



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 9, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Legislative Update - Senate Bill 9: The current version of SB 9 is a major overhaul of the alcohol laws in the State of Alaska. The current version allows local governments, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, to pass a resolution allowing the Alcohol Beverage Control Board to issue certain licenses above the population limits set by state law. The original version of the bill would not have allowed the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to pass such a resolution. The bill, as amended, now grants a greater degree of local control and a higher measure of co-regulation between the State and any municipality which wants to take up the issue. The Manager and Mayor have previously sent letters of support for the current version. The bill passed the Senate on February 8 with a vote of 18-0 and now heads to the House. The Manager and Attorney will continue to work with our lobbyist and follow bill progress.

West Susitna Access Road Public Involvement Update:

- The website is live on the Borough homepage: <https://west-susitna-access.matsugov.us>
- Public meeting dates are set for February 23 and March 23, from 4pm to 7pm, online and by phone.
- A postcard will go out on Friday, February 11 to property owners, residents, and businesses in Point MacKenzie, Big Lake, Willow, Skwentna, and Houston, as well as interested organizations.
- Other outreach will include an email notice, online newspaper ads, social media ads, and a press release.

Windstorm Disaster Recovery Update: To date, the State has received 1,231 individual assistance claims across the Borough, of those 146 indicated a need for temporary housing. The MSB dashboard shows 1,073 damage reports from individuals and 71 reports of commercial damage. We are anticipating over 800 sites will have some form of reported damage to public infrastructure (Borough, schools, and cities). The State Disaster Assistance Center at the Menard Center received 55 people, of which approximately 20 individuals signed up for individual assistance. Other attendees brought paperwork for review or came to ask questions. A Small Business Administration (SBA) survey for affected businesses is available through Friday and results will be sent to the State to ask for an SBA declaration.

Bond Refunding and Sale: Due to the volatility in the market over the last two weeks, the bond refunding has been placed on hold. With current market conditions the Borough will not see the type of savings that make a refunding worthwhile to the taxpayers. The 2018 transportation bonds sale is still moving forward and will happen prior to construction season.

Planning Commission Referrals: On February 7, 2020 the Planning Commission considered resolutions supporting repeal of MSB 17.68 shooting ranges (OR 22-001) and exemption of the central landfill from MSB gravel regulations (OR 22-003). Both resolutions failed with one commissioner in support and five commissioners in opposition. The Commission scheduled a special meeting on February 28, 2022 to consider adopting a resolution in support of changing the threshold by which a gravel permit is required to 20,000 cubic yards (OR 22-002). These two resolutions will be back before the Assembly on March 15, 2022 for public hearing.

Commission meetings are broadcast on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MatSuBorough> and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/matsuboroughvideo/videos>. Planning Commission meeting information is found here: <https://www.matsugov.us/boards/planningcommission>.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- [Searching for answers – Links between thriving pinks and declining kings? – Craig Medred](#)

Landfill

- <https://www.radiofreepalmer.org/2022/02/09/inside-the-borough-the-landfill-2022-2-8/>

Emergency Services

- [5 fire fatalities in as many months last year in the Mat-Su \(alaskasnewsresource.com\)](#)

Schools

- [Three Valley Schools, including Su Valley, see absence rates near or above 40% - KTNA 88.9 FM](#)

Federal Government

- [Grant Roundup: Senator Murkowski Announces Federal Grants to Alaska](#)

State

- [Governor introduces legislation to spur small “micro” nuclear reactors in state - Frontiersman](#)
- [Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy calls for 80% of Railbelt power to be renewable by 2040](#)

Editorial

- [Is the Governor’s port plan already dead in the water? – ADN Editorial Board](#)

Outdoor Recreation

- [Alaska’s newest Alpine Ski area details next lift - unofficial networks.com](#)

Economic Development

- [Mat-Su firms show manufacturing and exports work in Alaska - Frontiersman](#)
- [Manufacturing and export press event live stream- NOTE: The first 15 minutes cut out repeatedly but smooth out afterwards](#)

Redistricting

- [The uncomfortable Marriage between Mat-Su and Valdez - Midnight Sun](#)

Covid-19

- [Alaska hospitals report fewer patients and call-ins - ADN](#)