

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WASTEWATER & SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Bob Walden, Vice Chair
Gina Jorgensen
Dan Tucker

Amanda Fleming
Matthew Midgett

Terry Gorlick
Danny Noland

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

March 6, 2024

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

2:30 p.m.

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- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM
 - III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - V. NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS
 - VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 - VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. December 13, 2023
 - VIII. REVIEW OF BOROUGH MANAGER'S COMMENTS FROM WSAB SPECIAL MEETING ON 11/30/2023
 - IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*Three minutes per person*)
 - X. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS
 - XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - XII. NEW BUSINESS
 - XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD
 - XIV. NEXT MEETING
 - A. Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 2:30 p.m.
 - XV. ADJOURNMENT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WASTEWATER & SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Mike Campfield, Chair
Danny Noland

Bob Walden, Vice Chair
Dan Tucker

Gina Jorgensen

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

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

December 13, 2023

2:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the DSJ Building at 350 East Dahlia Avenue in Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. by Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E.

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E.

Ms. Gina Jorgensen (present telephonically)

Mr. Danny Noland (arrived at 2:43 p.m.)

Mr. Dan Tucker

Mr. Bob Walden

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda, by Mr. Walden. Seconded by Mr. Tucker.

VOTE: No objections. The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Campfield.

V. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Matt Midgett, Utility Foreman, City of Palmer

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. November 30, 2023 (Special Meeting)

Minutes for the November 30, 2023 Special Meeting were reviewed by the Board.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented, by Mr. Tucker.

Seconded by Mr. Walden.

VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

VII. PRESENTATION

A. Presenter: Robert Walden

Topic: City of Wasilla Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mr. Walden presented an update regarding the City of Wasilla's Wastewater Treatment Plant. He explained the current ADEC permit which allows them to treat up to 400,000 gallons per day. They are working to extend that permit. Mr. Walden pointed out that the weakness of their system is the lack of another digester. A possible plan is to turn their unused clarifier into another digester.

Another goal the City of Wasilla is pursuing is to include joint pump vaults to decrease the maintenance work.

This year they acquired for operational expansion an additional 0.5 mile parcel which is needed for wetlands treatment. Three acres of this parcel will be used to build a new system, so that the overflow of the old system can be pumped into the new system or can be used as a redundancy as needed for repairs to the old system. Out of the 5-7 years of planning and construction, they are about 2 years into the project.

Additionally, the City of Wasilla is in the process of purchasing 12-14 additional sewer easements from local property owners. This will allow construction of containment dikes to slow down the water flow and allow additional treatment time and travel distance.

Mr. Walden also provided information on the City of Wasilla's water system since this might be added to the Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board's scope of work. The goal is to connect City of Wasilla's system with the City of Palmer's system.

To date, the City of Wasilla has received grant funding in the amount of five million dollars.

For additional information, please refer to the presentation attached to these minutes.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*Three minutes per person*)

None.

IX. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS

A. City of Wasilla – Mr. Bob Walden, P.E., Public Works Deputy Director

Covered in the presentation.

B. Mat-Su Borough – Mr. Mike Campfield

MSB Manager still considering adding the water systems to the Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board's scope of work.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Dan Tucker: There is some progress.

Mr. Bob Walden: Mr. Walden would like to utilize Borough grant writers to secure additional grant funds to address the community's wastewater and septage needs. He suggests the WSAB could present legislation to the Assembly in order to receive additional funding as well as to show presence before the Assembly.

Ms. Gina Jorgensen: Good meeting and sees some headway.

Mr. Danny Noland: Heard some good news during the meeting. Keep haulers updated on progress.

Mr. Mike Campfield: Thanks everyone for coming; looks forward to City of Palmer joining the discussion.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

A. March 6, 2023, 2:30 p.m., MSB Assembly Chambers

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting, by Mr. Tucker. Seconded by Mr. Walden

Vote: No objections. The meeting was adjourned at 15:14 p.m.

