



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Borough Manager

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**Date:** September 19, 2019  
**To:** Mayor and Assembly Members  
**From:** John Moosey, Borough Manager  
**Subject:** Borough Manager's Report



### Monthly Activity Report July, August 2019

#### Community Development Department

##### **Forest Management:**

Two temporary Personal Use Firewood Areas are flagged and open. One is along the Parks Highway north of Talkeetna; the second is off W. Susitna Parkway near Big Lake; these sites are specific for the removal and utilization of Spruce Bark Beetle killed trees. Additional sites will be opened as they are located and flagged.

Working with Capital Projects to open a Personal Use Firewood Area near Trunk Road to utilize timber removed for a public easement, the work is scheduled to be complete this summer.

Continued research and GIS mapping work for potential Spruce Bark Beetle killed timber removal efforts in collaboration with the State Forestry.

LRMD presented an updated draft Natural Resource Management (NRMU) plan to the assembly in August. The Plan was removed from the agenda by assembly for further legal review. Community Development will bring the plan back before assembly after this additional review.

The Land and Resource Management Division (LRMD) currently has two large timber sales available for over-the-counter (OTC) purchase. LRMD continues to speak with entities both telephonically and in person that have expressed interest in the timber opportunities. LRMD met with AIDEA and a private investor regarding access to land/minerals west of the Susitna River. LRMD continues to field many inquiries regarding removal and disposal of beetle-killed trees both on private and Borough properties.

LRMD currently has several timber salvage sales available for OTC purchase. Sizes range from about 18-35 acres. LRMD will offer additional spruce salvage parcels as time and opportunity allows. The NRM is also working with Capital Projects staff regarding potential timber harvest opportunities from the Springfield to Trunk Road easement.

The Chijuk Creek Timber Sale (MSB007375) terminated February 5, 2019. The LRMD will move legislation forward to exclude the Chijuk Creek NRMU from the Borough Annual allowable Cut requirement that expired July 19, 2019.

First came the Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force, then the spruce slash drop off points, and now the fires. Cleanup of debris and drop off points for fire-damaged items is in place. Fire suppression damage to MSB property (not roads or infrastructure) will be evaluated when it is safe to do field inspections within the fire activity area.

**MSB Wetlands Management:**

In July and August, the NRM attended and participated in discussions with Law and Planning regarding a Wetland Mitigation Land Use Ordinance.

**Land Management:**

*Land Acquisitions:* Acquisition of property located at 501 N. Tommy Moe Drive (located near Station 61) for the Department of Emergency Services dive rescue operations is scheduled to close August 23, 2019. New roofing was installed during July and August and building inspection items were completed by the owner.

*Land Conveyances:* Trapper Creek Community Association Water Project survey was submitted to platting in August. Legislation to convey the property at Less Than Fair Market Value is forthcoming this winter.

*Land Sales:* The old Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility located at 553 E. Auklet Ave, Palmer, sold under sealed competitive bid for cash. The property was conveyed on August 20, 2019. Price paid \$242,000 (appraised value was \$232,000).

*Over-the Counter Land Sale:* Sale is planned for late September/early October to include properties previously offered under sealed competitive bid. Over-the-Counter sale prices are based on current tax assessed value and are sold on a first come-first serve basis. The borough offers in-house financing for properties over \$2,000 to qualified buyers, with terms up to 10 years plus interest.

*Settlers Bay Coastal Park:* Staff conducted a compliance inspection with cooperation with the Great Land Trust for the conservation easement on the Settlers Bay Coastal Park. Borough staff took National Park Service and DNR Division of Parks staff on an inspection of the park to solicit input on park layout and improvements. Staff coordinated and led the development of the initial walking trail system at the park. We received a Bald Eagle Take permit from USFWS to develop view platforms and an ADA trail loop on top of the bluff overlooking Knik Arm in the park. Submitted an Alaska Historic Preservation Fund grant application for funding to conduct a cultural resources survey within the park. Oversaw installation of an automatic gate and restroom at the north parking area that was developed in July by staff.

Staff continued to assist the Jonesville Public Use Area Committee with drafting the management plan.

Staff finalized updates to the Land and Resources Management Division Policy and Procedures Manual.

Staff cleaned up five of the worst unauthorized dumpsites on borough land by hauling the trash to the landfill and hauling the junk cars to a junkyard. Also ditched and secured the sites to prevent further dumping.

Staff participated in a stakeholders meeting conducted by ADEC and EPA regarding additional site characterization activities at the old Matanuska Townsite. EPA will drill monitoring wells in and around the contaminated properties to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination.

Staff continues to monitor gravel purchases from Point MacKenzie the Alsop Pits. Three abandoned vehicles were removed from Borough Property in Wasilla and Big Lake, and additional vehicles have been tagged and are waiting removal.

Staff drafted three cooperative management agreements with Purdue University to install three seismic monitoring stations in Big Lake and Point MacKenzie to monitor seismic activity related to the November 2018 Earthquake.

Cleared 60+ hazard trees from the Settlers Bay Coastal Park.

**Permits, Access, Agreements and Easements:**

Staff adjudicated a land use permit for the Drone Racing League to make safety improvements at Jim Creek Recreation Area.

Staff began drafting an easement for the Emil Stancec Winter Trail System in Willow. This easement has been on hold pending resolution of a six-mile long trespass. The major elements of the trespass included unauthorized construction in wetlands and salmon bearing streams. Staff have coordinated with the trespasser, the state, CIRI, and Army Corps of Engineers to document the efforts to correct the violations. The Kashwitna Trespass has been alleviated and can now be made legal by dedication of a public easement. An additional easement will be dedicated over the remainder of the trail system that is winter only, and restricted to vehicles less than 1,500 lbs.

**Asset Management:**

Agriculture Advisory Board: The Agricultural Advisory Board adjourned for the summer and will reconvene on September 18, 2019. There is one opening on the board for Seat 8, Knowledge and/or Experience in Field Crops. Staff is working to find an applicant to fill the vacant seat.

Hatcher Pass Survey (ASLS 2002-01): All Points North, LLC, was awarded the Hatcher Pass Survey & Platting contract. The survey involves surveying and preparing a subdivision plat of over 6,000 acres of borough and state land within the Government Peak Unit. The preliminary plat hearing is set for the September 19, 2019, Platting Board meeting.

Hatcher Alpine Xperience (HAX): HAX submitted an application to convert the Management Agreement to a Less than Fair Market Value Lease (LFMV) on approximately 980 acres of borough-owned land to develop and operate facilities for an alpine ski area in the Government Peak Recreation Area, Northern Subunit. On August 26, 2019, the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board unanimously passed Resolution No. 19-05 in support of the LFMV lease. The next step is the Planning Commission introduction at the October 7, 2019, meeting and public hearing at the October 21, 2019, meeting.

FNBA Escrow and other accounts receivable: Monthly monitoring of 20 escrow accounts at FNBA. All accounts are current with no delinquencies.

Alaska Division of Lands (ADL) Leases: Staff continues to monitor 14 ADL leases for annual payments and bi-annual tax payments. The Land and Resource Management Division (L&RM) is now invoicing and processing all the annual payments for the leases. All accounts are current with no delinquencies.

Emergency (EMS) Leases: Staff continues to assist EMS with its leases on private land. The Bald Mountain Telecom remote site lease is under contract for a 5-year period. EMS is installing telecom equipment and a hut on InSite Towers, LLC. lease site on borough-owned land (mile 103 Parks Highway), and staff is working with DNR Leasing for a remote telecom site on Montana Mountain.

## **Tax Foreclosure**

**Tax and Local Improvement District (LID) Foreclosure Competitive Sale TS38:** The competitive sale is moving along with 33 of the initial 34 parcels. Parcels were posted the week of August 26<sup>th</sup>. One parcel has been repurchased by the former record owner since the beginning of the year. These parcels can still be repurchased by the former record owner until sold by the borough.

**Tax and LID Foreclosure Competitive Sale:** will be open September 27, 2019 at 8 am - October 25, 2019 at 12 noon. The sale will be held on October 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Bidders can pick-up a free bid packet in the Land & Resource Management office during regular business hours (\$5.00 for a mailed copy) or print an electronic copy from the Borough website [www.matsugov.us](http://www.matsugov.us); select "Property & Maps" under "Land Management" select "Land Sales" scroll down and select TS39 Tax & LID Foreclosure Sale. The Land & Resource Management Division sale office is open weekdays, September 27, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. until October 25, 2019, at 12 noon for potential bidders to review parcel information. All bidders must meet eligibility requirements and be present or represented at the sale on October 26, 2019 and closing on October 30, 2019.

*Sealed Bids accepted in the Land & Resource Management office during regular business hours September 27, 2019 until October 21, 2019, at 2 p.m. OUTCRY BID CARD purchases accepted in the Land & Resource Management office during regular business hours September 27, 2019 until October 25, 2019, at 12 noon.*

The Borough GIS department created a Land Sale Viewer on the Borough website that is linked to the Tax & LID Foreclosure Sale brochure. The viewer offers bidders the ability to view parcels with hill shade and aerial overlay, and a link to assessment details. The Viewer also provides up-to-date map information with regard to location, access, and whether parcels have been withdrawn.

**Clerk's Deed Parcels:** 2012 Tax/ 2013 LID Clerk's Deed parcels – none of the parcels was repurchased by the former record owner in the month of July or August. 2013 Tax/ 2014 LID Clerk's Deed parcels – none of the parcels was repurchased by the former record owner in the month of July or August. 2014 Tax/ 2015 LID Clerk's Deed parcels – none of the parcels were repurchased by the former record owners in the months of July or August.

