

CODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored By: Borough Manager
Introduced: 10/01/19
Public Hearing: 10/15/19
Adopted: 10/15/19

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 19-097**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING THE 2019 UPDATE TO THE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS; AND AMENDING MSB 15.24.030, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the update to the Natural Resource Management Unit Plan (Plan) covers 22 separate management units of Borough-owned land totaling about 167,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Management Units are all managed for multiple resources and uses; and

WHEREAS, the update to the Plan contains current goals and guidelines for: agriculture and grazing, buffers, cultural resources and historical sites, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, green infrastructure, private property, public recreation and tourism, materials (rock, sand, and gravel), settlement, special management zones, trails, transportation, water quality and quantity, wetlands, and riparian resources; and

WHEREAS, the update to the Plan contains a Forest Management Plan which meets the requirements of MSB 23.20.060; and

WHEREAS, the update to the Plan has been written over the last year and has undergone a public review period and is supported

by the Agriculture Advisory Board and the Fish and Wildlife Commission; and

WHEREAS, the update to the Plan utilizes natural resource and land-use information from federal, state, local government, and knowledgeable individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Management Plan, in chapter three of Volume I, contains a balanced approach to address the requirements of MSB 23.20.060 which will manage Borough forests in a way that provides for a level of timber harvest to meet reasonable local and industry needs while maintaining or enhancing the overall health of the Borough-owned forests; and

WHEREAS; the Plan identifies the many and varied uses and values of Borough-owned lands within Natural Resource Management Units, and provides land-use designations and management guidance that, if properly implemented, will maintain the health and sustainability of our forests while providing local and high value-added use of forest resources, protect our watersheds and water quality, maintain the habitat necessary to support healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations; all of which are central to sustaining the quality of life and lifestyles of the Borough's communities, ensuring that a broad spectrum of outdoor recreational opportunities continue to be available, and supporting recreation and tourist based businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Management Unit Plan is the Borough's land management plan and supplants the Alaska State Susitna Area Plan; and

WHEREAS, the update to the Plan includes the Fish Creek Unit and supplants the Fish Creek Management Plan that was adopted by Assembly Ordinance Serial No. 09-130; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Advisory Board adopted Resolution Serial No. 19-02 at their regularly scheduled meeting May 15, 2019, recommending Assembly adoption of the plan update; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted Resolution Serial No. FWC 19-01 at their regularly scheduled meeting May 16, 2019 recommending Assembly adoption of the plan update; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and failed to pass Resolution Serial No. 19-12 recommending adoption of the Asset Management Plan; Natural Resource Management Units as written, and approving the land use classifications contained in the NRMU Plan update, and repeal of the Fish Creek Management Plan and the Susitna Area Plan.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. Sections 2 through 5 of this ordinance are non-code, Sections 6 and 7 are of a general and permanent nature and shall become part of the Borough Code.

Section 2. Approval of Plan. The Assembly does hereby adopt the update to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan: Natural Resource Management Units.

Section 3. Management Units, related land-use plans and land-use classifications. The Assembly hereby finds that the management intent, land-use classifications and designations in the update to the Asset Management Plan: Natural Resource Management Units shall replace any and all existing management intent, land-use classifications and designations for the lands covered by the Asset Management Plan: Natural Resource Management Units.

Section 4. Fish Creek Management Plan. The Assembly does hereby repeal the Fish Creek Management Plan and include the Borough-owned land previously covered by the Fish Creek Management Plan as a Natural Resource Management Unit to be managed consistent with the 2019 update to the Natural Resource Management Unit Plan.

Section 5. Forest Management Plan. The Assembly does hereby find that the update to the Asset Management Plan: Natural Resource Management Units meets the requirements of MSB 23.20.060 for a Forest Management Plan on Borough-owned lands.

Section 6. Amendment of paragraph. MSB 15.24.030(B)(27) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(27) Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management
Plan: Natural Resource Management Units, adopted 2010,
updated 2019;

Section 7. Amendment of paragraph. MSB 15.24.030(D) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(D) [UNTIL THE BOROUGH DEVELOPS ITS OWN LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN, BOROUGH LANDS ARE MANAGED UNDER THE SUSITNA AREA PLAN IN THIS AREA.] The Borough engages in land disposals in accordance with the authority contained in A.S. Title 29 and in accordance with the procedures contained in MSB Title 23.

Section 8. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this
15 day of October, 2019.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


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



YES: Sykes, Beck, Mayfield, and Boeve

NO: McKee, Leonard, and Sumner