

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes
April 30th, 2015, Tony Zak House

Members present: Lynn Welty, Matt Smith, Dave Hollis, Meghan Seifert, Stephens Harper, John Adams, Lynn Crawford, Jenny Rosenbaum, Keith Rowland, John Bosshard, Chris Chester, Brad Grossweiler, Ashley Dale, Tamara Harper

Others present: Mike Monroe, Jennifer Johnson, Cynthia Beshaw (DNR/DOF), Lynn Grams (NPCA), Connor Byrne, Jamie Mace

In the absence of President Mark Vail, Secretary/Treasurer Tamara Harper opened the meeting at 11:45am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

2016 Community Revenue Sharing Program Grant Application

MXY-Kenn is slated to receive \$32,333 next year from the state for community improvement projects. We outlined several areas where we may spend the money, including EMS, VFD, water/sewer projects, road maintenance, general administration and a mailshack upgrade. The application will be sent in before its June 1st deadline.

Westside Road Maintenance and Improvement proposals—Keith Rowland

Keith submitted 2 proposals, (#1) Road Improvement and (#2) Road Maintenance for the Westside road from John Adam's residence to the Rowlands' driveway. The Improvement Proposal (#1) would continue the work started last year, and would fund ditching and gravelling a ½ mile section of the road this summer; this proposal requests \$5,219 from MAC, with \$4,821 coming from donations/matching funding.

The Maintenance Proposal (#2) would fund summer grading and winter plowing for the whole road. This proposal requests \$2,688 from MAC, with \$1,152 coming from donations.

Voting will occur at the next meeting, May 28th. Members must be paid for 2015 to vote; proxy votes may be sent in to the MAC secretary prior to the meeting at mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com

See proposals attached: W_Road_Improve15 and W_Road_Maintain15

Tamara reminded people that state money is available through MAC to fund community improvement projects. At least 30% of the project cost must be funded by sources other than MAC funds and the maximum that any one proposal can request in 2015 is \$5,290. Guidelines are available in the mailshack or by request from the MAC secretary.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$5,996

Savings account balance: \$129,543

Expenses since last meeting (Aug 2014):

downtown outhouse labor, MV Services	\$3,456
water pump shed labor, MV Services	\$1,854
toilet paper for outhouses	\$135
outhouse pumping, Copper Basin Sanitation	\$1170
½ 2014 outhouse cleaning, Christine Johnson	\$950
cleaning supplies for Tony's	\$63
½ 2014 outhouse cleaning, Tamara Harper	\$930
outhouse supplies	\$20
2014 MAC secretary salary, Tamara Harper	\$1200
EMS phones winter fees, CVT	\$32

Deposits:

Donations for downtown MXY outhouse/dues	\$1070
Returned unused outhouse materials	\$338

Randy Elliot's Leaking Equipment at Nizina

Discussion informed the membership about an excavator, owned by Randy Elliot, parked near the Nizina River, that is leaking various fluids into a clearwater salmon stream used for by locals for drinking water. Stephens Harper, NPS, said that he and other citizens have reported the contamination to DEC, DNR, EPA and ADF&G. The NPS is pursuing what it can, but the excavator is located on state land, under DNR jurisdiction. DEC suggested moving the contaminated material to higher ground and burning it, due to its remote location. If Randy does not clean up the contamination, neighbors may have to do this. In the future, similar equipment should not be parked close to public drinking water sources and required permits should be obtained.

VFD Update—Chris Chester

Burn permit season has started. The VFD got a bunch of new equipment recently, so they can add gear to the southside cache. VFD trainings will be Wednesdays at 6:30pm all summer; he encouraged anyone to participate. Assessments of firewise work on private property will continue this summer; it's the last summer to participate in the firewise program. The low-snow winter may mean a high-fire-danger summer. There may be a crew firewising along roadways here this summer, depending on funding and fire needs elsewhere. Due to limited funding and staffing, most of the Nizina Road will not be firewised (between the University subdivision and the Nizina subdivision). If they have time/crew, they will work on the Silvermine road, leading to the new subdivision. We discussed the possibility of community burn days this summer at the NPS burn area; details still need to be figured out.

DNR, Div. of Forestry Update—Cynthia Beshaw

Cynthia reviewed our status as a Firewise Community and encouraged us to host a Firewise Day this summer. The Firewise program has completed 66 initial assessments and 44 final assessments of private properties. The Firewise program will conclude August 15th, and all assessments must be done by then. DNR/VFD has Firewise signs to install in the valley, they discussed possible locations.

Contact Chris Chester, 554-2102, for Fire Response, to schedule assessments or for any other VFD info. 554-2100 is also a Fire Response #.

