

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Agenda

Vern Halter, Mayor

Mike Wood – Chair
Howard Delo – Vice Chair
Tam Boeve
Andy Couch
Larry Engel
Tim Hale
Peter Probasco
Kendra Zamzow
Vacant – Ex officio member

Ted Eischeid - Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager
VACANT, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

Lower Level Conference Room
Dorothy Swanda Jones Building
350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer

May 20, 2021
REGULAR MEETING

4:00 p.m.

Lower Level Conference Room

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

1. IN PERSON. Should you wish to testify in person, please adhere to the 6-foot distance between yourself and others. Current COVID-19 Guidelines are listed at the end.

2. Remote Participation:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 [907-290-7880](#),,617931289# United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: **617 931 289 #**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 15, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person at chair's discretion*)

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. West Susitna Access Road Project
B. Committee report on April 15 draft letter to ADFG

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion about FWC mission.
B. Consider letter thanking ADFG Marston, Ivey, Vincent-Lange for conservative fisheries management
C. Consider request to staff to compile and post data from previous ADF&G/FWC dialogues

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 23rd, 4 PM (NOTE- this is the "4th Thursday" of the month).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Disabled persons needing reasonable accommodation in order to participate at a MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8432 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

COVID-19 Guidelines

- Social distance at least 6 feet.
- Use proper hand hygiene.
- Masks are optional.
- Stay home if feeling sick.

MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION Regular Meeting: April 15, 2021 – Minutes**MSB Lower Level Conference Room //TEAMS Remote Participation Option****Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner II****REGULAR MEETING 4:00 PM April 15, 2021****I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM by chair Mike Wood.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Roll Call:

Present: Mike Wood (MW), Howard Delo (HD), Tam Boeve (TB), Kendra Zamzow (KZ),
Andy Couch (AC), Larry Engel (LE), Tim Hale (TH)

Absent: Pete Probasco (excused).

Quorum established.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Motion: Moved to approve by LE.
- Second: AC.
- Discussion: None
- Action: Passed unanimously without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by LE.**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES****a. March 18, 2021**

- Motion: Moved to approve by LE.
- Second: TH.
- Discussion: AC noted that packet header obscured some of the minutes.
- Action: Passed unanimously without objection.

VI. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS & PARTICIPATION (3 min./person, chair's discretion)

1. Bill Stoltze
2. Neil Dewitt
3. Becky Long, Talkeetna – interested in WSAR; supports FWC letter to ADFG.
4. Melissa Heurer, Susitna River Coalition – WSAR interest; supports Recreation Rivers.
5. Trevor Roman – interested in ADFG questions.
6. Dan Billman, Northern District Set Netter.
7. Alyssa Frothingham, ADFG.
8. Sam Ivey, ADFG.
9. Brian Marston, ADFG.
10. Matt Miller, ADFG.
11. Samantha Oslund, ADFG.
12. Steve Braund, Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet.

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. West Susitna Access Road Project Update – none at this time.
- b. Brian Marston and Sam Ivey, ADFG- how emergency orders to expand the set net fishery for coho are developed and their impacts on the sport fishery.
- c. Ted Eischeid – staff report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Report of FWC committee meeting with Mgr. Brown – HD gave a report.
- b. West Susitna Access Road Project – general discussion, no motions.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of adding a land acknowledgement to FWC meeting agendas
 1. Motion: AC moved to have TE/KZ jointly develop a land acknowledgement to be added to future FWC agendas.
 2. Second: TH
 3. Discussion: Ensued.
 4. Action: Passed unanimously without objection.

b. Consideration of a FWC letter to ADFG concerning UCI salmon commercial and sport fishery management

1. Motion: LE moved to form a committee to discuss the draft letter to ADFG in the packet, reporting back to the FWC at the May 20th meeting, with the committee consisting of AC, MW, Trevor Roman, and Neil Dewitt.
2. Second: AC
3. Discussion: Ensued.
4. Action: Passed unanimously without objection.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS TO CONSIDER

1. HD: Discussed the draft letter to ADFG and his availability for the April 22nd special FWC meeting.
2. KZ: Is available for the April 22nd meeting as long as it doesn't run too long.
3. LE: Had questions and suggestions about the April 22nd meeting.
4. AC: Discussed SB 97 and an opportunity for public comment; appreciates today's meeting.
5. MW: Appreciates everyone's participation, and the ability to be here in person.

XI. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE: May 20, 2021, 4 PM

XII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion: LE
2. Second: AC
3. Action: Passed unanimously without objection.
 - Meeting stands adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Mike Wood, Chair

Dated

ATTEST:

Ted Eischeid, Planner II Staff

Dated

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Planning and Land Use Department

Planning Division

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-7833

<http://www.matsugov.us> • planning@matsugov.us

Date: 20 May 2021

Re: FWC Staff Report

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1. National Fish Habitat Partnership Board update.

2. Supplemental Wetlands Mitigation Ordinance 21-025 update

- May 3rd Planning Commission Action
- June 1st, Assembly public hearing and action.

3. Anchorage Watershed and Natural Resources Advisory Committee Update

- a. April meeting – Canceled.
- b. Next Meeting: May 26th, 12-1 PM, via Teams.

4. BOF Nominee Confirmation update.

5. WSAR Update.

6. Note on September FWC meeting date.

7. Packet items-staff review.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

Ted Eischeid, Planner II

Supporting Environmental Planning and the MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission.

Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us Ph. 907.861-8606, Cell 795-6281

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MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

MISSION:

The **MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)** was formed in February 2007 to *represent the interests of the Borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat.*

4.75.010 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

- (A) The commission **shall advise and make recommendations to the assembly, borough manager, and/or any state or federal agencies, departments, commissions, or boards possessing jurisdiction in the area of fish, wildlife, and habitat on the interests of the borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat.**
- (B) The commission may also **advise the assembly and the borough manager on any other matter as to actions or issues for the borough to address on any other areas concerning fish, wildlife, habitat, administration, application, enforcement, or appointment to include political efforts, additional lobbying efforts, or any other position or action the borough should take on fish, wildlife, or habitat issues.**

Meetings

The FWC usually meets the third Thursday of each month, except for the summer months of June – August. We offer both in-person and remote participation options, and we appreciate the public's input at our meetings.

Learn more

Please visit our web page to see how you can become engaged: Google "*MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission*", or visit: <https://matsugov.us/boards/fishcommission>

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer AK 99645 Ph.907.861-8606

CHAIRPERSON

Mike Wood

VICE CHAIR

Howard Delo

MSB STAFF

Ted Eischeid

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Tam Boeve

Andy Couch

Larry Engel

Tim Hale

Pete Probasco

Kendra Zamzow

*Ex officio: VACANT***MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION****Memorandum****TO:** ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**CC:** Brian Marston, Commercial Fisheries; Sam Ivey, Sport Fisheries**RE:** Appreciation for Conservative Fisheries Management Decisions in Cook Inlet

Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission was formed in 2007 to represent the borough and its citizens in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat. In that regard, the Commission has frequently dialogued with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game about these issues. We have appreciated this dialogue and our relationship with the Department and its staff.

The Commission would like to thank the Department for its 2020 conservative salmon fisheries management in Cook Inlet that allowed all user groups to enjoy this resource while balancing harvest and conservation interests. The conservative management we laud is an approach that minimizes the use of emergency orders. Specifically, we hope the Department continues to manage the salmon fishery in Cook Inlet conservatively in 2021, especially by minimizing the use of emergency orders in the Central District. We feel such conservative management honors the intent of the Alaska Board of Fisheries decision in 2020 when they removed the stock of concern status for Susitna sockeye. Finally, the Commission would like the Department to continue to fully fund and manage the Judd, Chelatna, and Larsen weirs. These robust management tools will allow for better fisheries management.

On behalf of the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission, thank you for the Department's conservative fisheries management in Cook Inlet. We look forward to continued dialogue with the Department.

Mike Wood, Chair

Dated