

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Planning Department – River Center

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director *RR*
Rachel Chaffee, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager *RC*
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*

FROM: Samantha Lopez, River Center Manager *SL*

DATE: August 11, 2022

RE: Ordinance 2022-19-10, Appropriating \$12,517.00 to Purchase an EM2 Stream Table to Expand Watershed Education and Outreach at the Donald E. Gilman River Center (Mayor)

One of the River Center's primary objectives is to provide watershed education to residents across the Kenai Peninsula. Much of our outreach is geared toward helping residents find unique solutions that will protect their waterfront properties from erosion. In the past, we have accomplished this through a combination of site visits, written handouts, and similar resources. For years, there has been a need to find a way to visually demonstrate the methods found in the written resources. In 2021, other local agencies partnered to purchase an EM2 Stream Table (EM2) to do just that. The EM2 is able to simulate complex watershed functions, erosion, runoff, and so much more.

This year, the River Center was able to partner with the Kenai Watershed Forum to debut the EM2 to the public, where it was received with overwhelming support. Almost immediately after, the EM2 was booked out through the end of the year, to be used at local events and schools. The EM2's high demand demonstrates a need for a second EM2, one that can be used to provide landowner education at the River Center. The second EM2 would be hosted as a KPB asset at the River Center, and would be available for in-office demonstration, public events, permitting days, etc.

The total cost of the new EM2 comes to \$12,517.00, and represents an equivalent model to the EM2 purchased in 2021. This proposal divides the costs between the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This ordinance would appropriate \$6,000.00 from the General Fund, and \$6,517 would be provided by USFWS via a pass-through agreement with the Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT / FUNDS VERIFIED

Acct. No. 100.27900 Amount: \$6,000
Acct. No. 100.23TAB.33123 Amount: \$6,517

By: *CJ* Date: 8/10/2022

Your consideration of this ordinance is appreciated.