

By: Peggy Horton
Introduced: May 15, 2023
Public Hearing: June 5, 2023
Action: ADOPTED

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 23-16**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO NAME AN UNNAMED LAKE WITHIN THE MATANUSKA-
SUSITNA BOROUGH LANGMAN LAKE

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department received a request for comments from the Alaska Historical Commission regarding a proposal to make official the name Langman Lake for an unnamed lake in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Historical Commission is designated by statute as the Geographic Names Board for the State of Alaska. The commission coordinates the program to name physical features in the State with the United States Board on Geographic Names; and

WHEREAS, the unnamed lake is roughly 89 acres in size and lies approximately 17 miles northwest of Willow, within the Kahiltna Flats Subdivision, Alaska State Land Survey 80-175, Plat #81-128, Talkeetna Recording District; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, the commemorative name is for James "Hank" Langman, a homesteader on the lake; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, Mr. Langman has been deceased for the minimum five years required for a commemorative name proposal; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, Langman Lake is the name known by locals for this lake for at least 25 years, primarily because Mr. Langman and his family were the first homesteaders to continuously occupy the lake since 1971; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, Mr. Langman came to Alaska in 1948 during his military service, was a member of Pioneers of Alaska, and retired from Operating Engineers Local 302 after 64 years; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, multiple local landowners in the Kahiltna Flats Subdivision, local air transport services, and realty companies use Langman Lake when referring to the area; and

WHEREAS, the proposal includes six letters of support for the name Langman Lake; and

WHEREAS, the proposal included evidence that the name Langman Lake was used in a real estate notice and on an online outdoor forum; and

WHEREAS, the properties surrounding the lake are owned by the State of Alaska or in private ownership; and

WHEREAS, in support of the United States Board on Geographic Names, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) maintains the Federal authoritative source of official geographic feature names, known as the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS); and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal, no conflict is reported with the recommended name; and

WHEREAS, according to the proposal and the GNIS, the lake is unnamed; and

WHEREAS, a search in the GNIS found no indication of the name Langman used as a geographic feature in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, according to the Willow Community Organization secretary, no objections to naming the lake Langman Lake were voiced at the Willow Community Organization's regular meeting on April 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, according to the Willow Community Organization published minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting, no motion for support or opposition was given; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission is tasked to advise the assembly in identifying, protecting, preserving, and interpreting cultural resources within the borough that are of archaeological, historical, cultural, scientific, or geographic importance; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission held a public meeting on May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, by resolution, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission opposes the proposal to apply the name Langman Lake on the basis that the lake has an older Den'ina traditional name, Uq'e Tsits'ełdatl'I Bena, and that being the first recorded Euro-American homesteader on the lake is an insufficient connection to justify a commemorative name; and

WHEREAS, testimony or comments are provided to the Planning Commission for consideration; and

WHEREAS, notification of the hearing for the proposed name and a request for comments was posted at the Willow Library and Willow Post Office and advertised in the Frontiersman and on the borough website; and

WHEREAS, planning staff requested comments from the borough and outside agencies, including Willow Community Organization, via email; and

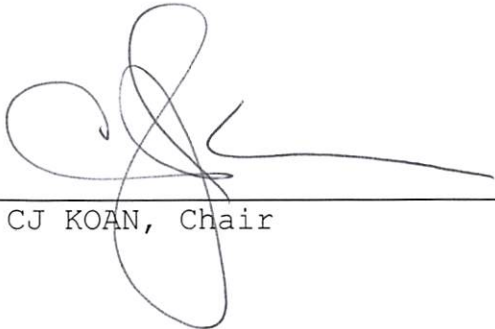
WHEREAS, there have been no public comments received as a result of the public noticing; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed this application with respect to the standards and procedures for the Borough to comment on such proposals set forth in MSB 15.04.025; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on June 5, 2023, on this matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission, acting for the Assembly, recommends approving the proposed name of Langman Lake for an unnamed lake in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 5th day of June, 2023.



CJ KOAN, Chair

ATTEST



KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk

CORINNE LINDFORS

(SEAL)



YES: GIENNO, ALLEN, KOAN, McCABE, FERNANDEZ, SCOGGIN

NO: