

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Fish & Wildlife Commission

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

CHAIRPERSON

Peter Probasco

VICE CHAIR

Andy Couch

MSB STAFF

Paul Clark



BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Bowles

Marty Van Diest

Gabe Kitter

Bill Gamble

Kendra Zamzow

Ex officio: Jim Sykes

Special Meeting

April 9, 2026

Meeting Packet – Table of Contents

Pg. = Item:

- 1 = Meeting Agenda
- 3 = Draft FWC 2.26.26 Meeting Minutes
- 5 = Draft FWC 3.12.26 Meeting Minutes
- 8 = Pike eDNA Locations in Wasilla and Cottonwood Lakes
- 9 = FWC Questions for ADF&G Wildlife Biologists

Basement Conference Room, Fireweed Building, 533 E Fireweed Ave., Palmer, AK 99645

Remote Participation: See attached agenda on p. 1

Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division

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

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
AGENDA

Edna Devries, Mayor

Peter Probasco – Chair
Andy Couch – Vice Chair
Gabriel Kitter
Bill Gamble
Kendra Zamzow
Michael Bowles
Marty Van Diest
Jim Sykes – Ex officio member

Paul Clark – Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director
Jason Ortiz, Planning & Land Use Deputy Director
Wade Long, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

April 9, 2026
REGULAR MEETING
4:00 p.m.

Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:

IN-PERSON: Fireweed Building, Basement Conference Room, 533 E. Fireweed Ave, Palmer

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Join on your computer:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 280 029 644 221 62

Passcode: uP7Kq2v6

Or call in (audio only):

1-907-290-7880

Phone Conference ID: 632940304#

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. February 26, 2026 (Special Meeting)
 - B. March 12, 2026
- VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report

B. Chair's Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Prep for 2027 Board of Fisheries Cycle

B. Letter of support for HB321

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. ADF&G Annual Game Summary Meeting

X. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 14, 4:00-6:00 PM, DSJ Building, Conference Room 203

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.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
FEBRUARY 26, 2026
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01pm
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
Present
Gabe Kitter
Pete Probasco
Andy Couch
Bill Gamble (left at 5:28)
Kendra Zamzow
Jim Sykes
Michael Bowles
- Absent**
Marty Van Diest
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Andy requested that a discussion about HB 304 be added to the agenda
No objections, item added to agenda
- V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)
- VI. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS
- A. Staff Report
- B. Chair Report
Pete will reach out to mayor about FWC vacancy
- C. Preliminary 2025 UCI Commercial Fishery Coho Genetic Stock ID Estimates
Andy requested that we ask Andy Barkley at ADF&G whether genetic data can be split out into harvest by weekly distribution. Also request sockeye data by week.
- VII. ITEMS OF BUSINESS
- A. Board of Fisheries 2026 March Meeting Strategy

1. Draft FWC letter*

**Andy – add 2c. - note that over 4.6 million
AC moves to approve letter as amended, GK seconds, no objection, motion passes
-Post on website and send out to FWC associates list**

2. Outreach

3. FWC participation at the meeting*

Pete, Andy, Jim, Gabe, and Paul will participate in public testimony

B. Letter of support for [HB 203](#) / [SB 161](#)*

**Andy moved to support letter with Pete and Kendra working together, MB second,
no objection, motion passes**

**Andy will create a draft letter of support for HB304 for approval at the March 12
meeting**

C. Prep for 2027 Board of Fisheries

1. Draft proposals - April 10 is deadline

Andy shared a few ideas he has developed:

- **Management plans need to be based on a precautionary basis.**
- **Change in management earlier in season to allow passage of earlier runs**
- **In-river goal based on a mid-point escapement number**

Pete expressed an interest in exploring a bounty on pike

2. Goals

D. [NPFMC Results](#) & Next Steps

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: Regular Meeting, March 12, 4:00 PM

X. ADJOURNMENT

AC moves, GK seconds, no objection, meeting adjourned at 5:58.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
March 12, 2026
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:01pm

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present

Pete Probasco

Andy Couch

Kendra Zamzow

Gabe Kitter (virtual)

Marty Van Diest

Michael Bowles (virtual)

Jim Sykes (arrived at 4:10)

Bill Gamble (joined virtually at 4:47)

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved with no objection

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 8, 2026 – **AC moves to approve, KZ seconds, no objection, approved**

B. January 29, 2026 – **AC moves to approve, KZ seconds, no objection, approved**

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person*)

Jonah Profeta

Stephen Braund

Stefan Hinman

Margeret Stern

Andrew Traxler

Ed Soto

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Staff Report

B. Chair's Report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Fisheries 2026 March Meeting Strategy*

- **Role of commission is participation during public testimony**
- **Proposal 186 is a conservation-based regulatory action and concern – goal is to get enough fish into the river to meet escapement goals”**
- **Mac needs an email of all people for oral testimony**
- **We will share some of the more detailed information during the Committee of the Whole**
- **Have 25 copies available of It Takes Fish to Make Fish**

B. Prep for 2026-27 Board of Fisheries Cycle

Andy described a draft proposal regarding inriver escapement goals

AC moves to submit the proposal with amended language in the solution establishing an SEG 13450-18700 of as a FWC proposal, MVD seconds

No – PP, GK, BG, MB, MVD

Yes – AC

Abstain – KZ

Motion fails

C. Waterbody Setback Ordinance Staff Update and Discussion

Bill - Assembly has decided to work on this themselves beginning in late spring / early summer.

D. ADF&G Summary Meetings

1. Questions for ADF&G Annual Game Meeting (April 9)

- **What were the dates for most recent moose census and/or survey?**
- **What is the most recent data for moose?**
- **How best do moose surveys in low snow years?**
- **Nelchina caribou – status report on the herd, what are they seeing in their habitat studies, what have they learned about ability for the herd to rebound based on what they learned from other herds.**
- **Same for Dall sheep, as sheep are declining statewide**
- **Introduction of new game biologist. Are there management things we could do better in the Mat-Su?**

2. Cook Inlet salmon genetics presentation

Paul will reach out to Jayde Ferguson to schedule a presentation at the May 13 regular meeting.

E. Doshka Watershed Land Classification Resolution (RS 25-02)

Bill will follow up with Joe Metzger

F. **Letter of support for HB304 –**

AC moves to approve submission of the letter of support for HB304, KZ seconds

Letter was amended to strike language about possible metrics to use in the study.

