

Monthly Report
Mayor Clay Walker
May 2016

State Assessor Marty McGee office visit

- On April 14th, Mr. McGee visited the Denali Borough offices in advance of further research to determine the Full and True Value of property within the Denali Borough. This determination is produced every October, but on occasion the department will perform more “on the ground” research, such as this year. The determination is used annually to calculate the borough’s contribution to school district funding.
- As Mr. McGee is involved with the Local Boundary Commission, the Municipal Land Trust and the DCRA (Division of Community and Regional Affairs), we also discussed the progress of the 14 (c) 3 land conveyance in Cantwell. While the borough does not have a formal role in the negotiation, the borough appreciates being informed of developments.

AK LNG Community Open House meetings in Cantwell and Healy

- I was able to attend the full meeting in Cantwell on April 18th and a few minutes of the Healy meeting in advance of the Planning Commission meeting on the 19th. The AKLNG (Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project) outreach group solicited comment on the proposed routing, explained the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) approval process and timelines, and addressed questions. The AKLNG website hosts routing maps. The Nenana Canyon and Denali National Park sections are receiving further attention and consideration. Sen. Murkowski sponsored the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, which passed the Senate. The bill includes language addressing the potential of a natural gas pipeline routing located within the Park.

Staff Trainings

- Annette Ziegman and Chris Noel attended a Procurement Academy in Fairbanks hosted by the State of Alaska. Topics included State contracts available to the borough, best practices and procurement checklists and reference sheets.
- Chris also attended the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s biannual Preparedness Conference. Attendance at this conference is both a requirement of the grant funding for his position and an excellent learning/networking opportunity.

LEPC meeting

- The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on May 4th. Twelve people were in attendance and a new member was recruited, creating an almost full roster. Agenda items included a presentation from the Park Geologist Denny Capps on the Healy landslide and a mass notification system recommendation. The LEPC had previously considered the value of a borough sponsored mass emergency notification system. They will be forwarding their recommendations to the Denali Borough Assembly for consideration.

School-To-Work Program

- Denali National Park was awarded the Hartzog Award honoring the School-To-Work program partnership with the Denali Borough School District. The Park hosted an ice cream social to mark the event. Partnerships were evident all around. The Park concessionaire bussed Tri-Valley students in to the event. Former graduates of the program employed at the park spoke to the lessons learned. Those who have made the program such a success for 16 years were honored. Congratulations to Denali NPS and DBSD for partnering to provide exceptional learning opportunities – a very well-deserved recognition.

Denali Borough 25th Anniversary Picnic

- Again, we are excited to host a summer celebration of the borough anniversary. Invitations were sent to 150 people who have served the borough in one manner or another. Also, a flyer inviting the public is being posted. Saturday May 21st from 1 to 4 p.m., with a Mayor's Welcome at 3 p.m. There will also be gifts for those who served and raffle prizes for the public.

Alaska Government Finance Officers Association Spring Conference

- AGFOA is holding its annual spring conference in Denali today and tomorrow. Annette is unable to attend this month's Assembly meeting due to conference commitments. Speakers include State Economist Neal Fried and Cynthia Franklin, Director of the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office. The group expects about 80 municipal finance officers to convene at the Grande Denali Lodge.

That's it for now.

Happy Spring, Clay