

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of the Borough Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Ribbens, Assembly President
Members of the Borough Assembly

FROM: Peter A. Micciche, Borough Mayor *PAM*

DATE: October 2, 2025

RE: Appointment to Resilience and Security Advisory Commission

Pursuant to Ordinance 2025-04, commissioners shall be appointed by the mayor and approved by the assembly.

I hereby submit my recommendation for confirmation.

SOUTHWEST BOROUGH SEAT

Bretwood Higman

Term Expires 09/30/2028

Thank you for your consideration.

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of the Borough Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter A. Micciche, Borough Mayor *PAM*
THRU: Michele Turner, Borough Clerk *(MT)*
FROM: Sue Ellen Essert, Deputy Borough Clerk *see*
DATE: September 26, 2025
RE: Verification of Resilience and Security Advisory Commission Applicant

The notice of vacancy for the Resilience and Security Advisory Commission was advertised on July 28, 2025, in the Borough Administration Building, KPB's Facebook page and KPB's website. The application period closed on August 27, 2025. Seats have remained open until filled.

Per Ordinance 2025-04, appointed members shall have experience in at least one of the areas defining the scope of the RSAC, must be registered to vote, and must physically reside within the boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. RSAC commissioners shall submit a resume with their application to be appointed by the mayor and approved by the assembly.

The attached application is submitted herewith for your consideration.

SOUTHWEST BOROUGH SEAT

Bretwood Higman

Resilience & Security Advisory Commission

Established by [Ordinance 2020-25](#), amended by [Ordinance 2025-04](#).

Established in 2020 and strengthened through collaboration with the Mayor's Office beginning in April 2025, the advisory commission brings together citizens from across the region to develop and recommend forward-thinking strategies to ensure that the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) remains a remarkable place where current and future generations can thrive. This volunteer commission provides the KPB with diversified expert, professional advice at no cost — supporting efforts to improve operating and energy efficiency, enhance food and resource security, adapt to environmental changes and reduce waste. By aligning community expertise with local government, the commission helps shape policies that build a more affordable, secure and self-reliant future for all borough residents.

The scope of matters subject to consideration by the RSAC includes:

1. Divert materials in a manner that considers the effect of greenhouse gas generation that would otherwise be discarded in landfills within the borough to extend the lifetime of landfills and save taxpayer dollars;
2. Improve cost and energy efficiency of buildings;
3. Improve cost and energy efficiency of transportation;
4. Evaluate the use of local, clean energy to modernize electricity generation, storage and distribution; increase energy independence; diversify the grid, and reduce supply volatility;
5. Support hazard mitigation planning that accounts for changing environmental conditions;
6. Improve food security through support of local agriculture, protection of the ecological integrity of fish and wildlife habitat, protection of water resources, and other means;
7. Conduct cost-benefit analyses of sustainable resource initiatives; and
8. Research funding to support the work of the RSAC.

Resilience & Security Advisory Commission Application

Seat: Southwest Borough Seat – Term Expires 09/30/2028

Name: Bretwood Higman
Mailing Address: PO Box 164 Seldovia, AK 99663
Residential Address (if different from mailing address):
Email: hig314@gmail.com
Mobile:
Home Phone: 9072906992
How long have you lived in the borough? Since 1977
In which of the <u>8 areas defining the scope of the commission</u> do you have experience? All 8 areas, but especially 5 (hazard mitigation)
Comments (areas of interest, additional experience or qualifications, etc.): Landslide hazard mitigation, climate change resiliency

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION:

NAME: Higman, Bretwood

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8462-3656>

POSITION TITLE: Executive Director

PRIMARY ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION: Ground Truth Alaska (aka Ground Truth Trekking), Seldovia, AK, USA**Professional Preparation:**

ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	RECEIPT DATE	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA	PHD	06/2007	Earth and Space Sciences
Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA	AB	06/1999	Geology

Appointments and Positions

2007 - present Executive Director, Ground Truth Alaska (aka Ground Truth Trekking), Seldovia, AK, USA

2009 - present Data analyst, Nuka Research and Planning, Seldovia, AK, United States

