MEETING MINUTES

WATER & WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING **October 14, 2026**

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

TIME **2:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Walden, P.E. Chair	**Danny Noland** Vice Chair	**Amanda Fleming**	**Terry Gorlick**
Gina Jorgensen	**Matthew Midgett**	**Dan Tucker**	

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Water and Wastewater Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at the DSJ Building at 350 East Dahlia Avenue in Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Mr. Bob Walden, P.E.

II. CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

- Mr. Bob Walden, P.E. - present
- Mr. Danny Noland
- Ms. Amanda Fleming - present
- Mr. Terry Gorlick - present
- Ms. Gina Jorgensen – present on Teams
- Mr. Matthew Midgett - present
- Mr. Dan Tucker – present, excused at 3:23 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dan Tucker moved an amendment to add to new business “VIIIc) Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Initiative through EPA Wastewater Technical Assistance”. The amendment passed without objection.

Mr. Terry Gorlick moved an amendment to add to new business “VIIId) Alaska’s Decentralized Wastewater Treatment - Conceptual Capital and Operating Cost Index”. The amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The agenda passed as amended without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bob Walden.

DRAFT

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

a) June 17, 2026 (regular meeting)

Minutes for the June 17, 2026, regular meeting were reviewed by the Board.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Mr. Terry Gorlick.

VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

VI. AGENCY STAFF REPORTS

- **City of Wasilla - Mr. Bob Walden, P.E., Public Works Deputy Director**

  HDL Engineering Consultants completed plans for Wasilla's Pressure Zone 4 water tower. Bidding is anticipated this winter, with construction scheduled for spring. The tower will provide fire-flow capacity needed for the planned hotel development.
  The Iditarod Elementary School well returned to service to help meet increased water demand.
  Stantec completed plans for two additional wastewater treatment plant digesters and a new control building. The City is pursuing state funding and loan or grant opportunities for winter bidding and anticipated spring construction.
  The wetlands discharge design project is nearing completion, pending Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation approval. Construction is anticipated in early spring.

- **City of Palmer - Mr. Matthew Midgett**

  The City of Palmer continues to advance the headworks upgrade, with construction anticipated to begin next year. Planning is also underway for a new reservoir scheduled for 2028. Additionally, for the first time since 2007, the treatment plant completed a 12-month period without a violation.

- **Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Ms. Amanda Fleming**

  Ms. Fleming reported that the annual wastewater discharge season was going well and entering its final month.
  Anaerobic cell pumping is scheduled for the last week of October.
  Summer erosion along the Susitna River affected Spur Road near a water main serving three customers. The main closed in early October, leaving them without water. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities plans riprap installation to mitigate erosion.
  The water treatment storage project continues. The Department of Natural Resources lots have been conveyed, and the Borough is finalizing a public request for proposals for engineering services.

- **Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Ms. Christina Sands**

  Reconsideration: According to Robert's Rules the reconsideration can only be made on the day, to be more precise it needs to be done during the meeting the original motion was made.
  Reconsideration for RS 26-01 was discussed during the Board's March 4, 2026, meeting. The reconsideration was submitted the following day, March 5, 2026. Since it is all set and done, there is nothing we can do to fix it. We move forward normally.

DRAFT

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person)

- Oran Woolley, Retired ADEC Water and Wastewater Engineer

There being no other persons to be heard Audience Participation was closed without objection.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a) Decision on continuance of subcommittee

Mr. Terry Gorlick moved to task Mr. Bob Walden to get in contact with the MSB Attorney to request guidance on when a subcommittee is required to conduct its discussions at a publicly noticed meeting and when it may work independently and present a report at the next Board meeting.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

b) Proposal regarding future meeting time

Ms. Amanda Fleming moved to change the meeting time to 12:30 p.m. or 1 p.m. depending on room availability.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

c) Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Initiative through EPA Wastewater Technical Assistance

Mr. Dan Tucker handed out an e-mail correspondence from Ms. Maura Cavagnario who is the EPA Contractor through Michael Baker. The email informed him, Mr. Terry Gorlick, and Ms. Amanda Fleming about a no-cost grant opportunity for technical assistance through EPA's Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Initiative.