Motion to submit the letter, as amended, passes

MVD moves to extend meeting to 6:15, GK seconds, no objection, approved

H. Pike Mitigation Ideas

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026 FWC Officer Elections*

AC nominates PP to continue to be chair

No objections, PP will be chair in 2026

PP nominates AC to continue as vice-chair

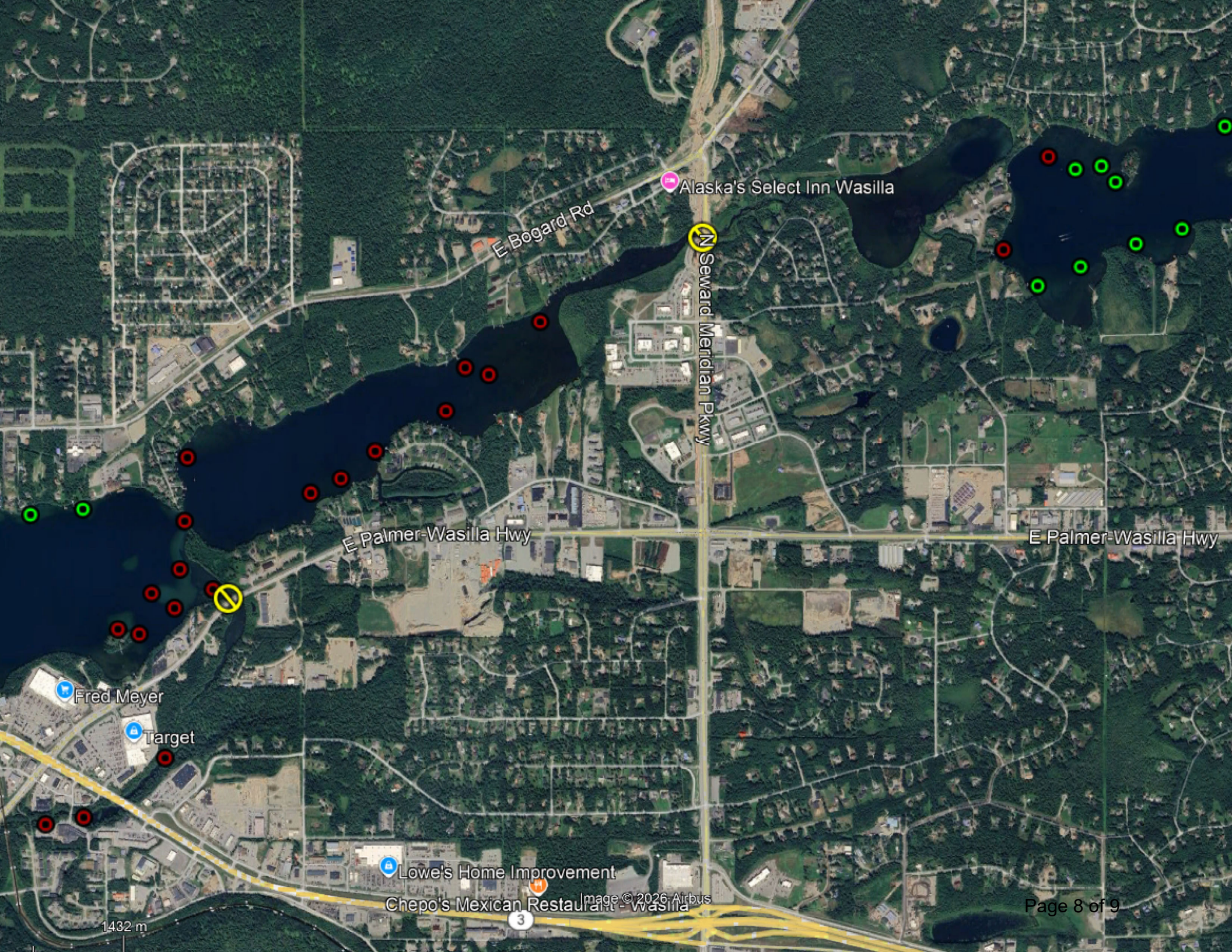
No objections, AC will be vice chair in 2026

X. MEMBER COMMENTS (10 minutes)

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: 4:00-6:00 PM

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MVD moves, AC seconds, no objection, meeting adjourned at 6:14pm.



Alaska's Select Inn Wasilla

E Bogard Rd

N Seward Meridian Pkwy

E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy

E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy

Fred Meyer

Target

Lowe's Home Improvement

Chepo's Mexican Restaurant - Wasilla

1432 m

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Image © 2026 Airbus

Mat-Su Borough Fish & Wildlife Commission Questions for ADF&G

(For the April 9 Meeting)

1. What were the dates for the most recent moose census and/or survey?
2. What is the most recent data for moose populations?
3. How do you best do these moose surveys in low snow years?
4. Nelchina caribou – status report on the herd, what are we seeing in habitat studies and what have we learned about ability for the herd to rebound based on experience with other herds.
5. Same questions as #4, but for Dall sheep.
6. Introduction of new game biologist. Are there management things we could do better in the Mat-Su?
7. What are the most common concerns and questions about wildlife you hear from Mat-Su residents?
8. How soon after the implementation of Same Day Airborne (SDA) predator control does the Department expect to see measurable changes in moose calf recruitment or overall population growth in GMUs 13 and 16? What specific indicators or benchmarks will be used to evaluate success?
9. Under what conditions would predator control efforts in GMUs 13 and 16 be expanded, modified, or reduced?
10. If moose population levels or calf recruitment do not trend as desired under the current liberal general season regulations, does the Department anticipate considering the implementation of bear predator control in GMU 16?
11. How is increasing development pressure being incorporated into long-term wildlife population planning within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough? Are there mitigation strategies in place to address challenges that have occurred in other regions with growing human populations and industrial development?
12. Considering climate change, land development, and increased human use, what does the Department identify as the most significant wildlife management challenge facing the Mat-Su Borough over the next 10 to 20 years?
13. Are there ways that the Matanuska Susitna Borough can assist the department, now or in the future, when thinking about sustainable wildlife populations and their supporting habitat?
14. Have there been any requests for information or requests for collaboration/consultation for any of the different development projects in the West Susitna Area? If so, what specific projects seem to be the main focus of the department regarding possible effects on wildlife and the habitat associated with the area?