

**McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2011, Tony Zak house**

Members present: Mark Vail, Chris Chester, Keith Rowland, Stephens Harper, Stacie Miller, Jeannie Miller, Laurie Rowland, Don Welty, Lynn Welty, Jeremy Pataky, Meg Hunt, Jeremy Cohen, Rick Jurick, Tamara Harper  
Others present: Gary Mullen-DNR, Erica Edmonds-NPS, Joe Russo, Eric Veach-NPS, James Savage-NPS, James Sullivan-NPS, Neil Darish, Margot Higgins

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:45am with a quorum (9) of members present.

Audio recordings are being made of the meetings this year to help ensure accuracy. They will be kept by the secretary and used only for transcribing the minutes.

**Motion** by Chris Chester to change MAC meeting day to last Thursday of each month, to coincide with new mail plane day. Motion seconded, passed. **MAC meetings will be at 11:30, after mail, on the last Thursday of each month.**

**DNR LANDS UPDATE**—Mark Vail

DNR hosted a public meeting last November to present their idea of a state-sold subdivision (Sage subdivision) near the Firewise Kiosk on MXY road at Mile 55. This proposal has been put on hold for now, in part due to public comment regarding the lack of a public process, poor timing, lack of advance notice and fire risk.

For information, contact Rocky Weber, Subdivision Sales Manager with DNR Land Sales, at 907-269-8946 or rocky.weber@alaska.gov.

Other DNR land in MXY area that was given to UAA in the past, west and south of MXY, has been returned to DNR. DNR restored the mineral-entry rights back to this land that were in effect before UAA had it. Sand and gravel extraction may occur on these lands. Some of this land is designated as multiple-use, while some is reserved for residential subdivision. Do we, as a community, want these lands to be residential or multiple-use (hunting, fishing, firewood gathering)? Further discussion at future meetings is encouraged.

**KENNECOTT INTERIM OPERATIONS PLAN (IOP) UPDATE**—Mark Vail

NPS started the public process for the Kennecott Operations Plan Update with a meeting in Anchorage in Feb. The MAC subcommittee (Wayne Marrs, Kelly Bay, Jessica Speed, Bill Morris, Mike Loso, Mark Vail) worked with NPS this winter, reviewing the old plan and making comments/suggestions on the new process.

The new draft plan will be presented at the next MAC meeting (April 28<sup>th</sup>). NPS will be hosting a series of public meetings this summer to work through the draft plan with the community. Bruce Rogers and Elizabeth Schafer will be facilitating these meetings.

Suggestion made that the community organize our own meetings, with possible NPS attendance, to discuss the IOP and our vision for Kennecott into the future. Community-driven meetings have been successful elsewhere and could be productive for this process. In particular, we should discuss the opening statement of the IOP regarding how the community envisions Kennecott's future management (on the agenda for April meeting). Friends of Kennicott (FOK) may take the lead on this and has a new website with information about the IOP, including FOK and MAC comments on the IOP revision process: [www.friendsofkennicott.org](http://www.friendsofkennicott.org).

Contact Bruce Rogers, [bruce\\_rogers@nps.gov](mailto:bruce_rogers@nps.gov) or 907-822-7276 or see the Kennecott IOP at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=21&projectID=34130&documentID=37915>.

We will keep the MAC email list informed of future community, FOK, NPS or any other IOP-related meetings.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**—Tamara Harper

We received our 2011 revenue-sharing grant from the state for \$34,847.

Savings account: \$123,154

Checking account: \$2,991

Update of state revenue-sharing grant program:

We have received this grant money for 4 years so far.

2008--\$28,182

2009--\$35,016

2010--\$34,971

2011--\$34,847

Total: \$133,016

Money allocated to fund projects so far:

MXV Creek gabions	5,000
Medical caches	7,000
NRCS car removal	1,000
E. Channel gravel/grade	1,000
Outhouse improvements	500
Tony Zak foundation work	2,000
Shakespeare performance	500
KCHU radio support	3,100
KMVFD equipment	6,000
Nizina road work	2,000
Kennicott River clean-up	7,490
Museum infrastructure	5,000
WMC bear brochure	900
Total:	\$41,490

Total grant money remaining: \$91,526

The state has warned us that grant money disbursements may be reduced in the future, if the legislature decides not to appropriate additional monies into the revenue-sharing fund.

Discussion followed about how much money is left from the aquifer grant we received in the past and if it might be used for development of the well/water tank at Tony Zak's. Tamara Harper will research remaining aquifer money and report back at next meeting. KMVFD would like to have potable water available for the community from this well, need to research DEC regulations. Would be a great benefit for both community and Fire Dept.

#### **PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT FUNDING**

Snow Groomer—Don Welty, 907-554-1015, [dnwlty@gmail.com](mailto:dnwlty@gmail.com)

Description: The purchase of a steel pull-behind snow groomer. Heavy duty, height adjustable groomer with snow packer on back; able to cut hard-packed snow to smooth out community-traveled winter trails.

Who will benefit: Winter trail users, both motorized and non-motorized, by being able to maintain trails in a smooth condition.

Budget: Construction by Corey Roche, Anchorage at \$1,200 (\$600 deposit, \$600 upon completion). Estimate \$200 shipping, for total of \$1,400.

Discussion included that it would be stored at Tony Zak's, anyone could use it, to benefit all trail users, winter residents will get most benefit, will require maintenance, responsibility to use it at right time of year. It's a heavy-duty piece of equipment and will require a full-size work snowmachine to tow (not a Bravo). It should enable skate-skiing, as it will make a wide trail, but it won't be able to go down narrow trails through forest.

Discussion followed that the idea had come up before, and then got delayed.

**Motion** by Don Welty to approve \$1,200 + 200 shipping for the snow groomer. Motion seconded, passed.

Kennicott MXY Volunteer Fire Dept. Land Acquisition—Chris Chester/Leath Kramer, 907-554-2102/2101, [kmvfd@hotmail.com](mailto:kmvfd@hotmail.com)

KMVFD is requesting \$40,000 for the purchase of land.

See proposal, attached to email (KMVFDproposal.doc), for full explanation.

Discussion followed regarding KMVFD pursuing other grants for building construction, but they are only available if the KMVFD already has land. The KMVFD is not aware of other grants available for land acquisition. Time is of the essence, as they are not on their own land and they need to have land to make any further progress on this valuable community project. KMVFD would own the land and if it ever dissolved, all land and assets would be given to MAC, as stated in KMVFD bylaws. Funding sources may include USDA Rural Development or an acquisition from the state legislature. Both Chitina and Strelna Fire Depts. have recently received grants. The land is being sold below value and has the full

support of the seller to be a Fire Station location. See letter attached to minutes (talcottletter.doc) from Blackburn Heritage Foundation.

The KMVFD is planning to buy the land, even if they don't get this grant; the seller will finance. Suggestion that if MAC funds the proposal, there could be requirements that plans are done by an architect, designs are shared with MAC before construction, a master plan for the lot (fuel storage, layout) will be done, etc, to address safety, engineering/functional and aesthetic issues. The importance of this prime location was noted. Any help with grant writing would be appreciated. Discussion included support for the proposal, land won't get any cheaper, these services will only be more necessary in the future, the continuity/dedication of the Fire Dept. is clear, the land is able to be developed for the KMVFD needs, the estimate for the dirt work is higher than anticipated, there is a spring on the property that can provide water for KMVFD and necessitates dirt work to manage. Discussion of MAC vs. KMVFD owning the land, the issues of land ownership. Support for the KMVFD by DNR Forestry was reiterated in a letter from Mike Trimmer, Fire Suppression Foreman in Tazlina (see attachment DNRletter.doc sent with minutes).

Discussion about whether to wait 2 months to vote on this proposal due to the large amount of money (almost ½ of remaining funds), and more MAC/community members will be here in May, how time is critical to get the project started, and if we can email/communicate effectively/use proxy voting to have a fair, informed vote in April. Concerns expressed about making sure the entire community knows about this proposal and has a chance to contribute/participate. The value of widest cross-section of people being in the same room to discuss an issue and everyone's choice/ability to be at each meeting was noted. How can we most effectively get the word out and include everyone and accommodate folks who can't physically be here?