There was no action taken.

d) Alaska's Decentralized Wastewater Treatment - Conceptual Capital and Operating Cost Index

Mr. Terry Gorlick handed out an informational sheet regarding the conceptual capital and operating cost index for residential, multifamily, subdivisions and lakeside collections for October 2026.

There was no action taken.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Discussion and possible adoption of RS26-01: A resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Wastewater Advisory Board requesting the Assembly's guidance in defining the board's goals and strategic plan.

Mr. Dan Tucker moved to amend by substitute RS 26-01 with his draft substitute for RS 26-01 titled: A resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Wastewater Advisory Board requesting Assembly's support/approval for renewing efforts to find and develop a septage processing solution.
Discussion ensued.
VOTE: The motion to substitute passed with Mr. Terry Gorlick opposed.

Ms. Amanda Fleming made a motion to modify RS 26-01 SUB.
VOTE: No objection
1st modification – Paragraph 3:
Replace "…they are not capable of absorbing the septage load that is not part of their …" with "… each facility currently cannot absorb outside…"
VOTE: No objection

2nd modification – Paragraph 4, 5, and 6:
Combine paragraph 4, 5, and 6 into two paragraphs.

DRAFT

Replace "Whereas, presently pumped sludge is hauled to the Municipality of Anchorage at considerable expense in equipment, fuel, road use, and manpower, and; Whereas, thousands of needless miles are driven daily carrying septage from the Valley into Anchorage for dumping and processing, and; " with "… and as a result millions of gallons of septage per day are hauled to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and; Whereas, thousands of required miles are driven daily carrying septage from the MSB into Anchorage for dumping and processing which increases cost for the consumer as a result of the increased fuel consumption, operating cost, transportation hours, and vehicle roadway impact and;"
VOTE: No objection

3rd modification – Paragraph 7

Split paragraph 7 into two different paragraphs.
Replace "Whereas, the Municipality of Anchorage will, in the near future, stop accepting septage due to changes in their EPA wastewater discharge permit. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough was officially notified of this change in 2014. The Matanuska-Susitna Valley currently has no other locations for treatment and disposal of approximately 7,500,000 gallons per day of septage generated annually from the 45,000-plus residential units located here; not to mention businesses. The Anchorage Water and Wastewater Treatment facility presently operates under an EPA permit that allows them to exceed conventional discharge limits, but that permit will expire and be replaced with a more stringent permit, and; " with "Whereas, the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Treatment facility currently operates under an EPA permit that is less restrictive than conventional discharge permits however, when this permit expires, the permit may be replaced with one that has more stringent limits making sludge treatment more complex. As a result, the Municipality of Anchorage may stop accepting septage from outside their municipality to reduce septage volume and overall expenses for their operations, and Whereas, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough was formally notified in 2014 that the Municipality of Anchorage would eventually no longer accept septage from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough however, efforts to prepare for this scenario were stalled at the August 17, 2022 Assembly meeting where staff were directed to discontinue efforts towards a septage treatment facility in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and;"
VOTE: No objection

4th modification – Paragraph 8 -13

Mr. Terry Gorlick moved to add at this point his handout "Additional decentralized, community scale, and regional wastewater treatment options" with further Whereas clauses.
VOTE: Motion failed with Mr. Terry Gorlick in favor.

Paragraph 8: Replace "Whereas, the Borough citizens and businesses would lose the ability to maintain the infrastructure this is responsible for the disposal of approximately 7,500,000 gallons per day of wastewater (sewage). As a result, the maintenance of said infrastructure would come to a health-hazardous halt within a matter of days when the disposal of septage in the Municipality of Anchorage was stopped, and;" with "Whereas, Matanuska-Susitna Borough citizens and businesses are at risk of losing the ability to maintain private infrastructure which ultimately creates the potential of a significant health-hazard within a matter of days of the Municipality of Anchorage terminating outside septage receiving and;"

Paragraph 9: scratched

Paragraph 10: Replace " … to alleviate the potential health and economic disaster that this would cause, and;…" with "… to treat Matanuska-Susitna Borough septage within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and;…".

Paragraph 11: scratched

Paragraph 12: scratched

Paragraph 13: scratch "… to this potential public-health disaster."

DRAFT

New paragraph: “Therefore be it further resolved, the Matanuska-Susitna Water and Wastewater Advisory Board requests Assembly guidance in defining future goals and requests strategic directions from the Assembly.”

VOTE: No objection

Mr. Matthew Midget moved to accept RS 26-01SUB as amended.

VOTE: The main motion passed without objection and Mr. Terry Gorlick abstained.

Mr. Bob Walden requested to add Mr. Terry Gorlick’s handout “Additional decentralized, community scale, and regional wastewater treatment options” to the next meeting’s agenda.

The Resolution is to be on the November 17, 2026, Assembly meeting agenda.

X. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Bob Walden, P.E.: Thanking everyone for hashing through RS 26-01.

Ms. Amanda Fleming: No comment

Mr. Terry Gorlick: We have one of the tougher boards because we have an inevitable situation and people don’t understand the process. Sometimes the hardest things to move forward with sometimes get the best results.

Ms. Gina Jorgensen: Thanks everyone for having worked on RS 26-01.

Mr. Matthew Midgett: No comment

XI. NEXT MEETING

December 16, 2026, 2:30 p.m., MSB Assembly Chambers

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Bob Walden.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

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Mr. Bob Walden, P.E., Chair

ATTESTED:

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Christina Sands, Board Administrative Support

DRAFT

antiquetuck@gmail.com Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 1:32:28 PM Alaska Daylight Time

Subject: EPA Wastewater Technical Assistance for Communities in AK
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 11:29:32 Alaska Daylight Time
From: Maura Cavagnaro <mcavagnaro@michaeldbaker.com>
To: antiquetuck@gmail.com <antiquetuck@gmail.com>, terry.gorlick@gmail.com <terry.gorlick@gmail.com>, amanda.fleming@matsugov.us <amanda.fleming@matsugov.us>
CC: Adam Orndorff <adam.orndorff@erg.com>
Attachments: image.png

Good morning,

I hope this message finds you well! I am reaching out because Buffalo Soapstone, Houston, Lake Louise, and Susitna North in Matanuska-Susitna Borough
may qualify for no-cost technical assistance through EPA's Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Initiative. The program offers support to eligible communities experiencing wastewater challenges, such as failing septic systems or areas without wastewater infrastructure.
Through this effort, EPA and its contractors can help assess current conditions, identify options, complete preliminary engineering work, and develop funding applications.

Buffalo Soapstone, Houston, Lake Louise, and Susitna North have been identified as potential candidates to receive technical assistance through this initiative. I am hoping to connect with someone from those communities and was wondering if you have
a good email address I can contact?

Communities can also request assistance directly by submitting EPA's Real Water Technical Assistance Form.

Thank you for your time and help!

Best regards,

Maura Cavagnaro
EPA Contractor
(202) 715-3859
mcavagnaro@michaeldbaker.com

From: Terry G
To: Christina Sands
Subject: Fwd: Waste water
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 2:22:31 PM
Attachments: 0B7A6A81-71C7-4FC1-BD8F-F0D3B8D1D3D3.png

[**EXTERNAL EMAIL** - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Terry G <terry.gorlick@gmail.com>
> **Date:** October 14, 2026 at 2:19:18 PM AKDT
> **To:** Christina Sands <Christina.Sands@matsu.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Waste water**

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Terry Gorlick <terryg@ak.net>
> **Date:** October 14, 2026 at 2:13:45 PM AKDT
> **To:** Terry Gorlick <terry.gorlick@gmail.com>
> **Subject: Waste water**

Alaska Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

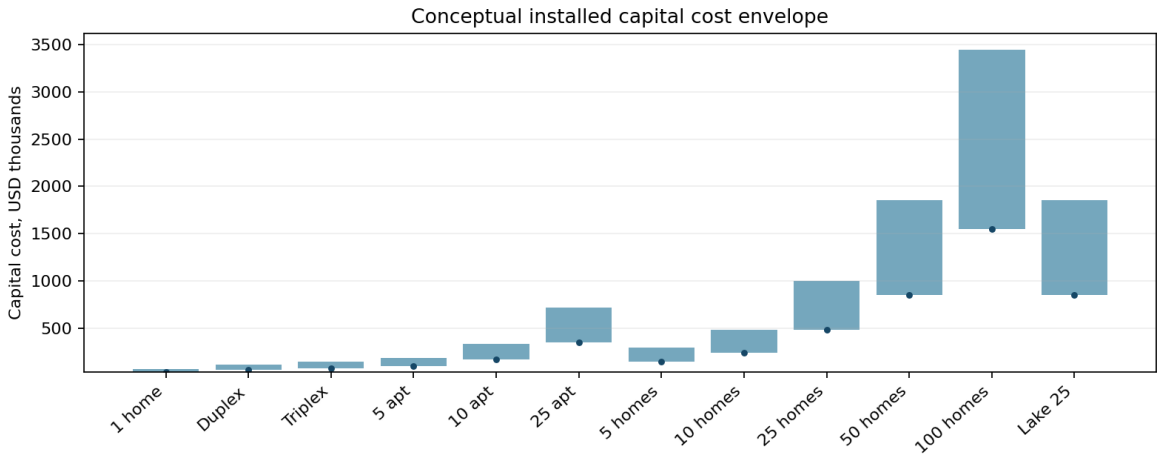
Conceptual capital and operating cost index | Residential, multifamily, subdivisions and lakeside collection | October 2026

ESTIMATING STATUS: Illustrative 2026 Alaska planning allowances, NOT vendor quotations, bids, engineering designs, DEC approvals, or verified installed market prices. USD; exclude land acquisition, financing, unusual rock/permafrost remediation and offsite utility upgrades.

1 | Cost and capacity index

Scenario	Design flow gpd	CAPEX low	CAPEX high	O&M / yr range
Single-family / 3 BR	450	$32k	$65k	$3k–$4k
Duplex / 2 x 3 BR	900	$55k	$110k	$3k–$7k
Triplex / 3 x 3 BR	1,350	$75k	$145k	$3k–$9k
5 apartments / 2 BR	1,500	$95k	$185k	$3k–$12k
10 apartments / 2 BR	3,000	$170k	$330k	$6k–$21k
25 apartments / 2 BR	7,500	$350k	$720k	$12k–$47k
5 homes / 3 BR	2,250	$145k	$290k	$5k–$19k
10 homes / mixed 2-4 BR	4,500	$240k	$480k	$8k–$31k
25 homes / mixed 2-4 BR	11,250	$480k	$1,000k	$17k–$65k
50 homes / mixed 2-4 BR	22,500	$850k	$1,850k	$30k–$120k
100 homes / mixed 2-4 BR	45,000	$1,550k	$3,450k	$54k–$224k
25 lakeside homes / 30-home plant	13,500	$850k	$1,850k	$30k–$120k

Cost range includes site collection and disposal assumptions; small systems may be much less expensive on easy sites and substantially more on constrained sites. For apartment cases assume two bedrooms/unit; mixed-home cases assume three bedrooms/home on average. Design flows are provisional and must be recalculated under applicable Alaska criteria.



