

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman – LaMarr Anderson (01)	Melanie Glatt (03)	VACANT (06)	Kenneth Hoffman (10)
Vice Chair – Stephen Brown (08)	Alexandria Hoffman (04)	Adam Janski (07)	Thomas Bergey (11)
Amanda Salmon (02)	Jozef Slowik (05)	Misty O’Connor (09)	VACANT (12)

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
DSJ BUILDING
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**September 18, 2024
4:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Members present and establishing a quorum were: LaMarr Anderson, Amanda Salmon, Melanie Glatt, Jozef Slowik, Misty O’Connor and Kenneth Hoffman

Members absent and excused: Stephen Brown and Thomas Bergey

Members absent: Alexandria Hoffman and Adam Janski

Staff present: Joseph Metzger, Land Management Division Manager
Suzanne Reilly, Asset Manager
Margie Cobb, Department Administrative Specialist

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Agenda approved as presented.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Limit 3 minutes)

No audience participation.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 17, 2024 Minutes were approved as presented.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Staff Report – Mr. Metzger shared the following:

- Welcomed new Asset Manager, Suzanne Reilly, who will be the staff lead moving forward for this Board
- Board member overview: three (3) have terms ending 12/31/24; two open seats. Staff requested by Board to send information on Board and applications so Board members can do outreach.
- Borough Ag Program overview: 10,000 acres in Borough Ag programs; currently 28% can be utilized, but estimate only 14% is being utilized (only 1,400 acres)
- Request will be coming in a future meeting to approve a request for Northern Elk Ranch. It was noted that the platting was approved prior to Ag Board/Assembly approval in error; applicant understands and will not be moving forward until Assembly approval.

- B. Resolution 24-02: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPT ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 24-099, CONVEYING THE BOROUGH'S DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS INTEREST TO ANTHONY AND TAMMIE WEST FOR FEE SIMPLE TITLE WITH AGRICULTURAL COVENANTS (MSB001285).

Staff Report given by Ms. Reilly. Discussion provided newer members of the Ag Board background and purpose of Ag Conversion Program created by this Board. Ms. Salmon moved to approve this Resolution; Ms. Glatt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Work Session Follow up – Title Changes

After discussion the following motion was made by Ms. Glatt:

MOTION: I move that the Board investigate the feasibility of smaller parcels and more subdivisions and develop a recommendation to the Assembly while ensuring de minimis loss of agricultural land.

Motion seconded by Mr. Hoffman. Motion passed unanimously. Future meeting Work Sessions will focus on developing this recommendation.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS (Limit to 3 minutes)

Ms. Salmon: Appreciate the input of the members of this Board.

Mr. Hoffman: Looking forward to working on the Motion made during tonight's Work session.

Ms. O'Connor: Would love to see opportunities for young, new farmers; would like to see a list developed that identifies types of agricultural businesses allowable.

Ms. Glatt: Road/natural gas infrastructure will be important for greenhouses and viability/planning of smaller farms.

Ms. Reilly: Enjoyed hearing everyone's ideas and experience they bring to the table.

Mr. Metzger: Recommended informing Assembly on the Ag Board's path forward.

VII. NEXT MEETING: October 16, 2024

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.


LaMarr Anderson, Chairman 10/16/24
DATE

ATTEST:



Margie Cobb

Department Administrative Specialist