DOT Update—Tamara Harper

DOT has just put out a call for construction bids for the Lakina Bridge project; due to delays, work may start this summer, but the majority of the work will likely occur summer 2016. DOT will hold public meetings in MXY before the project starts to gather public opinion and answer questions.

NPS Update—Stephens Harper

The Superintendent's letter is coming soon to inform the community of NPS activities this summer. Some highlights include: fire prevention work in Kennecott--electricity, heat detectors, alarms, and sprinkler systems will be installed in some NPS buildings, wood debris around Mill building will be removed, the Mill building will be open for tours, area-wide siren will be installed for emergency notification. Several community members will be new to the maintenance crew this summer. Jaime Hart is now the permanent Kennecott lead Interpretive Ranger, the Kennecott Visitor's Center opens May 22nd, 9:30am-7:30pm daily. EMT refresher and CPR/First Aid classes will be available, they will be announced. Trail crew will work on the Root Glacier trail towards the Erie Mine and the Jumbo Mine trail. The Wilderness Stewardship Plan will start this summer with public meetings to be announced. The Commercial Use Authorization holders meeting is June 10th in the Rec Hall. Fish permits will be available in later May, contact Stephens. Carol Harding will work again on Kennecott interpretive displays this summer.

Contact: Stephens Harper, 554-1144

Announcements:

3 public outhouses are damaged; please use caution until they are fixed in mid-May.

The 7th annual yard sale and seedling sale/swap will be Saturday, May 30th, at Tony's, from 10am-12pm. Everyone welcome to bring all your treasures to sell/buy/trade!

YIELD signs will be installed at the museum soon, these were approved last year.

President Mark Vail will be back for the next meeting!

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, May 28th, 2015 at 11:30am.

Board of Directors will meet at 10:30am, before the May meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Tamara Harper adjourned the meeting at 12:45pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes May 28th, 2015, Tony Zak House

Members present: Kaleb Rowland, Jeremy Pataky, Mark Vail, Christine Johnson, Bill Morris, Trig Trigiano, John Rice, Philipp Sturm, Bob Cook, Stephens Harper, Keith Rowland, Chris Chester, Tom Golden, MaryKaye Golden, Jurgen Ogrodnik, Charlie O'Neill, Lyn Plomaritis, Natalie Bay, Dave Syren, Caleb Aronson, Cyndi Hendel, Maria Benner, Scott Clendaniel, Elizabeth Schafer, Rob Wesson, Gayle Gordon, Kristin Link, Tamara Harper

Others present: Mike Monroe, Caroline Kozak, Jon Cooperman (NPS), Rick Obernesser (NPS), Stephanie Sever, Jason Hoke (CVDA), Andrew Linton, Mike Trimmer (DNR/DOF), Cynthia Beshaw (DNR/DOF), Lynn Grams (NPCA), Jason Esler, Jessie Huff (AEA), Jason Lobo, Steve Landan(?)

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:30am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

Motion made to approve April 2015 MAC minutes, motion seconded and passed.

Future MAC Fiscal Situation

Most of MAC's recent funding has come from state of AK Community Revenue Sharing Grants. These annual payments are expected to decrease significantly over the next few years and may be non-existent by 2019. The MAC Board of Directors is considering different ways to adapt to this future fiscal reality. They are considering ways to both save and invest our money. To this end, we will invite the Alaska Community Foundation to educate us about their programs/opportunities for helping Alaskan communities manage their public monies. The BOD also revised the way we distribute the revenue-sharing money to local projects from this point forward. With our 2015 money from the State (\$33,953), we will set aside \$10,000 for operating expenses. Of the remaining \$23,953, half (\$11,976) will be available for proposal requests, with a maximum of 20% (\$2,395) per proposal. \$7,907 was approved at this meeting for 2 Westside road projects, leaving \$4,069 for proposals this year. \$11,976 will be saved for possible investing.

See attached: 2015 MAC funding guidelines_amended

Westside Road Maintenance and Improvement proposals vote

Westside road maintenance and Westside road improvement proposals were voted on. Motion to apply the new maximum amount (\$2,395) to these proposals, no second of motion. Discussion about whether to apply the newly amended guidelines to these proposals did not yield any changes. The Maintenance proposal for \$2,688 passed: 27 yes, 4 no. The Improvement proposal for \$5,219 passed: 23 yes, 7 no. Both vote tallies included 6 proxy votes sent to the secretary.

DOT update

We invited DOT to our meeting, but they did not respond. They have replaced a culvert on the road between Kenn-MXY, graded and applied dust abatement. The Lakina bridge replacement project is progressing, but is behind schedule; the contract will not be awarded until late June. Most of the work will likely happen in 2016.