2 | Excel-style capital line-item model (USD thousands)

Each category is allocated as a share of the midpoint capital estimate, for conceptual P&L-style comparison only. Site-specific engineering may radically alter these proportions, especially collection, lift stations, and disposal.

Single-family / 3 BR | 450 gpd

CAPEX line item	Allocation	Midpoint $000
Engineering, soils, permits	9%	$4.4
Treatment equipment and controls	29%	$14.1
Tanks, foundations, insulated enclosure	13%	$6.3
Collection piping / service connections	16%	$7.8
Lift stations and force mains	8%	$3.9
Effluent disposal / polishing	13%	$6.3
Electrical, heat, alarms, commissioning	6%	$2.9
Construction contingency	6%	$2.9
TOTAL CAPITAL	100%	$48.5

Low / base / high: $32k / $48k / $65k. Annual O&M allowance: $3k–$4k; this is a screening heuristic, not a maintenance quotation.

10 apartments / 2 BR | 3,000 gpd

CAPEX line item	Allocation	Midpoint $000
Engineering, soils, permits	9%	$22.5
Treatment equipment and controls	29%	$72.5
Tanks, foundations, insulated enclosure	13%	$32.5
Collection piping / service connections	16%	$40.0
Lift stations and force mains	8%	$20.0
Effluent disposal / polishing	13%	$32.5
Electrical, heat, alarms, commissioning	6%	$15.0
Construction contingency	6%	$15.0
TOTAL CAPITAL	100%	$250.0

Low / base / high: $170k / $250k / $330k. Annual O&M allowance: $6k–$21k; this is a screening heuristic, not a maintenance quotation.

25 homes / mixed 2-4 BR | 11,250 gpd

CAPEX line item	Allocation	Midpoint $000
Engineering, soils, permits	9%	$66.6
Treatment equipment and controls	29%	$214.6
Tanks, foundations, insulated enclosure	13%	$96.2

Collection piping / service connections	16%	$118.4
Lift stations and force mains	8%	$59.2
Effluent disposal / polishing	13%	$96.2
Electrical, heat, alarms, commissioning	6%	$44.4
Construction contingency	6%	$44.4
TOTAL CAPITAL	100%	$740.0

Low / base / high: $480k / $740k / $1,000k. Annual O&M allowance: $17k–$65k; this is a screening heuristic, not a maintenance quotation.

100 homes / mixed 2-4 BR | 45,000 gpd

CAPEX line item	Allocation	Midpoint $000
Engineering, soils, permits	9%	$225.0
Treatment equipment and controls	29%	$725.0
Tanks, foundations, insulated enclosure	13%	$325.0
Collection piping / service connections	16%	$400.0
Lift stations and force mains	8%	$200.0
Effluent disposal / polishing	13%	$325.0
Electrical, heat, alarms, commissioning	6%	$150.0
Construction contingency	6%	$150.0
TOTAL CAPITAL	100%	$2,500.0

Low / base / high: $1,550k / $2,500k / $3,450k. Annual O&M allowance: $54k–$224k; this is a screening heuristic, not a maintenance quotation.

25 lakeside homes / 30-home plant | 13,500 gpd

CAPEX line item	Allocation	Midpoint $000
Engineering, soils, permits	9%	$121.5
Treatment equipment and controls	29%	$391.5
Tanks, foundations, insulated enclosure	13%	$175.5
Collection piping / service connections	16%	$216.0
Lift stations and force mains	8%	$108.0
Effluent disposal / polishing	13%	$175.5
Electrical, heat, alarms, commissioning	6%	$81.0
Construction contingency	6%	$81.0
TOTAL CAPITAL	100%	$1,350.0

Low / base / high: $850k / $1,350k / $1,850k. Annual O&M allowance: $30k–$120k; this is a screening heuristic, not a maintenance quotation.

