

SUBJECT: INFORMING THE ASSEMBLY ON THE SUBMITTAL OF THE FINAL GRANT REPORT FOR THE RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT (14-DC-087) AWARDED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

AGENDA OF: August 19, 2025

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Presented to the Assembly 08/19/25 - EMW

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: For information only.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	8 / 4 / 2 0 2 5 X  Signed by: Brad Sworts
Department Director	 Recoverable Signature X Tom Adams, P E Signed by: Tom Adams
Finance Director	 Recoverable Signature X Cheyenne Heindel Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel
Borough Attorney	8 / 6 / 2 0 2 5 X John Aschenbrenner Signed by: John Aschenbrenner
Borough Manager	8 / 6 / 2 0 2 5 X Michael Brown Signed by: Mike Brown
Borough Clerk	8 / 7 / 2 0 2 5 X Estelle Wiese for Signed by: Estelle Wiese

ATTACHMENT (S): Final Grant Report (8 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: In 2013, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) accepted and appropriated the State River Management Grant for river management programs. Because of this grant, the MSB has been able to address riverine issues during the past twelve years on five separate waterways: Susitna, Talkeetna, Montana, Willow, and Matanuska. The work included road infrastructure, protection for the traveling public, and support for evacuations during flooding and restoration of a bridge for secondary egress. The MSB has

supported the dike infrastructure in Circle View (Butte) and the dike and revetment repairs in Talkeetna. The state grant also supported the use of other non-borough funding sources which allowed for removal (buy out) of at-risk properties, removing the threat to the residents. The flexibility this grant provided during this time was tremendously helpful, allowing the borough to pivot as actions dictated either by the rivers or by the communities took place.

The projects are now closed out, and all the grant funding has been expended.

Because of this grant, the Mat-Su Borough has been able to address riverine issues during the past twelve years on five separate rivers, Susitna, Talkeetna, Montana, Willow, and Matanuska. The work included road infrastructure, protection for the traveling public, and support for evacuations during flooding and restoration of a bridge for secondary egress. MSB has supported the Dike infrastructure in Circle View (Butte) and the revetment repairs in Talkeetna. The MSB also supported the development of other funding sources, requesting to remove (buy out) at-risk properties, removing the threat to the residents. The flexibility this grant provided during this time was tremendously helpful, allowing us to pivot as actions dictated either by the rivers or by the communities.

Here is a summary of actions during this grant.

In 2013, the MSB accepted and appropriated the State River Management Grant for River management programs. Assess. Design, Permit, and Build two erosion projects on the Matanuska River...MP 64 to 66 Glenn Hwy...MP 13 to 15 Old Glenn Hwy and Circle View Dike Repair Design and construct, including engineering oversight.

Talkeetna Dike and Revetment Inspection, Develop the scope of work needed for Kalispell Road (Montana Creek) armoring and dike adjustment, Yoder Road (Montana Creek) dike repair and riprap, and Kenny Blvd (Willow Creek) stabilization to include survey, environmental, permitting, geotechnical engineering, and design. As-built documents of Circle View Dike #5 and survey reports for Dikes 1 through 4.

Summary of the Matanuska River acquisition project – The development of the acquisition project with detailed information from property owners and seeking construction funding through FEMA Mitigation grants (HMGP, FMA, or PDM) began in the middle of 2014 and continued through 2016. Additionally, in 2018, HMGP funds were received for acquisitions in the Butte and Sutton areas. During this project, some elements were covered by the river management grant, including moving expenses that were not calculated in the HMGP grant, and we used demolition equipment on site at one of these acquisitions to demolish structures that were on tax foreclosure property that we are retaining for a public purpose to ensure the public is not at risk of flood and erosion actions from the Matanuska River.

February 2017 - Borough to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of the Army for the Lower Matanuska Section 205 Flood Damage Reduction Study for the mitigation and acquisition of at-risk properties, homes, businesses, and infrastructure in

and along the Matanuska River corridor. In June of 2018, this agreement was cancelled because of the issuance of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for acquisitions.