New Garbage Service—Jason Esler

Jason is starting a garbage business in the valley. He's done a lot of research about garbage management in other similar communities and will now have garbage, recycling and compost service available. He'll be hauling many businesses' garbage and is available for private residences also. Customers must use his bags and follow his system. 55-gallon garbage bags cost \$20. Recycling will be free and must be sorted. He has a holding dumpster in Chitina and will drive garbage and recyclables to Palmer/ANC. There will be times for garbage/recyclables drop-off at his holding area at the end of the MXY road. He is available to explain the service and assist people in setting up their own system. Thank you Jason, for taking this on. Contact Jason Esler, 554-2345, jasonaesler@gmail.com

Copper Valley Development Association—Jason Hoke

Jason offered his help with various issues in our community: agriculture, composting, renewable energy, recyclables. He also brought Jessie Huff from the Alaska Energy Authority. They are working together on the Regional Energy Plan, which looks at energy issues in our area. Please utilize their expertise, they are more than willing to help our community or individuals. Contact Jason Hoke, jhoke@coppervalley.org or Jessie Huff, jhuff@aidea.org

VFD/Forestry Update—Mike Trimmer/Chris Chester

A crew of 2 will be working on brushing area roads again this summer; they are short-handed, but will continue with the work

along the Nizina and Silvermine Roads. Chris Chester will continue with firewise assessments; this is the final summer and finals must be completed by August 15th. Please contact Chris Chester if you need either an initial or final assessments. Also let him know if you are not going to be able to finish your firewising work, as they need to adjust their budget accordingly. A Firewise Day will be planned, date to be announced. A community burn day (monitored burn in one place) is still in the works, plans will be announced. Jason Esler has burn barrels available. VFD meets every Wednesday at 6:00 at the VFD property, all welcome, come learn and help out!
Contact Chris Chester, 554-2102

NPS Superintendent's Letter—Stephens Harper

Stephens reviewed the letter to our community from Rick Obernesser, WRST Superintendent. The letter has already been sent out to the MAC email list and hard copies are in the mail shack.

A few highlights: Jaime Hart is the new Kennecott District Interpretive Ranger, Dianne Milliard will be on the Interp staff, Carol Harding will work on the Kennecott exhibit designs this summer, Jon Cooperman will assist Stephens as a seasonal law enforcement ranger (Courtney Eberhardy is at training until Sept), the NPS trail crew will work on the Root Glacier, Jumbo and Crystalline Hills trails this summer, volunteer trail work days will be scheduled/dates to be announced, the Mill building will be open for full tours this summer, electrical and fire detection/suppression systems will be installed in some Kennecott buildings, an area-wide emergency notification siren will be installed, and the Backcountry Management and Wilderness Stewardship Planning will start this summer and will last 30 months. An initial open-house to explain the process will be June 22 in the Kennecott Rec. Hall. Contact Bruce Rogers regarding this planning effort: bruce_rogers@nps.gov, 907-822-7276
Contact Stephens Harper, 554-1144

KCHU Donation Request

Our public radio station, KCHU's state funding has decreased, and they are requesting financial assistance from listening communities' revenue-sharing funds to help support their equipment, maintenance and electricity costs. The KCHU annual board meeting is here at Porphyry Place, MXY on June 6th, 10am, anyone is welcome to attend.
Motion to donate \$500 of community revenue-share funds to KCHU, motion seconded and passed.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$8,081

Savings account balance: \$124,550

Expenses:	to Rowcon, w.side road maintenance project 2014	\$2688
	2 yield signs for museum Y in road	\$93
	CVT-EMS phones	\$5
	ambulance diesel fill-up, to Fireweed Fuel	\$126

Announcements:

New mailboxes are in short supply....anyone willing to share half of their box for newcomers? Who is in charge of mailboxes now?? Nobody seems to know...volunteers?

Trig offered to donate materials for a mailshack expansion if we can figure out how to build it....who wants to help Trig??

Contact trig@uaa.alaska.edu

The MXY-Kenn museum is looking for a piece of native copper to display, contact crnw2011@gmail.com

Stephens Harper expressed concern that the vault toilet tank at the end of the MXY road (near the footbridge) is at risk of falling into the Kennicott River and will spill sewage. It's located on Syren private property, now managed in trust by Steve Syren's relative. If it falls into the river, it will be a hazard to navigation and source of pollution. Dave Syren offered to contact Roy Syren, the trust manager, about this issue. Hopefully it can be reinstalled for another vault toilet.

