

By: K. Anderson
Introduced: June 6, 2022
Public Hearing: July 18, 2022
Action: Failed

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 22-20**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDING THAT THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ADOPT THE BEVERLY
LAKE, LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 17.59 -
LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Comprehensive Plan includes the goals to 1) protect and enhance the public safety, health, and welfare of Borough residents and 2) protect and enhance the Borough's natural resources including watersheds, groundwater supplies, and air quality; and

WHEREAS, the overall objective for Rural Residential Areas in the Meadow Lakes Community Comprehensive Plan is to maintain the low density residential pattern and to protect environmental quality, particularly the quality of surface and subsurface water used for domestic purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was given the power to regulate motorized use on waterways by the voters; and

WHEREAS, the Beverly Lake, Lake Management Plan provides management guidelines to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of all residents and visitors to the lake; and

WHEREAS, the Beverly Lake, Lake Management Plan was initiated with a valid petition signed by the owners of fifty-two percent of properties within 600 feet of Beverly Lake; and

WHEREAS, a ballot was mailed to eighty-four properties within six hundred feet of the shoreline to gauge community interest in initiating a Lake Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, fifty-nine ballots returned showing a sixty-two percent majority in favor of initiating a Lake Management Plan in February of 2022; and

WHEREAS, following the ballot process, the Planning Department facilitated three public meetings, both in person and virtual, to provide several opportunities for public involvement; and

WHEREAS, the Beverly Lake community was extremely involved in the development of the Beverly Lake, Lake Management Plan with over 30 households present for the meetings and many more providing written comment via email; and

WHEREAS, the property owners of the Beverly Lake neighborhood identified their concerns for safety, water quality, loss of wildlife and wildlife habitat, protection of personal property, and protection of the quiet recreational character of the lake; and

WHEREAS, it was identified that use of personal watercraft and motorized watercraft has created hazardous conditions to swimmers, other non-motorized users, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, it was also identified that shoreline erosion can impact and degrade vegetation that stabilizes waterfronts; and

WHEREAS, the use of personal watercraft and motorized watercraft can directly contribute to shoreline erosion, as well as personal property damage to docks; and

WHEREAS, two options for regulations were developed by the community due to the controversial nature of the use of personal watercraft and motorized watercraft use; and

WHEREAS, the Beverly Lake, Lake Management Plan acknowledged the will of the residents by including both options for regulations in the final mail-in ballot; and

WHEREAS, fifty-four percent of ballots returned prove that a majority of property owners within 600 feet of the shoreline are in favor of a Lake Management Plan for Beverly Lake that includes a ban on jet skis and motorized use over 15 horsepower; and

WHEREAS, staff addressed the concern of some residents that only those with shoreline property should be allowed to have a vote by also calculating the percentage of ballots returned by shoreline owners; and

WHEREAS, ballots returned by only those who own shoreline property show that fifty-two percent are in favor of a Lake Management Plan for Beverly Lake that includes a ban on jet skis and motorized use over 15 horsepower; and

WHEREAS, it is the will of both the majority of shoreline property owners and all property owners within the required six hundred feet public notice area to have a Lake Management Plan for Beverly Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends the Borough Assembly adopt the Beverly Lake, Lake Management Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends the Borough Assembly adopt Ordinance Serial No. 22-078 adopting the Beverly Lake, Lake Management Plan and amending MSB 17.59 - Lake Management Plan Implementation.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this -- day of --, 2022.

Stafford Glashan, Chair

ATTEST

KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: (2) Commissioner Chesbro, Commissioner Glashan

NO: (4) Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner
Kendig, Commissioner Scoggin

FAILED