



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

## Office of the Borough Manager

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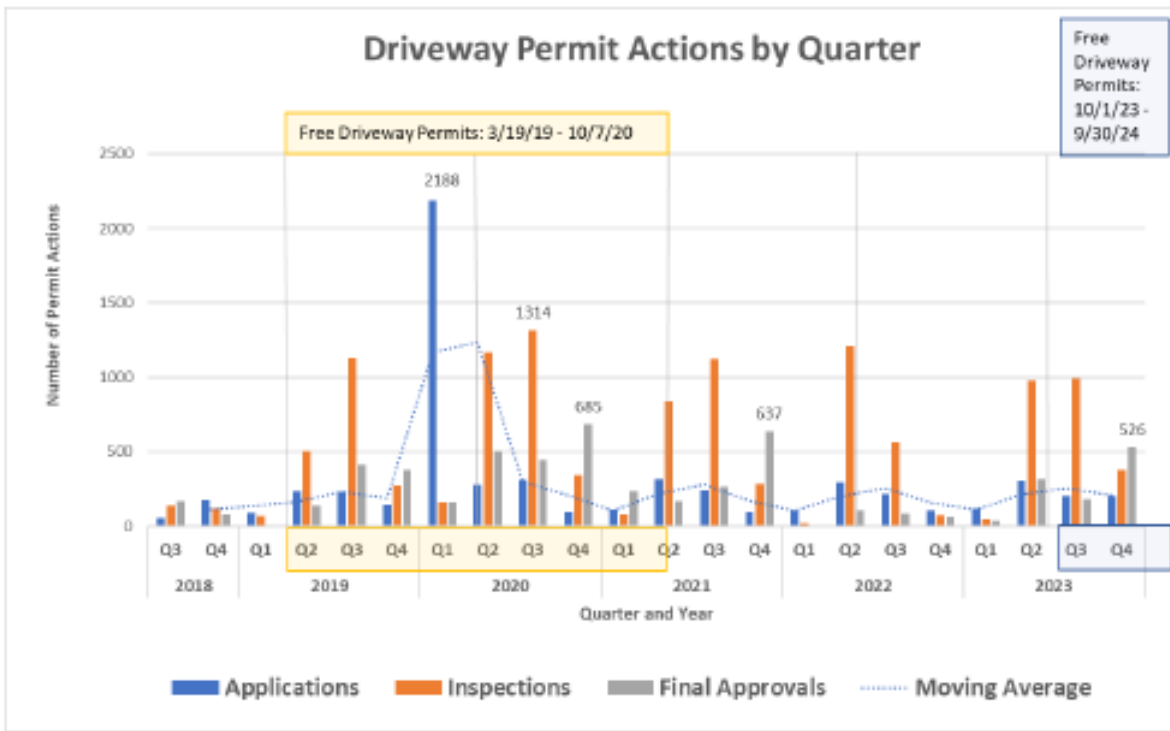
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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2024  
 TO: Mayor and Assembly  
 FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
 RE: Manager's Weekly Post

### Driveway Permits Update:



**Metal Collection:** We collect metal year-round at the Big Lake transfer site and at the Central Landfill. During the summer months, from June 1 to September 30, we collect metal at Willow and Talkeetna transfer sites. Approximately 30 days ago, we were asked by Talkeetna folks if we would be willing to collect scrap metal year-round. There are many challenges with that, mostly due to weather and the size of the site, along with maintaining the container and transporting it. We agreed to try it, and if we don't have any problems, we will extend the collection in Talkeetna to year-round.

No other sites have a separate metal collection. This is mostly due to the transport costs and the availability of current sites that are reasonably located and can accept metal for the rest of the Borough.

**Jonesville Public Use Area (PUA) Update:** The Borough Manager, staff, and the Mat-Su Governor’s Office Director met with State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff on January 9 to discuss progress on the Jonesville PUA and Moose Range Plan. DNR expects to complete the Moose Range Plan (which includes the Jonesville PUA) later this summer. DNR agreed to provide the Borough a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) for a portion of the Jonesville PUA that would allow the Borough to pursue grant funding opportunities to develop and construct an outdoor shooting range. The (CMA) requires public notice, so within the next couple of months, DNR will likely issue a public notice for comment for the CMA. This allows the plan approval and grant applications to occur concurrently. Once the plan is complete, DNR intends to move to developing regulations to support the plan. That work will take at least a year to develop. The most optimistic timeline at this point is as follows:

