

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Community & Fiscal Projects

MEMORANDUM

TO: Blair Martin, Chair & Planning Commission Members

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *ch*
Melanie Aeschliman, Planning Director *MA*
Marcus Mueller, Land Management Officer *MM*
Bryan Taylor, Planner – Advisory Planning Commission Liaison *BT*

FROM: Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager *BA*

DATE: 08/11/21

RE: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

Background: From 2006 to 2009, the Kenai Peninsula developed 17 Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) representing all landscapes across the borough with the exception of Tyonek, Moose Pass, Bear Creek, Seward and Lowell Point. In 2018, the borough received federal pass-through funds in the amount of \$103,366 (O2018-19-11) and funds from the spruce bark beetle interest account in the amount of \$50,000 (O2019-19-02) to update these plans. The 2022 update, upon completion, combines the 17 CWPPs and incorporates the previously excluded communities.

The CWPP serves two audiences: 1) provides recommended projects designed to greatly reduce wildfire risk to residents, ensuring that communities live safely in this fire prone environment; and 2) provides guidance to fire and emergency managers, as well as agencies who manage large land holdings.

During the week of July 20th, open house meetings were conducted throughout the borough in communities that allowed maximum attendance with adjacent communities. The meetings were held in Seward, Cooper Landing, Homer, Soldotna, and Nikiski. The meeting format consisted of with four stations modeled on the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: 1) CWPP Overview, 2) Resilient Landscapes, 3) Fire-Adapted Communities, and 4) Safe and Effective Wildfire Response. On July 26th, the core team created initial response matrices to be included in the hazard analysis. The core team includes municipal, state, federal, Tribal and non-government agencies as well as subject matter experts that contributed to the 2006 – 2009 CWPPs. This team is tasked with driving the planning and decision-making process for this project.

For more information, visit the story map www.kpb.us/cwpp. This story map (an interactive project website designed to tell a story with maps) will be used as the

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primary two-way communication tool to provide information and gather community input about the project. Once the draft plan has been completed, it will be distributed to the cities, the KPB Advisory Planning Commissions, and to the public to provide feedback. The KPB Planning Commission will also be asked to provide input (estimated date of delivery December 2021).

Please contact Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager/Acting Emergency Manager at bahlberg@kpb.us or 907-714-2153.

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