

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman – LaMarr Anderson (01)	Tony West (03)	Dylan Blankenship (06)	Kenneth Hoffman (10)
Vice Chair – Misty O'Connor (09)	Alexandria Hoffman (04)	Adam Jensi (07)	Thomas Bergey (11)
Sharmin Oathout (02)	Jozef Slowik (05)	VACANT (08)	Abby Raisanen(12)

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING DSJ BUILDING LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

**March 19, 2025
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 (left 5:15 pm), Misty O'Connor (arrived 4:38 p.m.), Sharmin Oathout, Tony West, Jozef Slowik (by phone), Dylan Blankenship, Adam Jensi, and Abby Raisanen

Members absent and excused: Alexandria Hoffman, Kenneth Hoffman

Members absent: Thomas Bergey

Staff present: Suzanne Reilly, Asset Manager

Joseph Metzger, Land Management Division Manager

Margie Cobb, Department Administrative Specialist

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Agenda approved as presented.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Limit 3 minutes)

Rob Wells: Passed around a dahlia tuber and shared about his farm business.

Barbara Beckage/ARRC: Observing the meeting; assists with farm loans.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 19, 2025 Minutes were approved as presented.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Staff Report – Suzanne Reilly

- Welcomed new Board Members, Ms. Oathout and Mr. Blankenship.
- Shared letter that MSB Assessments has for the incorporation of the State Ag deferment for buildings. Concerns expressed by Board will be discussed with Assessments.
- Mat-Su Farms list has been updated; still soliciting input from the Board to make this list as complete as possible.
- Proposal by Chairman Anderson that the Board meet during the summer months to keep momentum on code changes they are working on. Approved unanimously.

- B. Resolution 25-01: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPT ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 25-018, CONVEYING THE BOROUGH'S DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS INTEREST TO MARK AND SANDRA STAHL FOR FEE SIMPLE TITLE WITH AGRICULTURAL COVENANTS (MSB001274).

Ms. Reilly shared a brief staff report. Mr. West moved to approve this Resolution; Mr. Jenski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Work Session – New Title

Mr. Blankenship motioned to go into Committee As A Whole at 5:15 p.m; Mr. Jenski seconded. Notes from this work session attached.

Ms. O'Connor motioned to come out of Committee as a Whole at 6:09 pm; Mr. Blankenship seconded.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS (Limit to 3 minutes)

Mr. Metzger: Offered new Board members to sit with staff for an Ag Program 101.

Mr. Blankenship: Happy to be here; exciting time to be in agriculture in Alaska.

Ms. Oathout: More you talk about things that are important to you the more you work things out. Happy to be here.

Mr. West: What we put down will be around for a long time; as we have these discussions with more people and more information out there, we will have better resource to build what is best for this community.

Mr. Slowik: Good discussion, valid points. Need a mentor farmer program to help new farmers, give them pointers.

Ms. O'Connor: Expressed that no one expects this to be a couple meetings. Welcomed new Board members; glad you're on board..

VII. NEXT MEETING: April 16, 2025

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.


Misty O'Connor, Vice Chairman

DATE

ATTEST:



Margie Cobb

Department Administrative Specialist