, V. Lee, and N. Wolff. 1994. Vegetated buffers in the coastal zone: a summary review and bibliography. Coastal Resources Center, Rhode Island Sea Grant, University of Rhode Island. ISBN 0-938-412-37-x.

Freethey, G.W., and Scully, D.R., 1980, Water Resources of the Cook Inlet Basin: U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Investigations Atlas HA-620, 4 sheets, scale 1:1,000,000.

Hogan, Eppie, V., 1995, Overview of Environmental and Hydrogeologic Conditions Near Big Lake, Alaska, U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 95-403.

Jackivicz, T.P. and L.N. Kuzminski. 1973. A review of outboard motor effects on the aquatic environment. J. Wat. Pollut. Contr. Fed. 45: 1759-1770.

Koski, KV., J. Heifetz, S. Johnson, M. Murphy, and J. Thedinga. 1984. Evaluation of buffer strips for protection of salmonid rearing habitat and implications for enhancement. Pp. 138-155 In: Proceedings: Pacific Northwest stream habitat management workshop, T.J. Hassler (ed.). American Fisheries Society, Western Division. Humbolt State University. Arcasta, CA.

Lower Colorado River Authority. 1996. Lake Travis Recreation Management Plan.

Marsh, William M. 1991. Landscape Planning Environmental Applications Second Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough. 1987. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal Management Plan. (original plan August 1983).

Matanuska-Susitna Borough. September 1995. Big Lake Community Comprehensive Plan (Draft).

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Special Requirements for Facilities Located on or Adjacent to Lake Norman.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCG). July 1987. Controlling Urban Runoff: A Practical Manual for Planning and Designing Urban BMPs.

Michael, Holly J., Kevin Boyle, and Roy Bouchard. 1996. Water Quality Affects Property Prices: A case study of selected Maine Lakes. Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station. University of Maine.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Waters. 1989. Statewide Standards for Management of Shoreland Areas.

Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Economic Development and Planning. 1988. Revegetation Guide.

\_\_\_\_\_. Department of Community Planning and Development. **1995.** Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan.

Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Zoning Ordinance, Shoreland Protection.

Sargent, Frederic; Lusk, Paul; Rivera, Jose; Varela, Maria. 1991. Rural Environmental Planning For Sustainable Communities. Island Press, Washington D.C.

Schwab, Jim. March 1991. Regulating Development on Inland Lakes. Zoning News, American Planning Association.

Selkregg, Lydia, 1976, Alaska Regional Profiles - Southwest Region; University of Alaska, Arctic EnvironmentalInformation and Data Center.

Shoephorster, D.B., 1968, Soil Survey of Matanuska Valley Area, Alaska, U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

Sinnott, R. 1989. Unpublished <u>draft</u> file report - Buffer strips: their physical, biological, and regulatory roles in maintaining fish habitat. Alaska Department of ADF&G, Division of Habitat. Anchorage, AK

Sowman, Merle R. 1987. A procedure for assessing recreational carrying capacity for coastal resort areas. Landscape and Urban Planning 14: 331-344.

Spokane County, Washington State. Regulations for Shoreline Protection Structures.

Stinchfield, Joseph, Jeffery Stitt, and Glen Radde. November 1984. Minnesota's Shorelands. CURA Reporter.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1992. Kenai River Landowner's Guide. Prepared for the Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. June 1988. Draft Recreation Management Plan for the Yakima River Canyon Recreation Area Washington.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1990, Monitoring Lake and Reservoir Restoration, Technical Supplement to the Lake and Reservoir Restoration Manual. Office or Water. EPA 440/4-90-007.

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Lake Protection Program. May **1990.** Shoreland Zoning Options for Towns.

Lake Protectionthrough Town Planning. A Suggested Process.

Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules, Adopted October 5, 1994. As Amended Effective January 2,1996.

Wagner, Kenneth J. 1990. Assessing the Impacts of Motorized Watercraft on Lakes: Issues and Perceptions. In: Proc. Natl. Conf. Enhancing States Lake Management Programs, May 1990. Northern Illinois Planning Commission, Chicago, IL.

\_\_\_\_\_. June **1994.** Of Hammocks and Horsepower: The Noise Issue at Lakes. Lakeline.

West Bloomfield Township, Minnesota. Land Use Ordinance, Waterfront Property.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Law Enforcement, 1992. Guidelines for Ordinance Writing And Buoy Placement in Wisconsin Waters.

Wycoff, Mark A. March 1985. Inland Lake Keyhole Development: An Analysis of Local Zoning Approaches. Land Use Law.

Yates, Steve. 1991. Adopting a Stream, A Northwest Handbook. University of Washington Press. Seattle.

York, Virginia. Watershed Protection Overlay District.

Yousef, Y.A., W.M. McLellon, and H.H. Zebuth. 1980. Mixing effects due to boating activities in shallow lakes. Draft Report to OWRT, U.S. Dep. Inter. Tech. Rep. ESEI 78-10, Washington, D.C.

Zwick Associates; Vaske, Donnelly, and Associates; and Baystate Environmental Consultants. 1991. Vermont Lakes and Ponds Recreation Management Study. Prepared for State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Recreation Division.



Shorelines Management Study

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645-6488 Planning and Land Use Department, Code Compliance Division (907)745-9853 FAX:(907) 745-9876 E-mail: ccb@msb.co.mat-su.ak.us

## SHORELANDS MANAGEMENT STUDY **QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Planning Department of the Matanuska-SusitnaBorough has an FY99 309 Enhancement Grant from the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) to study how people want the shorelands to be managed. As the communities of the Borough, especially their outdoor activities and amenities, continue to attract new residents, businesses, and visitors, how much value will people place on integrating the natural framework of creeks, rivers, lakes, and drainage basins with the life-styles and economic opportunities of the Borough?

The Planning Department is asking for help from a broad spectrum of interests. Whatever your background, the Borough is interested in your local knowledge, phrasing of problems, and ideas for managing the shorelands. How can the shorelands be integrated into a community that places great value on private market activities and community organizations, and has a strong dislike for government regulation?

1. What are your current activities and uses of	f the <i>sh</i>	orelands	?
residence or	е		walking, bicycling, <b>skiing</b> , or other non - motorized recreation
second home		0	boating, flying, snow machining, or other motorized recreation
<ul> <li>camping or temporary residential use</li> </ul>			access to waterways
commercial or industrial business			sightseeing or traveling through Borough
☐ fishing or hunting			
guiding or tourism			
job or work			
What are your other activities or uses?:			
2. Does anything displease, disturb, or threat	en you	about us	es and activities on the shorelands?
<ul> <li>Disruption from motorized vehicles, boat</li> </ul>	ts		Fragmented habitat and wildlife systems
and airplanes			Flood damage from bluff failure and
Rudeness among residents, visitors, an	d		changing stream patterns
neighbors			Declining environmental quality
☐ Infringement of privacy and propert	У		Crowded recreation and tourism
rights			destinations
<ul> <li>Declining fishing and huntin</li> </ul>	g		Limited public access to public lands and
opportunities			waters
<ul> <li>Interference with private market</li> </ul>			Loss of heritage and damage to artifacts
<ul> <li>Shrinking of job opportunities</li> </ul>			
			1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough			_

### DRAFT

September 29, 1998

Can you identify other problems and threats regarding shorelands?:

What do you want to see happen on the shorelines? 0 A linked and adequate system of habitat Encouragement of commercial and for small and large wildlife industrial patterns that incorporate the Positive protections of anadromous values of shorelands streams in development projects Identification of access and other needs of Encouragement of existing riparian resource based industries vegetation and protection of natural Preservation of quality recreational and systems in developing areas tourism opportunities 0 Protection of the native vegetation, soils, 0 Friendliness and cooperation among and waterways in large natural areas neighbors, visitors, and residents An overall system to avoid the dangers to a Identification and integration of heritage life and property from flooding resources in shorelands activities and  $\Box$ Identification of development uses opportunities and incentives that are 0 Public procedures that encourage consistent with shorelands partnerships and a cooperative spirit to Integration of shorelands with fire safety protect and develop shorelands What else would you like to happen in the shorelands? 4. What can be done to better manage the shorelands? Maintain existing rules regarding the 75 Protection of valuable existing uses and feet setback activities from more intense development 0 Easier methods for the public to follow Significant incentives to encourage Graphic examples of riparian vegetation appropriate development in *shorelands* and improvements Nurturing of partnerships and resource Funding for pilot projects that others may sharing arrangements among follow organizations Mapping of potential development and Outreach and public information significant preservation areas programs to encourage and motivate Improvements and vegetation in accord private businesses with a plan that will protect the shorelands Discouragement of patterns that result in cumulative impacts

What other methods or tools could be used to manage the shorelands?

## **FURTHER COMMENTS:**

If you are interested in providing additional information, specialized knowledge, or insight, or participating in the Advisory Committee or the other *shorelands* activities please indicate your name, phone number, fax, e-mail, and/or mailing address:

# PLEASE FOLD AND MAIL THIS SELF-ADDRESSED AND STAMPED QUESTIONNAIRE

Shorelands Management Study Matanuska-Susitna Borough



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645-6488
Planning and Land Use Department, Code Compliance Division
(907)745-9853 FAX:(907) 745-9876 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cob@msb.co.mat-su.ak.us">cob@msb.co.mat-su.ak.us</a>

# SHORELANDS MANAGEMENT STUDY SHORELANDS STEERING COMMITTEE (INTERIM)

## **AGENDA**

(anticipation of public process and study)

## INTRODUCTIONS

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## HANDY MEETING RULES

(consensus of people at meeting)

- One person speaks at a time
- e Briefly Identify yourself, interests, and background
- e Practice good listening skills
- e Do not repeat comments of others
- Keep comments brief and on the subject
- e Avoid being judgmental of others

- e Share your background and information openly
- Defer to the meeting coordinator
- Seek consensus and avoid group voting and decisionmaking
- Place objectives of study and borough above special interests

## **PURPOSE OF PROJECT**

Review of staff information and background Background, input, and questions from others

# IDENTIFICATION OF PEOPLE AND INTERESTS TO HELP WITH STUDY

(This is the focus and most important activity of the meeting-see attached memo The remainder & the agenda isfor your information and comment)

Interests

Interest

Groups

People

## PUBLIC PROCESS AND INFORMATION

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Shorelines Management Study

## DRAFT

October 28, 1998

Schedule Questionnaires Interim Steering Committee Public Forum Workshops Announcements and newsletters

## SHORELANDS MANAGEMENT STUDY

Background and literature review Issues and problems Goals and objectives Management Policies and Strategies

### CHAPTER 17.55: SETBACKS AND SCREENING EASEMENTS

#### Section

17.55.004 Definitions

17.55.005 General

17.55.010 Setbacks

17.55.015 Shorelands; definition [Repealed]

17.55.020 Setbacks for shorelands

17.55.040 Violations, enforcement, and penalties

### 17.55.004 DEFINITIONS.

- (A) For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.
- "Aircraft hangar" means a roofed structure which is used to completely or partially enclose and store aircraft and aircraft accessories.
- "Boathouse" means a roofed structure which is used to completely or partially enclose and store boats and boating accessories.
- "Building" means any structure intended for the shelter, housing, or enclosure of any individual, animal, process, equipment, goods, or materials of any kind or nature.
- "Building line" means the line of that part of the building nearest the property line.
- "Dedication" means the reservation of land to a public use by the owner manifesting the intention that it shall be accepted and used presently or in the future for such public purpose. A dedication by the owner under the terms of this section is a conveyance of an interest in property which shall be deemed to include the warranties of title listed in A.S. 34.15.030. The dedication of streets, alleys, sidewalks, or public open space shall convey a fee interest in the area dedicated. The dedication of all other public rights-of-way shall be deemed to create an easement in gross to perform the indicated function in the area depicted.
- "Engineer" means a registered professional civil engineer authorized to practice engineering in the state of Alaska.
- · "Incidental" means subordinate and minor in significance and bearing a reasonable relationship to the primary

use.

