

**SEWARD / BEAR CREEK FLOOD SERVICE AREA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEAVIEW PLAZA BUILDING, SUITE 122
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
28 December 2006**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Williamson, Chairman
Loyd Welch
Tom Gillespie
Tina McLean
Dave Dieckgraeff

STAFF

Christina Stauffer
Administrative Assistant

Steve Schafer – Arrived after meeting called to order.

John Gage – Absent excused.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Bill Williamson asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda.

Administrative Assistant Christina Stauffer requested the addition of a letter from Jane Gabler under Correspondence to be made Item F.

Tina McLean moved that the agenda be approved as amended.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Jim McCracken** spoke regarding Christy Miller's retirement and that the SBCFSA might be interested in recognizing her for her contributions with a gift.
- **City of Seward Liaison Christy Terry** introduced herself and introduced Marvin Yoder as Interim City Manager for the City of Seward.
- **Judy Rough** commented on the gravel and debris that the Borough flood recovery crews had pushed into her yard after the flood event in October. She is concerned

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- that this needs to be removed before spring or it will cause flooding of her property. She is also concerned that further dredging needs to be done to reduce bed load near her property or spring flooding will probably occur.
- **Carol Bardarson** said that she feels like the situation with regard to assistance with flood recovery is hopeless and that no one is doing anything. She reported that the

Borough Mayor had personally promised to see that her rock wall that was destroyed in the October flood event was replaced and she has heard nothing since.

E. BOARD'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Bill Williamson** addressed Jim McCracken's comments. He agreed that the board needs to recognize Christy Miller's retirement with a gift.
- **Tina McLean** suggested looking into a plaque. She offered to contact a plaque company she has used in the past and suggested she work with the Administrative Assistant to take care of this. Tina moved to order a plaque for Christy Miller.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

- **Bill Williamson** responded to Judy Rough's concerns by recommending that she contact Scott Walden at the KPB Emergency Management Office. He further suggested that she copy the SBCFSA with this so the board can follow up for her. He added that it is important to document all the flood damage for the planned Seward Town Meeting to be held soon.

In response to Carol Bardarson's comments, Bill said that the Mayor should be held to his promises and that she should also document flood losses for the upcoming meeting.

- **Tina McLean** asked the Bardarsons how much bed load has increased on their property.
- **Rolf Bardarson** answered by saying that it had increased by an area of approximately 10 feet deep by 100 feet wide by ¼ mile long. He also commented that recent highway work, especially culverts and debris removal, was not done to best serve flood mitigation and wise use of space. Gravel removal should be done in such a way as to not clog up natural pathways or confine creeks more. He further suggested that Seward needs to make sure that rock quarries have sufficient material available for sale to public during flood events.

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- **Tom Gillespie** commented that any gravel removed is a good thing.
- **Tina McLean** thanked Mr. Bardarson and suggested that he write his comments and suggestions for the highway work and flood mitigation down and the SBCFSA could share them with officials.
- **Bill Williamson** suggested that the Bardarsons encourage other residents from their neighborhood to attend the planned Seward Town Meeting to express their concerns and relate their flood losses.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

- **E-mail from Jane Gabler Re KPB Response to FEMA Interim Mitigation Offer 12/28/06.**

Christina Stauffer summarized this e-mail for the board and briefly reported on progress of FEMA Interim disaster funding offer.

G. PERMITS FOR REVIEW

- **Kwechak Creek/Dan Rough/Sand and Gravel Extraction
State ID No. AK 0610-07AA-Start of ACMP Review**

Bill Williamson commented that this project had come before the board on at least two previous occasions. He asked the Administrative Assistant to read aloud the board response letters from the previous project reviews.

Christina Stauffer read file letters.

Bill Williamson pointed out that the amount of gravel to be removed has been decreased from the original plan to 50,000 cubic yards.

Tina McLean noted that the permit application still did not state where the removed gravel will be stored.

Bill Williamson suggested that a KPB compliance officer should monitor this project but that at this time it needs to go forward.

Tina McLean stated that the applicant seems to be trying to address all the concerns and issues and that she could not see any possible ill effects on adjacent property owners.

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Discussion was held regarding access to the property in question and it was decided that there was adequate access.

Tina McLean moved to advise approval of permit with the addition of a suggestion to have oversight from the KPB.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The Administrative Assistant was directed to draft a letter.

- **McCracken, Jim/Cloud 9.5 Inc., KRC #6462
Time Extension on Gravel Removal Permit Renewal**

Jim McCracken spoke up requesting the indulgence of the Chair. He informed the board that the permit in question had already been granted by the Kenai River Center and that he had a copy of his letter to share with the board.

The board members took a moment to read the permit letter.

- **Alaska Railroad Corporation/Salmon Creek MP 4.8, KRC#6463
Replacement of riprap at MP 4.8 to replace that washed away in October flooding**

Tina McLean said that as an adjacent property owner, she wants the tracks to be protected but that this is the second time the AKRR has requested to replace this rip rap. She reported that she had walked this area with the AKRR engineer and pointed out to him that short term fixes have not been very successful in the past. Bed load has increased and dikes are only diverting water eastward to affect more eastward properties. Dan Ottenbreit, civil engineer from AKRR, acknowledged the need to reengineer dikes and maintain them. Tina added that patching has not solved the problems.

