

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WASTEWATER & SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Mike Campfield, Chair  
Dan Tucker

Gina Jorgensen  
Bob Walden

Tom Stoelting

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

MSB Assembly Chambers  
350 E. Dahlia Ave  
Palmer, AK 99645

2:30 p.m.

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at the DSJ Building at 350 East Dahlia Avenue in Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. by Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E.

### II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mike Campfield, P.E.  
Gina Jorgensen  
Tom Stoelting  
Dan Tucker  
Bob Walden

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for this meeting was approved with a correction to Mr. Walden's title as Public Works Deputy Director for the City of Wasilla.

Motion to adopt the agenda: Gina Jorgensen  
Motion Seconded: Bob Walden

VOTE: No objections. The agenda was approved with the correction noted.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mike Campfield.

V. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

Josh Hofmeister, Engineering Intern at the Mat-Su Borough.  
Jon Hermon, P.E., CRW

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion to nominate Mr. Mike Campfield as Chair, by Mr. Dan Tucker.  
Motion Seconded by Ms. Gina Jorgensen.  
Mr. Campfield accepted the nomination.

VOTE: No objections; Mr. Campfield is designated as Chair of the Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board.

Motion to nominate Mr. Bob Walden as Vice Chair, by Mr. Dan Tucker.  
Motion seconded by Ms. Gina Jorgensen.  
Mr. Walden accepted the nomination.

VOTE: No objections; Mr. Walden is designated as Vice Chair of the Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- A. February 11, 2021 (regular meeting)
- B. May 26, 2021 (regular meeting)

Minutes for the February 11, 2021 regular meeting and the May 26, 2021 regular meeting were reviewed by the Board.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented, by Mr. Dan Tucker.  
Motion seconded, by Ms. Gina Jorgensen.

VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

VIII. PRESENTATION

- A. Presenter: Jon Hermon, P.E., CRW  
Topic: Palmer Feasibility Study for Septage Treatment Facility

Mr. Hermon summarized the objectives of the feasibility study conducted by CRW, reviewed technical and financial considerations, and described a strategy for treatment and storage of the borough's wastewater and septage that would utilize the

City of Palmer's system after their system has been upgraded. For complete summary including recommendations, please refer to CRW presentation attached to these minutes.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*Three minutes per person*)

None.

X. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS

A. City of Wasilla – Mr. Bob Walden, P.E., Public Works Deputy Director

The City of Wasilla's biggest challenge is the ongoing growth of their customer base contributing to the sewer system, with the system in great need of updates including a new digester, covered drying bin, and items that would speed up their current processes. Mr. Walden estimates their system is functioning at 90% of capacity, so the next few years are crucial for them.

B. City of Palmer – Mr. Jude Bilafer, Public Works Director

Not present.

C. City of Houston – Gina Jorgensen, City Council Member

Ms. Gina Jorgensen reported she is no longer on the City Council for the City of Houston. Their new Public Works Director was sworn in last month; his name is George Thompson.

D. Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility – Mr. Will O'Malley, Project Manager

Not present.

E. Matanuska-Susitna Borough – Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E., Environmental Engineer

Mr. Campfield commented on the Board's role going forward. The Board has considered many options over the past several years, and has seemingly exhausted them all. Mr. Campfield shared his opinion with Borough administration that the Board needs to assemble the information gathered into a final preliminary engineering report (PER) in a format acceptable to USDA grant programs, and work toward funding application. The draft resolution on today's agenda would address this goal. If the Board agrees and Assembly approves, then by the time the PER is accomplished, we will have a more detailed analysis and should have a better understanding of the City of Palmer's position and willingness to participate. A PER would evaluate all of the options: upgrades to the Borough landfill; hauling septage to Anchorage; as well as working in conjunction with the City' of Palmer's upgraded facility; and it would offer a recommendation on which option to pursue.

F. State of Alaska, DEC- Mr. Oran Woolley, Wastewater Engineering Associate

Not present.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board (WSAB) in Support of Advancing with a Preliminary Engineering Study for the Septage Treatment Facility Project.

Motion to adopt Resolution Serial No. 22-01, by Mr. Tom Stoelting.

Motion seconded, by Gina Jorgensen.

VOTE: No objections; Resolution Serial No. 22-01 is adopted with no amendments.

XIII. INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Today's presentation handout will be posted to the Board's web site.

XIV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E.: It will be good to talk with the City of Palmer after they have their new system operating.

Mr. Gina Jorgensen: Nice to see everyone.

Mr. Tom Stoelting: Hopes this is the start of something good.

Mr. Dan Tucker: Without a collaborative approach, we could come up with anything we want, and if the City of Palmer is not receptive, we've got nothing.

Mr. Bob Walden: Feels like we're on the right track. It will take a good year to go through the process, get reports underway, and apply for grants. It's tough to see the slow progress, but he's excited to be here for this phase.

XV. NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

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Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E., Chair

ATTESTED:

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Elaine M. Flagg, Board Administrative Support