- "Lot" means the least fractional part of subdivided lands having limited fixed boundaries and having an assigned number, or other name through which it may be identified.
- "Lot depth" means the average distance between front and rear lot lines.
- "Lot frontage" means all property abutting the right-of-way of a dedicated street or road easement, measured along the right-of-way between side lot lines of a lot.
- "Lot width" means the average distance between side lot lines.
- "Ordinary high water mark" means the mark made by the action of water under natural conditions on the shore or bank of a body of water which action has been so common and usual that it has created a difference between the character of the vegetation or soil on one side of the mark and character of the vegetation and soil on the other side of the mark.
- "Parcel" means an unsubdivided plot of land.
- "Right-of-way" means a strip of land reserved, used, or to be used for a street, alley, walkway, airport, or other public or private purpose.
- "Structure" means anything that is constructed or created and located on or above the ground, or attached to something fixed to the ground. For purposes of minimum setbacks and building separation requirements, the following are not considered structures unless specifically addressed by code: signs; fences; retaining walls; parking areas; roads, driveways, or walkways; window awnings; a temporary building when used for 30 days or less; utility boxes and other incidental structures related to utility services; utility poles and lines; guy wires; clotheslines; flagpoles; planters; incidental yard furnishings; water wells; monitoring wells; and/or tubes, patios, decks, or steps less than 18 inches above average grade.
- "Subdivision" means the division of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, sites, or other divisions, or the combining of two or more lots, tracts, or parcels into one lot, tract, or parcel for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale or lease for more than ten years, including any resubdivision and when appropriate to the context, the process of subdividing or the land actually subdivided.
- "Surveyor" means a professional land surveyor who is registered in the state of Alaska.
- "Utility box" means electric transformers, switch boxes, telephone pedestals and telephone boxes, cable television boxes, traffic control boxes, and similar devices.
- "Utility services" means the generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity, gas, communications, and

municipal water and sewer systems.

(Ord. 22-063, § 3, 2022; Ord. 21-019, § 2, 2021; Ord. 17-088(SUB), § 2, 2017; Ord. 13-164, §§ 2, 3, 2013; Ord. 93-042, § 2 (part), 1993; Ord. 89-072, § 2 (part), 1989; Ord. 88-221, § 2 (part), 1988)

### 17.55.005 GENERAL.

This chapter establishes minimum structural setbacks from lot lines, water courses and water bodies, rights-of-way, and specific screening easements for certain lands within subdivisions in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough except where otherwise specified in special land use district regulations within this title.

(Ord. 03-053, § 2, 2003; Ord. 88-190, § 3 (part), 1988)

### 17.55.010 SETBACKS.

- (A) No structure or building line shall be placed within 25 feet from the right-of-way line of any public right-of-way, except no furthermost protruding portion of any structure shall be placed within ten feet from the right-of-way line of any public right-of-way when the pre-existing lot:
  - (1) measures 60 feet or less in frontage on a public right-of-way, and is not located on a cul-de-sac bulb; or
  - (2) comprises a nonconforming structure erected prior to July 3, 1973. This setback shall be known as the structure or building line setback.
- (B) Except where specifically provided other-wise by ordinance, no furthermost protruding portion of any structure or building line shall be located nearer than ten feet from any side or rear lot line.
- (C) Except as otherwise specified by code, eaves may project a maximum of three feet into required setback areas.
- (D) The setback requirements of this section do not apply to property within the cities of Palmer and Wasilla.
- (E) If a condemnation by a governmental agency reduces the building line setback of a structure below 25 feet, but there remains at least ten feet setback, and the setback reduced by the condemnation met the requirements of this section prior to the condemnation, the resulting setback shall be the setback requirements for the lot.
- (F) For purposes of this chapter, commercial or industrial buildings on separate but adjacent parcels, which otherwise meet the setback requirements, may have connecting pedestrian walkways, enclosed or not. Pedestrian walkways:
  - (1) shall not contribute to the building area or the number of stories or height of connected buildings; and
  - (2) must comply with the current adopted edition of the International Building Code, except that the

outside width of the walkway shall not exceed 30 feet in width, exclusive of eaves.

(G) No furthermost protruding portion of any structure or building line shall be located nearer than ten feet from railroad rights-of-way, except that utilities and rail dependent structures may extend up to railroad rights-of-way.

(Ord. 11-159, § 2, 2011; Ord. 11-019, § 2, 2011; Ord. 93-042, § 2 (part), 1993; Ord. 88-190, § 3 (part), 1988)

# 17.55.015 Shorelands; definition. [Repealed by Ord. 17-088(SUB), § 3, 2017] 17.55.020 SETBACKS FOR SHORELANDS.

- (A) Except as provided in subsection (B) of this section, no structure or footing shall be located closer than 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark of a body of water. Except as provided otherwise, eaves may project three feet into the required setback area.
- (B) Docks, piers, marinas, aircraft hangars, and boathouses may be located closer than 75 feet and over the water, provided they are not used for habitation and do not contain sanitary or petroleum fuel storage facilities. Structures permitted over water under this subsection shall conform to all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.
  - (1) Boathouses or aircraft hangars which are exempt from a minimum shoreline setback for structures shall:
    - (a) be built over, in, or immediately adjacent to a waterbody and used solely for storing boats and boating accessories;
    - (b) be designed, constructed and oriented for primary access by boats or aircraft directly to a waterbody:
    - (c) not have more than incidental accessory access to a street or driveway; and
    - (d) not be usable as a garage or habitable structure without significant alteration.
- (C) In the city of Wasilla, this section does not apply to structures where construction was completed prior to November 16, 1982. Elsewhere in the borough, this section does not apply to structures where construction was completed prior to January 1, 1987, if the present owner or owners of the property had no personal knowledge of any violation of the requirements of this section prior to substantial completion of the structures. The director of the planning department shall, upon application by a property owner, determine whether a property qualifies for an exception under this subsection.
  - (1) An application for a shoreline setback exception shall include a filing fee as established by resolution of the assembly.

- (D) In this section, a "structure" is any dwelling or habitable building or garage.
- (E) No part of a subsurface sewage disposal system shall be closer than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark of any body of water. The planning commission shall require this distance be increased where necessary to protect waters within the borough.

(Ord. 17-088(SUB), § 4, 2017: IM 96-019, page 1, presented 3-19-96; Ord. 93-095, § 2, 1993; Ord. 93-042, § 2 (part), 1993; Ord. 90-052, § 3, 1990; Ord. 88-190, § 3 (part), 1988; initiative election of 5-5-87)

## 17.55.040 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. 95-088(SUB)(am), § 26 (part), 1995)

## **CHAPTER 17.65: VARIANCES**

### Section

- 17.65.010 Intent
- 17.65.020 Requirements for granting a variance
- 17.65.030 Cases where variance is illegal
- 17.65.040 Variance; conditions of approval
- 17.65.050 Initiation of a variance request
- 17.65.070 Planning commission action
- 17.65.080 Record of variances
- 17.65.090 Termination of variances
- 17.65.100 Appeal procedure
- 17.65.110 Violations, enforcement, and penalties

## 17.65.010 INTENT.

This chapter addresses variances not otherwise addressed within this title. It is not intended that this chapter replace or supersede variance regulations of other chapters within this title, nor is it intended that this chapter address variances to conditional uses.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

## 17.65.020 REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTING A VARIANCE.

- (A) In order to grant a variance to the regulations of MSB title 17, the planning commission must find that each of the following requirements has been met:
  - (1) There are unusual conditions or circumstances that apply to the property for which the variance is sought.
  - (2) The strict application of the provisions of this title would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties under the terms of this title.
  - (3) The granting of the variance will not be injurious to nearby property, nor harmful to the public welfare.

- (4) The granting of the variance will be in harmony with the objectives of this title and any applicable comprehensive plans.
- (5) The deviation from the requirement of this title that is permitted by the variance will be no more than is necessary to permit a reasonable use of the property.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

## 17.65.030 CASES WHERE VARIANCE IS ILLEGAL.

- (A) A variance from this title may not be granted if:
  - (1) special conditions that require the variance are caused by the person seeking the variance;
  - (2) the variance will permit a land use in a district in which that use is prohibited;
  - (3) the variance is sought solely to relieve pecuniary hardship or inconvenience.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

## 17.65.040 VARIANCE; CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL.

- (A) The planning commission, in granting a variance, may prescribe any conditions and safe-guards that it deems to be necessary or desirable to:
  - (1) assure conformity with this title and any applicable comprehensive plans;
  - (2) protect adjacent properties;
  - (3) protect the public health, safety and welfare.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

### 17.65.050 INITIATION OF A VARIANCE REQUEST.

- (A) A request to the planning commission for a variance to the requirements of MSB title 17 may be initiated by the property owner or the manager's authorized agent.
- (B) A variance application shall be filed with the planning director on a form provided by the planning department.
- (C) An application for a variance shall include:
  - (1) a legal description of the property involved;

- (2) a description of the variance requested, including the code section reference;
- (3) a specific statement of the reasons why the variance is required and conforms to the requirements of MSB 17.65.020;
- (4) a site plan or as-built of the particular parcel or parcels affected, submitted under the seal of a professional land surveyor, which shows all information relevant to the variance request;
- (5) an appropriate filing fee as established by the assembly, payable to the borough.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

#### 17.65.070 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION.

The planning commission shall hear any interested parties and shall render a written decision on the variance application within 30 calendar days from the closure of public hearing.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

### 17.65.080 RECORD OF VARIANCES.

The planning department shall keep a record of all variances.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

## 17.65.090 TERMINATION OF VARIANCES.

- (A) Any variance granted shall become null and void if:
  - (1) the variance is not exercised within one year after being granted;
  - (2) any structure or characteristic of use permitted by a variance is moved, removed or discontinued.

(Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

## 17.65.100 APPEAL PROCEDURE.

Decisions by the planning commission on a variance application may be appealed to the borough board of adjustment and appeals. Appeals shall be filed and conducted in accordance with MSB 15.39.