3 | Lakeside 25-home / 30-home-rated plant: special allowance

Planning design: 25 homes x 450 gpd = 11,250 gpd average design allowance; 30-home-rated treatment = 13,500 gpd nominal planning capacity. A peak-flow/equalization assessment is mandatory; nominal average capacity does not guarantee peak handling. One or more duplex grinder or septic-effluent lift stations, force mains, freeze protection and standby power may be required.

Lakeside concept component	Low $000	High $000
Engineering, hydrogeology, permits	70	140
25 laterals, collection, trenching	190	440
Distributed lifts, force main, telemetry	120	300
Container/module, treatment, controls	220	430
Insulation, foundation, heat, power	70	170
Discharge / soil disposal / polishing	100	210
Commissioning, contingency	80	160
TOTAL	$850	$1,850

Illustrative capital cost per connected home: $34,000–$74,000 (25 connected homes). Annual shared O&M allowance approximately $30,000–$120,000 total, or $100–$400 per home/month; reserve replacement funding and electricity should be modeled separately before setting assessments.

4 | Manufacturer / technology comparison (12 examples)

Manufacturer / family	Process / typical scale	Alaska and cold-weather screening
Orenco AdvanTex AX20	Recirculating textile filter	Documented Alaska distributor / installs
Orenco AX-Max	Modular textile filter	Alaska distributor; insulated siting needed
Orenco AX-Mobile	Portable enclosed textile filter	Documented Alyeska Alaska case
Norweco Singulair	Aerobic treatment unit	Verify Alaska acceptance and service
Infiltrator advanced treatment	Advanced aerobic/media systems	Verify model and Alaska service
BIOROCK	Passive fixed-media biofilter	Verify winter enclosure and Alaska acceptance
BioMicrobics FAST	Submerged fixed-film aerobic	Verify Alaska approvals by model
Bio-Microbics BioBarrier	Membrane bioreactor	Listed Anchorage supplier, model-specific
BioCycle Alaska	Aerobic advanced treatment	Listed Anchorage supplier
Quanics	Advanced onsite treatment	Listed Anchorage supplier
AquaPoint	Modular biological treatment	Obtain cold-climate reference
Newterra	Packaged MBR / modular WWTP	Obtain Alaska references and budget quote

This is a candidate technology list, not a list of 12 Alaska DEC-approved models. Confirm current approval pathway, NSF/ANSI 40/245 certification where applicable, operator availability, freeze protection, nitrogen performance, parts availability, and disposal permits before procurement.

5 | Operating P&L-style budget structure

Annual operating expense = electricity and heat + licensed operator/service contract + laboratory testing/reporting + sludge pumping/hauling + pumps/membranes/media replacement + communications/telemetry + insurance/administration + reserve for capital renewals. The O&M bands above are broad placeholders; reserve funding may need to be added. No treatment system eliminates the need for legally permitted effluent disposal.

6 | Regulatory and engineering decision gates

- Determine DEC permitting category and whether an Alaska-registered professional engineer must design and oversee the project; multifamily systems beyond four units generally require an engineer.
- Establish soil infiltration, groundwater elevation, setbacks, lake protection, discharge route, seasonal flows and treatment targets.
- Evaluate frost depth, insulated/heated modules, heat tracing, emergency storage, standby power, telemetry, winter access and service contracts.
- Compare clustered decentralized systems versus a single community plant using a 20-year net-present-cost analysis; include force-main lengths, easements and homeowner association governance.
- Do not assume advanced treatment automatically permits smaller lots or wetland/surface-water discharge; land-use, DEC and federal authorizations remain controlling.

