

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WATER & WASTEWATER ADVISORY BOARD

Bob Walden, P.E. Chair
Terry Gorlick
Dan Tucker

Danny Noland, Vice Chair
Gina Jorgensen

Amanda Fleming
Matthew Midgett

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

March 19, 2025

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

2:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Water and Wastewater Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at the DSJ Building at 350 East Dahlia Avenue in Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Mr. Bob Walden, P.E.

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

Mr. Bob Walden, P.E. - present

Mr. Danny Noland - present

Ms. Amanda Fleming - present

Mr. Terry Gorlick - present

Ms. Gina Jorgensen - present

Mr. Matthew Midgett - present

Mr. Dan Tucker - present

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for this meeting was approved with a correction to the title of agenda item XII. The title got changed from June 18, 2025, 2:30 p.m., Have HDL give an update on Water Inner connect to June 18, 2025, 2:30 p.m., Have HDL give an update on Water Interconnect.

Motion to adopt the revised agenda by Mr. Dan Tucker.

VOTE: No objections. The agenda was approved with the correction noted.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bob Walden, P.E.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. December 11, 2024 (regular meeting)

Minutes for the December 11, 2024, regular meeting were reviewed by the Board.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Mr. Terry Gorlick.

VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

VII. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS

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

The City of Wasilla (COW) informed the Board about the recent installation and commissioning of three microturbines at the Spruce Water Tower, aimed at increasing independence from MEA and going off-grid. The COW expects it will take seven years to recover the cost of the project, which totaled just over 1 million USD. Mr. Walden provided an update to the Board on the positive progress of the water connection project. The COW is still working with the Corps of Engineers to obtain a permit for discharging into the wetlands and upgrading the facility. Stantec is serving as the engineering contractor for the project.

B. City of Palmer – Mr. Matthew Midgett

The City of Palmer (COP) is continuing work on the booster station to ensure water is flowing to Colony High School by May. However, Colony may not be connected to the system by that time, as this depends on the School District's timeline. The COP has received funding from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) to begin upgrading several plants.

C. City of Houston – Gina Jorgensen

The City of Houston had nothing to report.

D. Matanuska-Susitna Borough – Ms. Amanda Fleming

Ms. Fleming mentioned that a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been prepared for a water system upgrade, including a storage tank for Talkeetna Sewer and Water. However, the RFP is currently on hold until the final Right-of-Way acquisitions from the Alaska Railroad Company are confirmed. This summer, Stephl Engineering will conduct a water condition assessment. The Talkeetna facility is currently down to two operators, but a new operator will begin this coming Monday.

Additionally, the MSB Assembly approved and adopted rate changes and updated Service Area rules last December. These changes include a requirement for commercial customers to install grease traps within a one-year grace period. Additional fees will be imposed for improper discharge, particularly from restaurants or hangars, which are the two main sources of concern.

VIII. PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

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

None.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Review minutes of the March 11, 2025, Assembly Meeting concerning the Water Setback Advisory Board's proposed changes

The Board reviewed the PowerPoint presentation and draft ordinance from the March 11, 2025, Joint Assembly and Planning Commission Meeting regarding the waterbody setback issue. The proposed legislation includes changes to the water setback distances, increasing them from 45 feet to 75 feet, with several stipulations attached.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Updates on next steps on water quality monitoring

XII. INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Terry Gorlick: Wished everyone a pleasant spring and reminded everyone to be mindful of fire season.

Ms. Amanda Fleming: Mentioned that she has been on the board for a year and recalled that at her first meeting, many members expressed a desire to continue addressing the sewage issue. She now wants to revisit this topic more frequently. She is still facing challenges with her facility's ability to transport waste for further treatment in Anchorage, which is costly. She concludes there is still a significant need to address the waste disposal issue.

Mr. Matthew Midgett: Agreed with Ms. Amanda Fleming, and he noted that this issue will likely fall under the responsibility of the COW or COP, as the MSB is not taking action on septage.

Mr. Dan Tucker: Thanked Ms. Amanda Fleming for reminding the Board of its primary purpose and responsibility.

Ms. Gina Jorgensen: No comment.

Mr. Danny Noland: Agreed with Ms. Amanda Fleming and expressed that he continues to face the same issues: slicks, traffic, and excessive fees. His company pays over \$200,000 in disposal fees to Anchorage. He emphasized the need to return to the Board's original purpose—finding a solution for the Valley's septic problems. While he is aware of the Board's name change, he encouraged members to focus on the original mission, or else he feels his role as a Board member might become obsolete.

Mr. Bob Walden, P.E.: Highlighted the importance of addressing both waste and water, reminding the Board that both issues need to be discussed. He also agreed that the responsibility for this issue seems to fall on the COW and COP since the MSB is not stepping in to address land or other opportunities. Mr. Walden suggested that MSB staff should attend the Board's meetings as audience members, and he and Ms. Fleming could reach out to MSB staff who should be involved. He also recognized the differing needs between piped and trucked wastewater systems.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

A. June 18, 2025, 2:30 p.m., MSB Assembly Chambers

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Terry Gorlick

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.



Mr. Bob Walden, P.E. Chair

ATTESTED:



Christina Sands, Board Administrative Support