



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Update on Jonesville Management Plan

Process: DNR is in the process of recruiting for a Program Coordinator (PC) that will oversee the contracting of the planning process for the Jonesville PUA. The interviews for that PC position occurred on February 22. Once a PC is onboard, the next step is to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire an outside land use planner to work on the Jonesville PUA Management Plan, as well as the Matanuska Moose Range Management Plan. DNR believes a nine to twelve month timetable on the plan is achievable. The Borough and State will work on developing a management agreement concurrently as the State works through their processes and plan. Here is an initial draft of the Plan Process:

- STEP 1 - *Identify Issues- 30-60 days.* Hold public scoping meetings to identify issues and concerns in the planning area.
- STEP 2 - *Gather Information -occurs concurrently with other steps & throughout the process.* Throughout the planning process collect information about natural resources, present and past land use, land ownership, and the local economy.
- STEP 3 - *Prepare and Evaluate Land Use Alternatives- 60 days.* Describe possible choices for managing state land based on public interests, local resources, and state policies. Describe the effects of each choice on goals for the management of an area.
- STEP 4 - *Prepare Draft Plan & Agency Review -60-90 days depending on agency input.* Create a draft plan that reflects resource values and public and agency goals. The agencies review the first draft and settle any land use conflicts that remain or propose the best alternatives for public review.
- STEP 5 - *Public Review of Draft Plan -60 days.* Hold public meetings to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the draft plan and to identify parts that need to be changed.
- STEP 6 - *Prepare Final Plan- 60+ days depending on the input received.* Review and address public comments. Revise the plan as appropriate. Present the plan to the Commissioner for adoption
- STEP 7- *Implementation- 30 days.* Once the plan is adopted and in effect (31 days after adoption assuming there are no appeals), implementation can begin.

Glass Recycling Update: In response to a discussion that took place during the strategic planning meeting with the Assembly, this is an update below.

In Alaska, there are not many options for glass reuse. Other states are able to use glass to make new glass bottles or create other uses. For example, Corning in Washington collects glass from suppliers and uses it to make fiber cable. Other states such as Oregon and California require in certain contracts, that contractors use glass as road base for some road construction. There are also some industrial uses for glass where the glass is crushed, cleaned and used for sand blasting material.

In Alaska, our options for glass reuse is very limited. VCRS looked into an option to collect glass in the past and found it to be cost prohibitive. To collect glass, containers are required for collection and storage, equipment to haul and move containers and depending on space availability; you may need a glass crusher. Glass is very heavy so loads are usually carried in specialized closed containers such as a 20-yard container with a closable lid.

Currently, we are aware of one company, CEI, that will consistently accept and reuse glass. The glass they collect is used for specialized projects, typically as underlayment for water or sewer pipe. They charge a \$25 tipping fee for material brought to them. They say it is difficult to have this program because contractors are not inclined to use glass as a base since gravel is so readily available and a standard. They provide this service only because Anchorage and Fairbanks worked with them to develop a program.

For Central Landfill or VCRS to collect glass, it would require the purchase of specialized containers and possible equipment. Even if you exclude the cost of that equipment and labor costs, it is still more cost effective to throw glass away than to reuse it. However, it is worth working with VCRS and/or other agencies to further explore and create opportunities for this material to be reused as programs are developed. Staff will work with VCRS to find some possible options to create and implement a glass collection program and revisit this idea in the fall.

Assessments Appeal Period Update: The end of the appeal period for 2022 tax assessments was Friday, February 25. During the 2022 informal appeal period, the appraisers logged 952 contacts, compared to the 920 contacts they logged in 2021. Formal appeals are still coming in through the mail. So far the quantity of appeals appears to be similar to last year.

We have only seen about 20 disaster relief forms submitted from property owners during the appeal period, so we may see more apply.

Youth Shooting Range for Alaska SCTP-YESS: The potential 200 acre less than fair market value sale of borough owned land to Alaska SCTP Non-Profit Corporation for the purposes of developing a competitive shotgun course, primarily for the youth shooting teams in Southcentral Alaska, is moving forward. Prior to the 200 acres of MSB Parcel Tax ID 16N03W01A001 being offered for sale, the property needed to be classified and subdivided. On February 22, 2022 the

“Notice of Forty-Acre Exemption” was recorded with the State of Alaska, which allows staff to begin the public notice process on the sale. MSB 23.05.025 requires a minimum 30-day public notice period prior to a public hearing. The public notice period for the less than fair market value sale will begin on March 1, 2022 and will close on April 1, 2022. Staff will prepare a best interest finding report on the sale which will be included in the legislation that will be sent to the Assembly for consideration. Staff will bring the land classification legislation forward concurrently with the land sale legislation and intend to introduce the matters before the Assembly on April 19, 2022 with the public hearing being held at the following Assembly meeting on May 3, 2022.

COVID-19 Monthly Update: Case counts continue to decline. Moving forward, COVID-19 reporting will only be done if there is a specific issue identified that requires Assembly attention. Borough Emergency Management staff will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate with the State and other agencies as needed.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Infrastructure

- [Rep. Kevin McCabe: We need a regional port authority to be ready for commerce, defense ...](#)
- [Road dispute highlights politics, public process | Opinions | frontiersman.com](#)

Resource Development

- [Public meeting held for proposed West Susitna Access Road - Alaska's News Source](#)

Public Health

- [Alaska's depleted public health nurse program is evolving amid chronic job vacancies and burnout](#)

Covid

- [CDC issues new COVID-19 community risk formula - KTNA 88.9 FM](#)

Natural Disaster warning

- [Avalanche warning issued for Chugach and Kenai Mountains, Hatcher Pass Road to remain closed](#)

Assembly

- [Mat-Su Borough clerk throws out petition to recall Assemblyman Mokie Tew - Frontiersman](#)

Agriculture

- [Division of Ag offers new grants to improve food security in Alaska - Individuals and organizations can apply through March 30](#)

Future Events:

West Susitna Access Public Meeting, from 4pm to 7pm on Wed., Mar. 23, 2022 (Presentations at 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm) -- Online: https://bit.ly/susitna_access or Phone: 235-215-8782, Meeting ID: 860 7777 0537, Passcode: 150663