7 | Sources and verification

- Alaska DEC, Engineered Wastewater Disposal Systems: https://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/engineering/engineered-systems/
- Alaska DEC, Certified Installers and engineer thresholds: https://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/engineering/certified-installer/
- Anchorage Tank, AdvanTex residential and commercial / AX-Max / AX-Mobile: https://anchoragetank.com/advantex-treatment-systems/
- Orenco, Alyeska Alaska AX-Mobile case: https://www.orenco.com/case-studies/alyeska-alaska
- Municipality of Anchorage, Approved Equipment Suppliers (Sept 2025): https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/development-services/wells-septic/On Site Lists/Equip Mnfrtrs1.pdf

Estimation method: author-generated planning allowances (not extracted from the linked source). Seek 3 budgetary Alaska-installed quotations for each capacity band and separate collection/disposal pricing before using these figures in a resolution, financial feasibility study, or procurement.

PRELIMINARY PLANNING ESTIMATE • NOT FOR DESIGN OR PROCUREMENT

From: Terry G
To: Christina Sands
Subject: Fwd: Waste
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 2:19:48 PM

[**EXTERNAL EMAIL** - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Terry Gorlick <terryg@ak.net>
Date: October 14, 2026 at 2:16:29 PM AKDT
To: Terry Gorlick <terry.gorlick@gmail.com>
Subject: Waste

Supplemental Amendment to Substitute Resolution 26-01

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Wastewater Advisory Board | Draft for consideration | October 13, 2026

Subject: Additional decentralized, community-scale, and regional wastewater treatment options

Status and intent: This is an additional option offered in support of Resolution 26-01, not a substitute for or replacement of its septage receiving, treatment, and disposal objectives. The original resolution remains unchanged.

Additional WHEREAS Clauses

WHEREAS, conventional on-site septic tanks and subsurface leach fields are not the only available methods for managing domestic wastewater, and properly engineered, permitted, operated, and maintained treatment technologies may provide additional solutions for residential, commercial, and community development;

WHEREAS, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, including packaged treatment plants, advanced treatment units, membrane bioreactors, biological treatment systems, and other permitted technologies, may serve individual residences, duplexes, multifamily buildings, apartment complexes, subdivisions, commercial facilities, and other developments;

WHEREAS, advanced wastewater treatment technologies may improve effluent quality and, for some approved configurations, reduce the land area needed for treatment and disposal, subject to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) requirements, site-specific engineering, and Borough land-use regulations;

WHEREAS, such systems may provide alternatives for failing or inadequate septic and leach-field systems, limited land area, poor soils, high groundwater, lakefront and island properties, and environmentally sensitive settings;

WHEREAS, wetlands-adjacent development and sensitive ecosystems require particular attention to

groundwater, surface-water, wetland, discharge, and other applicable protections, and advanced treatment does not by itself authorize development or discharge;

WHEREAS, engineered decentralized or community wastewater infrastructure may support consideration of smaller residential lots and alternative subdivision layouts where all treatment, disposal, environmental, and land-use requirements are satisfied;

WHEREAS, neighborhood and regional treatment plants, together with gravity sewers, low-pressure sewers, grinder pumps, and lift stations, may serve locations where individual on-lot systems are technically or economically impractical;

WHEREAS, decentralized treatment does not eliminate the need for residual solids handling, septage processing, and approved final effluent disposal, and should complement the Borough's septage management strategy;

WHEREAS, a review of technologies, Alaska engineering expertise, ownership and operations, life-cycle costs, and financing would help the Borough assess responsible wastewater infrastructure options;

Supplemental Resolved Clauses

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in addition to and without replacing, delaying, or diminishing the septage receiving, processing, treatment, and disposal measures requested in Substitute Resolution 26-01, the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board recommends that the Borough Assembly direct appropriate Borough personnel to evaluate decentralized, community-scale, and regional wastewater treatment alternatives as complementary infrastructure options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the evaluation address:

1. Technologies accepted, certified, permitted, or eligible for ADEC review for homes, duplexes, apartments, subdivisions, and commercial properties.

2. Alaska-qualified designers, engineers, installers, manufacturers' representatives, and operators with cold-climate experience.

3. Replacement of failing on-site systems and options for constrained, lakefront, island, high-groundwater, and sensitive sites.

4. Potential reduced lot sizes or alternative subdivision configurations, subject to applicable regulatory approvals.

5. Shared neighborhood, subdivision, and regional facilities where individual systems are infeasible.

6. Gravity collection, pressure sewers, grinder pumps, lift stations, and wastewater conveyance to central treatment sites.

7. Capacity, effluent quality, final disposal, discharge permits, solids handling, winter performance, power, redundancy, monitoring, maintenance, and lifecycle cost.

8. Potential pilot projects and candidate existing neighborhoods or new developments.

9. Public, private, utility, homeowner-association, and public-private ownership and operating models, including enforceable long-term maintenance and financial reserves.

10. Possible state, federal, Borough, utility, and private funding sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any phased plan maintain the original resolution's immediate septage

receiving and processing objectives as a separate priority, while also assessing decentralized and community-scale opportunities and longer-term regional wastewater infrastructure; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a preliminary technical and policy report on these supplemental options be provided to the Board for review and subsequent Assembly consideration, without conditioning or postponing action on the original resolution's septage management objectives.

Purpose: Expand the Borough's wastewater management choices as an additional option while preserving the full purpose and urgency of Substitute Resolution 26-01.

Action:

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 26-01SUB

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD REQUESTING ASSEMBLY'S SUPPORT/APPROVAL FOR RENEWING EFFORTS TO FIND AND DEVELOP A SEPTAGE PROCESSING SOLUTION.

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Assembly adopted ordinance 11-087 establishing the Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board (now known as the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board – WWAB) for the purpose of advising the Assembly on issues relating to wastewater and septage issues within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, Borough-wide, on-lot septic systems are the predominant means of sanitary sewage handling requires septic tank pumping and hauling of the septage/sludge (undissolved solids) for treatment and disposal at a full sewage treatment facility and;

WHEREAS, there are only four sewage treatment facilities in the entire MSB (Cities of Palmer, Wasilla, Talkeetna, and a 'facility-system' at the Goose Bay Prison) and each facility currently cannot absorb septage load outside their individual systems and;

WHEREAS, no alternate place or solution currently exists to receive this septage for final treatment and as a result millions of gallons of septage per day are hauled to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and;

WHEREAS, thousands of required miles are driven daily carrying septage from the MSB into Anchorage for dumping and processing which increases cost for the consumer as a result of the increased fuel consumption, operating cost, transportation hours, and vehicle roadway impacts and;

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Treatment facility currently operates under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permit that is less restrictive than conventional discharge permits however, when this permit expires, the permit may be replaced with one that has more stringent limits making sludge treatment more complex. As a result, the MOA may stop accepting septage from outside their municipality to reduce septage volume and overall expenses for their operations and;

WHEREAS, the MSB was informed in 2014 that the MOA may eventually no longer accept septage from the MSB however, efforts to prepare for this scenario were stalled at the August 17, 2022 Assembly meeting where staff were directed to discontinue efforts towards a septage treatment facility in the MSB and;

WHEREAS, MSB citizens and businesses are at risk of losing the ability to maintain private infrastructure which ultimately creates the potential of a significant health-hazard within a matter of days of the MOA terminating outside septage receiving and;

WHEREAS, for the economic, business, and physical health of the citizens of the MSB, there needs to be a plan to treat MSB septage within the MSB and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Wastewater Advisory Board requests the Assembly to refamiliarize and reengage with this problem and support actively pursuing a solution and;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Water and Wastewater Advisory Board requests Assembly guidance in defining future goals and requests strategic directions from the Assembly.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Water and Wastewater Advisory Board this 14th day of October, 2026.

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MR. BOB WALDEN, PE, Chair

ATTEST:

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CHRISTINA SANDS, Board Administrative Support

(SEAL)

The resolution passed.

Vote will need to be redone during December 16, 2026 meeting

YES: Fleming, Midget, Walden, and Jorgensen

NO: None

Abstain: Gorlick