

Adopted: 05/05/26

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 26-030**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND TITLE OF THE PUBLIC OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND INCENTIVES SUBPROJECT ACCOUNT AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EXISTING FISCAL YEAR 2026 PROJECT FUNDS TO SOLICIT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A QUALIFIED HYDROLOGIST TO STUDY LONG-TERM WATER LEVEL CHANGES, ASSOCIATED PROPERTY IMPACTS, AND POTENTIAL RISKS TO DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN THE PALMER AREA.

WHEREAS, the Borough has received a signed petition from 104 residents expressing longstanding concerns regarding rising lake water levels and related impacts in and around Irene Lake, Canoe Lake, Kepler-Bradley Lakes, Pioneer Meadows, Crimsonview Subdivision, and the Greater Palmer area; and

WHEREAS, residents have documented concerns dating back to at least 2003 regarding elevated lake levels, property damage, loss of usable land, and changing hydrologic conditions affecting both developed and undeveloped properties; and

WHEREAS, these concerns include potential long-term risks to drinking water safety, including impacts to private and community wells, groundwater recharge, surface-groundwater interaction, and future water quality; and

WHEREAS, understanding the hydrologic drivers of rising lake levels and their cumulative impacts is essential to informed land use planning, infrastructure decision-making, hazard mitigation, and protection of public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Budget includes Project Funds intended to support planning-related studies and professional services when such work advances Borough planning objectives and responds to documented community needs; and

WHEREAS, soliciting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a qualified hydrologist will ensure a transparent, competitive, and professional process that results in defensible findings to inform future Borough and State of Alaska actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly approves the use of FY26 Project Funds to solicit an RFP for professional hydrologic services for the following purpose:

1. The hydrologic study shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Evaluation of long-term lake level trends and contributing hydrologic factors;

- b. Assessment of documented property impacts, including land loss and flooding risk;

- c. Analysis of surface water and groundwater interactions;

- d. Identification of potential risks to drinking water quality for private and community wells;

e. Consideration of future risks and development conditions; and

f. Analysis of the impacts of the identified findings and provide long-term recommendations to mitigate and manage these conditions.

2. Issuance of the RFP and any subsequent contract award shall be conducted in accordance with applicable Borough procurement requirements.

3. This resolution only authorizes a study. It does not determine the outcome or require any specific action. Its purpose is to gather reliable information so future decisions can be made responsibly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly does hereby amend the scope of work and title for the Public Outreach, Education, and Incentives Sub-project account.

ORIGINAL SCOPE OF WORK AND TITLE

Project 47052-4200-4202 Public Engagement, Outreach and Education

Funding will support public engagement activities. Funding may be used to hire specialized contractors, project employees, and to support public meeting activities.

AMENDED SCOPE OF WORK AND TITLE

Project 47052-4200-4202 Greater Palmer Area Hydrologic Study

Funding will support technical study, evaluation, and documentation related to groundwater systems and factors

that may influence groundwater conditions. Funds may be used to hire qualified contractors, consultants, or project personnel to conduct data review, analysis, modeling, and preparation of technical reports and recommendations.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 5 day of May, 2026.


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: Bowels, Nowers, McKee, Gamble, and Bernier

NO: Fonov and Sumner