**Abandoned/Hazardous/Junk & Trash Clerk's Deed Parcels:** Land & Resource Management has received a few complaints about junk & trash on clerk's deed properties this summer. Staff is working with Code Compliance to assess the situations.

## **Trails/GIS**

Community Development purchased a trail easement from a private land owner for a segment of the Ridge Trail System in Talkeetna to be used as part of the motorized bypass trail that will be put out for bid this fall.

## **Parks/Recreation**

The new online reservation system went live on July 1st. Staff is reporting that our patrons have been largely favorable in their response to the new system. We are also handling much less cash, which is a time savings and provides for more accurate accounting of funds.

The Parks Recreation and Trails Advisory Board met and discussed the process the borough uses to nominate/approve, survey and catalog trails in the valley. The Board also discussed the request by the City of Palmer to remove an unspecified number of trees at the Matanuska River Park Campground. Staff has concerns.

The manager is preparing a grant to the Trails and Parks Foundation to replace the damaged dock/viewing platform at Fish Creek/Jay Nolfi Park. In addition to the dock, pathways, riverbank stabilization and viewing area for the band stage are planned.

Mat Su Trails: July and August were very hot, dry, smoky, and dusty months for the Trail Crew; however, a lot was accomplished, despite the less than ideal working conditions.

Much of the work took place at the new Settlers Bay Coastal Park with assistance from Land Management Staff. When not battling clouds of horse flies, the Crew was able to finish cutting and graveling the .6 mile west perimeter trail that connects the north and west parking lots. This trail still needs to be compacted, but it will need to wait until more rain falls to ensure proper compaction. An interior connector trail was roughed in, as was part of the east perimeter trail.

The Trail Crew moved its operation to the Matanuska River Park to continue building the Bond funded Matanuska River Trail that was started last season. This trail is being built to American with Disabilities Act standards set by the US Forest Service and is a five foot wide crushed gravel pathway. This season the Crew was able to connect the trail into the campground and the end goal next year is to bring the trail to Eagle Street in Palmer near the beginning of the Railroad trail to Moose Creek.

Mat Su Parks: In July, five CXT restrooms were installed at Settlers Bay Coastal Park, Government Peak Recreation Area, Jim Creek RV Campground, West Butte Trailhead, and Hatcher Pass Alpine Ski Area.

Mat River Park Campground is doing well. With the fires around us, we saw an increase in campers that were displaced by the fires near Talkeetna and south on the Kenai Peninsula. This, combined with the State Fair, has increased campground usage.

Parks Northern Region: The month of July and August was our peak tourist season in the Northern parks. With the dry weather, we spent extra time watering the flowers and trees that we have here. Later in the month, we had rain and some cooler weather, which helped the outdoor plants.

With the hot weather, the river came up and we put up some temporary barriers to help deter people from falling in the river. It took daily maintenance to keep it up as people took the fencing down nightly.

Mat-Su Pools: The Wasilla pool was closed from August 12 through the 18th due to flooding in the pump room. Additional preventative measures are now in place and there is a sensor alert in the case of high water. During the closure, Orion construction took the time to seal existing leaks from the hot tub.

We had taken the month off for lessons due to the schedule change with the start of high school swimming and diving as well as the new school year. We did hold certification classes in lifeguarding and water safety instruction.

Brett Memorial Ice Arena: As many places around Alaska reached record hot temperatures in July and August, the ice arena continued to stay nice and cold. Our newly renovated refrigeration system was up to the task of keeping the ice sheet frozen throughout the heat wave.

Ice Arena Operation Assistants, Kerry Marcott and Adam Madson, worked diligently to make sure the building and our Zamboni ice resurfer are ready to take on the long season ahead.

Ice Arena Manager, Chris Sturgis, collaborated with Skating Program Director, Kaitlyn Randall, to finalize scheduling for the Learn to Skate classes and other ice arena programs.

The ice arena received some much-appreciated help from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation staff in August. Recreation Specialist, Warren Templin, organized his staff to transport the ice arena's Genie man-lift to and from

the Operations and Maintenance shop for an annual inspection. Outdoor Recreation Trails Specialist, Alan McClain, and staff came to the ice arena to remove several dead spruce trees that were near the building and public walkways.

**Libraries:** July and August are busy months of fun summer programming. The Community Concert Series hosted McKain Lakey, from Arkansas. Highlights for kids Summer Programs in July included miniature golf, miniature donkeys, a dance party, puppets, and visits to glaciers, museums and Hatcher Pass.

In late August, the Willow Library turned into the Incident Command Center for the fires burning in the area. While the library is still open, the Community Center is being used by those fighting the fire. Most of the libraries have slowed their kid's activities as schools started over the last few weeks. However, the After School Programs will begin again soon.

## **Capital Projects Department**

### **Project Management Division**

**Central FSA Fire Station/Training Complex 6-2 (\$13M):** This project includes a combined fire station, training center, and warehouse totaling approximately 40,000 square feet and is being constructed at the existing 6-2 location on Knik Goose Bay Road. Project delivery is through a Construction Manager/General Contract (CM/GC) with F-E Contracting. Construction started spring 2018 and is now substantially complete. The adjacent station will be aesthetically upgraded to match and will be complete by September. Open house is scheduled for Sept. 7th.

**Susitna Valley High School Siding Replacement:** This project replaced the siding on the exterior of the school. Construction was completed in time for school start.

**Knik Elementary and Goose Bay Elementary Schools Access Control:** Various fencing, gates, and pedestrian entrances were constructed across the entire two-school campus creating a control barrier between parking areas and playground/field areas to mitigate vandalism issues.

**Station 6-1 Improvements and Addition:** A contract was awarded to Wolf Architecture to provide architectural and engineering services for improving station layout and operations to include new apparatus bays for Fire and EMS. This project is approaching schematic design.

**Station 3-2 Communication Tower:** A communication tower will be installed at Station 3-2 to support emergency responder radio communication and will provide opportunities for future upgrades. The tower will arrive in September.

**Fireweed Building Roof Replacement:** This project replaces the deteriorated existing roof system. It significantly increases the insulation R Value. This project was awarded to Anchorage Roofing, construction started May 2019 and was substantially completed in July 2019.

**Safety Lighting Improvements at MSB Parks and Recreation Maintenance Shop:** A contract is in place to provide new site lighting in the enclosed yard and parking areas adjacent to the new maintenance shop. This work is currently being constructed with new light pole bases already installed. Work will continue and is expected to be complete in September.

**Iditarod Elementary 1% for the Arts:** MSB has received proposals from Alaskan artists to provide artwork for Iditarod Elementary School with proposals currently under review.

**Palmer Pool Improvements:** This project will significantly upgrade the Palmer pool. The lead designer is Architects Alaska and Axys Construction is the General Contractor with construction progressing. Underground plumbing is complete and plumbing, electrical, and HVAC rough-in is in progress.



Above: Palmer Pool

### **Earthquake Damage Project Status**

Houston Middle School: The structure has been inspected by the insurance company and the Borough's consultants. The bulk of the damage has been documented and agreed upon and negotiations with the insurance company are ongoing. A request for design proposals was advertised with proposals under evaluation. A scope of work must be finalized to award a full design contract.

### **Pre-Design & Engineering Division**

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) Segment 2: Construction of the rail embankment, ballast, ties, and rail will move forward when funding is available. ROW activity on the rest of the 32-mile project continues with title, platting, and survey work. Security measures are in place and regularly monitored to address trespass on the rail embankment. FEMA inspection occurred on June 28, 2019 to document any damage that occurred due to the November 2018 earthquake.

Trunk Road Extension South, Wasilla Creek Bridge: Bridge design is complete and easements needed have been acquired. Rock needed for bank stabilization has been partially acquired. Seeking funding for construction with one option being the 2018 Transportation Systems Bond Package. Other funding options are being explored.

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Trunk Road Connector (Katherine Drive): This project creates a connection between Trunk Road, Stringfield Drive, and Manhattan Drive. The purpose of this project is to relieve congestion at the intersection of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway and Trunk Road and provide secondary access to Midtown Estates subdivision. ROW acquisition is complete. Design is at 95% completion for clearing the corridor and building the first segment of the road embankment off Stringfield Road. Utilizing remaining funding from the 2013 School Access Bonds, this limited project will clear the corridor of trees and construct an approach off Stringfield to allow future construction access. Funding for continuation of construction was requested and approved in the 2018 Transportation Systems Bond Package and is pending required matching funds. The clearing contract was solicited for bids and award is pending. Construction will be complete this Fall.

Big Lake Boat Launch Repair and Parking Improvements: Bid on July 29, 2019 and the contract was awarded to Ficklin on August 12 for \$67,055.50. Plan on starting after Labor Day weekend around September 3 and being complete before October 31, 2019.

Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) Overflow Parking Lot: The design plans have been developed for a small overflow parking lot on the East side of Mountain Trails Drive which will add 47 parking places. This will relieve overcrowding during big events and provide separate parking for equestrian and mountain bike users. The cost estimate for construction is \$286,000 but funding has not been identified.

Reddane Avenue Extension (Port Mackenzie Rail Extension): The Reddane Avenue Extension contract was awarded to Psenak Construction. Most of the embankment construction occurred in fall of 2018. Remaining work on ditches and seeding took place the week of June 24, 2019. This road extension will provide direct construction access to the southern portion of Segment 2 of the PMRE project as well as improved access to the southern portion of the Agricultural District.



Bogard PH III – Resurfacing and Pedestrian Pathway: The purpose of this project is to resurface the existing road and add a pedestrian pathway connection from Trunk Road to Colony Middle School. The project was awarded to Northstar Paving and Excavation in January 2019 for \$450,890.92. The project is now substantially completed with minor clean up happening currently for final 6-30-19. As part of Bogard PH III, we also installed a connection from Folsom to the Bogard Pathway network for the Equestrian subdivision, above.



Seldon Road Extension: Phase II of this project is in ROW acquisition (currently at 90%). Design is at 95% complete. Construction funding is needed.

Yoder Road Riprap Replacement: Construction is in progress by JPC on the riprap embankment along the west side of the creek, and will be complete in Fall 2019.

Big Lake Fish Viewing Platform Improvements: Two designs were given to Community Development for review. One option, with a design life of 25 years, replaces the existing platform with all treated wood for around \$25,000. The second option, with a design life of 50 years, uses a treated wood substructure, aluminum



decking, and a galvanized hand rail system estimated around \$50,000. Community Development is applying for a grant to help moved forward with the 50-year design life option.



*Nelson Road Multi-Use Non-Motorized Pathway Phase I:* The purpose of this project is to add a pedestrian pathway connection from the Wasilla Creek Bridge west along Nelson Road to Mchetanz Elementary School. Low bid project contract went to Hybrid Construction AK for \$319,766.75. Construction was completed and accepted August 14, 2019, just in time for school to start on August 15.



*Lake Louise Boat Launch and Parking Improvements:* Dirtworks began construction of the boat launch on July 9, 2019 and was completed on August 8. Parking lot expansion construction began July 11 but the contractor hit permafrost. The engineers wanted the area stripped so melting would continue for a year. Will re-start the parking lot fill on July 7, 2020

*Willow Park Improvements:* Phase II Pavilion Construction - Steppers Construction, Inc. completed construction of the picnic pavilion overlooking the lake. Electrical service was extended to the pavilion and near the parking lot for future use. Three regular 8-foot picnic tables and one handicap picnic table are finished and were put into place April 26, 2019. Currently working on design for overlook, path extension to wetlands, and portable toilet cover.

*Big Lake Trail Bridges:* Diversified Construction has completed the substructure and about 50% of the girder placement. Decking and ramps will be finished this coming winter after freeze up due to the inability to access these remote sites while the ground is thawed. These bridges are located across Fish Creek (100-foot long) and Groomer's Gully (50-foot long) on T6 of the Iron Dog Trail in Big Lake.

*Larry Trails System:* Larry, Darlene, Alice, and Mabel Trails' construction low bid award to Valley General Construction for \$339,888.60. Utilities relocation costs: MEA \$57,000; Enstar \$140,000; and MTA \$181,000. Construction was substantially completed as of end of October 2018 and punch list items are currently being completed. Hydro seed was re-shot on June 5, 2019, July 2, and July 26. Seeding is having a very hard time germinating in this record dry and hot summer.

*Alcantra Sports Complex & Trail System and West Butte Recreation Area, Parking Lot Lighting:* Alcantra bid package went through the Purchasing Department in June 2019 and was opened July 10, 2019. With seven bidders, the base bid amount was over our funding amount. We are currently looking at reduction in scope or other cost-saving measures with the designer. Re-bid on August 16, 2019 with just the lighting in the east parking lot. We received a bid from Nodak Elec. & Const. for \$46,800. Moving forward with contract award toward the end of August; project to be complete by November 30.

*Bradley Road Bridge:* A preliminary investigation and cost estimate is complete. Construction funding of approximately \$700K is needed to replace the bridge.

*Septage:* A Preliminary Engineering Report is complete and recommends treating septage by combining it with solid waste organics as a waste-to-energy project. Septage treatment by anaerobic digestion is an option in conjunction with organic solid waste from the landfill. This could mitigate landfill costs associated with expansion, leachate, gas release, etc. for the municipal solid waste cells. We issued a Request for Expressions of Interest seeking interested potential private partners for a waste-to-energy facility, and received two responses that are considered potentially viable. A formal RFP is in development for solicitation this fall. The Wastewater & Septage Advisory Board last met at 2 p.m. on August 8, 2019 in the Assembly Chambers. The next meeting is scheduled for September 12 at 2 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

*Leachate Treatment Facility:* The design project was awarded to Clark Engineering, who completed the Preliminary Engineering Report in early 2018. Clark conducted a pilot study of the proposed filtration treatment system in September-October 2018 and results have been positive. A report summarizing the pilot test was submitted in January 2019, and the engineers submitted the 65% design documents. The project is advancing toward the 95% submittal, and construction is scheduled for summer 2020.

*Matanuska River Dike Reconstruction and Revetment Creation:* Preliminary Design is complete. Waiting for further instructions to complete design and move to construction in fall/early winter of 2019 when water levels will be at their lowest.

*Port MacKenzie Dock Repair:* Work to stabilize the damaged cells was completed in 2017. In 2018, a construction contract was awarded to Orion Marine to replace the damaged sheet piles. All of the sheet piles have been replaced, and the repair is complete. The contractor will finish demobilizing in fall 2019.

*Wasilla Creek Headwaters Trail:* Several meetings have occurred with state agencies including DNR and ADF&G, who co-manage the Moose Range and its trail system. Additional funding is available through the USFWS for stream bank restoration and through the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation for public involvement. A field trip was conducted in July 2019 with USFWS to further scope and discuss potential improvements. A public meeting is planned for November 2019.

*Cottonwood Creek Assessment:* This project is complete and was presented to the Planning Commission on June 19. The final report has been posted to the Borough website. Borough Staff also plans to work with the State and other organizations to investigate potential septic system sources along the creek.

*Wasilla Creek Stormwater Analysis:* In spring 2018, the Borough received a \$30K grant from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to complete a stormwater assessment of the Wasilla Creek drainage, similar to previous stormwater studies. DOWL Engineers was awarded the consulting contract in July and conducted fieldwork in fall 2018 and spring 2019. A draft report was submitted in December 2018 and the final report was submitted in June 2019. The next step will be to present the report to the Planning Commission.

*Cell 4 Construction:* The ADEC Clean Water Program provided a \$7 million loan to the Borough to fund the project. HDR was awarded the design contract and the design is complete. The construction contract was awarded to Southcentral Construction and is substantially complete. Leachate lagoon and bottom liner installation is complete, along with a new high voltage power line. Final completion will be achieved in fall 2019.

*2018 Road Bond Package:* On October 2, 2018, the Mat-Su voters approved a \$23.8 million bond package for constructing 10 projects with the caveat that a 50% match must be found before the bonds will be sold and the

projects developed. Resolutions of support from the City of Houston, the City of Wasilla, and the Meadow Lakes Community Council were received. The ten projects consist of:

- Aspen Ridge Road Extension to Palmer Fishhook Road
- Cheri Lake Drive/Karen Drive/King Arthur Drive Corridor Improvements
- Hemmer Road Upgrade and Extension, P-W Highway north to Bogard Road
- Hermon Road Upgrade and Extension, Parks Highway to Palmer-Wasilla Highway
- MSB School District Pedestrian Safety projects
- Seldon Road Extension, Phase II
- Smith Road Upgrade
- Tex-Al Drive Upgrade and Extension
- Trunk Road Connector/Katherine Drive
- Trunk Road Extension South, Phase III
- Funding for the 50% match is actively being sought.

## **Planning and Land Use Department**

### **Development Services (Code Compliance, Current Planning & Permitting)**

**Permit Center:** The mobile app has been updated to include all utility, construction, and encroachment permits, as well as right-of-way complaints in with the driveway permits so all are now displayed on one map based program. As a result the right-of-way inspectors are able to inspect work happening in our right-of-ways as it is occurring. Being onsite for installations should enhance compliance with road construction standards and in the long run should help reduce Borough repair expenses.

**Code Compliance Cases:** As of September 9, 2019, Code Compliance has 667 open cases. Of these, 325 are general complaints and 342 are junk and trash complaints. Between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> 29 cases were closed.

### **Current Planning:**

In the past 60 days, the following applications have been received for processing:

- 2 Marijuana Retail Conditional Use Permits;
- 1 Marijuana Cultivation Conditional Use Permits;
- 2 Junkyard Conditional Use Permits;
- 7 Legal Nonconforming Determinations for a Structure;
- 2 Tall Structure Conditional Use Permit;
- 2 Special Event Permits;
- 2 Temporary Noise Permits;
- 4 Multifamily Development Permits;
- 1 Denali SpUD Conditional Use Permit;
- 1 Talkeetna SpUD Conditional Use Permit;
- 1 Alcoholic Beverage Uses Conditional Use Permit;
- 3 Earth Materials Extraction Conditional Use Permits.

## **Floodplain Management and Hazard Reduction**

### **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program acquisition along Matanuska River:**

The two Sutton properties have been vacated and will be demolished in accordance with the grant in September. Once the demolition is finished the final reports will be completed and the Sutton grant will be closed. In the Butte, four properties have been acquired and two more properties are in the process of being acquired.

### **Flood Hazard Mapping project:**

The Assembly adopted the new Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and associated Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with an effective date of September 27, 2019.

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan Update project:**

The Hazard Mitigation Plan survey was launched at the beginning of June and closed July 31, 2019. The survey had an extraordinary response, with 584 responses from borough residents. The State of Alaska has funded a contractor to write the plan on the Borough's behalf, and a draft plan should be available for staff review this month.

This fall/winter we anticipate having open house meetings to present the draft plan and acquire feedback from the public on this planning effort. This plan allows the MSB to be eligible for FEMA Mitigation funds, which can be valuable in protecting lives and property in the event of a natural disaster.

## **Planning Division (Environmental, Comprehensive & Transportation Planning):**

### **Air Quality:**

Air quality has been on the mind of many this summer with the wild fire caused smoke. There have been several air quality advisories issued due to unhealthy levels of fine particulate matter.

### **Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC):**

The Assembly has approved filling the two FWC vacancies in August. Welcome to Bob Chlupach and Amber Allen as our new FWC members.

The Assembly also approved the Planning Department find monies for bolstering the FWC's budget in preparation for next February's state Board of Fisheries meetings.

### **Transportation:**

- MPO preparation: scope & budget complete; waiting on DOT response
- Community Transportation Program grants complete this week: Road Bond Match
- Coordinated Human Services Transportation: centralizing dispatch services among all transit and paratransit providers in MSB using an online platform—optimizes the currently ineffective system.
- KGB Road MOA complete; Seward Meridian MOA waiting on DOT signature

### **Census 2020 Preparations:**

Planning has received the 2020 Local Update of Census Address Feedback Summary report and data from the SU Census. Based on our submittal, the Census Bureau added 42,917 new addresses within the boundaries of the Mat-Su Borough to their records, and corrected another 270 addresses in their systems.

The Census 2020 New Construction Program will allow us to submit all NEW residential addresses added to our records between the time the Local Update of Census Addresses process closed and October 2019; the materials

should be sent in early September, and the borough will have 45 calendar days from receipt to submit all new address information.

The Borough and Cities have formed a Complete Count Committee to spread the importance of our citizens completing their census forms. This committee will develop a common message, and work with local community organizations and businesses to ensure that all Mat-Su residents are counted once, only once and in the right place.

**EPA Brownfields Redevelopment Grant Program:**

We have received a grant extension from the EPA to extend the grant to the end of December 2019. We have squared everything up with finance and the consultant to finish the project within that timeframe.

Five (5) Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) have been completed, and three (3) of four (4) Phase II ESAs. Planning Staff Chris Cole and Adam Bradway attended the Regional Brownfield Conference in Spokane, WA on May 29 & 30.

**Wasilla Train Depot Relocation Area Wide Plan:**

Draft document is currently being forwarded internally for review.

**Palmer Downtown Redevelopment Area Wide Plan:**

Still waiting for draft for internal review.

**West Papoose Lake Management Plan (LMP) Code Change Request:**

The Planning Division held a ballot for the proposed change to code. Ballots were sent to all properties within 600' of the lake. The votes were in majority against the change, so the process stopped and the Planning Division has not pursued any further action. We received one public records request for information on the votes. We worked with legal to produce a reply to the requester.

**Wasilla Creek Airpark Aviation Overlay Request:**

The Planning Division has received an application from Wasilla Creek Airpark to create an Aviation Activity Notice Area for the airport. Staff is reviewing the application and will be processing the request.

**Historical Preservation Commission (HPC):**

There are still two vacancies on the HPC - learn more at the [HPC web page](#).

Adam Bradway has been assigned as staff to the HPC, any related inquiries should be directed to him.

**Platting Division**

The Platting Division, as normal for this time of year, is very busy. Once again realizing that summer is ending and those projects should of have been started six months ago.

We have been working with AKDOT on all the road realignments and sorting out all the naming. Several new names are coming with the frontage roads and new exits off the Parks Highway. There will be adjustments for many residents in the Valley, with all the new roads, lights, and general realignment of major Highways and roads.

Our Platting numbers are still increasing and the piles of submitted plats were high. The morale is good as the Platting Officer brings in great smoked food and provides staff with coffee.

The Platting Board is still short one member for District 3.

## Public Works Department

### Operations and Maintenance:

#### Seldon Road Repave – Schrock Rd. to Lucille St. – RSA 28, Gold Trail

Seldon Road was repaved from Schrock to Lucille. The existing asphalt was reclaimed which provided a durable base to be used cost effectively to prepare the road for new asphalt. This section of road was in need of repairs due to failing asphalt and had been the site for numerous ‘bandaid’ repairs over the last few years in some areas.



#### Caswell Lakes Road at Caswell Creek Fish Passage Improvements – RSA 15, Caswell

Caswell Creek has been a targeted drainage system for fish passage improvements over the last few years. This project was the largest in the system and will help fish passage and flood conveyance between Middle and Upper Caswell Lakes.



#### Foothills Blvd. and Paddy Pl. Paving – RSA 17, Knik and 27, Meadow Lakes

Foothills Blvd. has been under improvement over the last three years. The Lucille Creek Fish Passage Improvement project was completed first, followed by Foothills Blvd. road improvements from Northern Rose to Paddy Pl. This season, the overall goal was completed by paving Foothills Blvd. and Paddy Pl. from Northern Rose to Betina Way. This work improved the route from Knik Goose Bay Rd. to Museum Dr., which accesses the Parks Hwy.



Pintail Dr. Paving – RSA 28, Gold Trail

Pintail Dr. was one of many roads in the Gold Trail Road Service Area in need of improvement. The road serves as a bus route and would break-up into poor condition in the spring time. The road was barely wide enough to pass two vehicles, and is now built to a standard width with improved drainage and materials to provide safe, enjoyable access for residents and other motorists. The Road Service Area prioritized paving as well for this project.



Solid Waste Division (SWD)

**Customers and Tonnages:**

25,834 customers used the Central Landfill (CLF), 14,667 customers used the Transfer Station system, 336 customers used the Hazardous Waste Reuse Program and 151 customers used the remote transfer sites in July and August, bringing the total Solid Waste customer count to 41,061 for the first 2 months of FY20.

Central Landfill accepted 14,115.17 of waste in July and August which includes 10,641.11 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), 2,747.32 tons of Construction and Demolition (C&D) material, 280.70 tons of Brush or Grass, 377.10 tons of Scrap Metal, 50.57 tons of Asbestos and other smaller classes of waste. The tonnage numbers include the tonnage hauled to the CLF from the Transfer Stations and Remote Sites, which required 255 trips in July and August.

*Revenues:* The division generated approximately \$1,985,929.42 in revenues, which includes gate fees and other sources of income such as gravel sales.

**Central Landfill Operations:**

*Fencing:* The fencing and gate upgrade task is the result of a compliance issue that was annotated on the FY18 ADEC landfill inspection regarding facility access control. The fence includes 1 ¼ mile of fencing as well as some repair and replacement of the commercial access gate and fence on the entrance side of the installation. The commercial gate is in the process of being installed now with the remainder of the fencing installation complete.

*Cell Four:* The cell four project is complete. The final work included bird mitigation measures. Birds (typically eagles, seagulls and ravens) were affecting antennae installed that transmit monitoring data from the cell to the Environmental Unit Control room.

**Environmental Operations:**

*Central Landfill:* During the July-August period, 398,589 gallons of leachate were hauled from the Central Landfill to the AWWU Turpin St. disposal facility. Dry weather has led to a decrease in leachate generation with an average daily generation of 3,174 gallons.

*Smith Ballfields:* The fifth of eight quarterly monitoring reports was submitted in August. A complete trend analysis will be performed after the March 2020 sampling event and submitted to ADEC in June 2020. The analysis provides the data to determine a course of corrective action for constituent level mitigation that exceeds the groundwater standards in the area adjacent to the old landfill. This assessment is mandated by ADEC. Estimated additional cost over FY19 and FY20 amounts to approximately \$40,000. Mitigation costs may range anywhere between \$1.5 and \$24 million dollars.

**Transfer Stations Operations:**

*Transfer Station Upgrades:* Upgrades were completed to our northern disposal sites on the Denali Highway, to include metal stairs, disposal guidelines and roadside identification signs.

**Community Clean Up and Recycling:**

*Recycling:* Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) has sold & shipped a total of 281 tons of recovered resources (recyclables) in FY20 and has a total of 357.6 tons of recovered resources in inventory. In July, 12.6 tons of recyclables were sold and shipped to local businesses, and 156.5 tons were sold and shipped out of state. In August, 25.1 tons of recyclables were shipped locally, and 86.6 tons were shipped out of state. 3,062 customers (resident/business) used the VCRS drive thru drop off in July and 3,247 customers (resident/business) in August for an FY20 total of 6,309 recycling customers.

1,660 Transfer Station customers dropped off recyclable materials in July and August. There were 15 hauls in July and 5 hauls in August for a total of 20 recycling can hauls to VCRS through the recycling partnership containers. The total recycled materials diverted from the CLF so far this FY is 18.37 tons.

*Illegal Dump Sites:* Three dumpsites were cleaned in July resulting in a total of 1.30 tons of waste.

*Community Cleanups:* Eight community cleanups took place in July bringing in 5.58 tons of waste to the CLF and 23 cubic yards of waste to the Transfer Stations.

*Abandoned Vehicles:* 15 abandoned vehicles were tagged in July and August and 12 of them were towed; however we have only received invoices for 4 of the 12 vehicles totaling \$1,000 spent on towing so far this fiscal year.



*Composting:* There was a two-day Master Composter class, and one Vermi-Compost class offered during August. September class schedules are filling up. The fall schedule can be found at [www.matsugov.us/recycling](http://www.matsugov.us/recycling).

*Events:* The Community Cleanup and Recycling booth was set up on August 17, 2019 at the Houston Fire Station for the Founders Day event. The intent was to provide community awareness of the benefit of recycling to reduce cost of waste disposal to borough residents and to answer questions relevant to community cleanups, illegal dumpsite cleanups, and abandoned car removals.

### **Special Program**

*Beetle Kill Spruce:* The Borough has specifically opened the old Sunshine Transfer Station, Big Lake and Central Landfill to free dumping of defensible space and beetle kill brush and trees until further notice. To date the program has collected approximately 450 cubic yards of material.

*McKinley/Deshka Fire Debris Disposal:* Debris caused by the McKinley/Deshka Fires is being accepted at no cost at the Central Landfill, Talkeetna, Willow and Big Lake Transfer Stations. Extended days of operations are offered at Willow Transfer Station to accommodate victims of the fires (now open Wed-Sun). A bid is being prepared to collect right of way debris and vehicles.

## **Information Technology Department**

### **Alaska Smart Community**

The most recent forum was August 13, 2019 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

The Agenda included:

- Alaska Disaster Response, Scott Nelson, Dept Military and Veterans Affairs
- Alaska Statewide Data Hub Project, Heather Crondahl, AK State OMB
- MS-ISAC-Cyber Threat Support for State/ Local/ Tribal Govt, Greta Nolbe
- Building Smart Communities, Sharon Stanley, CIO of Cobb County, GA
- Empowering an Analysis-Driven Organization, Adam Carnow, ESRI
- Immediately following the forum was the ESRI, GIS Manager's Workshop on 'Getting the Most Out of Your GIS Investment'.

The next meeting will be November 14, 2019 in Anchorage.

### **System Improvements Projects**

#### **Project Plastic [Financial Systems, eCommerce, and Point of Sales (POS)]:**

Almost 12,000 transactions for approximately \$900,000 have been processed since April 2017. eCommerce transactions volumes will exceed \$1,000,000 in the next few months.

Development of all funded eCommerce applications was completed on July 1, 2019. Development of additional capabilities such as integrated online Property Tax Payments Online will resume once funding becomes available.

**SharePoint Management, Process Improvement:** This is the Borough's new Enterprise tool for the Borough Intranet, collaboration and system integration. This system supports the Intranet with collaboration, Portfolio & Project Management, Process Improvement, Strategic Planning and Training (4Ps), Project Plastic (eCommerce), financial transparency, etc.

Additions and improvements to the Borough's Project Management site continued.

The Borough Policies site was restructured and enhanced to incorporate departmental policies and to improve its ease of use.

Expansion of the Borough's Portfolio Management site began in order to support the addition of Asset Inventories and expanded Service Catalogs.

**Public Wifi:** Plans are underway and an RFP has been released that will bring Public WiFi to 20 of MSB's physical locations. The need for public WiFi at Borough facilities has grown as citizens and employees expect to have internet connectivity no matter where they are. The ability to provide and maintain a robust security posture is driving the need for separate networks. Systems lacking the robust security required by the enterprise environment and applications and services that do not meet security requirements cannot be placed on the same network as critical infrastructure. Doing so introduces substantial risk. All services are schedule to be in place by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

**Remote Site Network Upgrades:** After a significant amount of network design work, a solution for future network connectivity at remote sites has been determined. Equipment has been ordered, received and configured. The first piece of equipment has been deployed. This project will align the remote site network architecture with the much improved security design in place at DSJ. Once these devices have been placed it will return IT functionality at remote sites to pre-incident levels and above. All equipment should be deployed by the end of 2019.

**Govern Tax Billing and Upgrade:** Taxes are the Borough's main source of revenue. We have hired a project manager, a business analyst and a database analyst to understand and document our current process and assist in writing a scope of work to have the processes improved.

The project continues to improve all processes that use Govern as their system of record. This includes Certification, Land Improvement Districts, Bed Tax, Foreclosures, Permitting, Platting, Tax Sale and more. As part of the documenting and improving each of these processes, we will be updating the system, Govern 10.8, to the latest version, Open Forms 6.1.

The project will provide efficiency to the following departments: Finance, Planning, Community Development, Public Works, and Information Technology. It will potentially add value to Emergency Services and Capital Projects as well.

Processes documented and improved thus far include Foreclosures, Bed Taxes, Marijuana Sales Taxes, Talkeetna Water & Sewer Billing, Area 36 Sales Taxes, LIDs, Collections and Self-Reported Taxes. Work continued documenting Tax Sales.

Certification and Tax Billing were tested from start to conclusion in April 2019 to verify no lingering effects from the Cyber Attack were present.

Harris Govern was in town training the project team in the use and installation of Govern's Open Forms software May 6-14, 2019.

Tax Roll Certification was completed on May 29, 2019. Tax Bills were produced and mailed on July 1, 2019. An After Action Review of the process was conducted on July 31, 2019. Process and program improvements from this review are continuing. All documentation has been updated and a re-test of the Certification and Tax Billing process will occur before the end of the calendar year.

Procurement of Project Team resources as budgeted was approved by the Assembly on August 6, 2019 and purchase orders are being finalized.

Configuration and testing of the development database was substantially completed and verification by Borough SMEs began.

Identification of screens and reports that fall within the 6.0 upgrade were identified and catalogued on the SharePoint Project Management site.

#### **MS-ISAC "Albert" Server:**

MS-ISAC offers a service that provides a 24x7 Security Operations Center (SOC) to its SLTT member organizations. MSB has implemented an "Albert" server on premise that is watching all of the traffic flowing through the network. This traffic is being monitored by the SOC and if anything nefarious is found the SOC notifies IT immediately so that we can take action. IT purchased and configured a stand-alone server that was

specifically built for this purpose. Having another set of skilled eyes looking at our network traffic full time increases our security posture significantly.

One of the primary attack vectors for hackers is phishing attacks. The Borough implemented a phish alert button within Outlook that lets end users easily notify IT when they believe they have received a suspicious email. This allows IT to take preventative actions or remediate as necessary.

The Borough Cyber Security Portfolio projects continue:

**Network Access Control:** Currently installed and being configured. This tool will support controlling what equipment is allowed on our network. This is a critical security component.

**Logging, monitoring and Alerting:** Improvements still under consideration.

**Policies:** Final edits presented to Manager and Directors.

There are many more Cyber Security enhancements that the IT team is working on. Our new reality dictates that we have a layered approach and continuous improvement as the nature of the threats continue to become more sophisticated. Four times the number and severity of attacks are predicted by the US Federal government for the coming year.

**Microsoft Teams:** Rollout of the Microsoft Teams application for collaboration has begun. The Teams application will be used for online meetings, videoconferencing, instant messaging and collaboration. Several groups such as DES, Planning, Solid Waste and Purchasing have been given access to the application and adoption is going well. Other groups will be rolled out through the end of 2019 at which point we hope to have everyone using Teams.

**Web Maps, Apps, and Data:** Web maps and apps provide simple access to information and tools, so that citizens can better understand their community and Borough employees can easily share data and processes with other organizations.

**ROW Permits and Inspections** – Focused on increasing permitting staff efficiency. This application supports a full paperless workflow allowing applicants to apply and submit the fee online. Development Services staff uses the app for internal data entry and mobile ROW Inspection data collection. Work continues to expand this application to other aspects Development Services duties.

**Emergency Management Special Needs User App** – A web app that assists Emergency Management staff to be better prepared to provide needed services to special needs population during emergency events such as floods, earthquake and wildfires.

**Beetle Kill Initiative Web Site** - This web map enabled site provides information regarding the spruce bark beetle infestation which is occurring across the MSB. Information provided includes areas affected, mitigation measures, disposal sites and appropriate fire protection measures.

### **Recurring Imagery and Topographic Acquisition Program**

**Imagery** - As part of the MSB GIS three-year imagery and elevation program, digital ortho-imagery acquisition is proceeding for the core area of the borough. Approximately 1,000 sq. miles of 1 foot and ½ foot imagery has been successfully acquired. After final processing imagery should be available for distribution later this summer. As in the past the updated imagery will support many MSB programs and will be provided to the public at nominal cost.

**Elevation (LiDAR)** - A proposal has been accepted by the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) for updated LiDAR data for 1,080 sq. mi of the MSB. The USGS will cost share nearly 1/2 of the collection and data processing costs for updated LiDAR and digital elevation models (DEM's). This will provide updated topographic elevation data for Borough projects and, as in the past, will be made available at nominal cost to private entities. The project specifications have been developed and acquisition is planned for this season.

**2020 Census: Census New Construction** - The MSB has agreed to participate in the 2020 Census New Construction program. This program will provide the census with updated information on newly constructed residences in an effort to ensure a more complete census count. This information will be developed in fall of 2019 for use in the 2020 census. GIS staff will support the Planning Department in development and analysis of this information.

### **Wildfire Support**

**2019 Wildfire Season** - The 2019 wildfire season has been very active, resulting in resource shortages for managing wildfires across the state. Through the mechanism of a cooperative agreement, three MSB staff have provided wildfire mapping support for Alaska Interagency Incident Management Teams (AKIMTs) for three fires statewide - Oregon Lakes Fire (Delta Jct.), Shovel Creek Fire (Fairbanks), Chalkyitsik Complex (Upper Yukon). As well as four fires in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Montana Creek Fire, Malaspina Fire, McKinley Fire, and Dëshka Fire (MSB). These staff members have received specialized online, classroom, and on the job training so they know how to best support the mapping needs of the AKIMTs. The Borough is reimbursed wages and gains valuable training for supporting smaller locally managed incidents. This important teamwork grew out of a desire by GIS staff to have better coordination with the AKIMTs following the 7,220-acre Sockeye Fire in 2015. This cooperative agreement and training allowed for a seamless transition from mapping completed by MSB staff during the early days of the McKinley and Dëshka Fires to the incoming AKIMT mapping staff, who continued to support the fires for several weeks.

## **Animal Care & Regulation**

### **Monthly Statistics:**

588 Animals brought into the shelter  
296 Animals adopted and/or rescued  
118 Animals returned to their families

*Please Microchip your pets, it's a sure ticket home! Just \$30 at the shelter.*

### **Highlights:**

July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Orientation
July 8 – 12	Garage Sale Preparation
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Garage Sale
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Tier 1 Adoption Day
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Training
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Settler's Bay Adoption event
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Adoption Day at Grape Tap in Wasilla
Aug. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Orientation
Aug. 10 <sup>th</sup>	VCA Far Country booth and adoption event
Aug 13 <sup>th</sup>	Settler's Bay Adoption day

Aug 17<sup>th</sup>

Volunteer training

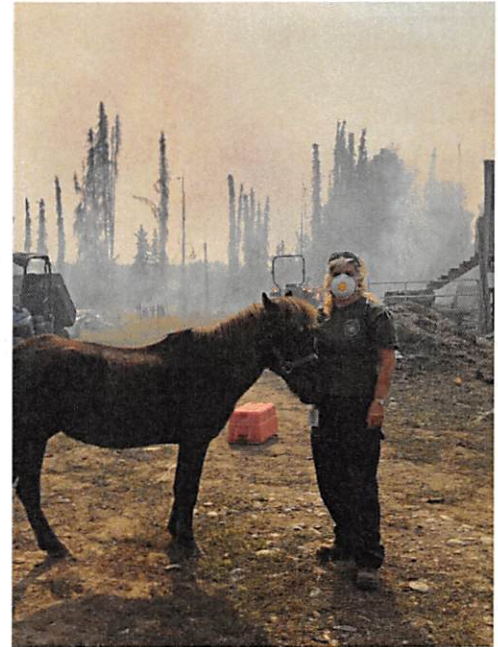
**Volunteer and Foster Thank You:**

We want to send out a big thank you note to our volunteers and foster families! In July, we had 9 foster families who have dedicated a total of 657 hours. We also had 114 volunteers who dedicated a total of 906 hours. Foster families and volunteers have dedicated a total of 1563 hours of service in May.

In August, we had 10 foster families who have dedicated a total of 774 hours for the month. We also had 79 volunteers who dedicated a total of 609 hours. Foster families and volunteers have dedicated a total of 1383 hours of service in June. **Thanks to them all for their dedicated service!**

**Departures:**

We are sad to say, after 14 years, Officer Darla Erskine has resigned from her position. Her official last day was September 13, 2019. She has been a staple for Animal Care, and helped create the shelter and enforcement to what it is today. To highlight just a few of her accomplishments, she’s saved drowning dogs, established a “food pantry” for those in need, created education outreach programs such as disaster preparedness and school education, rescued a pony during the McKinley fire (photo) and saved hundreds of animals from a hard life. The Borough has always been able to rely on her exceptional public service. She is greatly missed.



We were overwhelmed with the generosity of the public to donate food and animal supplies for the Mat-Su Fires. Thanks to your generosity we were able to help assist fire victims with pet supplies during the evacuations.

**Animal Care and Regulation Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	1:00am – 12:30pm	Girl Scout Presentation and Tour
Tuesday, October 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Volunteer Orientation
Wednesday, October 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am – 11:30pm	School Presentation and Tour
Thursday, October 17 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm – 2:30pm	Nursing Home Visit
Saturday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am – 4:30pm	Volunteer Training

Tuesday, October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am – 3:00pm	Academy Charter Volunteer Training
Wednesday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am – 12:00pm	Academy Charter Volunteer Training
Wednesday, October 24 <sup>th</sup>	1:45pm – 3:30pm	Dr. Whiton College Class
Wednesday, October 30 <sup>th</sup>	1:45pm – 3:30pm	Dr. Whiton College Class

## Department of Emergency Services (DES)

### July 2019

EMS Responses: 826

### August 2019

EMS Responses: 881

### **Operations:**

System Average 27 calls per day

Central: 53% / Lakes: 17%

East (Palmer / Butte / Sutton): 21%

North (Willow / Talkeetna / Trapper Creek): 9%

Finalized agreement with Delta Medical Transport (DMT) to assist with EMS coverage in the Lake Louise area. Supported the firefighting efforts at both the Montana Creek and Malaspina fires, we were able to maintain 24-hour coverage for both the fire crews and the community throughout the critical phases of the operation.

The two new remounted ambulances were equipped and placed into service. Representative from Stryker came to demonstrate the LUCAS-3 mechanical CPR device. It demonstrates significant advantages over the current Auto-Pulse device. We will be trialing two units in the Central and Palmer areas over the next 2-3 months.

Supported the firefighting efforts at the McKinley Fire 24/7 until relieved by the incoming IMT.

In conjunction with the on-site efforts of APV, supported the medical needs for the Alaska State Fair.

Staffing is consistent at 6 trucks. Additional personnel were available for both Forestry and Fair support.

Conducted an in-house CME audit to assess efficacy of training program with license compliance. MSB will meet or exceed state and national requirements for yearly training and/or licensure needs.

### **Training:**

The Battalion Training cycle which focused on mass casualty incidents. We conducted ICS and SALT triage refreshers in the mornings and two simulation scenarios in the afternoons for each battalion. The first was a two vehicle MVA with nine patients. The second was a simulated plane crash with multiple patients. We used a combination of low-fidelity manikins, high-fidelity manikins and live actors as patients. All the simulation training was conducted at Station 6-2 in adverse weather conditions. CMSFD participated in the first training session.

We completed the MSB EMT-2 Academy for our newly hired full-time EMT-2s. This course not only provided AK State EMT-2 training to our EMT-1s, but also provided the MSB EMS EMT-2 expanded scope of practice training and acted as a general academy to help familiarize our new hires with the department.

Battalion training cycle included trauma management and the “Mental Health First Aid” program. All full-time responders will be certified in this program as part of the CIT initiative.

Hosted the pilot “Medical First Responder” program for CMSFD.

Sent representatives to evaluate the Canine T-CCC course at Tier One, in order to research development of protocols to help support the law enforcement K-9s in the MSB.

Released two more personnel from their internships. All remaining interns are now in their final (2-man) phase.

### **Community Events:**

Participated in the "ORCA 19" joint exercise with the 103<sup>rd</sup> CST out of JBER. This was an all-hazards exercise promoting interoperability and COOP during a potential "incident of national significance." There were many valuable lessons on how to improve operational readiness and maintain operations during a large-scale incident. Working in conjunction with staff from Mat-Su Regional, MSB EMS provided training in "Hands Only CPR" and "Stop the Bleed" to approximately 2152 people during the Alaska State Fair, making it the most successful community training program in the state.

Developed and conducted a "Biker Down" trauma management program for civilian riders

### **Fire**

Conducted testing and interviews promoting 3 new full time Captains (Jamie Rodriguez, Don Thompson, Dave Reilly) and hiring 6 new Firefighter Driver Operators (Dillon Cook, Mike Kirgis, Katrina Knowlton, Ethan Keenan, Dustin Croft and Rane Larsen).

In partnership with Mat-Su Borough EMS trainer Jess Young, developed a new Mat-Su Borough Certified First Responder (CFR) course. This course will provide knowledge and skills for our personnel to better respond to, assist at EMS calls, and provide first responder capabilities as needed. First class is August 8<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is have all current active members, not already certified as EMT's, CFR certified by December 31, 2019. CFR will be required of all new personnel and a part of the BFF curriculum.

Crews are in three process of completing all required testing IE hose, fire pumps, and ladders

Crews responded to swan lake fire, Montana Creek fire, Malsapina Fire, and McKinley fire

Hosted State Juvenile Fire Setter Class

Conducted Rope Rescue class

413 Total Fire/Rescue calls in July

479 Total Fire/Rescue calls in August

### **Fire Code Office:**

73 new plan reviews

55 approved pan reviews

59 Building inspections

6 Fire Investigations

37 Platting Comments

### **Fire Preventions:**

Back to school event – 150 participants

Received 35 CO monitors and 30 combination smoke alarm/co monitors from Horseshoe Lake Fire Wise from a grant to that organization from the Big Lake Community Council.

Firefighters has been involved with the children's reading program at the Willow Library along with youth groups teaching fire prevention

Twin Peaks subdivision (40 people in the community participated).

Station tours(1)

Participated in the State Fair Parade ( Won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Public Service Category, Best in Show ) and State Fair (Fire Truck Display & Staffed Chief's Cabin).

