



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2023
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Borough Signed Five More National Opioid Settlement Agreements: Along with the previous national opioid agreements, which were with the opioid manufacturers and distributors, the Borough has signed five more national agreements, two with additional distributors and three with pharmacies. They include: Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. The Borough has signed participation agreements to join these settlements. Payments for these pharmacies are scheduled to be received from one to 15 years, depending on the preference of the corporation.

MatSu Opioid Needs Assessment Committee: The Borough Manager formed a new ad hoc committee to create a prioritized MatSu Opioid Needs Assessment. The committee had their first organizational meeting on March 24 and created their plan for the assessment. Their plan will include at least two widely publicized public meetings, and from those meetings the committee will prioritize the opioid remediation needs in the MatSu. Those results will be brought to the Assembly for their use in determining what areas of need to apply the Borough's Opioid Settlement funds to.

Committee members and at least one opioid remediation area of expertise are:

- **TREATMENT** - Karl Soderstrom, CEO True North Recovery
- **RECOVERY** - James Savage, Director of Operations at Dylan's Place/Day 1 Center (Recovery/detox treatment/Withdrawal Management)
- **HARM REDUCTION** - Dawn Deaver, Registered Nurse - Mat-Su Public Health Center
- **PRIMARY PREVENTION** - Leslie Chisholm, LCSW, MSB School District Mental and Behavioral Health Supervisor
- **PRIMARY PREVENTION** (Non-voting member) – Vanessa Schachle, Student Advisory Board to the MSB School District
- **MULTIPLE AREAS OF REMEDIATION** - Michael Carson, President Mat-Su Opioid Task Force; VP True North Recovery

Landfill Fee Waiver: At the Saturday March 11 strategic planning session, there was discussion to waive landfill fees for one week to encourage more disposal in the community. This idea as presented would be very difficult for the landfill to manage mostly due to staffing required for the anticipated volume of residents that may take advantage of the free disposal. It may also cause some residents to save their trash for disposal during that week.

Staff looked at options that could reasonably be performed and still provide free disposal. It was recognized that we already have a coupon program that offers a discount for disposal over a longer period of time. A reasonable solution was determined that would still encourage more free disposal over a longer period of time by increasing the value of the coupon.

The coupon program has many advantages. Residents are accustomed to the program. It offers free disposal while not requiring extra staffing to manage. It operates over a 3-month period making the disposal convenient for the residents to use when it is convenient for them.

Therefore, Solid Waste will plan to increase the coupon amount from the current \$8 to \$15 or 1 free cubic yard of disposal during the next coupon cycle. By providing a dollar or volumetric amount, the coupon becomes more versatile to use at the landfill to pay for a weighted disposal, at any site for disposal of bags, or at a transfer site for up to 1 cubic yard of disposal. Solid Waste estimates the direct cost of uncollected fees due to this proposed coupon value will increase from \$75,000 to approximately \$180,000.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Finance

- [As banks collapse, Anchorage should not take on new debt](#)
The Alaska Landmine

Assembly

- [Assembly kills change to materials extraction permit](#)
KTNA
- [Gravel extraction ordinance pulled, going back to the drawing board](#)
Frontiersman

Schools

- [Houston High School officially opens](#)
Frontiersman
- [4 years after Anchorage earthquake, Hoston has a new school building](#)
Alaska Public Media
- [Career Tech high School offers options to students seeking more out of school](#)
Frontiersman

Industrial Development

- [West Susitna access project would open vast land area to recreation, economic development](#)
Frontiersman

Port MacKenzie

- [Port MacKenzie project continues to have potential](#)
Frontiersman

Fisheries

- [Unprecedented closures threaten setnet way of life](#)
Peninsula Clarion

State

- [Annual test of Alaska's tsunami warning system scheduled for Wednesday](#)
KTOO

Big Cabbage Radio

- [Inside the Borough: Bike and Pedestrian Plan](#)

Future Events:

- March 31, 2023, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., West Susitna Access Project Community Meeting, 2530 E. Parks Highway, Wasilla