

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on January 7, 2014, at the Borough Assembly Chamber, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of discussing issues regarding fish and wildlife, legislative priorities, etc. with members of the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Mr. Jim Sykes, Assembly District No. 1
- Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2
- Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*) (*arrived at 4:20 p.m.*)
- Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4 (*arrived at 4:11 p.m.*)
- Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5 (*arrived at 4:17 p.m.*)
- Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Jamie Newman, Borough Deputy Clerk
- Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
- Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
- Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Deputy Borough Attorney
- Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Clerk
- Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
- Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
- Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning Director
- Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
- Mr. Stefan Hinman, Media Design Specialist

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor DeVilbiss inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Larry Engle, MSB Fish and Wildlife Commissioner.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Issues Regarding Fish and Wildlife, Legislative Priorities, Etc.

Assemblymember Colver:

- introduced MSB Fish and Wildlife Commissioners Howard Delo; Larry Engle; Andy Couch; and Jennifer Ehman;
- reported that Commissioner Engle has been acting as Chairman of the Board; and
- noted that Commissioner Delo will present a power point presentation on the decline of salmon in the northern district of Cook Inlet.

Commissioner Delo presented a report on the decline of the salmon population in the northern district of Cook Inlet and measures to reverse the trend.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- spoke in appreciation of the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- remarked that it is his impression that there is no silver bullet to restore fisheries in the Borough and everything that can be done needs to be done; and
- queried if he is on the right track in his assumption.

Commissioner Delo affirmed the query.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the Upper Cook Inlet harvest shares;
- the economic impact of sports fishing in the Borough;
- suspected reasons for low salmon abundance; and
- solutions for reversing the trend of low salmon abundance.

Commissioner Engle spoke to salmon restoration efforts funded by the Alaska State Legislature.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- efforts undertaken to ensure that monies received from the Alaska State Legislature are appropriately spent;
- collaborative efforts with the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game to develop programs and approaches to restore fish runs;
- the development of salmon hatchery programs;
- the development of a genetic stock identification program on Coho salmon; and
- information gained from the establishment of the conservation corridor by the Alaska State Board of Fisheries.

Assemblymember Sykes spoke to a letter sent by the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission to Governor Parnell expressing concerns with House Bill 77/SB 26 as it relates to fisheries.

Assemblymember Arvin queried as to the Pike control efforts by the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game.

Commissioner Engle:

- spoke to Pike control efforts on Alexander Creek; and
- spoke to sport fishing regulations that have been enacted to control Pike.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- thanked the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commissioner for their presentation; and
- invited them to contact him at any time for assistance.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to efforts by the Houston Chamber of Commerce, Knik Tribal Council, and Mat-Su Resource Conservation Development, Inc. to begin a moist air incubation system on the Little Susitna River to restore salmon stocks: Mr. Roger Purcell, President of the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

The following persons spoke to concerns with a letter sent by Mayor DeVilbiss to Governor Parnell and other state officials regarding House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26 and opined that the Mayor acted outside of his scope of authority in sending the letter: Mr. Warren Keogh and Ms. Krista Maciolek.

Assemblymember Colver suggested that the Assembly allow the Commission to continue their presentation to discuss their capital funding priorities to the Alaska State Legislature for fiscal year 2015.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. Probasco presented a staff report on the fiscal year 2015 capitol funding requests.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Beck:

- spoke to the decline of sport fishing in the Borough; and
- thanked the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission for their efforts.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- spoke to the Assembly's support of salmon stock recovery in the Borough;
- expressed concern with a letter sent by Mayor DeVilbiss to Governor Parnell regarding House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26, which was not endorsed by the Assembly;
- added that the letter sent by Mayor DeVilbiss conflicts with a letter from the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission to Governor Parnell expressing concerns with House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26; and
- spoke in support of reconciling the conflict between the two letters.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved to direct the Manager to write a letter on behalf of the Assembly in support of the letter the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission to Governor Parnell expressing concerns with House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26.

Assemblymember Sykes spoke to suggested language for the letter.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- spoke to the need for better education on House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26 before the Assembly makes any recommendations; and
- spoke in support of postponing indefinitely the motion made by Assemblymember Sykes until the Assembly has a better understanding of the legislation.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved to postpone the motion to a time certain until the Clerk can get a meeting scheduled with the Assembly and an official from the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources to discuss House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26.

Assemblymember Halter requested that the meeting take place before the Alaska Board of Fisheries meets in Anchorage on the Upper Cook Inlet region.

There was no objection noted.

[Clerk Note: The motion to "postpone to a time certain" should have included a specific date; however, at the regular meeting, the Assembly scheduled the meeting to take place on January 21, so that was the date the motion to postpone to a time certain was attached.]

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the importance of fully understanding House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26; and
- the need for in-stream flow reservations to protect salmon.

Assemblymember Colver suggested that Assemblymembers Sykes and Colligan meet to discuss common ground on House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymember Sykes and Beck opposed.

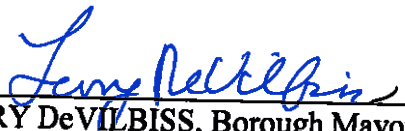
Assemblymember Colver:

- shared information on the history of fishing in Cook Inlet; and
- spoke to the need to rebuild salmon runs in the Borough.

Mayor DeVilbiss thanked the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission for their hard work.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.


LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 01/21/14