(IM 96-013, page 1 (part), presented 3-19-96; Ord. 90-56, § 3 (part), 1990)

## 17.65.110 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. 95-088(SUB)(am), § 30 (part), 1995)

### **CHAPTER 17.80: NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES**

#### Section

17.80.010 Intent

17.80.020 Legal nonconforming structures

17.80.030 Fees

17.80.040 Written determination required

17.80.050 Nonconforming lots of record

17.80.060 Standards for nonconforming structures

17.80.070 Application for a determination of legal nonconforming status

17.80.080 Repairs and maintenance

17.80.090 Restoration of damaged property

17.80.100 Termination of nonconformities

17.80.110 Violations and enforcement

## 17.80.010 INTENT.

- (A) Within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough there may exist lots, permanent structures, and uses of land and structures, which were lawful before the effective date of the applicable regulations but which would be prohibited, regulated or restricted under the terms of current regulations, or a future amendment. Except as otherwise provided by code, it is the intent of this chapter to permit nonconforming permanent structures to remain until they are removed or abandoned but not to encourage their perpetuation. It is not intended that this chapter replace or supersede nonconformity regulations in other chapters within this title. This ordinance is promulgated pursuant to AS 29.40.040(A)(2) "Land Use Regulations" and encourages the minimization of the unfavorable effects of the construction of structures that do not conform to code.
- (B) Nothing in this chapter requires a change in the plans or construction of any building actually under construction or development prior to the effective date of adoption of this ordinance as long as the building was allowable under the code in effect at the start of development. Where excavation, demolition or removal of an existing building has begun in preparation of rebuilding, such excavation, demolition or removal shall be considered to be actual construction or development, provided that continuous progress is being made toward

completion of the project. Development is defined as any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, or drilling operations.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

## 17.80.020 LEGAL NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES.

- (A) The following structures qualify as legal nonconforming structures without an administrative determination, however, an administrative determination may be issued if requested by the property owner:
  - (1) structures built lawfully and made nonconforming by adoption of subsequent ordinances;
  - (2) structures built in violation of the ordinance existing at the time of construction, then made legal by adoption of subsequent ordinance, and later made nonconforming by adoption of subsequent ordinances;
  - (3) permanent structures which were constructed lawfully after the date of adoption of the Acknowledgement of Existing Regulations, Chapter 17.01, but which were made unlawful after the date of start of construction due to adoption of subsequent regulations.
- (B) The following structures require an administrative determination in order to be granted legal nonconforming status:
  - (1) structures granted a variance in accordance with Chapter 17.65;
  - (2) structures built in violation of shoreline setback ordinances existing at the time of construction, and subsequently granted an exemption from shoreline setbacks in accordance with MSB 17.55.020(C);
  - (3) permanent structures built in violation of ordinances existing at the time of construction, and subsequently granted legal nonconforming status in accordance with MSB <u>17.80.070</u>.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

### 17.80.030 FEES.

- (A) Applications for determination of legal nonconforming status, made pursuant to MSB <u>17.80.020(A)(1)</u>, (2) and (3), and (B)(1) and (2), are not subject to fees set forth in MSB <u>17.80.070</u>.
- (B) Applications for determination of legal nonconforming status, made pursuant to MSB <u>17.80.020(B)(3)</u> are subject to fees as set forth in MSB <u>17.80.070</u>.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

#### 17.80.040 WRITTEN DETERMINATION REQUIRED.

Nonconforming structures, covered under MSB <u>17.80.020(B)(3)</u>, shall not have legal nonconforming status for purposes of this chapter unless a written administrative determination of legal nonconforming status has been issued by the planning director, pursuant to MSB <u>17.80.070</u>.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

#### 17.80.050 NONCONFORMING LOTS OF RECORD.

Structures and accessory buildings may be erected on nonconforming lots of record as long as they meet all applicable provisions of code. This provision shall apply even though the lot fails to meet the requirements for area, or width, or both, currently applicable.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

## 17.80.060 STANDARDS FOR NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES.

- (A) Where a permanent structure exists that could not be built under the terms of the current regulations, the structure may continue to exist as long as it remains lawful subject to subsections (1) through (4) of this subsection. However:
  - (1) a nonconforming structure may not be enlarged or altered in any way unless the alteration or enlargement is otherwise specifically allowed by code. Any nonconforming structure or portion of a nonconforming structure may be altered to decrease its nonconformity.
  - (2) a nonconforming structure may not be enlarged or altered vertically or horizontally in a way which would increase the height, width, depth, area, or volume of the structure except as specifically allowed by current code for similar new structures in that location. A nonconforming structure which straddles a required minimum setback line may be expanded vertically or horizontally only where the expansion is located outside the minimum setback distance.
  - (3) the physical location of a nonconforming structure may be changed only to reduce or eliminate the nonconformity.
  - (4) an existing structure devoted to a use not permitted by code shall not be enlarged, extended, moved, or structurally altered.
- (B) Structures found in violation of any of the standards set forth in subsection (A) of this section, are not eligible for a determination of legal nonconforming status.
- (C) Structures which are in trespass are not eligible for a legal nonconforming status determination.
- (D) [Repealed by Ord. 17-142, § 3, 2018]

- (E) The planning director may not grant legal nonconforming status, pursuant to MSB <u>17.80.070</u>, unless the applicant provides evidence that the structure was erected prior to the adoption of the Acknowledgment of Existing Land Use Regulations, MSB 17.01.
- (F) The planning director will consider public health, safety, and welfare concerns raised in comments received pursuant to MSB <u>17.80.070(C)</u> when making a determination whether to grant a legal nonconforming determination.

(Ord. 17-142, § 3, 2018; Ord. 01-016, § 2, 2001; Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

## 17.80.070 APPLICATION FOR A DETERMINATION OF LEGAL NONCONFORMING STATUS.

- (A) An application for a determination of legal nonconforming status may be initiated by the property owner or his authorized agent. The application shall be filed with the planning director on a form provided by the planning department. The application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee, established by the assembly, and made payable to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The planning director may not grant legal nonconforming status unless the applicant provides evidence that the structure was erected prior to the adoption of the Acknowledgment of Existing Land Use Regulations chapter except as noted herein.
- (B) In addition to the completed application form, the submittal shall contain the following items:
  - (1) description and photographs of the structure;
  - (2) as-built drawing(s), prepared by a professional surveyor, registered in the state of Alaska, verifying the location(s) or the structure(s);
  - (3) any other documentation the planning director may deem necessary to evaluate the application.
- (C) When an application is submitted, the borough shall give notice of the application by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the borough at least 15 calendar days before the earliest date the planning director may render a decision.
- (D) Notice of the application shall be mailed to owners of all property within 600 feet of the lot lines of the property containing the nonconforming structure at least 10 calendar days prior to the earliest date upon which the planning director may make a final decision on the application. The notice shall contain the following:
  - (1) the earliest date a decision may be rendered;
  - (2) brief description of the application;
  - a vicinity map of the area surrounding the subject property;
  - (4) legal description of the subject property;

- (5) the names of the applicants and owners of the subject property;
- (6) the planning department's telephone number; and
- (7) identify the location where the application and other supporting material will be available for public inspection.
- (E) Prior to the date of the decision, the applicant shall pay the cost of all mailings or advertisements required by this section.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

## 17.80.080 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

Except as otherwise addressed by code, nothing in this chapter shall prevent keeping in good repair a nonconforming permanent building or a building in which a nonconforming use is conducted. However, any building that is declared by an authorized official to be unsafe or unlawful by reason of physical condition shall not be restored, repaired or rebuilt in violation of the standards set forth in MSB 17.80.060(A).

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

## 17.80.090 RESTORATION OF DAMAGED PROPERTY.

- (A) Except as otherwise addressed by borough code, nothing in this ordinance shall prevent restoration and subsequent continued occupancy and use of a permanent building destroyed to up to 50 percent of its replacement value by fire, explosion, or other casualty or act of God.
- (B) A dwelling made nonconforming through adoption or amendments to Title 17, Zoning, may be replaced or reconstructed within two years after accidental damage or accidental destruction by fire, explosion, or other casualty or act of God. Reconstruction or replacement not completed within two years of the date of the damage is prohibited except in compliance with current regulations. Replacement or reconstruction may be undertaken in the same three dimensional space that it occupied prior to damage or destruction even though the damage or destruction exceeded 50 percent of its replacement value provided it was a legal structure at the date of construction. Except as otherwise specifically allowed by code, reconstruction and replacement shall not increase the height, depth, area, or volume of the structure beyond that which existed on the date the structure became a pre-existing legal nonconforming structure.
  - (1) The borough manager may grant a one time extension of the allowed time to complete rebuilding of a pre-existing legal nonconforming structure which is otherwise eligible for reconstruction under this section. To grant the time extension authorized under this section, the borough manager must find from evidence presented that:

- (a) the requirement to rebuild within two years from the date of destruction would result in undue hardship on the applicant;
- (b) the applicant diligently pursued reconstruction during the original two-year period; and
- (c) the need for an extension is caused by unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of the applicant.
- (2) The extension shall be for a specific amount of time, not to exceed three years from the original twovear deadline.
- (3) An application for the three-year extension of time to rebuild a pre-existing legal nonconforming structure shall be submitted in writing to the borough manager and shall provide sufficient detail to describe the proposed structure and its compliance with applicable borough code. The application must also contain the evidence required by MSB 17.80.090(B)(1)(a-c).
- (4) The borough manager will review the application and make a decision regarding the request. A public hearing is not required. Appeals of this decision are as prescribed in MSB 15.39.030.
- (C) The percentage of loss, under MSB <u>17.80.090(A)</u> and (B) shall be determined by an independent adjustor or appraiser who is Financial Institutions Reform and Recovery Enforcement Act (FIRREA) certified or the appraisal must be accompanied by the appraiser's license number and certification of type of appraisal they are licensed to perform.

(Ord. 01-016, § 3, 2001; Ord. 99-197, § 2, 1999; Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

### 17.80.100 TERMINATION OF NONCONFORMITIES.

When a legal nonconforming permanent structure is abandoned for a period of one year or more, the building shall not then be used except in compliance with this chapter. For the purposes of this chapter, abandonment means discontinuation or failure to complete construction and begin use, for a continuous period of more than one year. Whether the property owners intended to abandon the structure is not relevant to an abandonment determination. Reconstruction of a damaged nonconforming structure is not prohibited after the one-year period if the reconstruction was prohibited due to lawful orders issued by a court or in the course of an arson or criminal investigation.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)

### 17.80.110 VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.

Violations and enforcement of this chapter shall be consistent with the terms and provisions of Chapter 17.56.

(Ord. 95-011(SUB1), § 3 (part), 1995)



### **CHAPTER 17.125: DEFINITIONS**

Section

17.125.005 General provisions

17.125.010 Definitions

### 17.125.005 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

- (A) The definitions listed in this section shall apply to the words and phrases used in MSB Title 17 unless otherwise described within the individual chapters.
  - (1) Words used in the present tense shall include the future.
  - (2) Words in the singular number shall include the plural number and the plural number shall include the singular.
  - (3) The word "shall" is mandatory.
  - (4) The words "include," "including," and "includes" shall be interpreted as being followed by the phrase "but not limited to."
  - (5) The word "lot" includes the words "plot" and "parcel."
- (B) In instances where a word is not included in this section nor in the applicable section, reference will be made first to the most recent publication of "The Illustrated Book of Development Definitions" then to "The Zoning Dictionary" by Lehman and Associates, then to "Webster's New Universal, Unabridged Dictionary."

(Ord. 05-125(SUB)(AM), § 2 (part), 2005)

### 17.125.010 DEFINITIONS.

- "Access" means a legal way or means of approach to provide physical ingress or egress to a property.
- "Accessory building" means a building detached from a principal building located on the same lot and customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal building or use.
- "Accessory use" means a use or structure incidental and subordinate to the principal use or structure on a parcel of land, is on the same parcel as the principal use or structure, and is a use or structure commonly associated with the principal use or structure and integrally related to it. Some examples are: private garages or storage sheds on residential property or barns on agricultural property.
- · "Administrative permit" means a written document issued administratively which may specify controls,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code is current through Ordinance 25-045, passed April 1, 2025.

restrictions and safeguards on the administratively permitted activity to ensure compatibility with permitted uses.

- "Adult bookstore" means a commercial establishment where at least 51 percent of its interior floor area or retail merchandise is devoted to the sale, rent, lease, inspection, or viewing of books, films, video cassettes, magazines, or other media or periodicals whose dominant theme is actual or simulated specified sexual activities, display or exhibition of specified anatomical areas, removal of articles of clothing, or total nudity.
- "Adult business" means any bookstore, adult cabaret, adult escort service, adult massage service, adult mini-theater, or adult motion picture theatre.
- "Adult cabaret" means a restaurant, coffee house, or cabaret which features topless dancers, strippers, male
  or female impersonators, or similar entertainers who provide live adult entertainment for commercial purposes at
  any time or any number of times.
- "Adult entertainment" means any motion picture, live performance, display, or dance of any type whose dominant theme is actual or simulated specified sexual activities, display or exhibition of specified anatomical areas, removal of articles of clothing, or total nudity, whether live or by shadow effects, offered for commercial purposes.
- "Adult escort" means a person who, for monetary consideration such as a fee or tip, or for other non-monetary consideration, agrees or offers to act as a companion, guide, or date that may provide services such as modeling lingerie, adult entertainment, adult massage service, or similar activities.
- "Adult escort service" means a person or business that, for monetary consideration such as a fee or tip, or for other non-monetary consideration, furnishes or offers adult escorts.
- "Adult massage service" means a person or business that, for monetary consideration such as a fee or tip, or for other non-monetary consideration, furnishes or offers massages or related services, for which the service providers do not have a license for the practice of that profession or vocation as regulated under Alaska Statute Title 8, or which also provides adult entertainment.
- "Adult mini-theater" means an enclosed building with a capacity of less than 50 persons used for the purpose of displaying adult entertainment through films, video, or other motion pictures for commercial purposes.
- "Adult motion picture theater" means an enclosed building with a capacity of 50 or more persons used for the purpose of displaying adult entertainment through films, video, or other motion pictures for commercial purposes.
- "Adverse impact" means a condition that creates, imposes, aggravates, or leads to inadequate, impractical, unsafe, or unhealthy conditions on a site proposed for development or on other properties and facilities.
- "Affordable housing" means housing renting for monthly rent of not more than 30 percent of the total monthly

household income of low income households (defined to be household earnings less than 80 percent of the median annual income adjusted for household size, as determined by the United States Housing and Urban Development Department); or housing that may be purchased with monthly payments including: principal, interest, taxes, insurance, homeowner association fees, and assessments that do not add up to more than 30 percent of the total monthly household income of low income households.

- "Agricultural" means the production and harvest or care of plants, animals, birds, fish, bees, and other organisms by humans for use in providing food, fuel, fiber, shelter, travel, clothing, energy, and aesthetics.
- "Allowed use" means a use of land or a structure, which is permissible by right or condition within a certain zoning district according to the regulations of this code.
- "Amateur radio tower" means any tower used for amateur radio transmissions consistent with the "Complete Federal Communications Commission U.S. Amateur Part 97 Rules and Regulations" for amateur radio facilities.
- "Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)" means a 1990 federal law designed to bring disabled Americans into the economic mainstream by providing them equal access to jobs, transportation, public facilities, and services.
- "Ancillary structure" means any form of development associated with a telecommunication facility, including but not limited to: foundations, concrete slabs on grade, guy wires, guy anchors, generators, and transmission cable supports; however, specifically excluding equipment cabinets.
- "Angle of repose" means the steepest angle material can be piled without slumping.
- "Antenna" means any apparatus designed for the transmitting or receiving of electromagnetic waves. Types of antenna include, but are not limited to: omni-directional antennas, directional antennas, multi or single bay, yagi, or parabolic antennas.
- "Applicant" means a person or authorized representative submitting an application for development.
- "Aquifer" means a formation, a group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield economical quantities of water to wells and springs.
- "Batch plant" means a plant or equipment used for production of asphalt or concrete.
- "Bedroom" means a private room planned and intended for sleeping, separated from other rooms by a door, and accessible to a bathroom without crossing another bedroom.
- "Berm" means an earthen mound designed to provide visual interest, screen undesirable views, decrease noise, or control or manage surface drainage.

- "Bioswales" means open channels that usually possess a dense cover of grasses and other herbaceous plants through which runoff is directed during storm events. Bioswales allow runoff to infiltrate.
- "Breakpoint technology" means the engineering design of a tower wherein a specified point is designed to have stresses concentrated so that the stress point is at least 5 percent more susceptible to failure than any other point along the structure. In the event of a structural failure, the failure will occur at the breakpoint rather than at the base plate, anchor bolts, or any other point on the tower.
- "Broadcast facilities" means a tower, antennas, or antenna arrays for FM/TV/HDTV broadcasting transmission facilities, and tower(s) utilized as antennas for an AM broadcast station that are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.
- "Buffer" means a method of protection against negative impacts, which provides a physical separation or barrier.
- "Building" means any structure, including mobile homes, intended for the shelter, housing, or enclosure of any person, animal, process, equipment, goods, use, materials, or services of any kind or nature.
- "Cabin" means any residential building no greater than 800 square feet in gross floor area.
- "Capture area" means the area on the surface of the ground where infiltrating water will travel to a drinking water well.
- "Caretaker" means a person(s) who takes care of land, dwellings, animals, or belongings when an owner is absent.
- "Certified site plan" means a site plan that is prepared and sealed by an architect, professional engineer or land surveyor, authorized to engage in that profession by the state of Alaska. The certified site plan shall be at a scale of one inch equals 50 feet (or less) showing dimensions and locations of all existing and proposed development on the site in relationship to all property lines.
- "Character" means those attributes, qualities, and features that make up and distinguish a development project and give such project a sense of purpose, function, definition, and uniqueness.
- "Circulation" means systems, buildings, and physical improvements for the movement of people, goods, water, air, sewage, or power by such means as streets, highways, railways, waterways, and airways.
- "Collocation" means the installation of antennas and associated equipment from more than one provider on a single structure.
- "Commencement of construction or placement" means the first placement of permanent construction of a

building on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a building upon a foundation.

- "Commercial use" means a land use, business enterprise, or vehicle maintained for the purpose of buying or selling goods or services.
- "Commission" means the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission.
- "Compatible design" means the visual relationship between adjacent and nearby buildings and the immediate streetscape, in terms of a consistency of materials, colors, building height, building elements, building mass, and other constructed elements of the urban environment, such that abrupt or severe differences are avoided.
- "Conditional use" means a use of a structure or land, which may be allowed by the planning commission after a public hearing and review and subject to certain prescribed or imposed conditions.
- "Conditional use permit (CUP)" means a written document which may specify controls, restrictions and safeguards on the conditional permitted activity to ensure compatibility with permitted uses.
- "Conditions of approval" means requirements established by the borough before preliminary or final approval
  of an application becomes effective.
- "Confined aquifer" means an aquifer which is bounded above and below by formations of impermeable or relatively impermeable material. An aquifer in which ground water is under significantly greater pressure than atmospheric pressure and its upper limit is the bottom of a bed of distinctly lower hydraulic conductivity than that of the aquifer itself. Confined aquifer is synonymous with artesian aquifer.
- "Confining layer" means a geologic bed or layer that retards but does not necessarily prevent the flow of water. A confining layer does not readily yield water to wells or springs. Confining layer is synonymous with aquitard.
- "Contiguous acres" includes acreage that may be separated by a highway or railroad.
- "Deciduous" means plants that drop their foliage annually before becoming dormant.
- "Density" means the number of dwelling units allowed per area of a development site or parcel.
- "Design standards" means a set of regulations defining parameters to be followed in site and building design and development.
- "Designee" means the director or his/her duly authorized representative.
- "Developer" means the legal or beneficial owner or owners of a lot or of any land included in a proposed

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code is current through Ordinance 25-045, passed April 1, 2025.

development, including the holder of an option or contract to purchase or other persons having enforceable proprietary interests in such lands.

- "Development" means the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, placement, or enlargement of any building.
- · "Director" means the director of planning and land use.
- "Dog mushing" means a transport method powered by one or more dogs for sport or paid service.
- "Drainage plan" means a plan that is prepared and stamped by a civil engineer authorized to operate in the state of Alaska, which contains the following:
  - (a) background information:
    - (i) project description;
    - (ii) existing (predevelopment) conditions; and
    - (iii) proposed future (development) conditions.
- "Duplex" means a structure containing two dwelling units, each of which has direct access to the outside.
- "Dwelling unit" means one or more rooms, providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.
- "Earth materials" includes those natural resources such as sand, rock, gravel, soil, peat moss, sphagnum, stone, pumice, cinders and clay; also called "materials."
- "Earth materials processing" means any crushing, loading, screening, sorting, storing, washing, or production of asphalt.
- "Efficiency" means a one-room unit that serves as the occupant's total living, sleeping, and eating space, usually containing a separate bathroom.
- "Egress" means an exit.
- "Equipment compound" means the area occupied by a tower including areas inside or under the following: an antenna-support structure's framework, equipment cabinets, and ancillary structures.
- "Evergreen" means vegetation that has foliage that persists and remains green throughout the year.

- "Extraction" means to take and remove earth materials from the subject site to an off-site location.
- "Fair Housing Act of 1968" means that Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and handicap (disability).
- "Feed lines" means cables used as the interconnecting media between the transmission or receiving equipment and the antenna.
- "Fence" means a manmade barrier of any material or combination of materials erected to enclose, screen, or separate areas.
- "Fence, solid" means a fence, including any gates, constructed of solid material, wood, or masonry, through which no visual images may be seen.
- "Fire service area" means a geographic region or area established by the borough to provide fire stations and related facilities or services that are needed to protect the health, safety, or welfare of persons and property within that area.
- "Flag lot" means a lot with a long, narrow strip protruding from one side (pole) which fronts on a borough standard width legal right-of-way and provides access to the lot.
- "Garage" means an accessory building or portion of a main building primarily used for storage of motor vehicles. A "garage" is distinguished from a "carport" in that a garage is enclosed on more than three sides, so that the stored or parked car is contained entirely inside the building.
- "Ground cover" means grasses or other low-growing plants and landscaping.
- "Groundwater" means that part of the subsurface where water occurs in the saturated zone.
- "Habitable" means a residence that is safe and can be occupied in reasonable comfort; the premises should be closed in against the weather, provide running water, access to decent toilets and bathing facilities, heating, and electricity. Particularly in multifamily developments, freedom from noxious smells, noise, and garbage are expected.
- "Heavy industrial" means the use of land, buildings, or structures for the manufacturing, processing, fabricating, or assembly of raw materials, warehousing or bulk storage of goods, and related accessory uses.
- "Height, building" means the height of a building, the vertical distance as measured from the base of the building at finished grade to the highest point of the building including appurtenances. The average between the highest and lowest grades within 20 feet of the building shall be considered finished grade and be used in

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code is current through Ordinance 25-045, passed April 1, 2025.

calculating the height.

- "Height, tall structure" means the vertical distance measured from finished grade to the highest point of the tall structure, not including appurtenances, antennas, or equipment affixed thereto. In the case of wind energy conversion systems, the blade is considered part of the overall height of the structure.
- "Historical uses" means lands with sites, structures, landmarks, or objects with local, regional, statewide, or national historical significance that have been used by past populations for historic or traditional uses (such as subsistence activities, trail use, etc.) and that are often currently enjoyed by users.
- "Impermeable" means a surface or material that provides a functional barrier to significant liquid flow or infiltration.
- "Impervious area/surface" means the area of the subject site covered by impenetrable materials. This surface has been compacted or covered with a layer of material so that it is highly resistant to infiltration by water.
- "Incentive points" means numerical points that are provided to applicants that exceed the required minimum design standards.
- "Industrial use" means any activity which includes manufacturing, processing, warehousing, storage, distribution, shipping, or other related uses.
- "Ingress" means access or entry.
- "Isochron" means a line drawn on a map through all points having the same numerical value of time.
- "Junkyard/refuse area" means a location which is commercially used for the purpose of the outdoor storage, handling, dismantling, wrecking, keeping or sale of used, discarded, wrecked or abandoned airplanes, appliances, vehicles, boats, building and building materials, machinery, equipment, or parts thereof, including, but not limited to, scrap metals, wood, lumber, plastic, fiber, or other tangible materials.
- "Landfill" means an area in which solid waste is disposed of on or into the land, or that portion of a facility where landfilling is taking or has taken place. "Landfill" does not include a landspreading facility or a containment structure used for the disposal of drilling wastes.
- "Landscape plan" means a plan, drawn to scale, showing proposed location and type of existing vegetation to be retained, and proposed new vegetation. The landscape plan may be a component of the certified site plan. Landscape plans shall also include:
  - (a) proposed grade changes;

- (b) proposed buffers; and
- (c) proposed screening devices.
- "Landscaping" means any of the following or combination of material such as, but not limited to, grass,
  natural ground cover, shrubs, flowers, vines, hedges, trees, indigenous plant materials, planters, brick, stone or
  natural forms, water forms, but not including the use of smooth concrete or asphalt.
- "Large-scale commercial" means a commercial building whose total gross building area, including outdoor display and sales area, is equal to or exceeds 25,000 square feet. Large-scale commercial does not include agricultural uses or activities.
- "Legal trail" means a trail that has been legally dedicated for public use either in fee simple or as a public use easement as a trail. The trail has an existing right-of-way or formal, written and recorded landowner permission allowing public access along its entire length.
- "Livable space" means the square footage of habitable or living areas in a building intended for occupancy by one or more persons for living or sleeping quarters.
- "Livestock" means outdoor animals (i.e., cows, goats, horses, pigs, sled dogs, barnyard fowl, etc.) kept for the purpose of providing food, clothing, work or recreation.
- "Living area" means an area or room(s) in a building designed for occupancy by one or more persons for living or sleeping quarters.
- "Lot" means the least fractional part of subdivided lands having limited fixed boundaries and having an assigned number, or other name through which it may be identified.
- "Lot area" means the total horizontal area within the lot lines of a lot, but does not include the pole area of a flag lot and excludes any street rights-of-way.
- "Maintenance" means the servicing, repairing, or altering of any premises, appliance, apparatus, or equipment to perpetuate the use or purpose for which such premises, appliance, apparatus, or equipment was originally intended.
- "Mixed use development" means the development of a neighborhood, tract of land, building with a variety of complementary and integrated uses, such as, but not limited to, residential, office, neighborhood commercial, retail, public, recreation, in a compact urban form.
- "Monitoring well" means any cased excavation or opening into the ground made by digging, boring, drilling, driving, jetting or other methods for the purpose of determining the physical, chemical, biological, or radiological

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code is current through Ordinance 25-045, passed April 1, 2025.

properties of groundwater.

- "Multifamily" means any development that exceeds the density thresholds within MSB 17.73.040(A).
- "Natural features" means, but is not limited to, floodplains and surface drainage channels, stream corridors, wetlands and riparian habitat, wildlife and scenic corridors, and other bodies of water, steep slopes, prominent ridges, bluffs, or valleys, and existing trees and vegetation.
- "Natural grade" means the elevation of the ground level in its natural state, before construction, filling, or excavation.
- "Neighborhood" means an area of a community with characteristics that distinguish it from other areas and that may include distinct social or economic characteristics, housing types, schools, or boundaries defined by physical barriers such as major highways, and railroads, or natural features such as water bodies or topography.
- "Neighborhood commercial use(s)" means mixed use establishments primarily engaged in the provision of frequently or recurrently needed goods for household consumption, such as prepackaged food and beverages and limited household supplies and hardware. Typical commercial uses include neighborhood convenience stores, laundromats, dry cleaners, small neighborhood offices, postal services, and gas stations.
- "Occupied" means the presence of an individual or individuals in a structure or on a parcel of land or contiguous parcels.
- "Operator or manager" means any natural person responsible for the actual operation and management of an adult business.
- "Ownership interest" in any unincorporated business, means any interest in real or personal property used in connection with the business, coupled with any degree of exercise of management, supervision, direction, or control of the business. In any incorporated business, the term "ownership interest" means ownership of any stock of the corporation.
- "Parcel" means a lot or contiguous group of lots in single ownership or under single control, usually considered a unit for purposes of development.
- "Parking area/lot" means any public or private area, under or outside a building, designed and used for
  parking motor vehicles, including parking lots, garages, private driveways, and legally designated areas of public
  streets.
- "Path/pathway" means a cleared way for pedestrians or bicycles that may or may not be improved.
- · "Pedestrian walkway" means a walkway or tunnel located at, above, or below grade level that is used as a

means of travel by persons.

- "Permit" means written governmental permission issued by an authorized official, empowering the holder thereof to do some act not forbidden by law but not allowed without such authorization.
- "Pervious hard surface" means any material that permits full or partial absorption of storm water into a previously unimproved land.
- "Phase" means a portion of an operation undertaken in a logical time and geographical sequence.
- "Pollution" means the contamination or other degradation of the physical, chemical or biological properties of
  water or air, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity or odor, or such discharge of any liquid,
  gaseous, solid, radioactive or other substance into water or air as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render
  such water or air harmful, detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or to domestic, commercial,
  industrial, agricultural, recreational or other beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other
  aquatic life.
- "Primary vehicle access" means, in the context of multifamily development, a vehicle access to the development that is, at a minimum, characterized by the following elements: (1) full-turn vehicle access (i.e., turns allowed in all directions); (2) entryway signage with name of development and address; and (3) principal entry for prospective owners or renters. All public and private roads must meet design standards as outlined in the borough's subdivision construction manual and addressing/street naming requirements as designated by the borough's geographic information systems department.
- · "Principal use" means the primary or predominant use of any lot, building, or structure.
- "Property" means a lot, parcel, or tract of land together with the building located thereon.
- "Public land" means land owned, maintained, or managed by a public agency.
- "Qualified professional" means a professional hydrologist, geologist, or registered engineer that has specific education and experience with groundwater hydrology.
- "Recreational uses" means the pursuit of leisure-time activities such as, but not limited to, boating, dog mushing, fishing, hunting, trapping, swimming, motorized and nonmotorized activities, sports, games of skill, hiking, skiing, etc., and may include the enjoyment of natural beauty, historic landmarks, or wildlife.
- "Reserved trail" means a trail that has been legally dedicated for public use either in fee simple or as a public use easement as a trail. The trail has an existing right-of-way or formal, written and recorded landowner permission allowing public access along its entire length.

- "Responsible party" means the landowner or the land owner's designated agent.
- · "Residential use" means the use of land, buildings or structures for human habitation.
- "Right-of-way" means a strip of land reserved or dedicated, used or to be used for a street, alley, walkway, trail, airport, or circulation related purpose.
- "Road" means a public or private way that provides access to property for vehicles or pedestrians.
- "Runoff" means the portion of rainfall, melted snow, irrigation water, and any other liquids that flows across the ground surface.
- "Scenic views" means scenic, natural views that may be of significant natural beauty, farmlands, mountains, or other scenes. The goal of development should be to preserve unique vistas and scenic corridors to the greatest extent possible.
- "Screening" means a method of visually shielding or buffering one abutting or nearby building or use from another by fencing, walls, berms, or densely planted vegetation.
- "Seasonal high water table" means the highest level to which the groundwater rises in most years. Estimates are based on observations of the water table at selected sites and on the evidence of a saturated zone, the upper limit often consisting of a mixture of grayish and reddish mottles in the soil.
- "Setback" means the distance between a structure or activity and any lot line, right-of-way, or easement and also the minimum distance required to be maintained between two structures or between a structure and property line, right-of-way, water well, or water body. The distance shall be calculated in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures or objects to the closest exterior point of the structure, property line, or shore line, or center of the well.
- "Short-term transient accommodation" means accommodations for compensation in a building or portions of a building consisting of a residency of any period less than 60 days. If residency exceeds 59 consecutive days, it cannot be considered a short-term transient accommodation for the purposes of this title.
- "Sidewalk" means a paved, surfaced, or leveled area, paralleling and usually separated from the traveled way, used as a pedestrian walk.
- "Single-family dwelling" means a building containing one dwelling unit.
- · "Site" means any plot or parcel of land or combination of contiguous lots or parcels of land.
- "Slope" means the rate of vertical change of ground surface expressed as a percentage figure and

determined by dividing the vertical distance by the horizontal distance.

- "Solid waste" means drilling wastes, garbage, refuse, sludge, building material, or other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, or agricultural operations, or from community activities. For purposes of this chapter, "solid waste" does not include:
  - (a) spoil and overburden from road construction, land clearing, or mining operations;
  - (b) mining waste regulated by federal and state regulations;
  - (c) domestic sewage and other wastes that are discharged into and pass through a sewer system to a publicly owned treatment works;
  - (d) industrial or mining wastes that are being collected, stored, or treated in:
    - (i) a wastewater treatment plant before discharge or removal; or
    - (ii) an industrial processing facility for continual re-use;
  - (e) industrial discharges that are point sources subject to federal or state permits;
  - (f) nuclear or nuclear byproduct material.
- "Specified anatomical areas" means:
  - (a) less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic region, buttocks, and female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; and
  - (b) human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if opaquely covered.
- "Specified sexual activities" means simulated or actual:
  - (a) display of human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal;
  - (b) acts of masturbation, sexual inter-course, sodomy, bestiality, necrophilia, sado-masochistic abuse, fellatio, or cunnilingus; and
  - (c) fondling or erotic touching of human genitals, pubic region, buttocks, or female breasts.
- "Standards" means mandatory regulations, which are indicated by use of the terms "will," "shall" and "must."
- "Steep slopes" means any portion of a development site where the natural grade of the land has a slope of 40

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code is current through Ordinance 25-045, passed April 1, 2025.

percent or greater.

- "Stream" means a body of flowing water, where the water flows in a natural channel as opposed to a canal.
- "Stream corridor" means the corridor defined by the top of the stream's channel bank, plus the adjacent land areas that contain vegetation, habitats, and ecosystems associated with bodies of water or dependent on the flow of water in the stream. Biologists often refer to the adjacent land area, which will vary in width depending on the particular stream, as a "riparian ecosystem." In braided channels, the stream corridor shall include the entire stream feature.
- "Street" means any vehicular way that is (1) an existing state, municipal, or borough roadway; (2) shown upon a plat approved pursuant to law; (3) approved by other official action; (4) shown on a plat duly filed and recorded in the office of the recording clerk; (5) shown on the official map or adopted master plan. It includes the land between the street lines, whether improved or unimproved.
- "Structure" means anything that is constructed or created and located on or under the ground, or attached to something fixed to the ground. For purposes of minimum setbacks and building separation requirements, the following are not considered structures unless specifically addressed by code: fences; retaining walls; parking areas; roads, driveways, or walkways; window awnings; a temporary building when used for 30 days or less; utility poles and lines; guy wires; clotheslines; flagpoles; planters; incidental yard furnishings; water wells; monitoring wells; and/or tubes, patios, decks, or steps less than 18 inches above average grade.
- "Structure, rail dependent" means a structure with a primary function requiring close proximity to railroad tracks.
- "Subdivider" means any person having an ownership interest in the land that is the subject of an application for development.
- "Subdivision" means the division of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, sites, or other divisions, or the combining of two or more lots, tracts, or parcels into one lot, tract, or parcel for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale or lease for more than ten years, including any resubdivision.
- "Subject site" means the property subject to the interim materials district; conditional use permit; or administrative permit for earth materials extraction activities.
- "Swale" means a low-lying or depressed land area commonly wet or moist, which can function as an intermittent drainageway.
- "Tall structure" means a structure that is over 85 feet above grade. The term includes, but is not limited to, tethered balloons, flag poles, sculpture, buildings, elevators, storage or processing facilities, water tanks,

derricks, cranes, signs, chimneys, area illumination poles, towers, broadcast facilities, and supports for communication.

- "Telecommunication facility" means any unmanned facility established for the purpose of providing wireless transmission of voice, data, images, or other information including, but not limited to, cellular telephone service, personal communications service, paging service, and television or radio communications. Telecommunication facilities may include one or more towers, antennas, equipment cabinets, feed lines, ancillary structures, and fencing.
- "Telecommunication tower" means a tower built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting any FCC licensed or authorized antennas and their associated facilities, including structures that are constructed for wireless communications services including, but not limited to, private, broadcast, and public safety services, as well as unlicensed wireless services and fixed wireless services such as microwave backhaul.
- "Topographic features" means the physical land surface relief including terrain elevation and slope.
- "Tower" means a vertical projection composed of metal or other material designed for the purpose of accommodating antennas, wind turbine equipment, or other equipment at a desired height or utilization as a broadcast facility. Examples of tower types include guyed, lattice, monopole, concealed, and other similar type facilities. Towers do not include any device used to attach antennas to an existing building, unless the device extends above the highest point of the building by more than 20 feet.
- "Traditional uses" means an inherited, established, or customary pattern of land uses that may involve a cultural, historical practice, or a social custom.
- "Trail" means a traveled way which may have recreational, aesthetic, alternative transportation, or educational opportunities.
- "Transmission equipment" means equipment that facilitates transmission for any FCC licensed or authorized wireless communication service, including, but not limited to, radio transceivers, antennas, coaxial or fiber-optic cable, and regular backup power supply.
- "Unbuildable" means an area or land that cannot be used practically or is not feasible for a habitable building because of natural conditions, such as a slope exceeding 40 percent, wetlands, floodplains, streams, ponds, or other impeding conditions.
- "Unconfined aquifer" means an aquifer whose upper surface is a water table free to fluctuate.
- "Undeveloped land" means land in its natural state before commencement of construction or placement of any building.

- "Use" means the purpose for which land, a building, or structure is arranged, designated, or intended, is occupied or maintained.
- "Useable open space" means land within or related to a development that is designed and intended for the common use or enjoyment of the residents of the development and may include complementary buildings and improvements as are necessary and appropriate.
- "Variance" means specific grant of relief from one or more of the requirements of this title as provided in MSB 17.65.
- "Water bodies" means permanent or temporary areas of standing or flowing water. Water depth is such that water, and not air, is the principal medium in which organisms live. Water bodies include, but are not limited to: lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, sloughs, and all salt water bodies.
- "Water table" means the upper surface of a zone of saturated soil, including natural seasonal fluctuations, but excluding fluctuations caused by heavy rains or rapid snowmelt; the water table is indicated by the level at which water stands in a well that is open along its length and penetrates the surficial deposits just deeply enough to encounter standing water in the bottom.
- "Wetlands" means those areas that are inundated and saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.
- "Width of a structure" means the horizontal distance measured from the outermost points of the structure including attachments and structural supports but excluding guy wires and transmission lines strung between towers as in the case of electrical power lines.
- "Wind energy conversion system (WECS)" means any device such as a wind charger, windmill, turbine, energy ball, wind tower, or another similar device, which is typically mounted to a tower or pole, and its associated mechanical and electrical equipment, which is designed to convert wind energy to a form of usable energy.
- · "Yard" means an open space that lies between the principal building or buildings and the nearest lot line.
- "Yard, front" means a space extending across the full width of the lot between the principal building and the front lot line and measured perpendicular to the building to the closest point of the front lot line.
- "Yard, rear" means a space extending across the full width of the lot between the principal building and the rear lot line and measured perpendicular to the building to the closest point of the rear lot line.
- "Yard, required" means the minimum open space between a lot line and the yard line within which no building

is permitted to be located except as provided by the design standards.

• "Yard, side" means a space extending from the front yard to the rear yard between the principal building and the side lot line and measured perpendicular from the side lot line to the closest point of the principal building.

(Ord. 18-030, § 8, 2018; Ord. 18-013, § 6, 2018; Ord. 17-096, § 5, 2017; Ord. 15-016, § 3, 2015; Ord. 12-169, § 4, 2013; Ord. 12-064, § 3, 2012; Ord. 11-159, § 3, 2011; Ord. 11-153, § 18, 2011; Ord. 11-146, § 8, 2011; Ord. 11-074, § 5, 2011; Ord. 11-019, § 3, 2011; Ord. 09-014, § 3, 2009; Ord. 08-161(AM), § 3, 2008; Ord. 08-136, § 3, 2008; Ord. 08-018(SUB), § 18, 2008; Ord. 08-017(AM), § 3, 2008; Ord. 07-058, § 12, 2007; Ord. 06-192(AM), § 3, 2007; Ord. 06-188(SUB), § 3, 2007; Ord. 05-182(AM), § 9, 2005; Ord. 05-125(SUB)(AM), § 2 (part), 2005)

# RECEIVED JUN 1 9 2025 CLERKS OFFICE

By:

Water and Wastewater Advisory Board, minus the Chair

Action:

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 17.02 - MANDATORY LAND USE PERMITS, MSB 17.55 - SETBACK AND SCREENING EASEMENTS, MSB 17.65 - VARIANCES, AND MSB 17.125 - DEFINITIONS.

WHEREAS, the 75-foot waterbody setback was originally established in 1973 by assembly ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the setback was temporarily reduced to 45 feet in 1986 but reinstated to 75 feet by voter initiative in 1987; and

WHEREAS, over time, enforcement of the 75-foot setback has been limited, resulting in widespread noncompliance, environmental impacts, and real estate complications; and

WHEREAS, between 1987 and present, over 700 shoreline structures have been built in violation of the 75-foot setback ordinance, many of which went undetected due to limited permitting requirements and enforcement options; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-073 offers a pragmatic solution by allowing structures to be built within 75 feet of a waterbody, provided they are designed and built in accordance with plans

developed by a qualified professional that ensure water quality is protected; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) continues to experience sustained residential, commercial, and recreational development near its lakes, rivers, and wetlands, increasing the need for clear land use regulations to manage growth while protecting environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, waterbodies in the MSB provide significant public benefits, including clean drinking water, fisheries, recreation, scenic values, and ecological services that can be negatively impacted by unmanaged development, impervious surfaces along waterbodies, and pollutant discharges; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-073 requires land use review and permitting procedures for mechanized development within 75 feet of a waterbody, providing the MSB the opportunity to evaluate drainage and infiltration in order to protect water quality; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance develops several new general standards for development within 75-feet of a waterbody to ensure pollution is minimized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Wastewater Advisory Board hereby recommends Assembly adoption of Ordinance 25-073.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board recommends to adopt documentation developed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough volunteer water quality monitoring program, under Resolution 02-060 under project number 20307 as reference material for background water quality under MSB Section 17.55.016 Water Body Setbacks For Pollution Sources.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Wastewater Advisory Board this 18th day of June, 2025.

Bob Walden, CHAIR

ATTEST

Christina Sands, Staff Support

(SEAL)

YES: Robert (Bob) Walden, Danny Woland, Daniel Tucker, Gina Jorgensen, Terry Gordick

NO: None

### WEST LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

10073 West Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99623

RECEIVED
DEC 1 0 2025
CLERKS OFFICE



### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

DISTRICT CHIEF

Cindy Michaelson, Chair Randy Newcomb, Vice Chair Cathi Kramer Dennis Vau Dell Tawyna Hightower

### **Minutes**

Regular Meeting Monday November 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Public Safety Building, West Lakes Fire, Station 7-3

### CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting of the West Lakes Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:00 pm by Cindy Michaels on November 10th, 2025

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance

### III. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Board members establish quorum:

### West Lakes Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors

**Chair:** Cindy Michaelson present, **Members**: Cathi Kramer video call and Dennis Vau Dell present

### Present from West Lakes Fire Department

Tawnya Hightower, Chief Mary Hauge, Admin Assistant

Also Present: Brain Davis, Deputy Director of Fire

S:/West Lakes FSA/Admin/BOS/Meeting Minutes/2025/BOS DRAFT West Lakes FSA.docx

Com,

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

10073 West Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99623

### IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Cathi Kramer moved to approve the agenda

Dennis Vau Dell 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion **VOTE**: Motion passed unanimously

### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No minutes to approve. Last month there was a joint meeting with Central Mat-Su FSA at Station 6-1. Minutes were taken by Maria Worrell Administrative Assistant for Central.

### VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cindy Michaelson received an email from the Project Design Team that is tasked with upgrading Johnson Road to Major Collector Standards.
- Chief Hightower will follow up with them on information they need.

### VII. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief's Report - Tawnya Hightower - WLFSA

### **OCTOBER Calls 73**

		Good				
FIRE	Rescue	Service	Alarms	Haz-Mat	Intent	Total
28	24	9	3	2	7	73
38%	33%	12%	4%	3%	10%	

- YTD calls 699
- 73 Emergency Calls are above average
- 8 Structure Fires, only one within our fire service area. 6 of those were auto aid to Central Mat-Su, 1 was to Houston, 1 was our fire on Beaver Lake Road that was started from RC car battery charging of Lithium-Ion batteries.
- Code 151 is Outside Fires, we had 12 only 4 were legal burns.

### TRAINING:

- Trained on Tuesday nights for our regular Firefighter training.
- Firefighter downs, Firefighter drags, victim drags, and ladder bails.

#### **WEST LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA**

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

### 10073 West Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99623

- Participated in the Mat-Su Borough, AST, EMS, DES Active Shooter Drill at Iditarod Elementary.
- Firefighter 1 Class is complete, we had 5 students: 3 from West Lakes, 1 from Houston and 1 from Talkeetna.

### **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION:**

- October was a focus of <u>Charge into Fire Safety</u> it was about Lithium-Ion Batteries. Informing people to buy only listed products, charge devices safely and recycle batteries responsibly. Buying chargers that only come from the manufacturer.
- When we talk to kids about this we are teaching them that batteries are tools and not toys. These charging things are what kids would call a toy, the E-Bikes, ride on scooters, RC battery cars, and tablets. Kids should have adult help in charging them.
- We installed 30 Smoke Alarms, 112 YTD
- 9 Co Alarms, 48 YTD
- 1 Address Sign, 25 YTD
- 6 School Presentations
- Participated in the Red Ribbon week and drug awareness.
- Trunk or Treat night at Taniana Elementary and Big Lakes Lions' Club
- Halloween Open House locations and number of people seen:

Station 7-1, 45 people Station 7-2, 160 people

Station 7-3, 125 people

We connected with over 2500 people at these events.

### VIII. FY 27 BUDGET PREPARATIONS

- Preview of the Budgets are due to Director Davis on December 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be presented to Board Members soon after that.
- Operating budget is in process, no significant changes.
- With the new Borough camera system, we are adding capabilities at Station 7-2 that will increase our monthly Wi-FI costs and installation costs.

• CIPs: Radio Upgrade: \$275,000 Brush Skid Unit: \$25,000

Underground Tank: \$500,000

#### WEST LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

### 10073 West Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99623

### IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

- Deputy Director Brian Davis
- Budget time, CIP's and operating budget between now, December and January

### X. ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Dennis Vau Dell 1<sup>st</sup> motion to adjourn Cathi Kramer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to adjourn

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:40

Cindy Michaelson, Chair, West Lakes FSA B.O.S.

ATTEST:

Mary Hauge – Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved on  $\frac{13/9/35}{5}$ 





RECEIVED

DEC 15 2025

CLERKS OFFICE

# Scan the QR code for live links ロゾーででは、 WILLOW AREA COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MONTHLY MEETING

DATE 09/03/2025 7:00 p.m.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Call to order 7:02 p.m.

Board quorum was established. Community quorum was not established.

Board members present: Tryg Erickson, Linda Oxley, Rodney McCambridge, Sophia Boufidou,

Wes McClure (ALR1), Joyce Yates, Danielle Barve (ALR2), Talon Boeve (ALR4)

Board members absent: Chandra Kohntopp (ATR3)

8/6/25 Mtg minutes were approved.

Agenda was approved.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

A. **Treasury:** We have a budget, it will be published so it can be approved at the next meeting.

	Willow Area Comm	unity Organizal	lion Temtative	Budget		07/25-06/26
Expenses			Income			
			Carry over		\$29,000	
			Grants		\$15,000	
			Pickelball		\$3,000	
			Carnival \$		\$20,000	
			Seniors		\$1,200	
			Lotto Grant		\$26,025	
			Kitchen		\$1,200	
			Library		\$15,000	
			CD Income		\$34,000	
			Gaming		\$10,800	
			BYIP		\$48,000	_
			Gun Show		\$5,000	
	Bourgh/Building	\$58,000				
	Payroll	\$21,182.40				
	Maintenance/Su	\$10,000				
	Winter Carnaval	\$25,000				
	Office/Computer	\$6,000				
	Light/Sound Sys	\$2,500				
	Scholship Progra	\$2,500				
	Insurance	\$6,000				
	BYIP	\$48,000				

Totals

\$179,182.40

\$181,000

At present, we are close to the budget amounts. Some CDs have been cashed, and for the rest, Joyce will investigate CD rates.