PROJECT CHRONOLOGY

- 3 September 2013 RFP 14-047P Mat River Erosion Control Design/Build advertised to, “Design, Permit and Build two erosion projects on the Matanuska River...MP 64 to 66 Glenn Hwy...MP 13 to 15 Old Glenn Hwy.”
- 15 October 2013 Resolution 13-103 adopted by MSB assembly including scope item No. 6, River Management, Fund 450/Project No. 7006 for \$2,500,000.
- 18 October 2013 RFP 14-055P Circle View Dike Repair Design advertised to, “...design repairs and provide construction administration oversight of dikes adjacent to Circle View Subdivision.”
- 4 Nov 2013 Solicitation 14-047P closed with three proposals, evaluated and subsequently cancelled due to nonresponsive proposals and/or cost proposals which exceeded project budget.
- 13 Nov 2013 RFP 14-055 closed with two proposals received. Alaska Rim Engineers' proposal rated first.
- 18 February 2014 Alaska Rim Engineers awarded Circle View Design Contract for \$79,333
- 10 March 2014 RFP 14-122P Mat River Erosion Control—Upper River advertised to, “...design and build a channelization project on the Matanuska River to demonstrate the efficacy of this means of erosion control.”
- 28 March 2014 Permit applications prepared by AK Rim sub-consultant submitted to Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Army Corps of Engineers, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
- 31 March 2014 No proposals received for RFP 14-122P Upper River Erosion control.
- 8 May 2014 Bid documents for Circle View Dike Maintenance including plans, specifications and permits from Authorities Having Jurisdiction submitted by Alaska Rim Engineers. Engineer's estimate for construction exceeded budget. Change order for redesign with reduced scope in progress.
- 23 May 2014 Cost proposal of \$85,000 received of Jim Psenak Construction for Design Build Phase I design of upper river Glenn Hwy MP 64-66 Design Build Phase I design of upper river Glenn Hwy MP 64-66. Jim Psenak Construction - conduct

preliminary feasibility report to include site reconnaissance, survey / map survey cross sections, and a HEC-RAS hydraulic model.

- 10 Jun 2014 Purchase order 4131 issued to JPC for \$85,000
- 11 Jul to 6 Aug 2014 MSB Bid #15-024B Circle View Dikes Repair Advertised. Original design exceeded budget. This solicitation reduced the scope of work to repair Dike 5 only.
- 6 Aug 2014 Granite Construction low bidder at \$624,900 for alternate #2, Circle View Dike 5 Repair. Recommendation of Award placed on MSB Assembly
- 11 Aug 2014 Draft report received of Jim Psenak Construction: "Matanuska River Near Sutton Bank Erosion Protection Analysis Feasibility Report July 2014." This report was a portion of the phase I deliverables of a design-built project for erosion control on the upper river adjacent to Glenn Hwy MP 64-66.
- 26 Aug 2014 MSB AM No. 14-123 Award \$624,900 to Granite Construction Co. to perform maintenance/repair on Circle View Dike 5.
- 18 Sep 2014 Purchase Order No. 2015-949 for \$624,900 issued to Granite Construction for Circle View Dike 5 Repair
- 1 Oct 2014--Geotechnical Report dated 25 Sep of boring on 10 Sep received of HDL Engineering Consultants. Subcontractor Discovery Drilling drilled a 3" diameter hole 101½' below grade in the Matanuska River bottom west of Doc McKinley Ave. near Circle View Subdivision. Subsurface conditions were described as "gravel underlain by sand and then silt ... "
- 18 Nov 2014--Final inspection held on Dike 5 repairs performed by Granite Construction from 13 Oct to 15 Nov. Alaska Rim Engineers accepted the work.
- 08 Oct 2014 - 24 July 2015 – Hired the Boutet Company – Developed the Matanuska River acquisition project to buy out at-risk homes from the Matanuska River from flooding and erosion in Sutton and Butte.
- 27 February 2015 - Talkeetna Dike and Revetment Inspection
- 31 March 2015 – As built documents of Dike #5 repairs submitted by Alaska Rim Engineers,
- 11 March 2015 - Alaska Rim Engineering INC - Circle View dikes repair design and construction, and erosion control dikes condition survey and report for dikes 1-4.
- 30 Sep 2015 – 2016 - This grant is only being used to fund the design and permitting for the three projects listed. The funding associated with each project we are requesting will be provided through FEMA disaster relief.