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, June 25th, 2015 at 11:30am.

Board of Directors will meet at 10:30am, before the June meeting.

President Vail adjourned the meeting at 1pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes June 25th, 2015, Tony Zak House

Members present: Jeremy Pataky, Mark Vail, Bill Morris, John Rice, Stephens Harper, Laurie Rowland, Chris Chester, Lyn Plomaritis, Natalie Bay, Elizabeth Schafer, Rob Wesson, Patt Garrett, Jamie Mace, Kenny Smith, Greg Runyan, Tamara Harper

Others present: Mike Monroe, Jon Cooperman (NPS), Amos Almy, Gill Braver, Todd Stoeberl (NPS), Jason Esler, Jason Lobo, Carol Harding (NPS), Brian Enright, Connor Byrne

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.

The May meeting minutes were amended to include missing information about a motion that was made and voting tallies. Motion made to approve amended May 2015 MAC minutes, motion seconded and passed.

President Vail noted that non-members may have voted at the May meeting. In the future, the MAC board will monitor the voting process to ensure accuracy and fairness. Only paid-up members will be able to vote.

Yield Signs at Museum

Last year, MAC voted to install YIELD signs at the museum to increase safety at the intersection. They were put up recently and stolen 3 days later. We'll be making more signs to put back up. Drive safely and keep speeds down, this intersection can be a hazard.

NPS Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan

The NPS is starting a 30-month process of planning for the park's backcountry use. The park's Planner, Bruce Rogers, has invited MAC to form a committee to monitor this process, provide input and act as liaison between NPS and MAC. Ideally, the committee would consist of a cross-section of community representatives: business owners, scientists, park/backcountry users, subsistence users, etc. Anyone is welcome to be considered for this committee; if you would like to be involved, contact the MAC secretary or come to the next meeting. We will compile a list of those interested and vote for a 5-member committee at the July meeting. The next public meeting about this planning process is July 16th, 6:30-8:30 at the Kennecott Recreation Hall. See attached documents for a summary of the Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Planning process: [wildplan1.pdf](#), [wildplan2.pdf](#)

VFD/Forestry Update—Chris Chester

At the time of the meeting, a full burn ban was in effect, signs were up to alert visitors and our VFD was patrolling and educating the public and locals. Fire risk is still high, so please be careful with fires, burn barrels, etc. When there is a full burn ban, it means no burning at all (including campfires and burn barrels) on all land, including private property. This total ban has since been lifted, but we must continue to use caution. We appreciate the VFD spraying the roads with water to control dust. Motion made to donate \$250 to the VFD to help with dust abatement and general fire-prevention work. Motion seconded, passed by voice vote.

Chris Chester reported that Firewise Day went well, we received our "Firewise Community" plaque, and a kiosk that explains about firewising. They cleared and chipped 2 properties, thank you to all who volunteered for Firewise Day!

VFD got approval from NPS to use their burnsite near the glacier to burn brush/vegetation cleared from private property for firewising. Locals can bring ONLY BRUSH/SLASH (no building materials, cardboard, garbage, lumber, etc) to the site and VFD will burn later in the season. We must call Chris Chester before we bring any brush to the burnsite, 554-2102.

Jason Esler is available to transport brush, call 907-554-2345

Thanks to VFD and NPS for cooperating on this burn-safety project.

Call Chris Chester to report a fire or for anything fire-related: 907-554-2102, or Zack Barrett 554-2100.

MAC Financial future/planning

The MAC Board will invite the AK Community Foundation to talk about how they help communities manage/invest their money for the future. They'll likely meet with the Board initially and the Board will report/discuss with the membership before any decisions are made. We'll hope to have this initial meeting in August.

NPS Update—Stephens Harper

The Chisana wildland fire continues to burn in the north of the park, it's the state's biggest, and is not being actively controlled. Fire fuel reduction permits: If you have land immediately adjacent to NPS land and a structure(s) is closer than 100 feet to the line, you can get a permit to firewise/clear the NPS land around the structures. Call Stephens for the permit, 554-1144.

The NPS encourages locals to participate in the Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Planning process; the NPS especially hopes MAC will appoint a committee to contribute locals' ideas/input to the process. Contact Bruce Rogers for more

information: 907-822-7219.

The Trail Crew brushed the Root Glacier trail out to the Erie Mine tram cables, will brush some of the Jumbo trail and also the Crystalline Hills trail along the MXY road. On July 3rd, a group of Boy Scouts helped brush the Wagon Road, West Kennicott Glacier and Bonanza trails...THANK YOU to the Boy Scouts for choosing WRST as the park to do their service project! The Tony Zak community center gained lots of firewood from their trail work!