### **Emergency Management**

Continue to work with State and FEMA for Earthquake recovery

Supported, participated in ORCA 2019 full scale exercise

Continue to move communications upgrades forward, broke ground on Station 3-2 tower

McKinley Fire response, recovery

EOC activation  
 COAD activation  
 Evacuation Accountability Call Center activation  
 Initial Damage Assessments  
 Debris Management Planning  
 Public Information  
 EM Staff and CERT volunteers attended and completed MyPI (My Preparedness Initiative) for teaching and presenting emergency preparedness and CERT programs to teen audiences

**Fleet Services:**

New Work Orders – 245  
 Completed Work Orders – 194  
 Total Open Work Orders – 353  
 Butte/Caswell annual PM Inspections in – process.  
 Backlog repairs continue  
 100% of Light Duty PM’s are now completed In-House  
 Winter Tire inventory in-process  
 Repairs completed on all apparatus involved with the Malaspina and Montana Creek fires.  
 One Technician received Emergency Services Support Tech of the Quarter  
 ASE/EVT testing continues in October  
 Diagnostic Link8 and Cummins INSITE Diagnostic Software training completed locally.  
 Advance Pro / Ford diagnosis training completed locally

**Water Rescue:**

Dive was paged out 11 times  
  
 The team participated in one public safety event in conjunction with the Kids Don't Float program and Alaska Pacific University outdoor program.  
  
 Stuck boat with a mild hypothermic on the Knik River – Rescued individuals  
  
 Nancy Lake drowning, young child  
  
 Provided about 50 hours of CPR instruction for the CPR tent at the fair.

**Finance Department**

	<u>Annual</u> <u>Adopted</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Amended</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Rev./Exp./Enc.</u>
<b><u>Areawide</u></b>			
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	104,218,930	104,218,930	53,543,882
Marijuana Sales Tax	800,000	800,000	205,035
Excise Taxes	7,509,000	7,509,000	943,739
Federal Payments	3,000,000	3,000,000	0
State Grants & Shared Revenues	2,289,000	2,289,000	553,160



Fees	7,770,800	7,770,800	680,830
Interest Earnings & Other	525,000	525,000	114,947
Recoveries & Transfers	1,806,304	1,806,304	194,113
<b>TOTAL AREAWIDE REVENUES</b>	<b>127,919,034</b>	<b>127,919,034</b>	<b>56,235,706</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Non Departmental	87,886,235	89,942,999	38,894,490
Assembly	7,588,529	7,548,529	1,676,125
Mayor	82,197	82,197	11,766
Information Technology	5,566,388	5,435,232	1,973,491
Finance	8,219,463	8,451,801	1,923,101
Planning	4,379,866	4,107,393	832,494
Public Safety	14,141,946	14,041,946	3,069,790
Public Works	2,051,991	2,051,991	675,356
Community Development	4,665,659	4,665,659	1,141,575
Capital Projects	2,713,930	2,713,930	498,104
<b>TOTAL AREAWIDE EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>137,296,204</b>	<b>139,041,677</b>	<b>50,696,291</b>
	<b>-9,377,170</b>	<b>-11,122,643</b>	<b>5,539,415</b>

**Non-Areawide**

<b>Revenues:</b>			
Property Taxes	4,518,000	4,518,000	2,403,499
State Grants & Shared Revenues	845,000	845,000	7,000
Fees & Other Miscellaneous Income	253,100	253,100	30,870
Interest Earnings & Miscellaneous	11,500	11,500	2,353
Recoveries	0	0	31,127
<b>TOTAL NON-AREAWIDE REVENUES</b>	<b>5,627,600</b>	<b>5,627,600</b>	<b>2,474,849</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Non Departmental	836,400	836,400	709,302
Assembly	2,778,935	2,778,935	626,089
Information Technology	194,424	194,424	65,921
Finance	2,000	2,000	0
Public Works	0	0	133
Community Development	1,686,835	1,686,835	486,589
<b>TOTAL NON-AREAWIDE EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,498,594</b>	<b>5,498,594</b>	<b>1,888,034</b>

**Contribution to Permanent Fund:**

	YTD	ADOPTED
341.800 Land Mgmt. Fees	1,500.00	10,000.00
343.360 Park Fees - Deshka Park	-	1,000.00
366.000 Wetland Bank Proceeds	408,812.57	870,000.00
366.410 (Gravel Sale Royalties)	(10,492.39)	(150,000.00)
	<u>399,820.18</u>	<u>731,000.00</u>
	25%	25%
	<u>99,955.05</u>	<u>182,750.00</u>

**Land Management****Revenues:**

Fees	71,000	71,000	1,516
Interest Earnings	38,000	38,000	2,788
Property Sales & Uses	870,000	870,000	408,813
Miscellaneous	1,500	1,500	0
Recoveries & Transfers	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL LAND MANAGEMENT REVENUES</b>	<b>980,500</b>	<b>980,500</b>	<b>413,116</b>

**Expenditures:**

Non Departmental	200,000	200,000	150,000
Community Development	1,499,718	1,499,718	140,803
<b>TOTAL LAND MGMT. EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,699,718</b>	<b>1,699,718</b>	<b>290,803</b>
	-719,218	-719,218	122,314
Budgeted Contribution to Permanent Fund	182,750	182,750	99,955

**Enhanced 911**

Revenues	1,786,500	1,786,500	1,219,748
Expenditures	1,675,701	1,675,701	1,144,697
	110,799	110,799	75,051

**Fire Fleet Maintenance**

Revenues	678,493	678,493	0
Expenditures	678,193	678,193	123,001
	300	300	-123,001

**Caswell Lakes FSA**

Revenues	351,540	351,540	174,780
Expenditures	443,720	443,720	100,726
	-92,180	-92,180	74,054

**West Lakes FSA**

Revenues	3,395,802	3,395,802	1,530,015
Expenditures	3,661,698	3,661,698	1,423,480
	-265,896	-265,896	106,535

**Central Mat-Su FSA**

Revenues	11,000,983	11,000,983	5,583,691
Expenditures	16,231,436	16,231,436	9,256,053
	-5,230,453	-5,230,453	-3,672,363

**Butte FSA**

Revenues	958,870	958,870	482,691
Expenditures	1,468,840	1,468,840	855,781
	-509,970	-509,970	-373,090

**Sutton FSA**

Revenues	238,500	238,500	115,306
Expenditures	285,620	285,620	61,885
	-47,120	-47,120	53,421

**Talkeetna FSA**

Revenues	384,370	384,370	222,739
Expenditures	511,303	511,303	190,086
	-126,933	-126,933	32,652

**Willow FSA**

Revenues	856,380	856,380	476,335
Expenditures	856,513	856,513	306,196
	-133	-133	170,138

**Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA**

Revenues	1,372,460	1,372,460	710,873
Expenditures	562,469	562,469	435,495
	809,991	809,991	275,379

**Road Service Administration**

Revenues	3,569,185	3,569,185	2,196
Expenditures	3,562,585	3,562,585	1,121,834
	6,600	6,600	-1,119,637

**Midway RSA**

Revenues	1,907,450	1,907,450	919,555
Expenditures	2,084,073	2,084,073	1,553,857
	-176,623	-176,623	-634,302

**Fairview RSA**

Revenues	1,277,890	1,277,890	639,213
Expenditures	1,346,222	1,346,222	1,012,889
	-68,332	-68,332	-373,677

**Caswell Lakes RSA**

Revenues	679,000	679,000	355,136
Expenditures	713,253	713,253	149,165
	-34,253	-34,253	205,972

**South Colony RSA**

Revenues	1,642,020	1,642,020	838,704
Expenditures	1,721,527	1,721,527	1,282,531
	-79,507	-79,507	-443,827

**Knik RSA**

Revenues	3,053,540	3,053,540	1,511,562
Expenditures	3,122,698	3,122,698	2,374,674
	-69,158	-69,158	-863,113

**Lazy Mountain RSA**

Revenues	260,060	260,060	135,683
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**Greater Willow RSA**

Revenues	972,690	972,690	528,429
Expenditures	1,083,198	1,083,198	708,782
	-110,508	-110,508	-180,354

**Big Lake RSA**

Revenues	1,325,130	1,325,130	705,393
Expenditures	1,435,440	1,435,440	826,520
	-110,310	-110,310	-121,127

**North Colony RSA**

Revenues	218,740	218,740	98,777
Expenditures	266,371	266,371	164,485
	-47,631	-47,631	-65,709

**Bogard RSA**

Revenues	1,906,120	1,906,120	969,635
Expenditures	2,029,396	2,029,396	1,392,489
	-123,276	-123,276	-422,855

**Greater Butte RSA**

Revenues	1,003,310	1,003,310	505,298
Expenditures	1,162,458	1,162,458	861,793
	-159,148	-159,148	-356,495

**Meadow Lakes RSA**

Revenues	2,124,030	2,124,030	1,048,761
Expenditures	2,213,494	2,213,494	1,592,329
	-89,464	-89,464	-543,568

**Gold Trails RSA**

Revenues	1,896,780	1,896,780	937,377
Expenditures	1,974,132	1,974,132	1,415,761
	-77,352	-77,352	-478,384

**Greater Talkeetna RSA**

Revenues	651,410	651,410	385,754
Expenditures	827,504	824,504	521,021
	-176,094	-173,094	-135,267

**Trapper Creek RSA**

Revenues	239,060	239,060	130,405
Expenditures	376,271	376,271	236,061
	-137,211	-137,211	-105,656