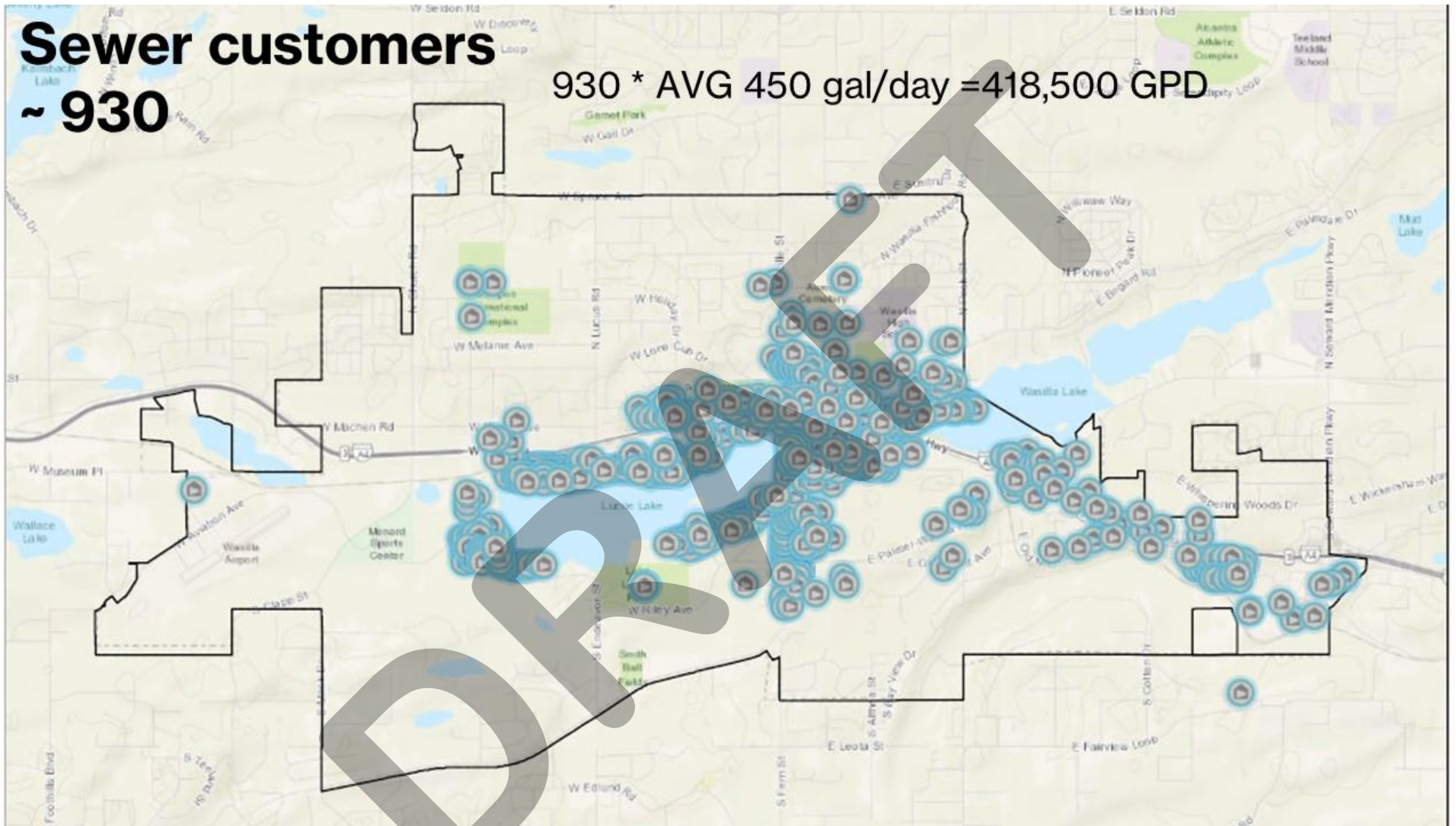
Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E., Chair

ATTESTED:

