



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2023
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Arctic Winter Games (AWG) Update: New General Manager Karen Lane brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, having previously served as General Manager at the last Alaskan hosted AWG in 2014. Additionally, the Host Society has hired Cheryl Metiva as the Sponsorship and Donation Manager. Grants totaling \$275K from the Mat-Su Health Foundation and \$475K from the Rasmuson Foundation have been secured. Furthermore, the State of Alaska has provided additional funding not only to the Host Society but also to Team Alaska.

Despite changes in leadership, planning for the Games has been ongoing. Efforts are taking place to refine the plans for participant transportation, housing, feeding, and care, as well as meticulous arrangements for each sport competition and various public-facing cultural showcase opportunities. Notable events include a concert by the group Pumyua and a fashion show led by acclaimed Indigenous artist Bobby Itta, alongside several other designers who will mentor youth designers. Cultural galas will be held to showcase artists from each participating contingent, along with community-wide, shortened performances.

To increase public involvement and engagement, innovative initiatives are being implemented, including hosting a Winter Carnival at the State Fairgrounds and organizing an Alumni Lounge and artist showcase, led by Katie Basile, who will capture photos and document the experiences of past Games alumni.

In May, the International Committee and Chefs and Assistant Chefs de Mission visited for a week-long meeting (M1). They toured each venue intended for use during the Games and engaged in sit-down meetings with various departments to learn about their planning progress. The discussions and presentations were guided by a comprehensive 200+ page report prepared by staff and embellished by Element Agency. Feedback from the International Committee and Chefs post-meeting consistently highlighted positive impressions of our progress, as well as the trust, professionalism, experience, and warmth exhibited by our staff, board of directors, and community members. The group will visit again at the end of September for a detailed presentation on all our plans for Games Week. For more information, see www.awg2024.org

Port MacKenzie Quarterly Update: The following information is provided to keep the Assembly apprised of ongoing operations, maintenance, and business development at the Port during the 4th Quarter of FY23 (April - June).

FY23 Operating Costs and Revenues:

4th Qtr Operating Costs:	\$165,804.12
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4th Qtr Revenues:		\$65,538.38	
Dockage	Wharfage	Storage	Leases/Permits
\$1,603.44	\$7,578.78	\$0	\$56,356.16

4th Quarter FY23 Vessel Traffic: Cruz Construction brought in two barges in May. The “Atlas” was loaded with construction material and equipment headed to the village of Kongiganak and the “Baranof Provider” was loaded with construction equipment, building materials, and blasting agent headed to the village of Shageluk. Dockage for both barges totaled \$1,603.44, with wharfage totaling \$7,578.78.

Vessel Traffic (1st Quarter FY24): The ship “Ise Harmony,” Panamanian flag, was in port last week, bringing in approximately 33,000 tons of salt, as part of the State of Alaska Dept. of Transportation statewide road salt contract.

Maintenance:

Barge Dock Cell 1 Repair

- Alaska Specialized Constructors completed welding the steel strapping on the sheet pile. They will return in August when the tide is favorable to ensure the split in the seam is closed. We will have them weld straps on the interlock between the two sections that split as a pre-emptive measure.

Conveyor

- Northern Gravel & Trucking removed the conveyor from the barge dock and reconstructed it temporarily on the trestle to prepare for the salt ship offload.

Pile Sleeves/ \$9.6M – Funded EDA \$7.6M and MSB \$1.9M

- The bid packet for the pile sleeve project will be advertised in the middle of July.

RO-RO Ramp:

The Ro-Ro ramp has been separated from the Pile Sleeve project funded by the EDA grant due to the change in SOW from a portable ramp to a permanent structure placed in the water. The design is currently at 35%.

Dock Weight Loading Analysis:

PND Engineering has completed the weight load capacity analysis for the sheet pile faced barge dock, and the deep-draft dock. The analysis will confirm the weight bearing capacity of the docks so that we can evaluate future projects, and cargo handling needs.

Items of Interest:

Hydrogen Fuel

- Applications received from three different companies seeking land use authorizations to perform due diligence activities for the purpose of hydrogen based fuel production and fuel storage – DG Fuels, Knik Energy LLC and Pacific H2.

US Department of Defense

- The Department of Defense visited Port MacKenzie to assess whether the port could be used for off-loading ammunition and explosive ordinances.
- The US Marines hosted a training exercise at the port on May 15th as part of a statewide coordinated emergency preparedness program.

FEMA

- Port MacKenzie being evaluated for its geographically strategic role in emergency planning and supply chain redundancy in the event that the Port of Alaska or Glen Highway bridges suffer a catastrophic disaster.

Uplands Leases and Permits:

Colaska Inc. Permits

- Storing super sacks of cement in the old NPI blue metal building and the old Alutiiq Manufacturing Company (AMC) white metal building for construction and maintenance projects.

Central Alaska Energy (CAE) Lease

- Negotiations for a revised land lease with CAE have been stymied by volatile fuel prices. In the meantime, CAE will continue under the existing lease.

The Port MacKenzie website has been updated, including the domain name. The new address is <https://portmackenzie.matsugov.us/>.

Wetland Mitigation Bank 2023 Quarter 2 Report: We did not have any sales in the Second Quarter of 2023.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- [Data driven fisheries management is for the future \(OPINION\)](#)
ADN

Wildland Fires

- [Haze from Canadian fires blows into Southcentral](#)
KTNA

Community

- [Mat-Su celebrates new location with community](#)
Frontiersman

Assembly

- [Assembly fails fee waiver amendment based on misinformation](#)
KTNA
- [End of line for rail link to Port MacKenzie? Borough to pursue conversion to a road](#)
Frontiersman
- [Assembly punts lake construction setback change to new taskforce](#)
Frontiersman

Gov. Dunleavy

- [Alaska Gov. Dunleavy fires two Susitna road opponents from land management advisory board](#)
Frontiersman

Facebook Posts

- [Settlers Bay Coastal Park ribbon cutting](#)
Reach: 33,212 / Reactions: 285 positive, 0 negative / Shares: 67
- [ISE Harmony salt ship at Port MacKenzie](#)
Reach: 48,918 / Reactions: 346 positive, 0 negative / Shares: 85
- [33,000 metric tons of salt offloaded successfully](#)
Reach: 17,865 / Reactions: 161 positive, 4 negative / Shares: 15