**Motion** by Stephens Harper to vote on the KMVFD \$40,000 funding proposal in one month, at the April meeting. Motion seconded, passed. **We will vote on \$40,000 KMVFD proposal at MAC meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please see guidelines below regarding how to vote by proxy if you are a MAC member.**

From the MAC bylaws:

Section 7. Voting Rights

A voting member (who has paid the annual membership of \$5.00) may vote by proxy. If a voting member wishes to vote by proxy, the member must file with the Secretary of the corporation a signed and dated notice appointing the proxy. This notice must be received by the Secretary prior to the meeting for which the proxy is appointed.

If you do not know someone who will be at the April meeting to vote on your behalf, you can send your proxy directly to the MAC Secretary at P.O. Box MXY #31, McCarthy, AK 99588 and your vote will be included. Make sure to indicate how you want to vote on this issue and if you are not yet a member, you must include \$5.00 membership also (check payable to McCarthy Area Council).

**WRANGELL MOUNTAINS CENTER/PORPHYRY PLACE**—Jeremy Pataky

Update on the Porphyry Place progress/process. WMC is hoping to buy 7 lots/5 structures adjacent to the Hardware Store from Meg Hunt to expand their facilities and their ability to serve the community. They need to raise \$250,000 and so far, in 6 months, they have raised \$104,000 all from private/individual donations (no grant or gov't \$). Thank you so much to all who have donated. The deadline for buying the property is Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. WMC is considering asking for MAC revenue-sharing funds to support this campaign. They invite opinions/suggestions from everyone about how they can better serve the community and they want to answer any questions about their work/mission or how they can do things in a way that matters to the entire community.

The summer schedule was discussed and a full agenda of activities/programs is available at their website: [www.wrangells.org](http://www.wrangells.org)

The WMC and MAC honor Meg Hunt and Ed LaChapelle for all they have done for WMC and this community.

Contact Jeremy Pataky: [jeremy@wrangells.org](mailto:jeremy@wrangells.org).

**RESEARCH PROJECT EXPLANATION**—Margot Higgins

Margot is a Ph.D. student in an Environmental Studies program at UC Berkeley and will be conducting dissertation research in Kenn/MXY this summer. She will be examining the influence the NPS has had on this community over the last decade and also, how the community is influencing the NPS. She will interview many community members this summer in a collaborative manner, and possibly will be able to hire some people to help her. She's hoping the research will continue into the future, in order to follow this story over time. She hopes to create an academic paper that may influence future management of the area and allow people to reflect on their experiences in new ways. Discussion followed about the benefits to the community/NPS and the potential of this project to illustrate our unique situation/lifestyle and to advocate for its protection.

Contact [margot\\_higgins@gmail.com](mailto:margot_higgins@gmail.com).

**NPS FIRE MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION**—James Savage, NPS Fire Mgmt. Officer

James presented a project proposal under the NPS Wildland Fire Program entitled "Working with McCarthy in Reducing Hazardous Fuels to develop a Firewise Community". The goals are: to reduce the chances of destruction to private property from a catastrophic wildfire and to increase public and firefighter safety during a wildfire event. The objectives are: to provide a shaded fuel break between park service and private land, reduce fuel loading and fire hazard, and remove diseased and dead trees to promote forest health and vigor.

The project would create thinned areas of forest, acting as fuel breaks, from the south side of MXY Creek, zigzagging along the edge of the University subdivision to the Nizina Road.

100 feet would be thinned along the survey line, on NPS land, primarily spruce stands, 34 acres of treatment area. The anticipated work dates are Aug-Sept 2011. NPS seasonal employees and an AmeriCorps group would

likely do the work. NPS would be required to maintain the thinned areas and will accommodate adjacent landowners' wishes regarding cutting preferences. Suggestion to use local workers, which James indicated may be possible. If funding continues, there could be 1 month of work/year for 5 years, plus 2 weeks/year of pile burning, which the KMVFD could do. They are interested in community input and opinion and the entire powerpoint presentation, with maps and all the details, can be accessed at: <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/index.htm>, under Quicklinks, called "University Subdivision Fuels Project Presentation". Contact James Savage: [james\\_savage@nps.gov](mailto:james_savage@nps.gov), 907-455-0651.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MAC needs to buy a cap for Tony Zak's chimney to prevent water from coming down in the spring when we build fires.

Tony Zak's also needs firewood, would be great to get some from the firebreak project work.

Jeremy Cohen volunteered to bring some over...Thank you!

Stephens Harper announced that NPS land status maps (2'x3') will be installed in 3 locations this summer: by payphone at the end of footbridge, near the outhouse at the museum, and at the mailshack. They will delineate private/public lands and have some useful information for visitors.

Don Welty suggested that signs on either end of the now-closed road (Chisana Avenue) in front of the Potato would be helpful to warn vehicles that it is not a through-road, as it is difficult to turn around. It is private property and not a platted road. Don said he would be happy to make signs, but no consensus was reached. Stephens Harper said he would talk to Gary Green to see if he would support making signs. We will discuss it again in April.

Mike Trimmer of DNR Forestry will be here next meeting to discuss the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and he will be soliciting public comments via questionnaires soon. Please see letter from Trimmer (DNRletter.doc) sent with minutes explaining DNR Fire Mgmt plans.

KMVFD and snow groomer proposals are posted at the mail shack and the minutes will be soon.

NEXT MEETING, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 11:30 after mail at Tony Zak's.

Meeting was adjourned by President Mark Vail at 3:00pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary



## **McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes**

### **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Tony Zak House**

Members present: Mike Monroe, Rick Jurick, Dee Frady, Terry Frady, Stacie Miller, Jeannie Miller, Rich Kirkwood, Matt Smith, Meghan Seifert, Chris Chester, Laurie Rowland, Keith Rowland, Greg Runyan, Nik Merlino, Gayle Gordon, Mark Vail, Tamara Harper

Others present: Melissa Blair, Sonny Asbury, Meg Jensen, Carol Harding, Michael Larson, Joe Russo, John Montepare, Mike Trimmer, Jim Quinn, Erica Edmonds, Jamie Hart, Dub Evans, Denise Jantz, Malcolm Vance, Jason Brooks, Laura Brooks

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:45am with a quorum (9) of members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

#### **NPS UPDATE**

Meg Jensen, WRST Superintendent, said that she would be sending a letter to the community shortly, via the MAC email list.

The Copper Valley Wireless Environmental Assessment was approved by the NPS and CVW should start construction of towers in May and work on the project throughout the summer.

The Kennecott Interim Operations Plan (IOP, as it has been called) will now be referred to as the Kennecott Management Plan. Bruce Rogers, NPS Planner, has been working on an updated draft of the document based on meetings and public input. NPS staff hopes to meet with the MAC sub-committee in mid-May to share the progress and get feedback before the plan is presented to MAC at the May meeting. Elizabeth Schafer will work part-time for NPS this summer to help with the public participation aspect of the Kennecott Management Plan. She'll be helping the local community review the Plan and will help facilitate public meetings.

