



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 30, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

April Preview: April will begin the public process for the Borough budget. Administration and Departments will present their budget on April 7 beginning at 10 am in the Assembly Chambers. This event typically takes about four or five hours. Budget public hearings are scheduled for April 26, April 28 (Willow Community Center), and May 2 (Menard Sports Complex). Staff are also preparing for a summary of the West Susitna Access Road public involvement effort as directed by the Assembly. A presentation is planned for the April 19 Assembly meeting under Manager Comments. The Manager and Port Operations Manager will also be providing the Port Commission an update at the regular Port Commission meeting on April 18. We have invited staff from the Municipality of Anchorage to provide an overview of a proposed Upper Cook Inlet Marine Energy Alliance project. This meeting will occur at Station 6-2 to allow for a larger group setting.

RSA Windstorm Claims Summary: An assembly member requested the windstorm claims filed by the various road service area (RSA) contractors therefore, we are providing the following summary.

MSB maintenance contracts specifically exclude emergency event related tasks during a declared disaster or emergency. For example, even though we have a contract requiring plowing, any plowing that must be done related to the January wind event is excluded by our contract. All work that was done as part of the emergency was billed essentially on a time and material basis. Our contractors kept roads open and responded to things like drifting, trees down, excessive snow berms and wind polished roads quickly and efficiently. These claims will be provided to the State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) for further review. The back-up information contractors provided has good detail and will take some time to analyze.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

RSA	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
9	Big Dipper	\$245,035.96
14	Big Dipper	\$253,033.19
17	Big Dipper	\$256,321.11
29	D&S	\$6,980.00
20	D&S	\$185.00
19	Ficklin	\$70,732.50
25	Ficklin	\$224,926.75
15	McKenna	\$90,428.50
21	McKenna	\$107,212.95
27	Northern Asphalt	\$280,650.00
28	Northern Asphalt	\$435,905.00
30	Spain	\$12,610.00
16	Steppers	\$156,451.50
23	Steppers	\$16,675.00
26	Steppers	\$16,740.50
31	Steppers	\$14,587.50
	TOTAL:	\$2,188,475.46

Gateway Visitor Center - EDA Grant Update: The Matanuska-Susitna Borough received notice that the award of grant funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) was pending the completion of a Section 106 Consultation and Cultural Resource Survey of the site, as requested by the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council. Staff has drafted the initial Section 106 Consultation letter that will be sent to potentially affected tribes near the project area. This letter informs them that we have applied for Federal grant funding and describes the project.

Staff has obtained permission for the Cultural Resource Survey to be conducted by the Historical Preservation Officer at Knik Tribe in coordination with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer from Chickaloon. Borough Staff met with Knik and Chickaloon representatives and determined the Area of Potential Affect for the Cultural Resource Survey, which will include both Borough parcels, in their entirety. This does include the area down the hill, with the wetlands and creek.

The survey will include test pits. The representatives from both tribes expressed their belief that there may be gravesites in that location, based on the location's proximity to the old town site. Given that the visitor center could eventually include trails, the consensus is that if the graves exist, knowing that now before trail construction, will allow for their identification and marking before any additional disturbance occurs.

Knik and Chickaloon representatives, will work with Borough staff to develop a scope of work for a phased Cultural Resource Survey that will include two phases. Phase 1 will include the lot the new Visitor Center will be located on, in order to facilitate securing the grant funding as soon as possible; and Phase 2 will include the lower lying areas of the property.

While the Section 106 Consultation and its accompanying Cultural Resource Survey has caused some delays, the project is still moving forward. We anticipate finalizing the scope before the snow and ice are gone and proceeding with the survey as soon as conditions allow.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Borough

- [Mat-Su prepared for Putin cyber attacks, borough says – Frontiersman](#)
- [Borough gives update on Houston High School – Frontiersman](#)

Education

- [Teacher using Legos to spur interest in science, technology and engineering - Frontiersman](#)

Fisheries

- [Governor Dunleavy Appoints Alaskans to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game – Press Release](#)
- [Overlords – Seattle based processors push for more Hatcheries in Alaska= Craig Medred](#)

Community

- [Colony Days name change reversed after rebranding backlash](#)

Future Events:

Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, April 5, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. at Evangelo's Restaurant in Wasilla. AIDEA will be presenting on the West Susitna Access Road project. Advance registration: <https://greaterwasillaak.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/15534>