

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman – LaMarr Anderson (01)	Tony West (03)	Dylan Blankenship (06)	Kenneth Hoffman (10)
Vice Chair – Misty O'Connor (09)	Alexandria Hoffman (04)	Adam Jenksi (07)	Thomas Bergey (11)
Sharmin Oathout (02)	Jozef Slowik (05)	Craig Hanson (08)	Abby Raisanen(12)

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
DSJ BUILDING
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**April 16, 2025
4:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Ms. O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

Members present and establishing a quorum were: Misty O'Connor, Sharmin Oathout, Tony West, Jozef Slowik (left @ 6:16 p.m.), Dylan Blankenship, Craig Hanson, Kenneth Hoffman and Abby Raisanen

Members absent and excused: LaMarr Anderson and Thomas Bergey

Members absent: Alexandria Hoffman and Adam Jenksi

Staff present: Suzanne Reilly, Asset Manager

Joseph Metzger, Land Management Division Manager

Margie Cobb, Department Administrative Specialist

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Agenda approved as presented.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Limit 3 minutes)

Rob Wells – Thanked the Board for their continued work on the issues. Shared with the Board the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture Alaska State Profile listing farm statistics.

Beverly Cutler – Noted that neither her farm or Rob Wells' farm is on the farm list in the packet. Encouraged Board to ensure incentives do not keep farmers from farming but allow people who want to farm to be able to farm on 10-20 acres; no one knows the future.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 19, 2025 Minutes were approved as presented.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Staff Report

Suzanne Reilly: Mat-Su Farms: List has almost doubled; this is a “living document” and there are still more farms to add; encouraged Board members to contribute or notify her of changes that are needed.

Joseph Metzger: During the Community Development Budget Hearing the Community Development Director shared with the Assembly that this Board is working on potential changes to Ag Code for smaller parcels.

B. Resolution 25-02: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPT ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 25-023, CONVEYING THE BOROUGH’S DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS INTEREST TO TORY AND CYNTHIA OLECK FOR FEE SIMPLE TITLE WITH AGRICULTURAL COVENANTS (MSB001235).

Staff Report: Ms. Reilly shared a brief overview of the program and the application.

Mr. West moved to approve this Resolution; Ms. Slowik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Assessor’s Office

Ms. King spoke to the Borough’s letter regarding SB179 and answered questions.

Mr. Eveland spoke to the consequences of smaller ag parcels and answered questions.

D. Work Session – New Title

Mr. Hoffman motioned to go into Committee As A Whole at 5:22 pm.;

Mr. Blankenship seconded.

Ms. Raisanen motioned to come out of Committee as a Whole at 6:17 pm;

Mr. Blankenship seconded.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS (Limit to 3 minutes)

Mr. Blankenship: Liked the thought on “what is the goal” during the work session.

Mr. Hanson: Happy to join this Board. Been in land development business and know how complicated this topic is.

Mr. Hoffman: Excited there will be meetings through the summer.

Ms. Oathout: Smaller parcels can help to make new farmers more successful.

Mr. West: Has the desire to see more ag ground be productive; producing something is better than nothing.


Ms. O’Connor: Glad Assessors came in to share and clarify information. Encouraged everyone to raise their voices to local and state policymakers. Shared how good the

Borough EMS presentation of being prepared for volcano eruption and encouraged everyone to have a plan.

VII. NEXT MEETING: May 21, 2025

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.


LaMarr Anderson, Chairman


DATE

ATTEST:



Margie Cobb

Department Administrative Specialist