Elaine M. Flagg, Board Administrative Support

Sewer customers ~ 930

930 * AVG 450 gal/day = 418,500 GPD





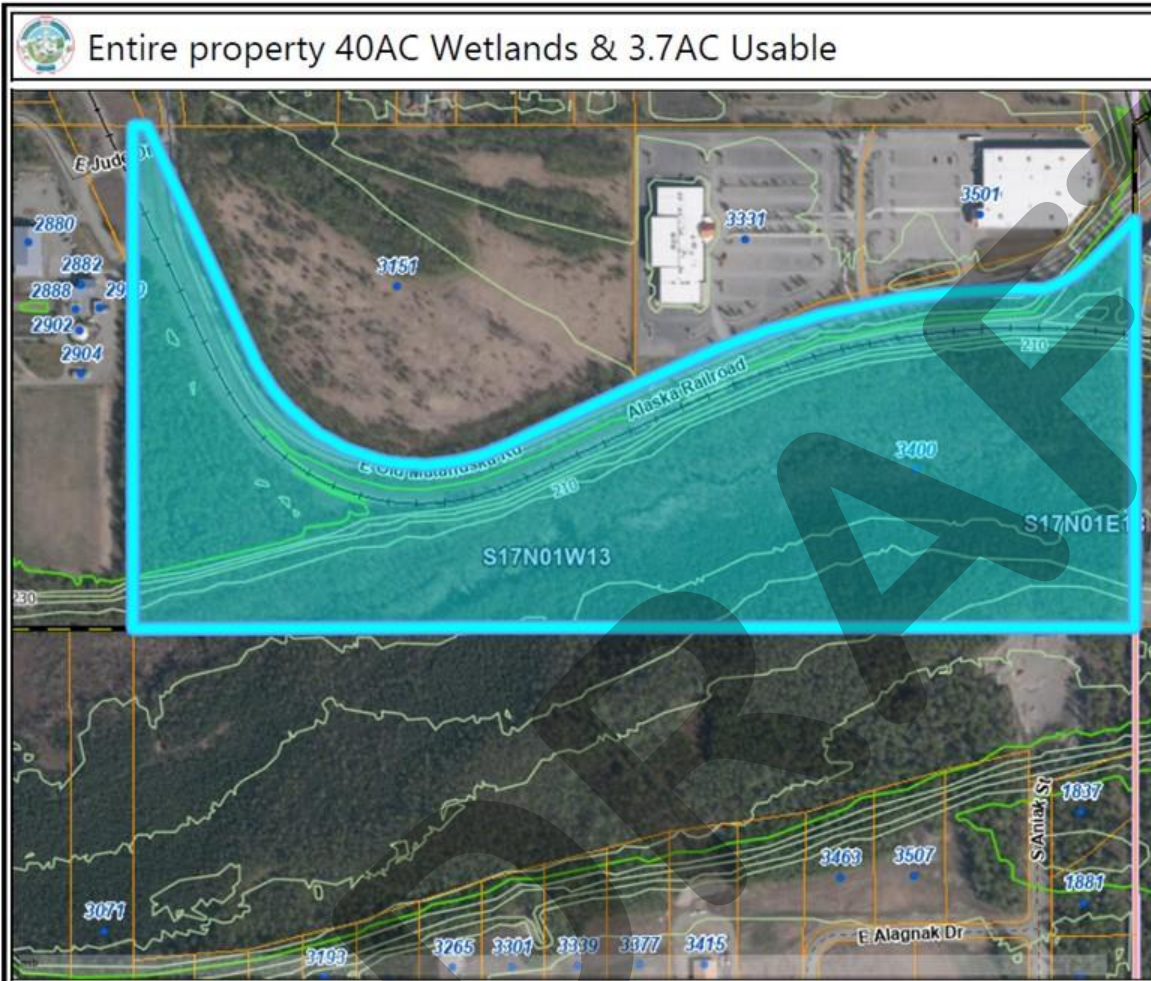
**City of Wasilla
Wastewater
Treatment Plant
ADEC permit
#9622-DB006
Not to exceed
400,000 GPD**