### B. At-Large-Representatives:

a. <u>Danielle Barve:</u> Back to school event went very well. The upcoming Soup and Chili Fundraiser will be at the Comm. Center on Oct. 4, still working on raffle prizes. The Winter Carnival Kickoff dinner will be on Jan. 30<sup>th.</sup> On Jan. 23rd there will be a concert open to the community.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. <u>Hazard mitigation update:</u> The current plan expires in February 2026. An abbreviated plan has been drawn up, which can be built upon based on community input. Public comments period is currently open. All pertinent information is at: <a href="https://des.matsugov.us/pages/hazard-mitigation-plan">https://des.matsugov.us/pages/hazard-mitigation-plan</a>.
- B. We were invited to create a letter of support to add mental health facilities in the area (currently the closest facility is in Palmer). Patients from the Valley often have to go to Anchorage, but that facility is also often at capacity. If no beds are available, sometimes patients go to jail which aggravates the issues they are already facing. The increase in homelessness is a factor and area residents ages 10 and up are at risk. A motion to request an increase in capacity from 16 to 45 beds was approved with no objections. The letter has been written, See, Appendix 1 for letter contents.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1. <u>Waterbody setbacks:</u> changes to ordinance of 75ft setback for all buildings. Revisions aim to clarify, explain, and repair. The setbacks are important for erosion, filtering, etc. A motion for a letter to be written, signed and sent to the Assembly was approved with no objections. The letter has been authored and sent, See Appendix 2 for letter contents.
- Jim Houston: The work to create a path connecting the Senior Center to the Library and address landscaping issues in the Community Center area facing the lake, is underway. The ground is predominately gravel, which allows for a good plan that also addresses drainage.
- 3. The Willow Airport inspection went smoothly, minor modification regarding the placement of the portapotty was requested. The next inspection is in 2 yrs.
- 4. **Alaska Burrito Company Kitchen Rental.** Complications regarding the USDA approval process for the kitchen has put a halt to this effort. Rodney will continue to try to get the USDA approved for the future. We will remove this from the agenda for now.
- 5. **Trail committee employee:** this has been completed, we will remove it from any future agendas.

### **WACO COMMUNITY GROUP/CLUB REPORTS**

A. **Fire service area:** 37 calls this month. Also, some flooding calls came in. The tender will be delivered in late October. This is National Preparedness Month, and the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Preparedness expo will take place at the Menard center for all of Matsu on Sat. Sept 20th. Information and Materials has been included for new hazards as well. There will

be food trucks also. Many events will be on a schedule, available at <u>ready.matsugov.org</u> the same website also provides Information about the Poster Contest in 6 age categories.

- B. Library: no news this month.
- C. Pickleball: \$397 was given to Waco, still playing strong with participants from all ages and many origins. They will continue playing outside as long as possible; a learning clinic was successful.
- D. Mushers Association: Planning for an Oct 11 International mushing dog symposium with lots of event and speakers, followed by a vet clinic on the 12th. Both events will be open to anyone.
- E. Willow Trails Committee: no news this month.
- F. PTA: Resuming the 8th and will have board elections.
- G. Willow Museum representative announced a presentation on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> about Shem Pete, 76pm at the Library Conference room.
- H. Garden club: Holding a Harvest Dinner on Sept 11 at 5:30 to 7:30, asking for donations to the food pantry.
- i. WHO/Farmer's market: last farmers market will be on 9/5.
- J. Su300: no news this month.
- K. Friends of state parks/Matsu: working on Nancy lake trails, it will be a long project.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONS TO BE HEARD

• Terry Boyd, as the president of the Vietnam pilot's association expressed gratitude for being allowed to host their event at the park.

Adjourn 8:06 pm

I hair | Rodney Mclambinder

Chair/Tryg Erickson

Title / Name

Signature

Date

Secretary/ Sophia Boufidou
Title / Name
Signatur

Appendix 1.



September 3, 2025

Alaska Department of Health ATTN: Certificate of Need Program 3601 C Street, Suite 978 Anchorage, AK 99503

### Dear Program Staff:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Willow Area Community Organization (WACO), the group recognized as the community council for the unincorporated area known as Willow. WACO met this evening, September 3 and voted to send this formal message of support for Mat-Su Regional Medical Center's (MSRMC's) application for a Certificate of Need to build additional behavioral health facilities at their hospital campus in Palmer.

Additional behavioral health capacity is sorely needed in the Valley. Sunshine Health Clinic is steadily increasing its capacity for outpatient mental health needs in our community. We hear about the numbers of teens who are couch surfing to stay in the area to go to school – on the street due to many reasons but we know that their mental health needs and those of their parents are parts of the problem. When our friends and neighbors are in acute, serious crisis, Willow residents deserve to have an inpatient resource that can be relied upon and available close to home.

Inpatient psych care must include family and key important others to set up the patient for successful discharge. With the continued rise in costs, traveling beyond the Valley to be that critical support person becomes more difficult and often just prohibitive. With a poverty rate of 15%, higher than the median for all of the United States, and 74% of the Willow population living below 200% of the federal poverty line, and no regular public transportation in Willow, the need to bring services closer to homes is essential to maximize mental health care.

Mat-Su Regional's existing 16-bed inpatient behavioral health unit is frequently full, with no room to accept additional patients. Patients experiencing a mental health crisis who need more intensive treatment may end up waiting in the emergency room for an extended time before an MSRMC inpatient bed becomes available or be transferred to Anchorage or even out of state to

get the care they need. Medical emergency rooms, Anchorage beds and out of state beds are quite suboptimal to mental health support for those suffering who live in Willow.

The hospital proposes to increase their inpatient behavioral health capacity to 45 beds, including dedicated beds for adolescent needs. With more beds to serve more Mat-Su residents, the MSRMC team will be able to take care of the growing population and support regional health care partners when other facilities outside of the Valley are at capacity.

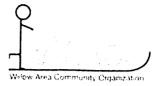
Thank you for considering the voices of the communities impacted as you review Mat-Su Regional's application.

Sincerely,

Tryg Erickson, Chair

Willow Area Community Organization (WACO)

### Appendix 2.



September 3rd, 2025

Mat-Su Borough Mayor and Assembly 350 East Dahlia Ave. Palmer, AK 99654

Re: Willow Area Community Organization comments on proposed Ordinance 25-073

Mayor and Assembly,

The Willow Area Community Organization (WACO), a community council recognized by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB), submits these comments to the Mat-Su Assembly regarding proposed Ordinance 25-073, Waterbody Setback. The Willow area contains hundreds of lakes and streams within four watersheds which are vital to our economy, our recreational and lifestyle. Thus, we have special interest in impacts that effect water quality.

After a thorough discussion at the WACO general meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 the WACO board voted to support Ordinance 25-073, The importance of water quality to our community is clearly reflected in the Willow Comprehensive Plan (2013):

### #4 Recreation

Goal 2: Protect water bodies, watershed and wetland area for their recreational and economic value.

Recommendation: Retain existing setbacks and buffers on public lakes, streams and wetlands necessary to preserve health and function and recreational value.

**#5** Water Quality and Watershed Protection

Goal 2: Develop, adopt and implement watershed management plans for the watershed within the community.

Recommendation: Encourage the organization of concerned individuals into a watershed management groups that will draft watershed management plans.

Goal 3: Raise public awareness of the impacts of development on watersheds to protect water quality.

Recommendation e). Encourage the State or Borough to establish performance based requirements for runoff management and other issues.

- Encourage vegetated filter strips or buffers between a pollutant source and wetlands or surface water bodies to provide runoff treatment and prevent soil erosion.
- ii) Encourage erosion control measures during and following construction.

As the Willow community and the Mat-Su Borough continue to grow, protections for our waterbodies are more important than ever. This ordinance improves on the existing 75' setback by addressing the environment and public health while allowing for responsible development. Implementation of the ordinance will:

- protect water ecosystems; the 75' setback prevents groundwater contamination and nutrients entering our waterbodies.
- minimizes risk from flooding.
- requires a land use permit based on an engineered design for construction or ground disturbance within 75' of a waterbody.
- allows for water associated structures such as docks, piers and boathouses.
- Allow for realistic timelines for compliance issues.

We recognized some concerns voiced by the public towards this ordinance. One of which is private property rights. While we strongly support property owners control of their land, we feel a shared resource, water, requires a shared responsibility. We also acknowledge costs associated with coming into compliance. This is addressed by a reasonable timeline for compliance.

We appreciated the two years of effort by the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board in their extensive work incorporating science and community interests in making their recommendations. This ordinance will strengthen protections of waterbodies, allow sustainable development through permitting and recognizes existing structures by providing pathways to compliance.

Therefore, the Willow Area Community Organization strongly encourages your approval of Ordinance 25-073.

Trygve Erickson, Chair

Willow Area Community Organization





Scan the QR code for live links

# WILLOW AREA COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MONTHLY MEETING

DATE 10/01/2025 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes** 

DEC 12 2025

LERKS OFFICE

Call to order 7:02 p.m.

Board quorum was established. Community quorum was established.

Board members present: Rodney McCambridge, Linda Oxley, Sophia Boufidou, Joyce Yates, Wes

McClure (ALR1), Danielle Barve (ALR2), Chandra Kohntopp (ATR3), Talon Boeve (ALR4)

Board members absent: Tryg Erickson

9/3/25 Mtg minutes were approved.

Agenda was approved.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

A. **V.Chair:** Jim Houston's work will be looked at by Iditarod. He has also asked the Borough to look at changes to plowing due to the landscape changes.

The carpets were supposed to be cleaned this summer, but no one would come for a quote. He is asking for carpet cleaning references for a quote.

He also asked everybody to tell him if they find anything in the building not working.

B. **Treasury:** The amounts are not shown broken down, but summaries per category. The Rotary Club will give us 2k for the carnival. The backyard project is falling within budget. Wes McClure questioned whether all rental income is shown in the budget, Joyce will correct that.

Sid Bertz asked if the DCs base amount was rolled back into CDs with quarterly rollup; more clarity will need to be provided. Awards amount has been provided already, we will reapply for the same grant in Dec., but we may not be awarded again.

Talon Boeve: a breakdown of the amounts helps with transparency, requested that a breakup of the budget numbers is provided before approval. Also, a comparison with last year would help. The Treasurer will make changes per the discussion and republish in about 2 weeks. There was discussion re. the scholarship amount. One position is to keep the amount raised by the dessert auction dedicated to scholarships since that's what is communicated is the cause for the event. The opposite position was that we often have other needs for which a part of the amount (i.e. what is left after awarding the scholarship) could be useful. Motion to take the scholarship/dessert auction discussion to the carnival meeting and revisit next month pending more details was passed.

### C. At-Large-Representatives:

- a. <u>Wes McClure:</u> communication amongst board members continues to be a problem. Rodney and Joyce said they are not receiving emails. Bill Shary will investigate.
- <u>Danielle Barve:</u> the Soup and Bingo event was on the Frontiersman. Carnival decorator will be Chandra Kohntopp. The Nacho Cheese machine is broken using the crockpot for now.

c. <u>Talon Boeve:</u> We received a donation of 2 train tickets valued at \$1100+ for the Carnival raffle. Allie Sargent is the new representative for the Susitna River Coalition, and has provided the following update:

I wanted to share an update on the Susitna Valley Gas Leases, since WACO submitted an impactful comment in 2024 and during earlier stages of the license process. At the end of August, the Director released the Written Preliminary Findings, which are now open for public comment. SRC requested, and was granted, an extension of the comment deadline to October 30, given the length and complexity of the 310-page document.

From our review, two key changes stand out:

- **License area reduction:** The overall area has been reduced by about 39%, removing several important recreation areas, including Nancy Lake and the Susitna River itself, a clear reflection of public input.
- **Shift to coal bed methane (CBM):** The license now centers on CBM extraction, which raises serious concerns due to the extensive infrastructure required and potential long-term impacts.

SRC is finalizing talking points this week to help community members craft comments, and we hope to see WACO's input again on how 10 years of CBM exploration could affect the West Susitna. I'd be glad to share those points once they're ready, and we can also arrange for an SRC representative to attend your next meeting to answer questions.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. <u>Auditorium Banners:</u> discussion about returning to the practice of erecting banners in the auditorium to highlight event sponsors. There is opposition due to the general usage of the building for other type of events. A motions was passed to move the discussion at the Carnival meeting with possible recommendations to use plaques in the entrance or display during the event only.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Jim Houston provided an update on the project to connect the senior center to the library, which is nearing completion and has resulted in several positive landscaping and drainage improvements. Path connecting the Senior Center to the Library - Jim Houston: The ditch is gone. costs finalized in the next few days. The paving should be completed on Friday, donation by QAP (Quality Asphalt Products). The plants to be moved in the new backfilled area. There will be a picnic area to be concreted and connected to the trail. It is expected that plowing will be simplified with these changes. Also, there was power wired for a future light pole to be erected. Rodney recognized Jim's work and mentioned the potential for more vendors during the carnival, as well as increased attraction for weddings etc. The borough has been very supportive during the execution of this project.

### **WACO COMMUNITY GROUP/CLUB REPORTS**

A. **Fire service area:** 22 runs last month. The tender delivery is in the works; it will arrive with all equipment (hoses, ladders, axes). Once here, it will take about a month to be in service. We are already in the next FY, with the budget starting in Nov.

- B. Library: story time and mentoring start next week. Many different activities are planned, including Halloween, guest speakers, etc.
- D. Pickleball: \$485 was shared with Waco this month. The group will be slowing down now with the weather changing. They plan to schedule some morning sessions for the winter.
- E. Mushers Association: Planning for an Oct 11 International mushing dog symposium with lots of event and speakers, followed by a vet clinic on the 12th. Both events will be open to anyone.
- F. PTA: October festival planned for the week before Halloween.
- G. Willow Trails Committee: no news this month.
- H. Willow Museum: no news this month.
- I. Garden club: no news this month.
- J. WHO/Farmer's market: no news this month.
- K. Su300: no news this month.
- L. Friends of state parks/Matsu: no news this month

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONS TO BE HEARD

- Museum needs a new light.
- Houston airport is on the City of Houston elections ballot as proposition H-01, elections to be held on October 7.
- Audience member expressed concerns regarding the lack of ambulance service in the Willow area. The Fire/EMS Chief explained that we are classified as 2<sup>nd</sup> class borough when we switched from volunteers to paid on call, our emergency volume did not warrant having an ambulance. We actually still have the ambulance, but there is no place to store it. The Borough money to design a new Fire/EMS station extended this to 2029. Lisa Murkowski has included money for this in a bill but not one that has gotten signed It was noted that when we had the volunteers operating the ambulance, it could take a long time for a volunteer to drive from their place to the station where the ambulance was, and then get to the emergency. So, in actuality, we are not really worse off. A full-time staffed station ambulance would be a better solution once it is funded.
- Jim Houston would like to honor QAP for their donated asphalt work, and they deserve recognition: he proposed using the same acronym to name: Quality Athletic Path.
- With Christine Stitt's passing, we lost our kitchen primary coordinator for many events, but especially the Holiday Dinner which is coming up shortly. Anyone interested in taking this on, please contact Linda Oxley.

Adjourn 8:17 pm

V. Chair/Rodney McCambridge

Title / Name

Secretary/ Sophia Boufidou
Title / Name

Signature

Dat





### WILLOW AREA COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MONTHLY MEETING

DATE 11/05/2025 7:00 p.m.

RECEIVED

### **MEETING MINUTES**

DEC 1 2 2025

Call to order 7:03 p.m.

Board quorum was established. Community quorum was established.

CLERKS OFFICE

**Board members present:** Tryg Erickson Rodney McCambridge, Linda Oxley, Sophia Boufidou, Joyce Yates, Wes McClure (ALR1), Danielle Barve (ALR2), Chandra Kohntopp (ATR3), Talon Boeve (ALR4)

Board members absent: none

10/01/2025 Mtg minutes were approved with corrections.

Agenda was approved.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

- A. **Chair:** the holiday dinner is a tradition; however, Chris Stitt, who was the cornerstone of the event, passed away last summer. We are hoping that someone new with kitchen manager certification can take on the coordination of this event, ore, we may have to forego this event for 2025. We do have someone for the carnival. Madeleine will reach out to a candidate.
- B. V.Chair: we got a bid for carpet cleaning of the entrance with a discounted price, cleaning is planned for Nov. 24 and the building will be ready by the next morning. We are running low on cleaning supplies, Rodney asking for permission to spend \$500 to purchase them, Approved since they are in the budget. We'd like the Iditarod officials to do a walkthrough soon, Rodney asked for help to reach them. Events: Winter gear swap on Saturday 9-4 with the Gun Show the following weekend.
- C. Secretary: the Communication Committee to create a Community Events Calendar; an easy way to find upcoming events. Primarily WACO sponsored events to begin with but may expand later. We are requesting that event planners fill out a simple form for the Secretary to ensure events are included with the correct information. The Committee is also looking at different social media platforms (aside of FB) to use for communicating with the community.
- D. **Treasury:** Working on the budget vs actual, waiting for bank statements for the 4 accounts that she does not have access to. Overall, this year's budget is still being worked on breaking down the summary amounts, but it is ready otherwise and will be published once these last clarification items are addressed. Linda Oxley clarified that the WACO treasury does not have fied that although treasurer does not have to make decisions on several WACO committees' money, but they need to be aware. Some of the income amount could be projected from last year's figures. We have accounts set for general and gaming, amounts to be shown in the published budget. Asset total is appr. 150k.

### E. At-Large-Representatives:

a. <u>Danielle Barve:</u> The carnival schedule is almost final; the stage events are still WIP.. We will have a Happy Gilmore event on New year's Eve and a Texas holdem tournament. Audience question: how did the Eagle theme that was voted has been turned to only patriotic; it was determined to be due to miscommunication.

Page 1 of 3

- b. Chandra Kohntopp: she is also working on Carnival stuff.
- c. <u>Talon Boeve:</u> asked about the appropriate path to make changes to the WACO website. which is getting with the Communication Committee to work on documenting the changes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Review letter against development of a shooting range up Zero Lake Road. The property selected is in willow, but unfortunately, Houston was notified instead. The Borough assembly asked its planners to find land for shooting ranges, preferred Borough owned parcels. Thus, a parcel of land by Zero Lake is the first considered it's just earmarked for now, nothing has been officially decided, timeframe for development is unclear. Zero lake is used as a shooting range unofficially as there is no zoning. The borough wants to make it an official profitable business. Managed for income by the Borough eventually. Main concerns raised by the audience (including 3 property adjacent to the parcel currently selected
  - the volume of gun shots from a shooting range would make the area feel like a war zone.
  - there is also multiple trails that go through the area, including mushing trails
  - the road to these properties goes through multiple jurisdictions (Willow, Houston, and Borough) and it is maintained privately, its unclear how this might change.
  - The lead left behind could poison the water reservoirs in the area. Linda moved to accept letter as presented motion passed with one vote from Wes McClure against the letter.
- B. Redirect 2022 CAP monies to other Park expenses, we were awarded \$ to refurbish Newman park, there are \$640 left at this point due to work done for free. Linda motioned to reallocate
  - \$500 toward a deposit for the Anchorage based company Earthscapes, which has been hired to develop an area for younger kids.
  - \$150 to reimburse Linda for expenses she has incurred along the way. Motion passed.
- C. Committee to evaluate/renegotiate the building management agreement with the Borough Wes McClure asked to form a committee to see how we can renegotiate the Comm. Center management agreement. The reasoning is that a lot of WACO's funds go toward paying the Borough for usage of teh building when there is a need to spend more money in the community. The motion to form a committee was passed, so the committee is formed and there were 4 members identified already. Talon Boeve said that we need to keep in mind that the borough does not have an unlimited money supply and our taxes is where the money comes from. Sid Bertz pointed out that what we have is a management and not a lease agreement, so paying the borough for managing the building may not be the best position for us.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1. <u>Update on Walkway to connect Retirement Housing to Comm. Center</u> Jim Houston A lot of work has been completed already: the ditch is gone, the area is fully landscaped, a light pole has been donated, gravel has been added which will also work well for Iditarod. We also have a better snowplowing plan as a result. More improvements were made than planned due to more donations than expected. About half of the budget has been spent.
- 2. <u>Use of sponsor banners in the Auditorium.</u> Rodney proposed having a slide show when pertinent.
- 3. Allocation of scholarship money from the dessert auction. It's been determined to leave as is.
- 4. <u>Houston airport resolution</u>, committee disbanded since the vote was not in favor of this airport. A new Mayor for Houston has also been elected.

### WACO COMMUNITY GROUP/CLUB REPORTS

A. **Fire service area:** new tender is getting assembled, expected to ship soon and be in service by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Chief is retiring, interviews to fill his position will be done soon.

- B. Library: trunk or treat as a success, there were 150-200 kids. The barn owl will be here on Nov. 20, 3:45 pm. Festival of trees is coming up. Reminder that if you have an event planned, you need to give ample notice to the library personel so they can request change to the autolock hours.
- F. Pickleball: \$357 split with WACO. They are back to playing indoors and have added morning sessions. The group is now LLC and have separate bank account and insurance. As a result, from now on they will follow the building rules and pay 15% of the proceeds to the building.
- G. Mushers Association: no news this month.
- H. PTA: not much going on right now.
- I. Willow Tralls Committee: no news this month.
- J. Willow Museum: no news this month.
- K. Garden club: no news this month.
- L. WHO/Farmer's market: Plans for a holiday market on Friday Nov. 21st.
- M. Su300: planning for the 2026 race, which will start and and end at the Comm. Center in late Feb. This is a qualifying race. Leddy wants to make sure the whole Willow community sees this as their race, and there are also opportunities to volunteer . Planning to have vendors at the start and the soup contest at the end.
- N. Friends of state parks/Matsu: no news this month

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONS TO BE HEARD

- McCabe: it's been a busy time especially with the government shutdown, if not solved before Thanksgiving impacts should be expected, with FAA first. SNAP recipients in Alalska are feeling the impact, and letters have been sent to highlight this. The price of oil will impact our income. As far as the typhoon efforts, there is still a huge mess to address in the impacted villages, and there is discussion we may need to consolidate with bigger villages. Immediate housing needs have been addressed for the most part,
- Trisha Costello from KTNA, an Upper Susitna radio station based in Talkeetna informed the audience that they broadcast events and happenings, and have weekly broadcasts on public affairs, the Sunshine clinic and government. Ktna.org, Trisha@ktna.org, 907-315-8469 .
- Linda Oxley announced that Wildfire Prevention from UAA are looking for data: Current wildfire fuel information in older burns (>=10 years) is less than accurate. However, Alaska has a chance to improve this information, but we need pictures to help make that happen. If we can see what the vegetation looks like in your photo, it can be used to improve wildfire modeling. If you have a picture from within the Sockeye fire from this summer, please email them at:Jen Schmidt, University of Alaska Anchorage jischmidt@alaska.edu
- Madeline announced that the Willow Museum will have a presentation at the Library Conf. Room on 11/12 at 7pm regarding the People of the Aleutians and WWII.

The Lions Club will have vision and hearing tests.

Adjourn 8:37 pm

Chair/Trvg Erickson

Title / Name

į

Secretary/ Sophia Boufidou

Title / Name

**Signature**