- Kenny Blvd./ Willow Creek - Design underway to rebuild and armor the road against Willow Creek. Design is currently 95%. Estimated \$1.8M to construct. Kenny Blvd. washes away at this location whenever the river experiences a rise.
 - Kalispell Dr./ Montana Creek - Design complete to armor the road against Montana Creek. Estimated \$650K to construct. Kalispell Dr. washes away at this location whenever the river experiences a rise.
 - Yoder Rd. / Montana Creek - Design underway to repair and upgrade the dike and the road to protect it from Montana Creek flooding. Design is currently at 65%. Estimated \$1.9M to construct. The dike was damaged in the 2012 flooding and failed to protect the road when the river rose, causing the road to wash away.
- 14 Oct 2015 - The Boutet Company – Phase 2 of the Matanuska River acquisition project grant application to include environmental impact and benefit cost analysis for Sutton properties.
- 29 June 2016 - The Boutet Company – Phase 3 of the Matanuska River acquisition project grant application to include environmental impact and benefit cost analysis for Butte & Sutton properties.
- February 2017 – MSB engages with the USACE for a 205 project for acquisitions along the Matanuska River. (AM # 17-019)
- June 2018 – MSB cancelled the 205 projects with the USACE for the Matanuska River because the FEMA funding for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for acquisitions was received.
- July - September 2018—Due to a Cyber-incident on July 24, 2018, no additional work has been completed other than coordinating with the USACE regarding the 205 proposals in Talkeetna, which is their highest funding priority for the State of Alaska. We will continue to explore additional river management techniques this year and alternative projects.
- October - December 2018—We are currently moving through the FEMA HMGP acquisition process, which is anticipated to require additional funds to complete the project from this funding source.
- January – June 2019 - attention turned quickly to Talkeetna. The MSB is working with the USACE on a 205 project for the Susitna, Chulitna and Talkeetna River systems at Talkeetna. The USACE is currently developing their Federal Interest Determination

(FID) package. The USACE and MSB met in January to discuss the needed documentation for the scoping and acquire a timeline that the USACE will be submitting the FID to Headquarters for funding allocation.

This project is the USACE Alaska Districts highest priority, with the river systems shifting to the East, it effectively is acting as a hydro-axe right in front of the town at A Street and Main Street. Talkeetna has lost nearly fifty feet of the bank as of the end of June 2019.

The FID is expected to be submitted this fall with an anticipated start date for the study in the spring. We will have expenditures at this point with a 50/50 cost share requirement for the study work. These river systems are extremely complex and with the three rivers converging in front of the town we need the study work to be completed by the USACE.

- On May 19, 2020, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly approved entering into an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to complete a Community Authorities Program section 205 Study.

The study will produce three to four options on how to deal with the flooding and erosion problems in Talkeetna. The goal is to find a solution that is viable to deal with the river systems that are threatening this historical community. The study requires a match to proceed and was approved utilizing the River Management grant.

The rough timeline includes:

- 1) Sign and execute the agreement – next quarter
- 2) kick-off meeting with the Mat-Su Borough Staff and the USACE – next quarter
- 3) public meeting with the community of Talkeetna and other stakeholders – by the end of 2020
- 4) execution of field work and development of the study – 2021 - 2022
- 5) presentation of the study and alternative solutions – late in 2022

6) next steps – in the winter of 2022 or early 2023

Based on this timeline, we will require a grant extension; however, that request will be made after we have a fully executed 205 agreements.

Please see attached legislation resolution # 2020-RS-050, the signed document approving this study.

- July - September 2019 - The Corps of Engineers performed a site visit in Talkeetna during this past quarter to evaluate the status of the dike and revetment and continue to work on their documentation.
- December 2019 - Willow Creek Ice jam Flooding.
- January - March 2020 –
 - Willow Creek Flooding – December 2019 - The Mat-Su Borough Public Works, through their contractors, determined a course of action that was approved by the Borough assembly to open the ice jam and restore access to Deneki and Michelle Drive. This action successfully opened the ice jam and rerouted the flooding back to the river channel and opened the road.
 - This spring, additional work will be done on the road to hopefully alleviate the potential of this occurring again.
- 03 April 2020 - assessment and report on the condition of the Shirley Towne Bridge over Willow Creek to include the bridge approaches.
- 29 May 2020—Locate the right-of-way of the Deneki Bridge to final cost from HDL engineering for engineering staff support during the Willow flood event in December 2019.
- USACE 205 Project (Talkeetna): continued to develop the model and results with existing data. In April of 2021, a community virtual public meeting was held to go over the data.
- October – December 2021- USACE 205 Project (Talkeetna):