**2017, Purchase 69
AC started ADEC
Pilot program
surface discharge
treatment**



Existing Sewer treatment operations easements

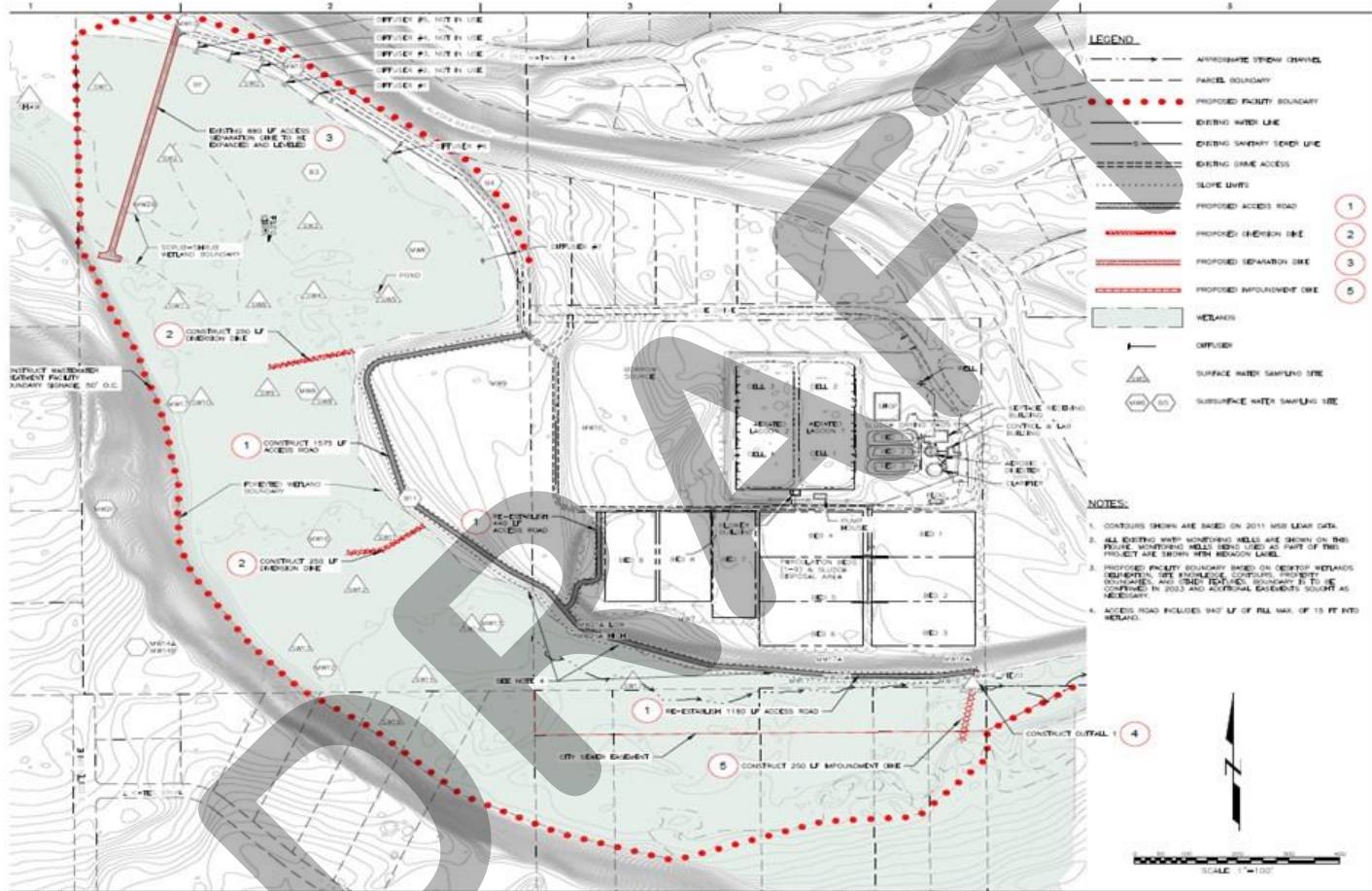


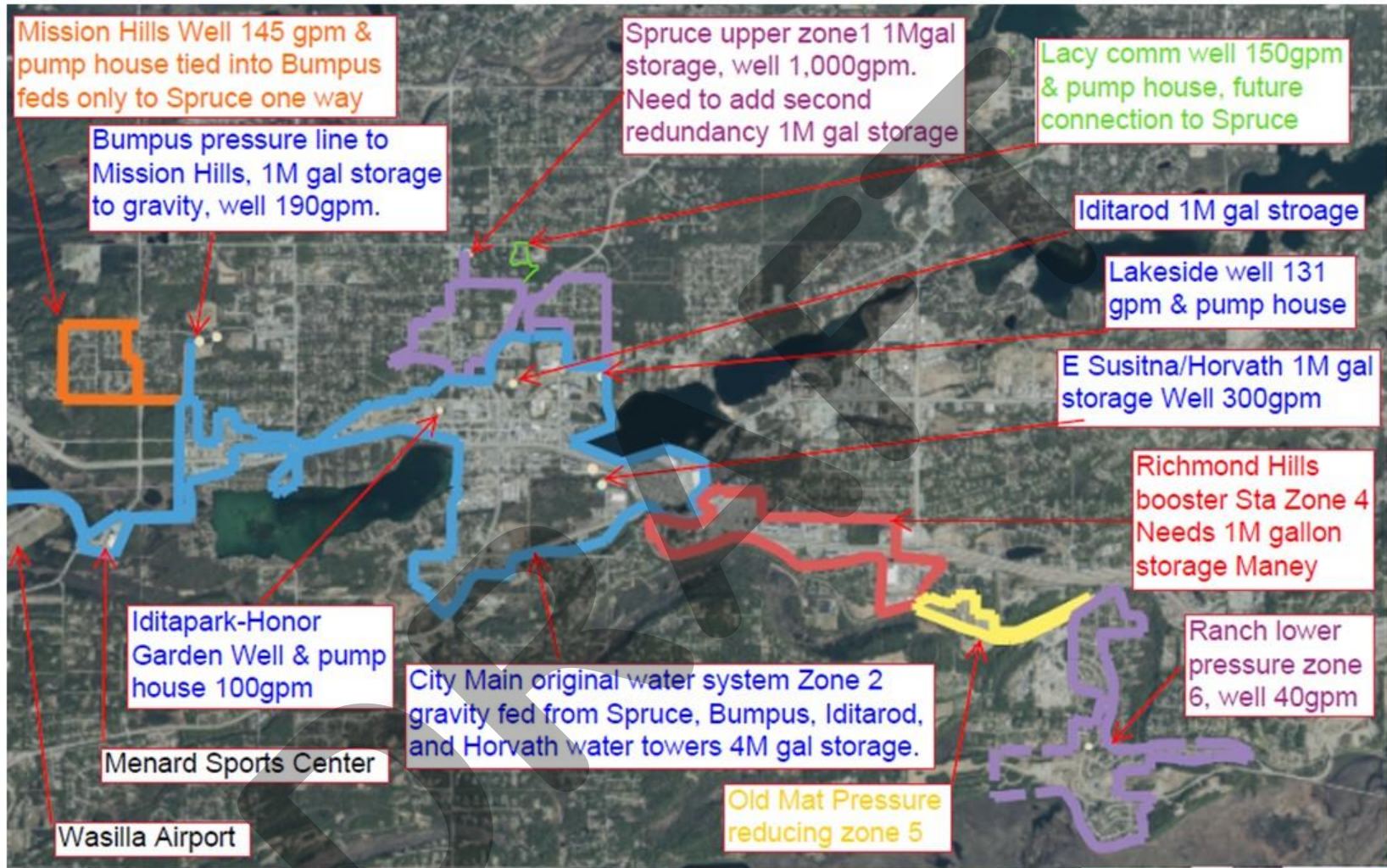
**2023 Purchase
for operations
expansion
Adding ½ mile
wetland
treatment**



**New Area for
Commercial
headworks
New Area
treatment**

Permitting Phase ADEC, CORP, & EPA





Motion to approve the minutes as presented, by Mr. Tucker. Seconded by Mr. Walden.

VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

VII. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Briefing to Septage Industry: Most Recent WAB Presentation to the Assembly (presented on August 2, 2022)

Mr. Campfield summarized the WSAB's prior findings and recommendations as presented at the August 2, 2022 Special Meeting of the MSB Assembly. For a complete summary, please refer to the presentation attached to these minutes.

B. Septage Industry Comments and Q&A with the Board

Board members inquired regarding the level of interest from the City of Palmer. Mr. Walden summarized the City of Wasilla's concerns regarding increased septage demands and their current efforts to upgrade their system. Several members of the audience voiced frustration regarding the lack of progress toward septage treatment within the Borough. Concerns included the ability to keep up with increasing septage needs in the years ahead due to the increase of population; the Borough's current dependency on AWWU to meet our needs; long working hours and strain on the Borough's septage haulers and other industry members to keep up with the demand; cost effectiveness; and the desire to take advantage of funding opportunities while they are available. There were no opposing comments.

Mr. Noland confirmed the concerns voiced by the public and additionally suggested he would set-up of an email group to have members of the septage pumping industry updated and provide a platform to voice their concerns. He posed the question: What can the septage haulers do to get action by the Assembly?

C. Mike Brown, Borough Manager: Potential Changes to WSAB Roles and Mission

The Borough Manager informed Board members that the Borough and the Cities have been collaborating on water and wastewater improvements. The Borough received some federal funding that was allocated to the cities to install a booster station in Wasilla and also one in Palmer, and then begin to develop a connection between the two city water systems. The Manager would like the advisory board to be involved in these efforts into the future with regard to the interconnect effort, grants related to constructing the interconnect, as well as wastewater treatment and related expansion in time. Management will be looking at some changes to Borough Code, potentially modifying the composition and direction of the Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board and its roles and responsibilities.

Board members sought clarification regarding Board's future roles and the makeup of the Board, and voiced concerns that progress is needed on the topic of septage, as well as water and wastewater. Mr. Brown emphasized that the current discussion is to address water and wastewater infrastructure. While there could be possibilities for septage discussions in the future, that is not the focus at this time. Water and wastewater infrastructure needs would be first. The Borough is working toward a solution for leachate with the goal to stop hauling leachate to Anchorage. However, currently the Borough is not in the septage business.