

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. FWC 21-04**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION RECOMMENDING ACTIONS RELATING TO MATANUSKA-SUSITNA ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 21-134 ON PHASE THREE OF THE WEST SUSITNA ACCESS ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission was created in 2007 to represent the interests of the borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has been effective in representing these interests to political leaders, government regulators, and boards of fish and game; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has a vested interest in utilizing science-based standards and forward looking policies to help ensure a balance between the critical fish and wildlife resources of the region with other needs of the population, including responsible resource development; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission believes it is important that our citizens have accurate and robust information and opportunities to comment on major projects that could impact fish and wildlife resources that includes the benefits and costs of such projects; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has spent over \$20 million on fish habitat restoration in the borough, replacing more

than 100 culverts that have restored over 67 streams miles and 6,224 lake acres of anadromous fish habitat; and

WHEREAS, healthy habitat not only supports our fish and wildlife, but ensures clean water for our communities and key economic opportunities for Alaskans, including several businesses that depend on the area that the West Susitna Access Road project would impact; and

WHEREAS, economic studies in our region in 2007 and 2017 show the significant positive economic impact returning salmon have on the economy of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, that included \$56 million in direct spending benefits to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and there are additional economic benefits from healthy wildlife populations, both of which require adequate and quality habitat locally; and

WHEREAS, during the special MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting on May 7, 2020, and again during the MSB Assembly meeting on December 7, 2021, there was extensive public testimony indicating concerns and unanswered questions about the West Susitna Access Road project, and the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission has asked for monthly updates with minimal information being shared on the specific costs and benefits of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission supports and recommends that the Matanuska-Susitna Assembly adopt the following actions at their

December 21, 2021 meeting regarding Resolution 21-134:

1. That AIDEA and the MSB develop a supplemental public engagement plan that includes a cost/benefit/risk analysis to be submitted for public comment and Assembly Action by the February 15, 2022 Assembly meeting.

2. That an Assembly-approved supplemental public engagement plan be implemented by AIDEA and the MSB and include a summary of the public engagement results be forwarded to the Assembly.

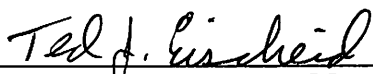
3. That the Assembly schedule a special meeting workshop with independent public governmental and private subject matter experts to further address concerns raised in the public engagement process.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission
this 16th day of December, 2021.



Mike Wood, Chair

ATTEST:


TED EISCHEID, Staff

(SEAL)

YEAS: WOOD, DeLo, Couch, Engel, Probasco, Zamzow. (6)

RECUSAL: SUMNER (1)

NAYS: None Registered. (0)