

# **DESK PACKET**

**(MATERIALS SUBMITTED AFTER MEETING PACKET PUBLICATION)**

## **MISC INFORMATION**

### **Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes**

- **May 8, 2024 Cooper Landing APC Minutes**
- **May 9, 2024 Nikiski APC Minutes**

**COOPER LANDING ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
LOCATION: COMMUNITY HALL AND ZOOM TELECONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024  
6:00 PM  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

The May 8, 2024 meeting was physically open to the public at the Cooper Landing Community Hall at 18511 Bean Creek Road, Cooper Landing, AK and available for online / telephone participation.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
  - a. C. Degernes, J. Cadieux, Y. Galbraith, K. Recken, H. Harrison, D. Story present; L. Johnson via Zoom
  - b. In person attendees: Tim Lorenzini – USFS, Chet Derringer USFS, Laurie Radzinski, Joe Rolfzen, KUNA Engineering
  - c. Virtual attendees: Abe Davis - USFS, Morgan Aldridge - KPB
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA -
  - a. M. Aldridge notified the CLAPC that the Renewal of the Cooper Mountain communication site lease agenda item is withdrawn as the KPB and USFS have further discussions slated.
  - b. J. Cadieux asked to add an informational item regarding KPB's Safe Streets for All grant to the Commissioner Comments.
  - c. Y. Galbraith moves to approve the agenda as amended to delete the USFS lease and addition of Commissioner comments. H. Harrison seconds. All approve by roll call vote.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 20, 2024 Regular Meeting
  - a. H. Harrison moves to approve the minutes as written. J. Cadieux seconds. All approve by roll call vote.
5. BOROUGH BUSINESS
  - a. REPORTS: PLANNING
    1. None.
  - b. PLATTING
    1. NEW PLATS
      1. None
    2. ANY NOTICE OF DECISION ON PLATS
      1. None.
6. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. None.
7. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. KPB Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Joe Rolfzen, Kuna Engineering and Mary Toll, KPB OEM Project Manager

1. J. Rolfzen said this is the outset of the latest 5-year update to the KPB's Hazard Mitigation Plan. He said the last was created in 2019 and that this version will incorporate additional communities including the Seward Bear Creek Flood Service Area, City of Seward, and Seldovia. Future plans are to include all KPB communities.
2. He said that many hazards and changes can come about or develop between plans and gave the examples of pandemics, AI, or other human-caused hazards.
3. He said the KPB is looking for as much feedback as possible from the public to help create a well-developed plan.
4. J. Rolfzen said that the initial public participation process will seek input from the public before creating an initial draft of the plan. The draft will be put out to the public for additional review.
5. He said the 2019 plan can be found on the KPB website [<https://www.kpb.us/emergency-mgmt/plans/ahmp>]
6. He said there will also be a StoryMap and HUB site.
  1. [Hub Site: <https://hazard-mitigation-plan-kpb.hub.arcgis.com>]
  2. [StoryMap: <https://hazard-mitigation-plan-kpb.hub.arcgis.com/apps/cdc11b3d6060468797030ab37ce6c575/eplore>]
7. J. Rolfzen said unincorporated community input will be received as well as incorporated cities specific plans.
8. J. Cadieux asked if the format would follow the 2019 plan.
  1. J. Rolfzen said that it will be somewhat different than previous plans to follow the updated formats required by FEMA and state agencies etc.
  2. He said that entities with specific goals will need to be integrated through the KPB plan but doing so will help to ensure their work will be preserved.
9. M. Toll said that once incorporated into the KPB multijurisdictional plan it will also make it easier for communities to keep their plans updated.
10. J. Cadieux asked if the communities need to pay for this planning process.
  1. M. Toll said the KPB gets a grant to complete this process and will be paying for it as well as spearheading it.
11. J. Rolfzen said that in talking with the state and FEMA they are pushing for the KPB to be the main point for these plans to help avoid the loss of information that can happen when communities lapse in the update of their plans every five years.
12. He said when the Hazard Mitigation Plan is developed it is not just completing the plan but rather it is a continuous process through the 5 year window to implement improvements.
13. C. Degernes asked about tangible results from previous plans.
  1. M. Toll gave flood planning including culvert replacement and hardening in Seward as an example.
14. K. Recken asked about access and egress to communities and if that is considered (related to wildfire evacuation, etc.).

