

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Special Meeting: August 22, 2024
DSJ Building, Assembly Chambers/TEAMS
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andy Couch called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present:

Andy Couch
Gabe Kitter
Howard Delo
Larry Engel
Bill Gamble
Jim Sykes
Kendra Zamzow

Absent:

Tim Hale
Pete Probasco

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AC read the land acknowledgement:

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

HD moved to approve the agenda; seconded by LE.
No objection, motion passed unanimously.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jessica Winnestaffer – Chickaloon Native Village: conducted a foot survey on Moose Creek, documenting 42 chinook salmon, an all time low since 2004
Chennery Fife – Trout Unlimited
Emily Anderson

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report – Maija DiSalvo

B. Chair’s Report – AC

- i. Discussion regarding all time low returns of kings and silvers, and acknowledging high returns for sockeye; Mat-Su legislators are working on a Board of Fisheries Agenda Change Request specific to listing Little Susitna coho as a stock of yield concern.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. West Susitna Access Road Public Comment

HD moves to approve and send draft letter as written, seconded by LE.

Amendment 1: (BG) wait and get approval through MSB Assembly and Borough Manager before sending letter, seconded by HD.

After discussion, amendment is withdrawn by BG.

Amendment 2: (KZ) in the second paragraph, change “Because the only terminus...we encourage...” to “Therefore, we encourage...”, seconded by HD.

No objection, amendment passed unanimously.

Main Motion: Passed as amended with BG opposed.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

LE – moving forward, improve communications and invite agencies and groups to attend to a future meeting regarding West Susitna Access Road and other projects

JS moved to reach out to Borough Assembly/Manager, AIDEA, ADOT&PF, ADF&G to invite for a discussion regarding the West Susitna Access Road at the September Regular FWC Meeting, seconded by HD.

No objections, motion passed unanimously.

JS – thank you everyone for the discussion; critical issues to deal with and different opinions form different sectors; grateful for productive comments

HD – no comments

BG – discussion speaks volumes of the weight group carries

GK – thanks everyone for their time; thanks to BG for the discussion, not easy being the messenger, appreciate it; this body understands if state is interested in investing, fisheries should be a place for investment

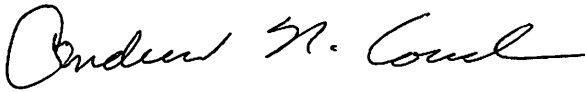
KZ – West Su has been a standing agenda item for well over a year, encourages better

communications in both directions, especially on higher profile topics
Bill Stoltz – reminder of open invitation to attend Assembly meetings
AC – appreciate everyone’s work; BG we totally appreciate you bringing the message, even if group disagreed; values your service on the FWC; appreciates GK doing leg work on drafting the letter; appreciate JS’s your input having been in political arena

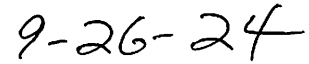
XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, August 29, 2024 – 5:00 pm Assembly Chambers

XII. ADJOURNMENT

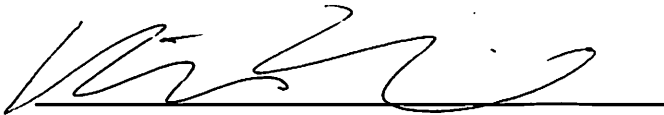
LE moves to adjourn; seconded by GK.
No objection, motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.



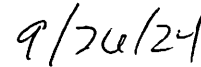
Andy Couch, FWC Chair



Date



Maija DiSalvo, Planning Division Staff



Date