Mark Vail, on behalf of the MAC sub-committee working on the Kennecott Mgmt. Plan, read the opening statements from the original Kennecott IOP. The committee felt these ideas should remain as the plan is revised and wanted MAC to be aware of the community's original intent, 11 years ago, for the management of Kennecott. They are as follows:

The community and Friends of Kennecott (FOK) have endorsed a shared vision for the NHL. This shared vision will provide a strong foundation for the work that follows and a way to evaluate NPS plans



and actions. Most interested parties within the community envision a future in which Kennecott:

- is stabilized to prevent deterioration of historic structures or artifacts and to make them available to the public
- is managed with a "light-touch" in which projects are undertaken in small steps, at modest cost with minimal intervention process
- is not just an abandoned mining town, but is also a place that reflects the vitality, creativity and community spirit of today's residents
- retains the slow pace, quiet and spaciousness that foster contemplation and individual reflection
- is part of a larger community in which residents act both individually and collectively to guide the future of the area
- contributes to a strong, reasonably diverse economy that includes locally owned and operated businesses, community-based non-profits, and the tradition of barter and subsistence
- protects and honors small-town values: safety, cooperation, self-sufficiency and personal freedom
- is a place where tourism is allowed to evolve within the capacity of the community, rather than a place where external intervention and control accelerate growth
- is seen by local residents and visitors alike in its true context, a remote outpost of civilization in the midst of an enormous mountain wilderness
- is managed to protect the cultural and natural resources of the historic mining district, the surrounding glacial landscape and provides a safe, educational and rewarding experience for the area's visitors and residents

Carol Harding, NPS Exhibit Specialist, is developing an Exhibits Plan for Kennecott, in conjunction with the Kennecott Mgmt. Plan. She'll be hosting a planning workshop at the Kennecott Rec. Hall, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, to get ideas from locals and to develop a shared vision for Kennecott Exhibits. She'd like participation and representation from businesses and landowners alike, and its best if people can attend all 3 days if possible. Please RSVP to Carol Harding, [carol\\_harding@nps.gov](mailto:carol_harding@nps.gov), 907-822-7208.

#### **KENNICOTT RIVER CLEAN-UP**

Keith Rowland reported on the Kennicott River clean-up, a project that was funded by a grant proposal approved last year. Rowcon Services, SEAG, and Wrangell Mountain Air cleaned up the river floodplain from Randy Elliot's lot downstream to the confluence with the Chitina River. Refuse was either burned or hauled to the landfill. Large items were removed with heavy equipment,

including a huge scraper that was returned to Elliot's land. Thank you Rowcon and everyone involved for cleaning up the river!!

#### **KMVFD LAND PURCHASE PROPOSAL VOTE**

Last month, the Kennicott-McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department requested \$40,000 of the state revenue-sharing funds to buy land for a firehall and have dirt work done. Discussion included the importance of a professional building plan, letting MAC approve any construction plans, having an aesthetically-pleasing structure, and making sure MAC will receive the land back if the K MVFD ceases to exist. Other possible lands (University, DNR, NPS) have been considered and none are as feasible as purchasing this land.

Chris Chester of the K MVFD addressed several issues: grant money they will seek for construction funding has stipulations requiring professional, DEC-approved building designs, the K MVFD bylaws state that all K MVFD property goes to MAC if they dissolve.

**Motion** by Jeannie Miller to vote on the K VFD proposal as written. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously with 32 yeas (18 votes/14 proxies).

#### **2012 STATE OF AK REVENUE-SHARING GRANT APPLICATION**

The application for the 2012 grant of \$33,500 from the state is due June 1. We discussed what projects we may want to use this money for. Ideas included emergency medical services, fire department, restoration work on Tony Zak's, educational projects, water infrastructure and administration. We decided to allocate the following: EMS-\$15,000, Tony Zak work-\$5,000, Education-\$10,000, Administration-\$3,500 (these are not binding).

#### **AQUIFER STUDY MONEY UPDATE**

Treasurer Tamara Harper reported that in 1995, MAC received \$25,000 to do an aquifer study of the area. Remaining funds, up to \$6,500, can still be used for costs related to aquifer protection and safe-water projects. MAC purchased UV water filters for the community to buy at cost (about \$400), and we still have several for sale.

Contact Tamara Harper, 554-4405,  
[mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com).

#### **DNR, DIVISION OF FORESTRY UPDATE**

Mike Trimmer congratulated the K MVFD on their grant approval and encouraged everyone in the community to support them. Brush trucks will soon be in the area for the season. Fire season started April 1<sup>st</sup> and Class A General Burn Permits are required until August 31<sup>st</sup> for burning up to a 10' diameter x 4' high brush pile (larger amounts require on-site inspection). Permits are available online

at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn> or call the Burn Permit Line 907-822-8665.

The Division of Forestry is making progress on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan exists, however, the process so far has not included enough community input. Trimmer plans to distribute surveys in mailboxes to gather opinions of community members on fire protection priorities. Look for them shortly in mailboxes and there will likely be a drop box at the mailshack to return your survey. This input will be used in local fire protection planning and will affect which grants and projects Forestry pursues in this area. Please participate! Rural Alaska Fire Prevention CDs are available at Tazlina Forestry Office.  
Contact Mike Trimmer, 907-822-5234.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gayle Gordon, a lot owner in University Subdivision, reminded anyone who would like to comment on the NPS proposal to cut 100' fire breaks around the University subdivision this summer (see March 2011 MAC minutes for details on the plan) to contact her, 907-554-1120, or Jeremy Cohen, [coh.jer@gmail.com](mailto:coh.jer@gmail.com). Preliminary work will start in June, so submit comments this month please.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Yard Sale will be on Sat, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 at Tony Zak's. Everyone welcome to come buy/sell/trade!

The Copper River NW Railway Centennial Celebration will be July 8-9<sup>th</sup> in MXY-Kennecott. The NPS and Museum are coordinating several fun events...Golden Spike reenactment, pancake breakfast, a ball, and more!  
Contact Sunny Cook, [gramasunny@hotmail.com](mailto:gramasunny@hotmail.com), or Erica Edmonds, [Erica\\_edmonds@nps.gov](mailto:Erica_edmonds@nps.gov). Remember to join or renew your membership with the Museum!!

Polyseal, a soy-based, spray-foam insulation company from Anchorage, is coming the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June to insulate 2 homes in MXY. They are available to do more jobs. Contact Matt if interested, 907-745-7325 or [info@polysealinsulation.com](mailto:info@polysealinsulation.com).  
[www.polysealinsulation.com](http://www.polysealinsulation.com).  
Call Tamara or Stephens Harper with questions, 554-4405.

Meeting was adjourned by President Mark Vail at 12:50pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.



## **McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Tony Zak House**

Members present: Gayle Gordon, Elizabeth Schafer, Natalie Bay, Keith Rowland, Gaia Marrs, Wayne Marrs, Stephens Harper, Jason Lobo, Mike Monroe, John Adams, Jessica Speed, Kenny Smith, Meghan Seifert, Christine Johnson, Nik Merlino, John Rice, Bob Cook, Jeremy Pataky, Maria Shell, Kelly Bay, Sunny Cook, Bill Morris, Tamara Harper, Mark Vail, Lilly Goodman

Others present: Chris Mishmash (CVT), Allison Sayer, Adam Wells, Lynn Grams (NPCA), Johanna Jackson, Ann Crow (NPS), Eleanor Jensen, Luke Hodgson (NPS), Shawn Olson, Eric Veach (NPS), Carol Harding (NPS), Dave Hollis, Denise Lopez, Rio Lopez, Joe Donohue, Margot Higgins, Melissa Blair (NPCA), Bruce Rogers (NPS), Kelsey ?, Erica Edmonds (NPS)

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:40am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

### **Copper Valley Telephone Update—Chris Mishmash, CVT, Valdez**

Microwave towers will be under construction this summer at 5 sites, 3 of which are on NPS land (Gilahina Butte, Sourdough Ridge, and Lakina Terrace) and 2 others, McCarthy townsite and Chitina townsite. Construction will begin late-June at the NPS sites and schedules vary, but work will mostly be complete by hunting season. Crews will be helicoptered into the sites, and staging areas for materials will be at Chokosna, Long Lake, and the MXY airstrip. New Horizons Telecom will be the main contractor on the job, along with CVT staff. Power generation at the sites will be propane and solar. Towers will be 30' tall and should be minimally visible from the MXY road. October 15<sup>th</sup> is the goal for completion and our current CVT phone units will still work with the new system, but service will be much faster. Noise from the sites will come from the generators, running daily in the winter and less frequently in the summer, when the solar panels will provide more power. However, most of the sites are too far away to hear (except MXY townsite). Helicopter use will be heavy during construction phase (July).

See map and construction schedule sent along with minutes:

Construction schedule.pdf and McCarthy MW Route Overview.pdf

Contact Chris Mishmash for information: 907-835-7700, [cmishmash@cvtc.org](mailto:cmishmash@cvtc.org)

### **NPS Kennecott Management Plan—Bruce Rogers**

The “Proposed Action for Management of Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark” document was passed out. This document is the result of NPS work and public comments thus far on possible actions to be included in the Kennecott Management Plan. The MXY-Kennecott community is encouraged to review this document over the summer and submit their comments/opinions to NPS. Several meetings will be held this season to discuss the proposed actions and help formulate revisions to the proposed

plan and/or come up with alternative actions. These alternatives will be included in an Environmental Assessment this fall. Elizabeth Schafer is the local NPS liaison and is available to answer any questions and/or take comments from the community. The community was encouraged to take an active role in leading the review process. In order to be considered in future planning documents, comments must be written/mailed and NPS would like them submitted by the end of August.

Contact Bruce Rogers, 907-822-7276, [bruce\\_rogers@nps.gov](mailto:bruce_rogers@nps.gov) or

Elizabeth Schafer, 907-960-1014, 907-554-4431, [elizabeth\\_schafer@nps.gov](mailto:elizabeth_schafer@nps.gov).

The document is available at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=21&projectID=34130&documentID=41260> or linked at [www.friendsofkennecott.org](http://www.friendsofkennecott.org).

The MAC subcommittee, which is reviewing the proposed actions, would like a 6<sup>th</sup> member to round out the representation from the community. They will be going over the plan this summer and reporting on their progress at each MAC meeting. Last year, MAC voted in 5 members of the committee, and both Don Welty and Jeremy Keller also got several votes. Meghan Seifert expressed interest in being on the committee. Motion to elect Meghan Seifert to the MAC subcommittee if Don Welty and Jeremy Keller decline to participate. Motion seconded and passed with 2 abstentions.

Carol Harding, NPS Exhibits Specialist, put on the Kennecott Exhibits Workshop (June 7-9), which will help create a vision for the future exhibits in Kennecott. If you were unable to participate, but would like to comment on the plans, contact her at 907-259-7202, [carol\\_harding@nps.gov](mailto:carol_harding@nps.gov).

### **Wrangell Mountains Center Funding Proposal**

Lilly Goodman, Maria Shell, and Jeremy Pataky presented a proposal for \$20,000 of the state revenue-sharing grant funds to help with the purchase of Porphyry Place, Meg Hunt and Ed LaChapelle's former homesite. The purchase price is \$250,000 and so far, they have raised \$106,000 from private donations; WMC is asking MAC for 8% of the price. The property would expand the WMC campus and increase their ability to provide programs, educational opportunities, classes, and other services to the community, students and visitors. These new programs would bring people to the area who patronize local businesses, spreading economic benefits beyond the WMC. The WMC is also considering providing public restrooms on the property, an additional service to the community. The WMC will maintain the original appearance of the property. Discussion followed regarding the need for a school in MXY, how the WMC provides education for all ages (including youth), the possibility of Porphyry Place being used as a school/classroom, whether the proposal is too general, how this would be an investment in the community and the future, the importance of a maintenance plan, and the potential to share the knowledge associated with Porphyry Place if it is owned by the WMC, as opposed to a private party.

The grants that MAC has received and the money we've already allocated to projects was discussed:

Grant Money Received so far: \$133,016

Money Allocated for Projects so far: \$81,490

Remaining Grant Funds: \$51,526  
2012 Grant we expect to receive: \$33,500

Contact Jeremy Pataky, [jeremy@wrangells.org](mailto:jeremy@wrangells.org), 907-244-7717 or 907-554-4464.  
See proposal that was sent along with the minutes:  
MAC Proposal from WMC May 2011.doc and MAC handout from WMC.doc

### **Road Maintenance**

The need for increased road maintenance was discussed, particularly about the road between Kennicott and MXY. The state often says they do not have enough funding to grade and maintain the road regularly. MAC could ask DOT for more road maintenance and more community members could also make this request. A greater voice from various segments of the community is needed on this issue. Could we use the grader that is here to grade the road and possibly use local labor?

Discussion also covered the use of dust abatement chemicals and the importance of not using them around water sources along the road. This will be mentioned in our request. Motion to write a letter to DOT Commissioner, requesting frequent gradings/maintenance of the road between Kenn-MXY. Motion seconded and passed. MAC Secretary will write and send, in consultation with Kelly Bay and Kenny Smith.

### **MXY-Kennecott Chamber of Commerce Sign Repair**

Motion to repair the sign across from the museum with volunteer SEAG labor. Motion seconded and passed. Signs at Clear Creek water hole and along the short-cut will also be repaired. Thank you SEAG!! (Also, thanks SEAG for standing the bus-stop shed back up!)

### **EVERYONE PLEASE SLOW DOWN WHEN DRIVING THROUGH TOWN!!**

### **New MAC Board Members Election**

Jason Lobo and Christine Johnson volunteered and were appointed by President Mark Vail to fill 2 vacant board positions for the remainder of 2011.

### **Margot Higgins—Dissertation Research Update**

Margot is researching the influence of the NPS on this community and would like to speak with as many community members as possible over the summer about their experiences living here. Jessica Speed and Shawn Olson will be assisting her. She's asking for everyone's participation.

Contact her at the Wrangell Mountains Center or at the Edwards' home.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Yard Sale/Seedling Swap will be Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 10-2.

Jessica Speed announced that the NPS Regional Office did a Cultural Landscape Inventory of the Kennecott Cemetery last summer and they will be writing a Cultural Landscape Report based on the work. They are seeking community input on the

document. It will be in the mail shack, with contact information, for those who are interested in the future interpretation of the Kennecott Cemetery.

The Mail Shack will soon be transformed into a colorful work of art!! Stop by soon to see the change. Thank you Christine Johnson and Jessica Speed for heading up this effort!

The Copper River NW Railway Centennial Celebration will be hosted by the MXY Museum and the NPS. Events are scheduled for July 8th, 9th and 10<sup>th</sup>. Contact Sunny Cook or Erica Edmonds for information: [Erica\\_edmonds@nps.gov](mailto:Erica_edmonds@nps.gov) or [gramasunny@hotmail.com](mailto:gramasunny@hotmail.com).

CPR/AED Classes available to everyone in the community, May 31<sup>st</sup> or June 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Stephens Harper, 554-1144.

Fish permits will be issued soon, look for posted announcements at the mail shack. Contact Stephens Harper, 554-1144.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm by President Mark Vail.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.



## **McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Tony Zak House**

Members present: Gaia Marrs, Charlie O'Neill, Christine Johnson, Keith Rowland, Daniel Doak, Maria Shell, Marie Lastufka, Barbara Rice, Joey Williams, Zack Barrett, Laurie Rowland, John Rice, Wayne Marrs, Nancy Cook, Eric Yould, Patty Yould, Jeremy Pataky, Ben Shaine, Marci Thurston, Mark Vail, Jessica Speed, Bob Cook, Stacie Miller, John Adams, Sunny Cook, Jason Geck, Natalie Bay, Lyn Welty, Susan Pizitz, Stephens Harper, Tamara Harper

Others present: Melissa Blair (NPCA), Carol Harding (NPS), Regina Shell, Chris Mishmash (CVT), Angela Ucinski, Charlotte James, Eric Veach (NPS), Margot Higgins, Joe Donohue, Denise Lopez, Johanna Jackson, Adam Wells, Greg Handley, Fred Dure, Ann Dure, Allison Sayer, Elwood Lynn (NPS), Todd Stoeberl (NPS)

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:40am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Motion seconded and passed.

### **DOT Letter from MAC**

Letter (approved at May meeting) written by Kelly Bay asking DOT for regular maintenance of the road to Kennecott was read and will be sent to DOT. Letter is attached to the minutes email (DOT\_letter\_Kenn\_road.doc).

### **Museum project funding update**

Bob Cook reported that the museum is progressing well on their infrastructure upgrades. The framings are done, the solar panels are up, the inverter in, 2 circuits installed and 4 batteries in. The museum is now electrified and the heater will be installed soon. Everyone should join the museum and help support their good works!!

Contact John Rice to join: [crnw2011@gmail.com](mailto:crnw2011@gmail.com)

**Reminder on Grant-funded projects:** The MAC board has decided to put a 1-year limit on grant-funded projects. Within a year, you must finish your project and report to MAC on its completion, or you may ask for a 6-month extension if needed. After that, unused money will go back into the general fund for future projects.

### **Kennecott Management Plan— MAC Sub-Committee Update**

Wayne Marrs reported that the MAC sub-committee working on the Kennecott Management Plan revision project (Bill Morris, Wayne Marrs, Jessica Speed, Mike Loso, Kelly Bay, Jeremy Keller, Meghan Seifert) met and was disappointed with the draft of the "Proposed Action for Management of Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark" that the NPS recently completed. They decided to rewrite their own draft, with each committee member responsible for different sections. All committee members have read the plan, made comments and then each member will rewrite a section/s with those comments and comments from community members. **In order to have your comments/ideas considered for this draft of the plan, contact one or more committee members ASAP with your input.**

Timeline for this process: they will present a draft version at the July MAC meeting and the final draft plan at the August MAC meeting, with the goal of having a plan with community-wide approval by the end of the summer.

**Below are the sections of the plan that each member is working on, please contact any/all ASAP to participate in this process.** Thanks to the committee for their time and efforts during this busy time!

1. Intro – Jessica Speed/Bill Morris
  2. NPS goals – Bill Morris  
(except subsection “partnerships”—Jeremy Keller)
  3. Management concepts – Jeremy Keller
  4. Communication – Jeremy Keller
  6. Architectural Control Committee– Meghan Seifert
  - p. 24: Off-Road Vehicles – Bill Morris; Parking – Jessica Speed
  - p. 25, 26: Shuttle – Wayne Marrs; Roads – Kelly Bay; Campground – Mike Loso
  - p. 27-29: Utilities, except Airport Office – Wayne Marrs; Airport Office – Kelly Bay
  - p. 30-31: Visitor protection – Kelly Bay
- Additions/New Sections:
- Local hire – Jessica Speed
  - Frontcountry/Glacier Access—Mike Loso
  - Recreational/ORV Use of Kennecott Easements by non-residents/non-subsistence users—Bill Morris

Jessica Speed: [jessica\\_speed72@yahoo.ca](mailto:jessica_speed72@yahoo.ca)/907-554-4503/907-575-7818

Wayne Marrs: [wayne@steliasguides.com](mailto:wayne@steliasguides.com)/907-554-1145

Kelly Bay: [flywma@starband.net](mailto:flywma@starband.net)/907-554-4411

Mike Loso: [mloso@alaskapacific.edu](mailto:mloso@alaskapacific.edu)/907-334-0970/907-554-4485

Bill Morris: [wfmorris@duke.edu](mailto:wfmorris@duke.edu)

Jeremy Keller: 907-440-7924

Meghan Seifert: [meghanseifert@yahoo.com](mailto:meghanseifert@yahoo.com)/907-554-4426

Motion to add Meghan Seifert to the sub-committee. Motion seconded and passed.

Comments can also be given to NPS staff; written comments are most effective.

NPS Public Meeting on the Proposed Action Plan for Kennecott will be on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 at the Kennecott Rec. Hall.

Contact Elizabeth Schafer, [elizabeth\\_schafer@nps.gov](mailto:elizabeth_schafer@nps.gov), 907-960-1014, 907-554-4431 or Bruce Rogers, [bruce\\_rogers@nps.gov](mailto:bruce_rogers@nps.gov), 907-822-7276.

### **NPS Local Hire Issue**

Discussion on how the community feels about the local hire issue, especially with NPS Interpretive Staff. We'd like to see a hiring procedure established that requires the park to maintain some level of local hire in the Interpretation staff and considers locals with knowledge of and experience in this area a valuable asset to park operations. We agree that you cannot fully interpret this community if you are not a part of it. We will invite Ann Crow, Chief of Administration of WRST, to the July MAC meeting to explain the park's perspective and the policies it works under.

We are between superintendants at WRST and this is a good opportunity to address the issue, to make sure it is discussed during his/her hiring process, so that the new superintendant will be aware of the community's views. Currently, the hiring procedure for local NPS staff is not required to include any questions that give points or credit for having

local knowledge and/or experience in this community or park and we think this is disrespectful and wrong.

Motion to appoint Mark Vail to draft a short letter stating the local hire issue is a concern to our community and it will continue to be so until it is resolved. We request that the NPS create a procedure to ensure that local knowledge/experience are given value in the hiring process of local park staff. The letter will go to WRST, the AK Regional Director Sue Masica, the National Director Jon Jarvis, and our Congressional Delegation of Young, Murkowski and Begich. Motion seconded and approved.

### **Copper Valley Telecom Update—Chris Mishmash**

The CVT customer appreciation picnic will be Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at Tony Zak's....come and enjoy a burger with your friendly local phone company!!

Microwave tower project....a bit behind schedule, new schedule posted at the mailshack. Gilahina Butte site will be the first site they work on, will start very soon. Helicopter traffic will increase in the area.

When the new microwave system is in place, phone service will have less delay and internet service will be faster, and we will be able to use our same phone units. Internet service speed should be 800KB--1.2MB.

Fire prevention and solar issues at the MXY site were addressed: the CVT generator site is 6,600 sq. ft, most of which is cleared, but if the community wanted more clearing, CVT would be agreeable. We also need to check with the surrounding landowner to see if a larger perimeter could be cleared around the generators.

For the past 5 years in the summer, the CVT facility in MXY has run off MXY lodge power and in the winter, their generator provided MXY lodge with power. This will no longer happen because MXY lodge is adding greater loads and does not have enough extra power to provide to CVT; CVT will now run their generators year-round in MXY. The MXY site does not have any solar panels currently, but all other CVT tower sites do/will. Next year, CVT will be changing the generators at the MXY site and could consider a combination of solar panels/batteries/generator at that time.

Contact Chris Mishmash for information: 907-835-7700, [cmishmash@cvtc.org](mailto:cmishmash@cvtc.org)

**Reminder to SLOW DOWN in town, RESPECT pedestrians and bikes.** Museum owns the parking lot across from the museum. Please use this lot for short-term parking only—day or one night. A “short-term parking only” sign will soon be installed.

### **NPS Fuel Break Project near University Subdivision, south side of MXY Creek**

This fire fuel break project will start August 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be exclusively on NPS lands along a line South/SE of the University subdivision, and will be 100' wide. James Savage will attend the MCLOA meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions or he can be contacted.

Map of the work area is attached with the minutes:

(McCarthy\_Project\_Alternatives\_05022011\_Arcmap10)

Contact James Savage, NPS Fire Management Officer

[james\\_savage@nps.gov](mailto:james_savage@nps.gov), 907-455-0650 or 907-347-7102

### **Boreal Canopy Tour Proposal and Nizina Trail—Fred Dure**

Fred Dure described his idea of a new business on his property, a series of ziplines and platforms that create a canopy tour through the boreal forest. He envisions 2 phases of construction over the next couple years and could employ locals during various stages of construction and operation. He would transport clients on the Nizina Road and it may need

some improvements to accommodate the increased traffic. He would like the help of a committee to assess the Nizina Road and what it would take to improve its condition. Motion to form a committee to assess the Nizina Road and possible improvements. Motion seconded and passed. The committee consists of Fred Dure, Bob Cook, Eric Yould and Keith Rowland; they will report back to MAC. If you want to contribute to this effort, contact Fred Dure, [solar@AlaskaEcoLodge.com](mailto:solar@AlaskaEcoLodge.com).

**Treasurer's Report**—Tamara Harper

June financial activity:

Reimbursed museum \$4,200 of their \$5,000 project funding

Bought \$2,346 worth of supplies for medical caches (also a funded project)

Deposited \$25 in membership dues

Checking account balance: \$1,313.59

Savings account balance: \$71,237.84

Motion to make all future funding proposal votes by written ballot. Motion seconded. Discussion followed: people should be free to vote either way on funding requests with anonymity. Motion passed.

**Wrangell Mountains Center Funding Proposal Vote**

Last month, WMC requested \$20,000 of state revenue-sharing funds to help buy Porphyry Place, Ed and Meg's former home. Discussion occurred about the proposal, whether it was a valid use of public funds, and other concerns. Voting was by paper ballot. The proposal passed, 50 Yes/13 No, including proxy votes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Copper River/NW Railway 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is July 8-10<sup>th</sup>...lots of events planned! See schedule sent with minutes (Centennial Schedule of Events.pdf) or call Sunny Cook 907-980-9313 with questions.

UAF Cooperative Extension Service gave the WMC a small library of publications on rural living skills. Please feel free to come browse/use.

U-PICK veggies, Fridays 2-3pm, at WMC's big garden, by donation.

Next Meeting, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 at Zak's.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm by President Mark Vail.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.



## **McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Tony Zak House**

Members present: Howard Mozen, Mark Vail, Keith Rowland, Gaia Marrs, Elizabeth Schafer, Jason Lobo, Greg Runyan, Salley Wallin, Scott Wallin, Marci Thurston, Ben Shaine, Marie Thorn, Bob Cook, Diane Malik, Lynn Welty, Peggy Guntis, Jim Guntis, Stephens Harper, Wayne Marrs, John Rice, Kelly Bay, Mike Loso, Tamara Harper

Others present: Candyce Rodrick, Yvoine Kelle, Philipp Sturm, John Montepare, Bruce Rogers (NPS), Jon Colson (NPS), Jim Baker (NPS), Janice Maslen (NPS), Tamara Lozano (NPS), Lynn Grams (NPCA), Carol Harding (NPS), Ann Crow (NPS), Margot Higgins, Fred Dure, Jeremy Keller, Vicki Snitzler

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:45am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

President Mark Vail briefed the membership on proposed changes to the MAC bylaws that we will vote on at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting: dues must be paid before the call to order of any meeting during the year in order to be a voting member and dues will cover membership from the time of payment until the end of that calendar year. Other changes that will be voted on can be viewed in the attached copy of the MAC bylaws (MACBylawrevisions.doc). Proposed changes are in red.

The board has also decided that presentations for grant funding requests will be limited to 10 minutes, with questions and discussion afterward and grant money must be spent within a year of approval, the grantee must give a verbal report to the membership upon completion of the project, and if the project needs more time at the end of one year, a 6-month extension may be requested.

### **Treasurer's Report—Tamara Harper**

In the past month, the museum was reimbursed \$230 for expenditures associated with their revenue-sharing project. \$90 in membership dues was deposited. We received our 2012 State of AK revenue-sharing grant money, \$33,500.

Checking account balance: \$1,026.01

Savings account balance: \$71,255.69

### **Update from KCHU manager Danny Sparrell**

A letter from Danny was read. They plan to run permanently off of the new CVT tower being installed this fall. He is confident they will be able to get the internet connection functioning so it will eliminate the buffering breaks we currently hear. They are seeking a new board member and would like someone from the McCarthy area. The commitment includes an hour-long meeting each month (by teleconference) and 1 week of training annually. Danny hopes to be in MXY in the next few weeks to train folks to use a mini-studio and how to be a DJ, record public service announcements and/or news from here in MXY. Contact Danny Sparrell if interested or with questions.

[gm@kchu.org](mailto:gm@kchu.org), 907-835-4665

Mark Vail welcomed Jon Colson, the new Kennecott Project Manager for NPS.

### **Nizina Road Committee Report—Fred Dure**

The committee looked at the Nizina Road from mile 5-8.5 with Rowcon and assessed what improvements were needed. Price estimate includes: gravel--\$11,000, grading--\$2,500, culvert

installation--\$1,500, ditching and water bars--\$4,950; Total is about \$20,000. The committee would like to keep it between \$10,000-15,000. The majority of the money would be spent on areas of the road used most by local residents. They have polled some of the residents who use the road and they have mixed feelings about the possible spot improvements. They may come to MAC with a proposal for funding in the future.

Contact Fred Dure for information: [frederick.dure@starband.net](mailto:frederick.dure@starband.net)

### **Local Hire Explanation/Discussion—Ann Crow, Chief of Administration, WRST, NPS**

After a discussion at the last meeting about the absence of any locals on the Kennecott Interpretive staff for the first time in park history, we invited Ann Crow to this meeting to explain the hiring rules/procedures the park must follow. She explained the history pertaining to the current hiring situation:

In 2008, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) did an audit of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Anchorage, and they found that many people had been hired using an excepted hiring appointment called local hire. Local hire is not an excepted hiring authority recognized in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Due to this, NPS and other federal agencies have not been able to use this hiring authority since then. ANILCA legislation (in 1980) included a plan for federal land management agencies to hire local residents who had special knowledge of the natural and cultural resources of an area. However, the CFR never got amended to include this “local hire” hiring authority that ANILCA described. Therefore, it cannot be used by the NPS to hire locally, until it is added to the CFR list of legal hiring appointments (this has not yet happened). This will require an amendment to the CFR that will enable OPM to allow use of the “local hire” excepted hiring authority.

Special/local knowledge (that only some individuals may have) can no longer make an applicant more qualified for a job here, nor can lack of local knowledge be used to screen an applicant out. Even though “local hire” is not allowed at this time, the NPS can use other excepted appointments listed in the CFR to hire locals in Kennecott, including remote/isolated duty station (where the job announcement is not available nationally, but only posted in the local area) or a 6-year local residency requirement, and it is up to each hiring supervisor which options he/she wants to use.

People questioned why local residents with many years experience in interpretation were not hired, even though they most likely qualified and why so many locals are hired by maintenance, but not interpretation this year. She could not comment on the particulars of the interpretation staff hiring, but she explained that it is at the discretion of the hiring supervisor (the Kennecott District Interpreter, in this case) whether to use excepted hiring authorities that can facilitate hiring locals. Different divisions use different hiring strategies and there is no park-wide policy on this issue. Members voiced that the park management needs to direct the supervisors to hire staff in the spirit of ANILCA’s local hire provision, using the available legal hiring authorities, and seriously consider qualified locals for employment. As a community, we are writing a letter to Sue Masica, AK Regional Director for NPS, asking her to include the local hire issue in the interviews for the new WRST Superintendent and emphasizing the importance of qualified locals working for the NPS in Kennecott. The draft letter was read and changes have been made since the meeting. The letter will be emailed to the MAC membership after it has been sent to Ms. Masica and the AK congressional delegation.

### **MAC Sub-committee working on the Kennecott Management Plan Update**

Jeremy Keller briefed the membership on the progress of the committee so far. About half the sections of the draft plan have been rewritten and will be sent out to the membership shortly. Please read these draft sections and submit your feedback to the committee members. They are trying to reach committee/community consensus for each section rewrite; when they see a consensus, they will write the drafts accordingly and when they don’t, they will propose a process for coming to consensus.

The committee will try and have their draft document ready for the August MAC meeting for discussion/approval, but an extension may be necessary and possibly a September MAC meeting??

SECTIONS OF THE KENN. MGMT. PLAN THAT EACH COMMITTEE MEMBER IS WORKING ON AND CONTACT INFO:

1. Intro – Jessica Speed/Bill Morris
  2. NPS goals – Bill Morris  
(except subsection “partnerships”—Jeremy Keller)
  3. Management concepts – Jeremy Keller
  4. Communication – Jeremy Keller
  6. Architectural Control Committee– Meghan Seifert
  - p. 24: Off-Road Vehicles – Bill Morris; Parking – Jessica Speed
  - p. 25, 26: Shuttle – Wayne Marrs; Roads – Kelly Bay; Campground – Mike Loso
  - p. 27-29: Utilities, except Airport Office – Wayne Marrs; Airport Office – Kelly Bay
  - p. 30-31: Visitor protection – Kelly Bay
- Additions/New Sections:
- Local hire – Jessica Speed
  - Subsistence—Jeremy Keller
  - Frontcountry/Glacier Access—Mike Loso
  - Recreational/ORV Use of Kennecott Easements by non-residents/non-subsistence users—Bill Morris

Jessica Speed: [jessica\\_speed72@yahoo.ca](mailto:jessica_speed72@yahoo.ca)/907-554-4503/907-575-7818

Wayne Marrs: [wayne@steliasguides.com](mailto:wayne@steliasguides.com)/907-554-1145

Kelly Bay: [flywma@starband.net](mailto:flywma@starband.net)/907-554-4411

Mike Loso: [mloso@alaskapacific.edu](mailto:mloso@alaskapacific.edu)/907-334-0970/907-554-4485

Bill Morris: [wfmorris@duke.edu](mailto:wfmorris@duke.edu)

Jeremy Keller: 907-440-7924

Meghan Seifert: [meghanseifert@yahoo.com](mailto:meghanseifert@yahoo.com)/907-554-4426

### **ATV/ORV Use in Kennecott Discussion**

The committee was interested in the community’s thoughts on ATV/ORV use in Kennecott and opened the floor to discussion. The increasing amount of ATVs in Kennecott has become more of an issue for the NPS, Kennecott landowners, and visitors. The issue is related to the open-access Kennecott footbridge, NPS’s lack of authority to regulate ATVs in Kennecott, and the diverse viewpoints of different user groups and community members. With no clear, easy solution to the issue, community discussion will be essential and the committee wanted to hear what MAC’s initial thoughts were, in order to help them write the section in the plan. Kennecott residents report that ATV/ORV users may disrespect private property and signage in Kennecott, drive too fast, conflict with pedestrian/bicycle users, and cause additional noise/congestion in the relatively small area of Kennecott. With no trails designed for ATV use in Kennecott, there is no place for them to go/no reason for them to come with motorized vehicles. This likely will become a bigger problem in the future, thus we need to think about how to deal with it now. The Kennecott Management Plan will outline how the NPS plans to manage ATV/ORV use in Kennecott; currently, the NPS promotes Kennecott as a pedestrian destination for visitors. Educating visitors, esp. ORV/ATV users before they come to the area, will be an important component of management, especially a unified message from the community, NPS, MAC, DOT and others (this exact message must be created and agreed upon). Signage at the west side of the Kennecott footbridge, created by the community, was suggested. This is not just a Kennecott townsite



issue, it's a Kennecott valley issue...and can we come to a community consensus?? Mike Loso read a letter that the Kennecott landowners sent to Meg Jensen last year, regarding ATV use in Kennecott (see attachment sent with minutes, Kennecottletter.doc). Stephens Harper explained the legality of the roads in Kennecott--that they are private, for use by lot-owners and their guests, but not the public in general. Various ideas were shared: the value of community-made signs, how a large % of visitors would likely respect signage w/ a community message, what would our message be, how are we willing to self-regulate our own activities, the discrepancy between a message to visitors vs. what locals do, how could the private service bridge help in a solution, how broadly held is the idea voiced by Kennecott residents and for what parts of the valley? A show of hands indicated most in the room agreed with the Kennecott residents' desire for less ATV use. We created a working group to focus on this issue that will report back to MAC in August.

### **Food Security in our Community—Jason Lobo**

He wants the community to consider stocking up with enough food for 200 people for 6 months, in the event that we are faced with a food shortage, due to crop failure, natural disaster, terrorist attack or some other event. He summarized both global and local agricultural and economic issues that make this a concern and urged us to think about our food resources, where they come from, and how prepared we are for an unexpected disaster. He may bring a formal proposal in the future to MAC.

### **Announcements:**

Great job to the museum for leading a successful Centennial Celebration of the CRNWR!!

Thanks to Kaylin Moffitt, Daniel and Jubal Rowland for putting gravel at the end of the footbridges earlier this summer...much appreciated!!

NPS Fire Management has been clearing brush around several backcountry cabins in the park and they will be burning the piles in the next few weeks. Subsistence hunting permits are available now. Call Stephens Harper 554-1144 for more info.

1<sup>st</sup> draft of Kennecott Exhibits Plan is out for public comment. Contact Carol Harding, 907-259-7202, [carol\\_harding@nps.gov](mailto:carol_harding@nps.gov) or Elizabeth Schafer, 907-960-1014, [Elizabeth\\_schafer@nps.gov](mailto:Elizabeth_schafer@nps.gov) to get a copy/make comments.

President Mark Vail adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.  
Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

August 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda so far:

Copper Valley Telecom Microwave Project Update—Chris Mishmash

Nizina Road Committee Update—Fred Dure

Kennecott Mgmt. Plan sub-committee update/draft plan presentation

ATV working group report



## **McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Tony Zak House**

Members present: Marci Thurston, Gaia Marrs, Mark Vail, John Rice, Peggy Guntis, Jim Guntis, Bob Cook, Trig Trigiano, Eric Yould, Jeremy Pataky, Laurie Rowland, Elizabeth Schafer, John Montepare, Jared Steyaert, Candyce Rodrick, Kenny Smith, Marie Thorn, Stephens Harper, Wayne Marrs, John Bosshard, Matt Smith, Meghan Seifert, Natalie Bay, Kris Gregory, Lyn Plomaritis, Christine Johnson, Keith Rowland, Tamara Harper

Others present: Chris Mishmash (CVT), Todd Stoeberl (NPS), Greg Biddle (NPS), Jon Colson (NPS), Norah Martinez (NPS), Eli Potter, Aria Potter, Lynn Grams (NPCA), Carol Harding (NPS)

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:40am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

Motion to approve the July 2011 MAC meeting minutes. Motion seconded and passed.

### **Treasurer's Report—Tamara Harper**

Financial activity in the last month:

Paid to WMC for Porphyry Place acquisition: \$20,000

Filled oxygen tanks for community medical caches: \$130.76

Toilet paper for outhouses: \$20

Deposited State of AK 2012 revenue-sharing grant: \$33,507

Checking account balance: \$994.69

Savings account balance: \$84,773.79

We are in the process of getting a federal stimulus grant for \$1,592 that will go for medical equipment/supplies for the community ambulance; Jen Gessert is leading this effort, thanks!

Expenses (estimated) yet to be paid out this year include: secretary salary (2,000), outhouse cleaner salaries (1,780), Tony Zak propane tank fill (100), community outhouse pumping (500), printer ink/office supplies (100).

The State of AK is giving MAC \$11,169 in additional revenue-sharing grant money. For the grant application, we could spend this money on road maintenance, community center improvements and outhouses (these are not binding). Payment is expected in November.

### **Copper Valley Telecom Microwave Tower Project Update—Chris Mishmash**

The MXY phone tower/generator site will not be repowered next year due to limited budget. CVT plans to repower the site, which may include solar and/or partnering with other power source in town, in 2013 instead.

They plan to put a Wi-fi antenna on the new MXY tower, so those within approx. a mile may receive wireless internet at faster speeds, as a paid service.

Towers are up in the NPS sites already and the MXY tower is being built now. Service is expected to start mid-late October.

See updated project schedule sent with minutes (Construction Schedule Rev 3.xls).

Contact Chris Mishmash for information: 907-835-7700, [cmishmash@cvtc.org](mailto:cmishmash@cvtc.org)

### **Nizina Road Committee Update—Eric Yould**

The committee that was formed earlier this year reported that a 3-mile section of the Nizina Road is in very bad shape and needs improvements, estimated at \$17,050. Fred Dure is beginning to create a zipline system on his Nizina property and may decide to run a business; a crew of 6 is there for a month, building the ziplines. DOT has not been contacted about roadwork, but this may happen. Dure may bring a proposal

for funding to MAC in March 2012 and he is currently soliciting comments on this upgrade from community members.

Contact Fred Dure: [solar@AlaskaEcoLodge.com](mailto:solar@AlaskaEcoLodge.com) or [frederick.dure@starband.net](mailto:frederick.dure@starband.net)

### **Kennecott Operations Plan Draft from the MAC sub-committee**

The draft of the Kennecott Operations Plan, written by the MAC committee, has been sent out to the MAC email list. **Thank you to the committee for so much time and effort on this draft!** Thanks to community members who gave comments and suggestions.

Please review this KOP draft. The committee is done with revisions and this is the draft that will go to NPS, but if you want to make any additional comments on this draft, you can send them directly to Bruce Rogers, NPS Planner, by September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. We will have signature sheets that anyone can sign to show support for the draft in full. Signature sheets will be located at SEAG and KWG in Kennecott, WMA in MXY and at the mailshack. If you are not in town to sign these sheets, please email the MAC secretary indicating that you would like your name added to the list, showing your support of the draft.

Motion to proceed with the above plan to have signature sheets posted around town for people to sign, the MAC secretary taking “emailed signatures” to add to the lists, and everyone being able to send additional comments or concerns about the draft to Bruce Rogers by Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Motion seconded and passed.

Elizabeth Schafer reminded the group that this process is part of creating the Environmental Assessment. Park management will use this input from the community to create various alternatives for action in Kennecott and they will be open for more public review and comments in Dec/Jan. Things that have not been fully outlined in this step of the process will be addressed in more detail in the EA and open for review, so this is not the last time we'll be able to make comments/suggestions on Kennecott operations.

The importance of sending in your own individual approval or disagreements with the draft to Bruce Rogers was emphasized. Any concerns we have with the draft as written should go directly to NPS for the most impact. Bruce is also available by phone or email to answer any questions/clarifications we have about the document or how the process goes from here. If anyone wants something new added to the document, now is the time to make the suggestions. After the EA is created, nothing new can be added. The section of the KOP about the Kennecott buildings was not rewritten, so if you have specific suggestions about how the historic buildings in Kennecott are managed, please send comments to Bruce.

Contact Bruce Rogers, NPS Planner, Mon-Thurs: 907-822-7276, [bruce\\_rogers@nps.gov](mailto:bruce_rogers@nps.gov)

### **ATV Working Group Report—Gaia Marrs**

A small group of community members met and talked about the issue of ATV use in the area. Concerns about the increasing number of visitors coming to the valley with ATVs, safety concerns and private property issues were discussed. The group created a 1-page draft document with initial thoughts on the message we might want to convey 1) to the visiting public about ATV use here and 2) to locals about how we use ATVs ourselves. The safety issue is a driving force behind this discussion...the more ATVs in the area, the higher likelihood of a serious accident, which could bring enforcement of ATV laws that are not currently enforced. This, in turn, could impact the freedoms of ATV use we currently enjoy. The group would like the community's input on this draft document...it is an initial attempt to craft ideas that we can agree on and convey to visitors. Please email the secretary with comments/suggestions or print this document, mark it with your corrections/revisions and return/send back. The ATV group plans to continue the discussion in the spring, based on feedback we get on this draft.

See attachment (ATVstatement.doc). Comments to: [mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com) or send to P.O. Box MXY #31, Glennallen, AK 99588.

### **ATV Use in Kennecott Subdivision—Ben Shaine**

Many Kennecott residents/landowners would like visitors to know that the easements (roads and trails) in the Kennecott subdivision are privately owned, for the use of landowners and their guests, but not for the

public in general. The NPS invites their guests on foot, bicycle or by shuttle, but not on motor vehicles. These Kennecott residents also invite visitors by foot, bike or shuttle. In order to convey these messages and educate visitors, a sign will be put up at the entrance of the subdivision (below the Miller property on the road to Kennecott) and flyers will be distributed on the west side. These Kennecott residents want to start getting this message out to the visiting public and this is a first step, in time for Labor Day weekend. Locals are invited to drive on Kennecott easements and this effort is not meant to restrict locals' access to Kennecott. The sign was shown and the flyers were distributed at the meeting. The importance of letting visitors know BEFORE they get to Kennecott was discussed; putting up larger signs on the west side would help. We discussed various strategies/ways to inform the public and how best to convey the message that Kenn-MXY is not a recreational ATV destination. This is the start of a long-term process to educate locals and visitors about private property and access issues in Kennecott. Please see flyer attached with minutes (Kennecott motor access handout.pdf).

### **MAC Bylaws Revisions**

Over the last few months, the MAC board has proposed some changes to the Bylaws. These were read to the group. Motions to adopt each proposed change, motions passed. The following changes were adopted:

- A1, S1: Principal Office: The principal office of MAC is the Blackburn Community Center in McCarthy, AK
- A3, S2: Qualifications of Members: Employee housing and/or seasonal camping do not qualify as a residence (as related to qualifications for voting members maintaining a residence in the area)
- A3, S4: Fees and Dues: Dues shall be paid at the annual meeting of each year and will cover the period from January 1<sup>st</sup>—December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Dues can be paid at anytime during the year, before any meeting is called to order, but they will not be pro-rated, and they will cover membership for the remaining portion of that calendar year. Dues can be paid up to 5 years in advance. (Dues remain at \$5.00 per year per voting member).
- A4, S1: Place of Meetings: Meetings of members shall be held at the Blackburn Community Center (also known as Tony Zak's)...
- A4, S7: Voting Rights: A voting member may vote by proxy. If a voting member wishes to vote by proxy, the member must file with the Secretary of the corporation either a signed and dated notice appointing a proxy or send an email assigning a proxy for the meeting or designating their vote. This notice must be received by the Secretary 24 hours prior to the meeting for which the proxy is appointed. Only proxies received 24 hours prior to the meeting are guaranteed to be counted.
- A5, S8: Meetings of Directors: Such meetings shall be held at the Blackburn Community Center or, if different, at the place designated by the person or persons calling the special meeting.
- A9, S7: Accounting Year: The accounting year of the corporation shall be January 1 to December 31 of each year.

### **Election of Board and Officers:**

Motion to elect the following Board of Directors and Officers for 2012 by voice vote. Motion seconded and passed.

President—Mark Vail

Vice President—Elizabeth Schafer

Secretary/Treasurer—Tamara Harper

Additional Board Members:

Natalie Bay

Gaia Marrs

John Rice

Trig Trigiano

Bill Morris

Christine Johnson

Jared Steyaert

John Montepare

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Possible Tony Zak clean-up day the week after Labor Day. An email announcement will be sent out and everyone is welcome to come and help spruce-up our community center!

REMINDER to review the KOP draft and get your comments in and sign the support sheets by Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>! Comments go to Bruce Rogers, NPS Planner, [bruce\\_rogers@nps.gov](mailto:bruce_rogers@nps.gov), 907-822-7276 by Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

We have not received a response to our letter to the NPS AK Regional Director, Sue Masica, regarding the Local Hire issue. When we receive one, it will be emailed to the MAC email list. We have also not received any written response to our letter to DOT earlier this summer regarding road maintenance, but DOT has graded the road to Kennecott a couple times since we sent the letter.

Dues are now being taken for 2012 MAC membership. You can also pay for up to 5 years in advance. Dues are \$5 per voting member per calendar year. Cash or Check to McCarthy Area Council, P.O. Box MXY #31, Glennallen, AK, 99588. Voting members must be 18 years old and maintain a residence in the area. Questions to Treasurer Tamara Harper, [mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com).

Next meeting will be March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Tony Zak's.

President Mark Vail adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm.  
Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.