**Alpine RSA**

Revenues	266,700	266,700	132,854
Expenditures	323,788	323,788	151,323

	-57,088	-57,088	-18,469
<b><u>Talkeetna Flood Control Service Area</u></b>			
Revenues	31,730	31,730	19,275
Expenditures	53,680	53,680	27,132
	-21,950	-21,950	-7,857
<b><u>Point MacKenzie Service Area</u></b>			
Revenues	36,600	36,600	4,851
Expenditures	88,084	88,084	44,724
	-51,484	-51,484	-39,873
<b><u>Talkeetna Water/Sewer Service Area</u></b>			
Revenues	380,000	380,000	73,732
Expenditures	787,951	787,951	372,454
	-407,951	-407,951	-298,723
<b><u>Freedom Hills Subdivision RSA</u></b>			
Revenues	0	0	0
Expenditures	14,799	14,799	0
	-14,799	-14,799	0
<b><u>Circle View / Stampede Est.</u></b>			
Revenues	21,600	21,600	11,176
Expenditures	5,240	5,240	0
	16,360	16,360	11,176
<b><u>Chase Trail Service Area</u></b>			
Revenues	630	630	0
Expenditures	2,632	2,632	0
	-2,002	-2,002	0
<b><u>Roads Outside Service Areas</u></b>			
Revenues	0	0	0
Expenditures	95	95	0
	-95	-95	0
<b><u>Solid Waste</u></b>			
Revenues	10,707,326	10,707,326	986,257
Expenditures	10,041,271	10,041,271	4,635,071
	666,055	666,055	-3,648,814
<b><u>Port</u></b>			
Revenues	909,970	909,970	848,970
Expenditures	2,026,010	2,026,010	297,111
	-1,116,040	-1,116,040	551,859

## **Manager's Items of Administrative Interest**

Please see the following attached items of administrative interest:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Letter
- Local Disaster Emergency Declaration
- State of Alaska Emergency Declaration



# United States Department of the Interior



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/RD

Mr. John Moosey  
Manager, Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
350 E. Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

JUL 11 2019

Dear Mr. Moosey:

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with our Principal Deputy Director, Ms. Margaret Everson and for your willingness to share your perspective on the importance of the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership.

Ms. Everson has a particular interest in partnerships and the role of collaborative efforts in advancing the mission of the Service and the priorities of the Department of Interior. Your participation helped convey the important story of the Mat-Su Basin Habitat Partnership to Ms. Everson and how collaborative conservation and the use of science-based approaches can be effective in maintaining and restoring salmon habitat.

The accomplishments of the Mat-Su Basin Habitat Partnership are truly remarkable and Ms. Everson was very impressed with the diversity and commitment of the organizations involved in the partnership. Thank you again for providing a great experience for Ms. Everson and for your efforts to conserve and restore salmon habitat in the Mat-Su Valley.

I also appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the work of the Mat-Su Basin Habitat Partnership and very much enjoyed hearing the many perspectives and seeing firsthand, the outcome of our efforts. We are proud to work with you to sustain the ecological and economic values salmon bring to the Mat-Su Region and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely;

Gregory E. Siekaniec  
Regional Director

Matanuska Susitna Borough

JUL 15 2019

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## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Mayor

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8682 • Fax (907) 861-8669

[Vern.Halter@matsugov.us](mailto:Vern.Halter@matsugov.us)

## Local Disaster Emergency Declaration

Whereas, commencing on August 17, 2019, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough sustained severe threats to life and property from multiple wild fires in the Willow/Caswell area; and

Whereas, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is a political subdivision within the State of Alaska; and

Whereas, the following additional conditions exist as a result of the multiple wildfires in the Willow/Caswell area: disruption of intrastate transportation and tourism; electrical power interruption for prolonged periods; communication disruption for prolonged periods; property damage and loss; and environmental impacts due to wildfire; and


Whereas, the severity and magnitude of the multiple wildfires in the Willow/Caswell area is beyond the timely and effective response capability of the local resources and has hampered ability to obtain and maintain situational awareness related to damages; and


Therefore, be it resolved that the Borough Mayor and Borough Manager of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough do declare a Local Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, effective August 20, 2019.

Furthermore, it is requested that the Governor of the State of Alaska declare a Disaster Emergency to exist, as described in AS 26.23.020, and provide State Assistance to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the form of public assistance, individual assistance and other emergency resources to help the Borough in its response and recovery from this event.

Further, the undersigned certifies that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has expended its local resources as a result of this Local Disaster Emergency.

Signed the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019.

  
Vern Halter, Borough Mayor

  
John Moosey, Borough Manager

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001  
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-7450

Governor Michael J. Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

August 23, 2019

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Senate President  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 111  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 208  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Giessel and Speaker Edgmon:

On August 23, 2019, I declared a Disaster Emergency in response to widespread damages caused by the wildland fires in the communities of Willow, Caswell, and surrounding areas of the Matanuska Susitna Borough, and the imminent threat of damages from three wildland fires burning in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

These wildland fires began or escaped containment lines between August 17 and 18, 2019, and have required robust statewide emergency management efforts. A significant number of homes have been impacted by this disaster; therefore, I have authorized Individual Assistance, Temporary Housing, and disaster Public Assistance through my declaration. Funds from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) should be used to cope with this disaster as assistance to individuals and families, infrastructure repairs, and emergency response are critical to prevent serious threats to life, public health, and public safety.

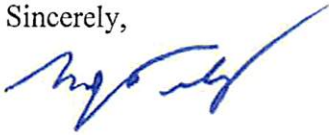
The costs associated with fire suppression are being addressed through the Department of Natural Resources and the Fire Suppression Fund. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved the State's request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant to assist with costs incurred for fire suppression activities for the McKinley and Deshka Landing fires in the Matanuska Susitna Borough. Costs associated with damage to homes and public infrastructure are not covered under these activities.

The wildland fires are still actively burning, and detailed damage assessments have not been completed. Until initial damage assessments can be completed, I am limiting expenditures from the DRF to \$1,000,000 pursuant to A.S. 26.23.020(i). A revised finance plan will be provided once the scope of damages is fully realized.

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
The Honorable Bryce Edgmon  
August 23, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

The Disaster Relief Fund balance is \$31,566,849.69. Therefore, a supplemental appropriation is not required at this time.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor

Enclosures: Disaster Declaration

cc: The Honorable Bert Stedman, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate  
The Honorable Natasha von Imhof, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate  
The Honorable Neal Foster, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House of  
Representatives  
The Honorable Jennifer Johnston, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House  
of Representatives  
The Honorable David Wilson, District D, Alaska State Senate  
The Honorable Mike Shower, District E, Alaska State Senate  
The Honorable Peter Micciche, District O, Alaska State Senate  
The Honorable Gary Stevens, District P, Alaska State Senate  
The Honorable Mark Neuman, District 8, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable David Eastman, District 10, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ben Carpenter, District 29, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Gary Knopp, District 30, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Sarah Vance, District 31, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Louise Stutes, District 32, Alaska State House of Representatives

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning on August 17, 2019, and continuing, multiple large wildland fires, exacerbated by extreme drought, caused widespread damage to the communities of Willow, Caswell, and surrounding areas of the Matanuska Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, beginning on August 18, 2019, and continuing, the Swan Lake Fire, burning since June 5, 2019, escaped containment lines and crossed portions of the Sterling Highway, threatening the communities of Sterling and Cooper Landing in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, two additional wildland fires near Homer ignited on August 17-18, 2019, and continue to threaten structures in the vicinity of Anchor Point and Homer in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, the response to the wildland fires is hampered by drought and record dry fuels, strong winds, and low humidity that affect the entire southcentral portion of the state, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, the wildland fires in the Matanuska Susitna Borough have damaged or destroyed multiple homes and structures, resulting in the mandatory evacuation of approximately 400 residents, many who have sought refuge in temporary shelters; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the damage is not yet fully realized due to active fire suppression efforts and substantial damage to private homes, public facilities, and communications and utility lines are anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska Susitna Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough have issued local declarations of disaster emergency as a result of these wildland fires in order to implement their disaster response and emergency protective measures to protect residents, and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist as a result of this disaster: a robust emergency response and management operation requiring substantial additional labor, equipment, and support costs to combat the fire; damage or destruction of multiple homes and other structures; evacuation of hundreds of residents and hundreds of pets/work animals; the sheltering of 84 residents in temporary shelters; severe damage to personal and real property; significant delays and closures of major highways roads, disruption of power, natural gas, communications, and other utility infrastructure requiring temporary and permanent repairs; and

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of this emergency are beyond the timely and effective response and recovery capability of local resources, immediate and emergency assistance is needed, and there are insufficient regularly appropriated local funds to cover these requirements.

THEREFORE, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2019, under authority granted by Alaska Statute 26.23.020 (c), I hereby declare that a condition of disaster emergency exists in the Matanuska Susitna Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and this condition is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a disaster declaration in order to provide assistance.

FURTHER, the Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is hereby authorized to utilize funds made available for these purposes which are considered necessary for disaster assistance to include the disaster Public Assistance, Individual Assistance and Temporary Housing Assistance programs, and necessary administrative and disaster management expenses. State funds are proposed to be spent under AS 26.23.020(i) and (k) and AS 26.23.050. The Commissioner of DMVA, or his designee, is the designated State Coordinator; and, is further authorized to task, as necessary, State departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Operations Plan; and is further authorized to exercise, as necessary, the provisions provided under Alaska Statutes 26.23.020(g)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9) and (10).

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor