

Introduced: April 19, 2021
Public Hearing: May 3, 2021
Action: Adopted

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. PC 21-07**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 21.025 ADOPTING MSB 17.31 SUPPLEMENTAL WETLANDS MITIGATION PROVISIONS FOR LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS REQUIRING UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INDIVIDUAL PERMITS UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT; AND AMENDING MSB 1.45.100 SCHEDULE OF FINES FOR INFRACTIONS.

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Borough adopted the Wetlands Management Plan which documented the beneficial ecological services wetlands provide to Borough citizens along with best practices regarding wetland management that included consideration of a local wetland management ordinance; and

WHEREAS, beneficial and valuable ecological services wetlands provide include fish and wildlife habitat, flood control, groundwater recharge, erosion control, stormwater management, and improving water quality; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 over \$57 million in direct spending on sport fishing was generated that was supported by the prevalence of wetlands in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, the Borough's fish passage program has invested over 20 million dollars to construct over 100 fish passage

culverts, opening up 66 miles of stream and 6,224 lake acres of fish habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Borough continues to be the fastest growing region in Alaska and has lost significant portions of its wetlands in particular watersheds to development; and

WHEREAS, water quality within the Borough has declined as evidenced by four water bodies being listed on the state's impaired waters list; and

WHEREAS, in March 2019 a special Assembly wetlands workshop presentation from agency stakeholders further explored wetland mitigation; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2019 the Borough's Fish and Wildlife Commission passed FWC19-03 supporting supplemental wetland mitigation on large development projects; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019 the Assembly adopted Resolution 19-074 directing planning staff to research a supplemental wetlands mitigation ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the supplemental wetland mitigation ordinance meets several goals in the Borough's Comprehensive Plan including Land Use Goal 4, Public Open Space Goal 2, Community Quality Goal 1, and Community Quality Goal 2; and

WHEREAS, this supplemental wetland mitigation ordinance supports adopted code on the Borough mitigation bank and flood damage prevention; and

WHEREAS, further loss of wetlands from large development projects without requiring full mitigation is contrary to the public health, safety, and general welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends assembly adoption of ordinance 21-025 adopting MSB 17.31 Supplemental Wetlands Mitigation Provisions for large-scale projects requiring United States Army Corps of Engineers individual permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act; and amending MSB 1.45.100 Schedule of Fines for Infractions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Planning Commission recommends removing the following language from MSB 17.31.060(A)(1): “, but the requirements of this chapter only apply to the additional acres resulting from the expansion.”

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission
this 3rd day of May, 2021.


COLLEEN VAGUE, Chair

ATTEST


KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk



YES: (6) Commissioners Anderson, Vague, Elder, Ortiz, Mossanan,
and Chesbro

NO: (1) Glashan