1. M. Toll said that access is always a component, but specifics are helpful to hear.
  15. K. Recken asked who is responsible for developing and administering this program and its goals.
    1. M. Toll said that it varies by the goals and the awarded grants.
  16. Y. Galbraith asked if the suggestions for the goals and the grants can come from the communities.
    1. M. Toll said yes, that is expressly why they are seeking input.
  17. D. Story asked when the draft plan will be available.
    1. J. Rolfzen said that it would be available in July 2024.
    2. [Further detail of the timeline can be seen on Slide 5 of the presentation in the meeting support documents.  
[https://www.kpb.us/components/com\\_papyruslist/document.php?id=3378455](https://www.kpb.us/components/com_papyruslist/document.php?id=3378455)]
  18. J. Cadieux asked if technology or lack thereof is considered a hazard for this planning process.
    1. J. Rolfzen said that interconnectedness is one of the goals and gave an example of Seldovia's request for better connectedness to Homer via fiberoptic cable which is being pursued with a partnership with Homer Electric Association.
  19. J. Rolfzen said there is a public survey that can be completed on paper in person or online at the hub site.
    1. [ Survey  
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/b7e115a6290849448564fef71d8f425d>]
  20. J. Cadieux asked if once a hazard is identified by a community, who pursues the grants?
    1. M. Toll said that it depends on the hazard and explained that it might be the DOT for a road hazard but the Borough might encourage them to pursue it or partner with them to do so. (example given is the landslide area along the highway near Cooper Creek)
  21. J. Rolfzen said that input from the community is really important for updating the plan.
8. PUBLIC COMMENT/PRESENTATION
- a. Update on Chugach National Forest activities - Tim Lorenzini, Deputy District Ranger and Chet Derringer, Fire Management Officer from the Seward Ranger District
    1. T. Lorenzini said work at the Russian River is continuing and is due to open June 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest. He said in the fall there will be more drilling to place the retaining walls with the intention to fill the walls and get it set for paving in the spring of 2025.
      1. He said that the openings and closures can seem arbitrary but the goal is to keep it open as much as possible while getting things done. That process is affected by the contractors needs and actions.

If the contractor goes past a certain date it does face penalties so there is motivation to wrap it up.

2. He said the Russian River Campground will close again on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. He explained the contractor may push back against ski trail grooming for the winter of 2024/25 to avoid hard packing snow and delaying the warm up for paving opportunities in the spring.
2. T. Lorenzini said there were a number of trail projects going on throughout the forest.
3. He also noted that Trail River Campground now has a public use cabin available for rentals and two more will be built this summer at Porcupine Campground in Hope and Meridian Lake between Moose Pass and Seward.
4. Y. Galbraith asked about the construction of Trail River Bridge.
  1. T. Lorenzini said it is being redecked but after inspection does not need full reconstruction for now.
5. C. Degernes asked about bark beetle mitigation in the area.
  1. T. Lorenzini said burning the piles near Devils and Russian River CG will take place this coming winter and there will be work on additional treatment areas.
    1. Y. Galbraith asked for information about the areas to be treated to be sent to the community to coordinate with Firewise planning and help community members know what is taking place. She also thanked the USFS for the amount of work that has taken place.
6. J. Cadieux asked if Tom Roland is still involved with the program. T. Lorenzini said yes but he is on paternity leave and that there is an alternate silviculturist, Travis Womble, that can be reached through the front desk.
  1. J. Cadieux asked about the target amount of treatment acres and if it was to be around the anticipated 3000 acres.
  2. Abe Davis, Regional Fuels Specialist with the USFS said the work in the Phase Two Categorical Exclusion for KPB Wildland Urban Interface is 3000 acres. T. Lorenzini explained that Cooper Landing is included in that WUI.
7. C. Degernes asked about projects with infrastructure money.
  1. T. Lorenzini said there is a lot of infrastructure money coming to the forest including the cabins described earlier. He said some of the trails have also been funded through the Great American Outdoors Act.
  2. He said the historic Iditarod trail has also received some funding from it.
8. J. Cadieux asked what impacts the USFS anticipates from the Alaska Long Trail.
  1. T. Lorenzini said that the USFS has been focused on the Iditarod section of that project and it is hard to anticipate what that impact

would really be but the trail designs going into it are planned for 50 year lifespan and increased use.

9. C. Degernes asked about the status of the Snow River Pedestrian Bridge.
  1. T. Lorenzini said it is slated to be completed this summer.
10. J. Cadieux asked about the user made trails that are widely publicized and degrading rapidly with increased use and where the USFS is at in dealing with them, especially the alpine trails.
  1. T. Lorenzini said that a lot of those things that used to be local-only use are now easy to find. He said that it is a nationwide issue and it is hard for land management agencies to address. He said one issue is that the more the USFS adopts, the longer the ledger of responsibility for maintenance and safety becomes and competes with other priorities.
11. Y. Galbraith asked how many Law Enforcement Officers are on staff.
  1. T. Lorenzini said there are two full time staff and there will be more detailed in during the peak sockeye season.
12. C. Degernes said that it is really helpful to have communication from the USFS via the Cooper Landing Community Crier, especially any updates.
13. D. Story thanked them for coming to local meetings and suggested continuing to attend these and the Community Club meetings. He said the USFS should consider doing a monthly update via the crier with a digest version of the forest happenings.

b. Resource Advisory Committee

1. T. Lorenzini introduced the Resource Advisory Committee and explained that it is a committee to advise funding and projects on and adjacent to forest land.

[\[https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/workingtogether/advisorycommittees/?cid=FSEPRD1128456\]](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/workingtogether/advisorycommittees/?cid=FSEPRD1128456)

1. He said there are between 9-15 members on the committee from several categories of backgrounds.
2. He said it can take some time to develop a project but it is a huge opportunity to have locally driven suggestions get funded and implemented.
3. He gave examples of the projects the Prince William Sound RAC has had funded.

2. [timothy.lorenzini@usda.gov](mailto:timothy.lorenzini@usda.gov)

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Safe Streets for All, J. Cadieux.

1. Kenai Peninsula Borough has been awarded a Safe Streets for All grant with which they will be working on a borough wide safety plan. There are a number of public workshops including in Seward at the library tomorrow (May 9) from 5-7pm and a virtual workshop May 22<sup>nd</sup> between 11:30am -12:30pm.
2. After the workshops introduce the plan the project managers encourage individuals to complete a survey online at <https://kpb-ss4a-comprehensive-safety-plan-kpb.hub.arcgis.com>

3. R&M Engineering is the consultant for the project. They already met with D. Story and J. Cadieux who were representing Cooper Landing Trails for the meeting.
4. The survey will include the ability to place pins on a map and describe issues with those areas/facilities.
- b. Y. Galbraith said that a suggestion was made to her recently that the temporary Quartz Creek bridge not be torn down and instead be used as a pedestrian bridge.
- c. Y. Galbraith asked if the KPB has given an update on the Wildfire Mitigation Grant.
  1. C. Degernes said the KPB reported that it is looking like August before it may be processed.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

- a. H. Harrison moves to adjourn. K. Recken seconds. All approve by roll call vote.

For more information or to submit comments please contact the Cooper Landing APC at:

- For email visit: <https://www.kpb.us/planning-dept/planning-commissions/cooper-landing-apc>  
On the far right-hand side of the page is a box titled, "Commissioner Information". Scroll to the bottom of the box and select, "Contact the Cooper Landing APC".
- Send USPS mail to: Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Department, Attn: CLAPC 144 N Binkley, Soldotna, AK 99669

# Nikiski APC Minutes

May 9, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 pm
2. ROLL CALL: Kelly Brewer, Stacy Olivia, Jon Harman, Tom Coursen, Len Neisen, Jason Ross  
Guests: Mary Toll, Joe Rolfzen, Jeff Eppenheimer
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jason motioned to approve-Jon second -motion passed by all
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jon approved, Jason second- motion passed by all
5. BOROUGH BUSINESS
  - a. REPORTS
    - i. Planner-none (not at the meeting)
    - ii. Assembly Member/Other: Jeff had no comments to share
    - iii. Joe Rolfzen with Kuna Engineering: KPB Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2024. They presented a slide show along with comment form and survey asking for Nikiski Community Input that would provide more Grant Money to the Borough to address hazards-preventive and also FEMA funds after a Emergency. (ie-Fire, Bettle, Kill, Bluff Erosion, Earthquake, Human caused, Landslides, Flooding, Electrical Outages etc) Here is a link to the current KPB hazard mitigation plan that Joe and Mary discussed tonight.  
To find the survey please go to this site:  
<https://www.kpb.us/emergency-mgmt/plans/ahmp> It is fillable on a computer.
  - b. PLATTING
    - i. Nikiski North Subdivision Dyer Addition, KPB 2024-034 Stacy motioned to approve, Kelly second motion passed by all
    - ii. Marvel Manor Subdivision Phase 6, KPB 2024-035 Withdrew this plat from the agenda-Jeff Eppenheimer noted it is in Sterling
    - iii. Stacy made a motion to add KPB 2024-048 OSK Sub #3 Kelly second, some discussion about the history of the land (it is an area where Oil Field Service work took place for over 50 years) With



limited information provided to the Nikiski APC (Information came in at 5:00 before the meeting) it looks compliant-the motion passed by all

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Nikiski Comprehensive Plan

- i. Community survey: Draft was presented to the Nikiski APC
- ii. Community-wide meeting (5/13/2024, 6:00pm) Kelly will bring/set up coffee, Len will speak to the survey, Jon will have comment cards available for the community

7. NEW BUSINESS: None

8. PUBLIC COMMENT/PRESENTATION: None

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

10. ADJOURNMENT 8:16 pm

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday June 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM