

Director's Report to the Planning Commission

Assembly Action 5/17

- Concurred with recommendation from Commission on land classifications and passed the ordinance with our suggested amendments.
- Concurred with Commission on lease of communication tower on KPB property, conducting a soils survey for the 1000-acre unit 395 (Cooper Landing), vacation of Paper Birch Lane and approval of the Spruce Bark Beetle Emergency Harvest Framework ordinance.
- Confirmed as the Planning Director (its official now!)
- Department presented our FY 23 Budget in committee on 5/16 and held a public hearing at the 5/17 meeting; nothing of consequence to report with respect to our budget (we are requesting an additional hire, a surveyor to assist in State Entitlement selection and a number of other tasks)
- Assembly Member Johnson introduced an ordinance for public hearing on 6/7 that will increase pay for commissioners. This may warrant a look - [Kenai Peninsula Borough - File #: 2022-17 \(legistar.com\)](#)
- Will introduce an ordinance listing surplus properties for sale this summer, hearing on 6/7

Appeals – The office of Administrative Hearings for the State of AK issued a 32 page decision upholding the Planning Commission Decision to issue a MCLUP to River Resources, LLC. from an 18-point appeal of River Resource Material Site (near Kenai River, by Soldotna Airport) by appellant Dale McBride. Recall that the commission first heard this in February of '21, after postponement, denied the application in May '21; decision was appealed and remanded to the commission to better substantiate findings; heard in October '21 the commission reversed its' original decision and issued the MCLUP and findings were developed in adjudicative session in Dec '21. This was subsequently appealed and this is the result of that appeal.

Code Compliance – More than a dozen cases have been initiated this year, most involving right-of-way encroachments, buildings in the setback or trespass cases whereby property is placed on KPB land. There are also a number of other cases awaiting survey and/ or further investigation before any action may take place.

Land Management reached a significant milestone this past week with the negotiated sale of KPB land to the State of Alaska to facilitate the Cooper Landing Bypass. The vision of having a fund that will sustain itself and support future land management staff has been achieved. There is more fund growth planned to support additional land management functions, but this first step is significant and kudos are due to Marcus and his team.

Alaska Legislature – a bill passed both bodies of the legislature that allows for different planning commission seats. If signed by the Governor and after an enactment period it will allow first and second class boroughs with population between 20,000 and 75,000 (KPB) considerably more flexibility in the number of commissioners we have.

Open door – I want all commissioners to know they can reach out to me at any time for questions or concerns and that I do want to meet with those that are relatively new to commission and make sure you have what you need in terms of background and education on commission functions. I recognize there is a learning curve to the important work we do.