



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: March 13, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Talkeetna Sewer and Water Funding Announcement: Senator Lisa Murkowski, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee and Ranking Member of the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, announced the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2024. The following funding for the Mat-Su was included in this bill.

- \$5.1 million to replace critical water lines in South Talkeetna
- \$5 million to expand the Upper Susitna Senior Center
- \$500,000 for the Talkeetna Historical Society for rehabilitation and support efforts

The full list of awards is available at:

<https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/press/release/murkowski-announces-big-wins-for-alaska-in-six-bill-appropriations-package>.

Cottonwood Lake Island Access: At the Strategic Planning session on February 17, 2024, Assemblymember Fonov described a situation on Cottonwood Lake where a resident owns one of the two islands on the lake, but he can't get full-time access to his property. He built a home and some vacation cabins on the island, and there is public access to the lake through an MSB-owned boat launch. However, it is only open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily. The Borough controls access by hiring a contractor to lock and unlock the gate at the specified times. At the Strategic Planning meeting, it was noted that our Borough code specifies we give access to a public road/land to all residents or none of them. Assemblymember Fonov noted that the Manager has given full-time access to the resident. Unless there is an objection, the Manager will continue to allow the resident access through the Borough gate to his property on the lake.

Saw Crew Project Recognition: Recently, the Assembly approved an appropriation for funding to support the Borough saw crew. This will fund four sawyer jobs in the Borough for one year. When combined with other funding, this should fund sawyer operations for wildfire mitigation through 2026. The Saw Crew Project is a year-round fuel reduction crew comprised of four individuals

who have been working across the Borough at various locations. Our Borough Natural Resource Manager, Emerson Krueger, has provided the vision and secured external funding. Kudos to Emerson and the saw crew.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Arctic Winter Games

- [AWG Merchandise is ramping up before games](#)
Frontiersman
- [Indigenous athletes get ready to compete in 2024 Arctic Winter Games](#)
APTN National News
- [Arctic Winter Games brings hundreds of athletes, fans and families to Mat-Su](#)
ADN
- [Big Valley Welcome: Mat-Su Borough hosts the 2024 Arctic Winter Games](#)
Alaska Business Magazine
- [With streamers and fanfare the AWG kicks off in the Mat-Su](#)
ADN
- [Thousands show up to Arctic Winter Games – Mat-Su](#)
Alaska News Source

Port MacKenzie

- [Military could use Port MacKenzie, Borough assembly told](#)
Frontiersman
- [House passes resolution supporting rail extensions in Mat-Su](#)
Frontiersman
- [Rail extension is the connection to Alaska's tomorrow](#)
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

Resource Development

- [What about using coal](#)
Petroleum news
- [UAF study calls for study of coal fired power plants](#)
ADN

Fisheries

- [2024 Board of Fisheries Meeting is in the books](#)
Frontiersman
- [Board of Fisheries news and notes](#)
Frontiersman

Economy

- [Alaska National Parks visitors surpass pre-pandemic levels](#)
Alaska Business

State Budget

- [Mat-Su Schools face \\$30M deficit unless state funding is increased, Supt. Trani says](#)
Frontiersman

Facebook Posts

- [Arctic Winter Games opening ceremony in photos](#)
Reached: 19k
- [AWG's video of arriving busses-](#)
Reached: 17k Reached, 6.7k views