



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 13, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Correction to March 15 Assembly Meeting: During the staff report for Ordinance 22-031 at the March 15, 2022 Assembly Meeting, staff incorrectly stated that the Planning Commission had not adopted a resolution pertaining to Ordinance 22-031 (increasing the separation distance between gravel extraction and the seasonal high water table from four feet to ten feet). In fact, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution 22-14 recommending denial of Assembly Ordinance 22-031. Attached is a copy of Planning Commission Resolution 22-14.

School District Bus Barn Development: Planning is working to make a determination on whether the new School District Bus Barn Development will require a Conditional Use Permit or not. They are coordinating with the School District and must gather a significant amount of detailed information before making that determination. The location in question is behind the GM dealership and Hatcher Pass Polaris off of the Parks Hwy. A new bus barn location is being considered as a new bus contractor is taking over the contract with the School District for the next school year.

Arctic Winter Games (AWG) Update: An AWG update is attached from the host society on recent activities.

Quarterly Port MacKenzie Update: The following information is provided to keep you apprised of ongoing operations, maintenance and business development at Port MacKenzie in the 3rd Quarter of FY22 (January – March 2022).

FY22 Operating Costs and Revenues

3rd Qtr Operating Costs:	\$169,824
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3rd Qtr Revenues:	\$44,445
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Dockage	Wharfage	Storage	Leases/Permits
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,445

Year to Date Operating Costs:	\$340,896
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Year to Date Revenues:	\$111,513
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Dockage	Wharfage	Storage	Leases/Permits
\$648	\$2,494	\$2,842	\$105,529

Upcoming Vessel Traffic:

We are expecting the arrival of a deep draft vessel in early May. The “Wisdom” will be discharging a shipment of cement.

Maintenance:

FEMA Earthquake Repairs - \$839K Funded FEMA 75% and STATE 25%

- Damage to three highmast lights and subsidence of the revetment occurred during the November 2018 earthquake.
- FEMA originally approved \$839K for the project, however the low bid was \$1.1M.
- Currently waiting for FEMA funding of the additional \$282K.

Barge Dock, Cell 1- \$72K Funded

- Project was completed and closed out in January 2022. We do not anticipate any further capital costs in the near future and expect the repairs to last for 3-4 years.

Cathodic Protection Retrofit - \$385K Funded

- Received one bid proposal well above what was expected.
- Looking into a possible change in the scope of work.

Pile Sleeves/Roll-on Roll-off Ramp \$9.6M – Funded EDA \$7.6M and MSB \$1.9M

- In final stages of negotiations on the design contract with Moffet and Nichol.

Uplands Leases and Permits:

Central Alaska Energy (CAE) Lease

- MSB is in negotiation for a revised land lease with CAE. The lease will cover CAE’s tank farm and a modified pipeline location to minimize conflict with existing road locations.

Planning and Land Use Web Map: Planning and GIS staff are working to develop an interactive web-map to show current Borough land use regulations and other related data. This data does not currently exist in one easy to use location. This application will help to reduce confusion related to Borough zoning and land use regulation.

A user will enter a location into the application and get links to appropriate information; for example, if a user enters a location in the Talkeetna Special Use District they will be given a link to the appropriate regulations in Borough code. This application is expected to be available in late April 2022. This topic was recently discussed at the last Joint Assembly/Planning Commission meeting in March.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Parks and Trails

- [Independence Mine in Hatcher Pass to receive upgrades through grant - Alaska's News Source](#)
- [Volunteers spend a weekend afternoon cleaning up mess left by vandals in the Mat-Su – Alaska News Source](#)

Wildland Fire Mitigation

- [Free brush disposal sites available across the Valley | Local News Stories | frontiersman.com](#)
- [Burn permits required April 1 as the wildfire season approaches – Alaska News Source](#)

State

- [House action on state budget set for this week; Senate holds its hearings on spending plan - Frontiersman](#)

Fisheries

- [Five stocked lakes to open to Fishing in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley - Frontiersman](#)

Renewable Energy Opportunities

- [Grassroots campaign encouraging Mat-Su residents to think solar while tax incentive is still available – Alaska News Source](#)

Radio

- [Emerson Krueger discusses the variety of roles Land Management serves in the Borough - Big Cabbage Radio](#)

Future Events:

“Help Janet Save the Planet,” Valley Recycling Center Fundraising Event celebrating Janet Kincaid’s dedication to recycling, Sunday, April 24, 2022 from 1pm -4pm, Valley Recycling Center in the Drive-Thru.

National DEA Drug Take-Back Day, Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 10am – 2pm. Three Borough locations: Fred Meyer in Wasilla and Palmer, and Willow Library.

ATTACHMENTS

By: Planning
Commission
Introduced: March 7, 2022
Public Hearing: March 21, 2022
Action: Adopted

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 22-14**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDING DENIAL OF ASSEMBLY ORDINANCE 22-031.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on March 21, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the gravel pits with a four foot separation from the seasonal high water table are not undevelopable;

WHEREAS, the gravel pits with a four foot separation from the seasonal high water table can be developed as shooting ranges, cell tower sites, parks, and many other uses that don't require wastewater disposal;

WHEREAS, with the existing four foot separation distance a developer or resident could build a mounded wastewater system. This is where wastewater goes into a tank and is pumped to a leach field on the existing ground that is covered with fill;

WHEREAS, a developer or resident could install an advanced treatment system; these can discharge directly into the groundwater or with ultraviolet light right to the ground surface;

WHEREAS, an advanced system does incur a higher initial cost; but it is only a few thousand dollars for a residential system (approximately one percent of house cost);

WHEREAS, an advanced treatment system has advantages in that it is housed in plastic - no tank to rust out;

WHEREAS, there is little Biochemical Oxygen Demand loading from an advanced treatment system so the leachfield does not foul as easy;

WHEREAS, an advanced system has a two to three times longer useful life;

WHEREAS, any separation distance, including the four feet, for gravel pit operations is arbitrary. Every site is different; most sites in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough could be mined below the groundwater table with no offsite impact;

WHEREAS, increasing the separation distance negatively impacts the current owner of the gravel pit for some potential, future user; and

WHEREAS, increasing the separation would significantly reduce the amount of minable material (by approximately 10,000 cubic yards per acre), require the development of more gravel pits, and increase the cost of gravel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby approves recommending denial of Assembly Ordinance 22-031.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 21st day of March, 2022.


STAFFORD GLASHAN, Chair

ATTEST


KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk



YES: (6) Commissioner Scoggin, Allen, Rubeo, Glashan, Chesbro, Glenn

NO: (0)



Mat-Su 2024 Arctic Winter Games
Kerry Quade, General Manager
Kerry.Quade@awg2024.org

April 2022 Overview

Planning:

- In addition to the monthly HS Board Meetings, there are twice monthly Directors Work Sessions to connect and move elements forward collaboratively.
- Amy Spargo, Leda Borys, Kerry Quade as well as Director of Care and Comfort Anjanette Steer, Director of Venues Colin Fay and Sport Manager Holly Odegard met with a contingent from the Mat-Su Borough School District facilitated by Katie Gardner who serves as an At- Large Director on the Host Society. Representatives from the School District and AWG shared information and discussed planning strategies related to the Participant Villages housed within the School District facilities. In addition transportation, food, security and medical needs were a part of the discussion. Katie Gardner has been instrumental in facilitating needs assessments with the HS Directors and liaising between the HS and the School District to ensure everyone is on the same page as we move through putting together a comprehensive facility use request. We appreciate the MSBSD passing the resolution allowing the Arctic Winter Games to be hosted within the School District facilities over spring break 2024.
- We have identified venues for sporting events, participant villages, results center and media center. Our next round of venue discussion will be focused on the art and cultural events and will be discussed at the April 20th Director's Work Session.
- The Arctic Winter Games International Committee is scheduled to visit the Mat-Su September 25 through 29 2022. We look forward to welcoming them in person! A series of meetings and site visits as well as a welcome reception will be taking place during their visit.

Finance:

- The draft budget is in progress with a vote expected at the May Board Meeting and ready for submission to the AWGIC at the end of June.
- The Mat-Su 2024 Arctic Winter Games Host Society officially received 501C3 status last week from the IRS.
- A strategic Sponsorship and Fundraising will be rolling out over the next several months and will include Corporate, Local Business and Community led sponsorship campaigns in addition to targeted sponsor opportunities such as venue/event naming rights. Grassroots fundraising strategies such as Amazon Smiles, Wishlist, and Fred Meyer Community Rewards applications have been submitted. For Sponsorship and fundraising inquires: Kerry.Quade@awg2024.org

Marketing & PR:

- Logo and Branding is underway with selection and approval on the April Board Meeting Agenda. The Host Society is working with Element Agency on a cohesive branding strategy that will be featured on the website as well.
- The AWG2024.org Website is in development. with a phase 1 launch in May.
- Casey Ressler has secured a Merchandising Chair who will be rolling out a phased approach in the coming months to tie in with Summer outreach programming through events and using our online presence as a conduit to the community. For media and marketing inquiries: Communications@awg2024.org
- The Chickadee has been selected as the Animal Representation with input from our local Tribes. This will also be going before the Board at the April 13th meeting. The Chickadee when seen along the trail represents a friend is thinking about you. This thought captures the spirit with which the Host Society would like to welcome our Circumpolar Neighbors and guests to the Mat-Su.

Staffing:

- In addition to Kerry Quade, General Manager Holly Odegard has joined the team as Sport Manager. The team has expanded to include Telsche Overby as our Arts & Culture Coordinator and we welcome Max Nicholson as the Operations Executive Assistant. Max will be starting April 26th in this role.

Venue/ Location	Care and Comfort/ Venue Notes	Use/ Sport/ Event #1	est. teams	est. participants
APU/Kellogg Campus		Snowshoe, track, PLAN B	6	79
Brett		Hockey 5 Team (Women's)	5	115
Career Tech		Media Center		
Colony High	Village/ FULL Food Service	Badminton	8	92
Colony Middle	Village/ Mission Offices	Arctic Sports	8	179
Denali Gymnastics		Gymnastics	5	33
Glen Massey		Cultural Gala		
GPRA		Cross Country Ski	9	205
Kincaid/ or Plan B		Biathlon Snowshoe	5	67
Knik Tribal Charter School		Dene	7	153
Mac Center		Figure Skating	5	66
Menard		Hockey 5 Team (Bantam/Midget)	5	115
MTA Ice Arena		Curling	5	66
Palmer High	Village/ FULL Food Service	Futsal	7	339
Palmer Jr.	Village/ Breakfast	Volleyball	7	171
Screaming Eagle Archery		Archery		
Skeetawk		Snowboarding	4	56
Teeland		Table Tennis	7	92
Valley Pathways		Results Center		
Wasilla High		Basketball	4	115
		Mushing	4	42
		Ultra Sport	9	36
Sutton Elementary				