Moose Range Plan Approval (DNR)	Summer/Fall 2024
Pursue grant opportunities (MSB)	Spring/Summer 2024
Advance outdoor shooting range design (MSB)	Spring/Summer 2024
Complete design (MSB)	Early 2025
Develop regulations to support outdoor range (DNR)	2024-2025
Determine operational considerations (oversight, etc.)	2024-2025
Construct shooting range (MSB)	Summer 2025

**Fish & Wildlife Commission Quarterly Update:** During the fourth quarter of 2023, the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) met four times: October 19. Regular meeting; November 16 Regular meeting; December 7 Special meeting – Fishing Season Summary with Alaska Department of Fish & Game; December 14 Regular meeting.

The FWC did not discuss game issues in these meetings and has instead been focused on preparations for the 2024 Board of Fisheries (BOF) Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting that will be held February 23-March 6, 2024. The FWC developed a work plan, hired a consultant, and created and printed the new 2024 It Takes Fish To Make Fish booklet. In conjunction, the FWC also submitted comments regarding the Eklutna Hydro project, presented at the 2024 Mat-Su Salmon Symposium, facilitated the 2023 Fishing Season Summary meeting with ADF&G (noted above), and submitted formal comments regarding Federal Management of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Cook Inlet. At the first 2024 meeting, the FWC will begin discussing a 2023 Game Season Summary meeting with ADF&G in the first half of 2024.

**Port Quarterly Update:** The following information is provided to keep the Assembly apprised of ongoing operations, maintenance, and business development at the Port during the 2nd Quarter of FY24 (October - December).

**FY24 Operating Costs and Revenues:**

<b>2nd Qtr Operating Costs:</b>	<b>\$93,196.46</b>
<b>2nd Qtr Revenues:</b>	<b>\$53,186.53</b>

Dockage	Wharfage	Storage	Leases/Permits
\$1,066.34	\$3,122.75	\$0	\$48,997.44

2nd Quarter FY24 Vessel Traffic: Northern Gravel & Asphalt brought in their last barge for the year in October to transport salt from Port MacKenzie. Cruz Construction off-loaded two barges of containers, rolling stock and bulk cargo at the end of October.

Upcoming Vessel Traffic (3rd Quarter FY24): We do not anticipate any vessel traffic during January to the end of March. We will expect salt and cement ships in April or May of 2024 as well as several barges.

Maintenance:

Bathymetric/Hydrographic Survey

- A Hydrographic survey of the barge and deep-draft docks to the north and south was recently completed by eTrac. This survey is done at regular intervals so we are able to compare the data from previous years bathymetry and monitor the seafloor near our facility for any changes. We still do not require any dredging at Port MacKenzie.

**Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

**MSBSD**

- AK Students want books back on shelves while suit proceeds  
Bloomberg law
- Parents and students move to return books back to school library  
Frontiersman

**Energy Development**

- Could a new AK coal power plant be climate friendly?  
Alaska Beacon

**Infrastructure**

- AK transportation leaders weigh Knik Arm tunnel  
Alaska Beacon
- AK transportation leaders taking another look at a Knik Arm tunnel  
AK Public Media

**Fisheries**

- Five Mat-Su Lakes opening to catch stocked trout  
Alaska Sporting Journal

**Jobs**

- AK rising unemployment linked to seasonal jobs  
Alaska Business

## Cities

- Ribbon Cutting for new railroad depot in Wasilla  
Frontiersman

## Mayor and Assembly

- Mayor honors 60th anniversary of establishment of MSB  
Frontiersman
- Mat-Su to offer coupon for \$25 off trash dumping  
ADN

## Radio

- IT Director Leah Jones on Big Cabbage Radio

## Video

- (revised edition) 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough

## Future Events:

- Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan Meeting, Thurs., January 11, from 6pm to 8pm, Su-Valley Jr./Sr. High School.  
For more information see [MSB Comprehensive Plan Update \(matsugov.us\)](https://www.matsugov.us/MSB-Comprehensive-Plan-Update) or [Kelsey.Anderson@matsugov.us](mailto:Kelsey.Anderson@matsugov.us)
- Mat-Su Transportation Fair, Raven Hall, Alaska State Fairgrounds, Thurs., January 25, 3pm - 7pm. (Use the Red Gate of the Alaska State Fairgrounds to get to Raven Hall.)