

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 20-038**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECTING ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION AMENITIES AT THE JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA.

WHEREAS, the Jonesville Public Use Area near Sutton has turned into a lawless area over the past few years documented by one shooting death and several near misses, numerous random unorganized shooting areas, shots being fired at working construction equipment and residential houses, numerous ATV accidents, massive partying with alcohol and other drugs, garbage, human waste and other unsafe and undesirable activities; and

WHEREAS, the community of Sutton provided its own resources and funds to clean up and monitor the Jonesville area, even though jurisdiction over the lands lies with the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Sutton Community Council established "The Jonesville/Slipper Lake Action Committee" in November 2015 that gathered widespread community input and participation to determine a course of action to improve the situation on public lands in and around Sutton, known as the Eska and Jonesville mining areas; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 17-012 supporting designation of a public use area by the State for the purposes of recreation in the Jonesville area; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature designated the Jonesville Public Use Area in 2017, codified in AS 41.23.280-41.23.289 wherein the public use area was established to (1) protect, maintain, perpetuate, and enhance year-round general public recreation, (2) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat so that the public may continue to enjoy traditional uses of the Jonesville Public Use Area, (3) provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the area through a full spectrum of public uses, including the maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle and nonmotorized recreational opportunities for the public and (4) allow (A) continued mineral exploration and development activities, and (B) motorized access to private property, including property in which a person has a subsurface right, in the Jonesville Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, AS 41.23.282 requires development of a management plan to protect the homes and property of local citizens in Sutton, provide needed safe places for recreational shooting, mitigate illegal dumping, and provide a healthier, cleaner and safer environment for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the State has indicated it does not have, nor does it expect to have, adequate funding to develop or implement a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, the affected area has potential for family camping, picnicking, controlled shooting, hiking and other outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, the current problems are similar to the Jim Creek area a few years ago prior to the establishment of the Knik River Public Use Area (KRPUA); and

WHEREAS, the Borough is working with the Sutton Community and the State to develop a Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan modeled after the success at the Knik River Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, development of a cooperative management agreement between the Borough and the State will allow the Borough to raise funds to implement the management plan; and

WHEREAS, development of the management agreement should happen concurrently with development of the management plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports the development of the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan in accordance with AS 41.23.280-41.23.289.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Assembly directs Administration to develop a long-term management agreement with the State for the purpose of developing and maintaining recreation amenities in accordance with the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 5 day of May, 2020.



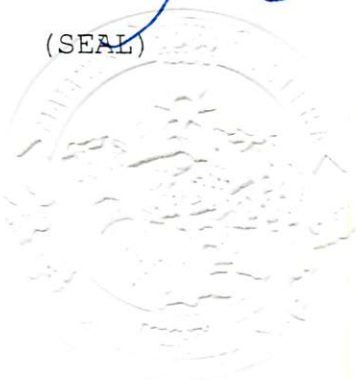
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



YES: Hale, Nowers, Leonard, Mayfield, Sumner, and Boeve

NO: McKee