Vice Chairman Steve Schafer agreed with this statement and that the rip rap repair suggested in this permit application is a band aid. He went on to say that he does not disagree with the need for interim repairs but believes that there needs to be a letter to the permitting agency pointing out that this is a very short term solution and we need long term solutions. He recommended sending a letter to the Kenai River Center agreeing with the repair but stressing the need to fix the overall problem.

Discussion was held regarding issue of AKRR having built the dike system but having not followed through with maintenance or removal of bed load on railroad property.

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Tina McLean moved that a letter be written to the Kenai River Center as suggested.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The Administrative Assistant was so directed.

H. NEW BUSINESS

- **SBCFSA participation in emergency mitigation measures and flood planning for Japanese Creek dike**

Steve Schafer reported to the board on a meeting he had attended with the Interim City Manager Marvin Yoder, the City Engineer Tom Shepherd and the Interim City Planner Scott Williams. Out of this meeting, he stated, had come several issues that he wants to bring before the board.

The first issue he brought up was to suggest that, due to conflicts between the SBCFSA regular board meeting dates and the Seward City Council meeting dates, several people who wished to attend SBCFSA meetings from the City were not able to. He suggested that the board consider changing their meeting night.

The second issue was that having only one SBCFSA meeting per month did not allow the board to address the urgency of some service area issues and respond in a timely fashion.

The third issue was that he would like to suggest that the SBCFSA work with the City of Seward to take maximum advantage of the money offered by FEMA for work on the Japanese Creek dike and other flood mitigation projects, possibly by offering to assist with matching funds to go toward scoping and hydrology studies.

Marvin Yoder requested the indulgence of the Chair and spoke briefly in support of SBCFSA involvement in the dike project and of the need to coordinate flood mitigation efforts between the City of Seward and the service area.

Bill Williamson suggested that the issues be addressed one at a time.

- **Moving SBCFSA meeting night**

Discussion was held regarding meeting night conflicts. It was noted that recently the SBCFSA meetings had needed to be moved from the first Monday of the month to the second due to holiday conflicts.

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Steve Schafer pointed out that the Seward City Council met on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Discussion was held regarding possible alternative nights. It was decided that Monday night was the only one that worked for everyone's schedule. Since the meetings were supposed to occur on the first Monday of each month as a rule it was hoped that this conflict could be avoided as much as possible. It was therefore decided not to change the meeting night.

○ **Increasing number of SBCFSA board meetings to twice a month**

Bill Williamson asked former Chairman Jim McCracken if he knew of any ruling from the Borough on how many meetings the service area boards could have.

Jim McCracken stated that as far as he knew the board could have as many meetings as they wished.

Discussion was held regarding the advisability of increasing the number of SBCFSA board meetings to twice per month.

Steve Schafer moved to schedule SBCFSA regular board meetings for the first and third Mondays of each month beginning in February 2007.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

○ **SBCFSA coordination with City of Seward with regard to Japanese Creek Dike and other flood mitigation efforts**

Discussion was held regarding current monies in the budget and in the Reserve Fund Balance that might be made available to support joint projects with the City of Seward.

Bill Williamson asked if the board would approve contributing to matching funds for scoping and hydrology studies on joint projects.

Steve Schafer suggested waiting for a vote until the board could see what the City had in mind.

Bill Williamson asked if the board could have a report from the City on this by February.

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Tina McLean asked if this would only apply to the Japanese Creek dike project or to any necessary project within the city.

Steve Schafer responded that the offer should apply to any project as decided upon by the board.

Jim McCracken requested the indulgence of the Chair and suggested that the board also consider matching funds with the scoping and hydrology work being done by Northwest Hydraulics to extend the studies already planned.

It was decided to wait for the report from the City of Seward and Marvin Yoder indicated that this report would be available for the February 5th board meeting.

I. BOARD COMMENTS

- **Steve Schafer** commented that he believes that this is a turning point for the board. He said that the board might be busier now than they may originally have planned but that cooperation with the City of Seward is a good thing. He also reported that he had attended a meeting the previous day and the subject of shipping out bed load and debris gravel on the train had come up. It was apparent that, due to having a large commercial gravel customer in the north, the AKRR was probably not interested in helping with this. The Seward area has a desperate need to get rid of gravel.
- **Tom Gillespie** thanked the members of the public who had attended and said that he wished the board could be of more help with individual property owner flood issues.
- **Dave Dieckgraeff** stated that the board needed to find out who to contact at the Borough to get something done. He further suggested that the board should find out from Sam McLean of the Alaska Department of Transportation what their plans are with regard to road work that affects the floodplain.

Discussion was held regarding the different agencies responsible for the roads and it was suggested that the board might contact Gary Davis at the KPB Roads Department with a copy to Jane Gabler with regard to road maintenance plans. The roads in Old Mill and in the Exit Glacier area are of particular concern.

- **Bill Williamson** said that everyone needed to plan on using the opportunity provided in the upcoming town meeting to get a commitment from all the government agencies involved as to who is doing what. He thanked the public for attending and urged them to come to the town meeting when the date was set and bring their flood stories.
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- **Tina McLean** commented that the board has been increasing its contacts in the state, city and borough and are getting the mechanisms in place to finally get things moving. She also thanked the public and the Seward Interim City Manager for attending.
- **Loyd Welch** stated that it was nice to see the members of the public attending the meeting. He also wanted to note that the Work Session with the City of Seward Planning and Zoning Commission had gone well.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Loyd Welch moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:00 PM.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2007 AT THE
SEAVIEW PLAZA BUILDING, SUITE 122 AT 7:00 PM.**

Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____
Date of Approval