Products**Products Most Closely Related to the Proposed Project**

1. Higman B, Shugar DH, Stark CP, Ekström G, Koppes MN, Lynett P, Dufresne A, Haeussler PJ, Geertsema M, Gulick S, Mattox A, Venditti JG, Walton MAL, McCall N, Mckittrick E, MacInnes B, Bilderback EL, Tang H, Willis MJ, Richmond B, Reece RS, Larsen C, Olson B, Capra J, Ayca A, Bloom C, Williams H, Bonno D, Weiss R, Keen A, Skanavis V, Loso M. The 2015 landslide and tsunami in Taan Fiord, Alaska. Sci Rep. 2018 Sep 6;8(1):12993. PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC6127189](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/301127189/).
2. Dai C, Higman B, Lynett PJ, Jacquemart M, Howat IM, Liljedahl AK, Dufresne A, Freymueller JT, Geertsema M, Ward Jones M, Haeussler PJ. Detection and Assessment of a Large and Potentially Tsunamigenic Periglacial Landslide in Barry Arm, Alaska. Geophys Res Lett. 2020 Nov 28;47(22):e2020GL089800. PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC7816221](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37816221/).
3. Higman B, Bourgeois J. Deposits of the 1992 Nicaragua tsunami. Tsunamiites [Internet] Elsevier; 2021. 85-107p. Available from: <https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/B9780128239391000069> DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-12-823939-1.00006-9
4. Marten Geertsema, Brian Menounos, Dan Shugar, Tom Millard, Brent Ward, Göran Ekstrom, John Clague, Patrick Lynett, Pierre Friele, Andrew Schaeffer, Jennifer Jackson, Bretwood Higman, Chunli Dai, Camille Brillon, Derek Heathfield, Gemma Bullard, Ian Giesbrecht, Katie Hughes. A landslide-generated tsunami and outburst flood at Elliot Creek, coastal British Columbia ; 2021. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu21-9148> DOI: 10.5194/egusphere-egu21-9148
5. Higman BM, Lahusen S, Belair G, Staley D, Jacquemart M. Inventory of Large Slope

Instabilities, Prince William Sound, Alaska. USGS Data Release. 2023 October 25. Available from: <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/642735b7d34e370832ff6708> DOI: 10.5066/P9XGMHHP

Other Significant Products, Whether or Not Related to the Proposed Project

1. Liu PL, Lynett P, Fernando H, Jaffe BE, Fritz H, Higman B, Morton R, Goff J, Synolakis C. Observations by the international tsunami survey team in Sri Lanka. *Science*. 2005 Jun 10;308(5728):1595. PubMed PMID: [15947179](#).
2. Borrero J, McAdoo B, Jaffe B, Dengler L, Gelfenbaum G, Higman B, Hidayat R, Moore A, Kongko W, Lukijanto, Peters R, Prasetya G, Titov V, Yulianto E. Field Survey of the March 28, 2005 Nias-Simeulue Earthquake and Tsunami. *Pure and Applied Geophysics*. 2010 November 12; 168(6-7):1075-1088. Available from: <http://link.springer.com/10.1007/s00024-010-0218-6> DOI: 10.1007/s00024-010-0218-6
3. Bloom C, MacInnes B, Higman B, Shugar D, Venditti J, Richmond B, Bilderback E. Catastrophic landscape modification from a massive landslide tsunami in Taan Fiord, Alaska. *Geomorphology*. 2020 March; 353:107029-. Available from: <https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0169555X19305215> DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2019.107029
4. Atwater B, Bourgeois J, Yeh H, Abbott D, Cisternas M, Glawe U, Higman B, Horton B, Peters R, Rajendran K, Tuttle M. Tsunami geology and its role in hazard mitigation. *Eos, Transactions American Geophysical Union*. 2005; 86(42):400-. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1029/2005EO420007> DOI: 10.1029/2005EO420007
5. Goff J, Liu P, Higman B, Morton R, Jaffe B, Fernando H, Lynett P, Fritz H, Synolakis C, Fernando S. Sri Lanka Field Survey after the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. *Earthquake Spectra*. 2019 December 27; 22(3_suppl):155-172. Available from: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1193/1.2205897> DOI: 10.1193/1.2205897

Synergistic Activities

1. (Since 2020) Ongoing effort to identify potentially hazardous slopes near Alaska communities and engage in conversations with those communities to explore appropriate responses to those hazards. The results of these efforts have been diverse, including projects led by local organizations for the sake of education, assessment, and agency engagement.
2. (Since 2018) Facilitation of international collaboration in Alaska landslide research, through logistical support, encouraging collaboration with local scientists and community members, and by advocating for the study of sites that present a particularly poorly understood threat. This has helped initiate studies by researchers from France, Switzerland, Germany, and Canada.
3. (Since 2020) Involvement in the formation and facilitation of Arctic T-SLIP (Arctic Tsunamigenic Slope Instabilities Partnership), by recruiting members and facilitating monthly meetings.
4. (Since 2007) Executive director of Ground Truth Alaska, a nonprofit dedicated to public education and scientific advancement in Alaska, especially as it pertains to resource development, climate change, and wilderness recreation issues.

Certification:

When the individual signs the certification on behalf of themselves, they are certifying that the information is current, accurate, and complete. This includes, but is not limited to, information related to domestic and foreign appointments and positions. Misrepresentations and/or omissions may be subject to prosecution and liability pursuant to, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. §§ 287, 1001, 1031 and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3802.

Certified by Higman, Bretwood in SciENCv on 2025-01-14 02:23:59