The USACE is currently wrapping up the reports, including the fieldwork, Hydrology and Hydraulic reports. Following the second public meeting where the community was very direct that they believed the USACE was evaluating the wrong hazard. They state that flooding is not the primary concern, erosion is, and the community is concerned about it and what will be done about it.

Discussions occurred with the USACE, and they are not able to evaluate erosion under the 205 authorities. However, they recommended ending the 205 project and

moving to the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) since they can evaluate erosion under that authority. They also stated that the funding currently available is enough to complete the PAS.

- January - March 2022

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 205 Project (Talkeetna):

During discussions with the USACE, they stated they are not able to evaluate erosion under the 205 authorities. However, they recommend ending the 205 project and entering the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) project authority where they can analyze the erosion and make a recommendation. The USACE is currently wrapping up the final reports and returning the unused funds on the 205 projects.

On March 15, 2022, Matanuska-Susitna Assembly adopted Resolution 22-027 and associated IM 22-053. This resolution closes the 205 projects. When the remaining funds are returned, the legislation authorizes the Manager to enter into an agreement with the USACE Planning Assistance to States (PAS) to evaluate erosion and recommend a solution under the PAS authority.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough did receive the Hydrology and Hydraulic reports and final reports. These reports will assist in the evaluation of the erosion and additional data collections will be completed for the erosion analysis.

Project activities:

- Complete the documents for the 205 projects.
 - Received approval for movement to the PAS authority from the Assembly.
 - Start working on the PAS request to evaluate erosion rates and solution options.
 - When the PAS agreement is presented to the Manager, a new set of projected activities will be defined with The website address is <https://www.matsugov.us/projects/talkeetna-205-project>
- April 2022 – December 2023 – The completion of the 205 (Talkeetna) project and the development of the PAS (Talkeetna) project occurred.
- December 2023 – The USACE has provided a draft report titled Talkeetna Erosion Assessment Technical Assistance Report in mid-December. The USACE requested comments from the MSB, and we provided comments on December 28 with

supporting documents. We have requested a meeting to discuss the draft before it is finalized. We are still expecting to coordinate on the potential use of the USACE 114 or 8315 authorities, if viable. Additionally, the USACE will support community meetings in the New Year, complete the report, and close the grant.

- January - March 2024 - The USACE coordinated with the borough staff to clarify some information in the draft report. After finalizing the report titled, "Talkeetna Erosion Assessment Technical Assistance report December 2023" it was submitted to the Mat-Su Borough. We are still expecting to use USACE 114 or 8315 authorities, if viable and this report is a part of the substantiation. Additionally, we coordinated with the USACE to support the Talkeetna Community Council meeting on February 1, 2024, with a presentation on the PAS report and to answer questions. The remaining elements of the grant are to support another public meeting in the spring and close it.
- April - June 2024 - USACE Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Project (Talkeetna):
 - The USACE Planning Assistance to States (PAS) is complete. The report has been received. The refund of funds not utilized has been received and processed. With the refund, the grant's approximate balance is \$356,795.57. This grant balance has been transferred to Mike Campfield, Public Works, for the express use of helping with Talkeetna's revetment and dike until more permanent funding can be obtained, which is being sourced through the USACE.
- July – Sept. 2024 - Dike and Revetment Repairs - Repairs were completed on two existing riverbank protection structures.
 - Talkeetna Dike next to the railroad bridge
 - Talkeetna Main Street Revetment

MSB developed and advertised a bid package with plans and specs to repair the two structures in Talkeetna. The contract was awarded to Western Construction in September, and the work took place in October and November.

June 2025—The project closeout is pending, and it is scheduled for early 2025. MSB is processing the final change order to cover quantity overruns on the Talkeetna River dike. The project closeout will follow and should be complete in the second quarter of 2025.

The project is closed out, and all the grant funding has been used.