EMS Update—Stephens Harper

Jacob Schultz, the MXY EMS president, is purchasing more medical supplies for our community caches with the original money granted from MAC. They are working to create another cache in Kennecott that is accessible to the public like the others at the WMC in downtown MXY and on the westside, on John Adam's property. They also plan to add medical equipment to the southside fire cache in the University subdivision, so medical supplies are closer to folks on the southside. Ambulance driver training will be held during VFD training on Wed, July 8th. Contact Jacob Schultz to volunteer with the EMS group: 503-860-3040

Kennecott NPS Exhibits—Carol Harding

Funding has been approved to complete the NPS exhibits project in Kennecott. The exhibits design phase will be finished this season and the review process will occur throughout this year. Next year, the exhibits will be built and installation should be done by summer 2017. Next summer, NPS will start converting the old school building into a visitor information center. Carol continues to see this process along, call her at 907-960-1006 with questions/comments or visit her at her office in the old school building in Kennecott.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$6,700

Savings account balance: \$124,556

Expenses:	CVT—EMS phones	\$9
	KCHU radio donation	\$500
	MV Services--3 outhouses repaired, labor/materials	\$592
	Outhouse toilet paper, 2 cases	\$277
	Hand sanitizers for outhouses	\$144
Deposits:	Interest	\$7
	Dues	\$135

Mail Shack Expansion Project

Trig Trigiano has generously offered to donate up to \$5,000 worth of materials to expand the size of the mailshack, a much-needed improvement. His offer is contingent upon getting locally-donated labor to build the addition. We need to draw plans, make a materials list and plan a work day(s) with a volunteer labor crew. Tamara, Elizabeth and Matt Vial are working on the pre-project planning, we'll need labor later in summer, as the project progresses...stay tuned and come help...we need a bigger mailshack! Thanks so much, Trig! Lindee Satterfield keeps track of mailboxes, if you need one or can share yours, add your name to the list at the shack and she will assign you a box.

Announcements:

Follow-up on vault toilet at Kennicott footbridge that is at risk of falling into river: the executor of the estate has been notified of the community's concern about pollution/impediment to navigation/etc. He acknowledged the information. No other info available now.

MXY road safety: Be aware that people drive the road between Chitina and McCarthy very fast, be careful and tell visiting friends to drive cautiously. An increase in motorcycles has been noted, watch for them! Companies/owners should be notified if company vehicles are driving recklessly. A 10MPH speed limit sign is posted at the start of the Kennecott subdivision and will be enforced.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRES

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, July 30th, 2015 at 11:30am.

Board of Directors will meet at 10:30am, before the July meeting.

President Vail adjourned the meeting at 1pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes July 30th, 2015, Tony Zak House

Members present: Jeremy Pataky, Mark Vail, John Rice, Chris Chester, Lyn Plomaritis, Elizabeth Schafer, Patt Garrett, Greg Runyan, Kenny Smith, Elizabeth Schafer, Kaleb Rowland, Trig Trigliano, Mike Monroe, Keith Rowland, Dave Hollis, Jason Esler, Ben Shaine, Gayle Gordon, Howard Mozen, Matt Vial, Dave Syren, Kristin Link, Karen Loso, Tamara Harper

Others present: Todd Stoeberl (NPS), Dorothy Chase, Eli Potter, Gillian Braver, Rick Obernesser (NPS), Lynn Grams (NPCA), Jim Baker (NPS), Nyssa Landres (NPS), Bruce Rogers (NPS), Maria Shell, Athena Swinford, Cynthia Beshaw (DOF), Connor Byrne

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:35am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

Motion made to accept the June 2015 MAC meeting minutes, motion seconded, passed by voice vote.

MAC Financial future/planning

The MAC Board will meet with the AK Community Foundation on Aug. 21st to learn more about their services, helping Alaskan communities manage public money for future sustainability. The State of AK has warned us our grant money may end in the near future due to state budget challenges. We'll learn about investment options, ask them directly about the opportunities and will report back to MAC. The Board won't make any decisions until discussion with MAC membership. Motion made that the decision to invest MAC money with the AK Community Foundation be decided by the entire MAC membership, rather than just the MAC board; motion seconded. Discussion followed: board members of 501c(3)s are personally, legally liable for the finances of the organization—should Board have greater say due to this responsibility? The importance of discussing any decision with membership beforehand was stressed. An advisory vote could/should be held prior to decision. The Board has/will spend more time/effort understanding the investment options, thus they may be more able to make informed decision than broader membership. This is only one option we are exploring now, we must research other possibilities for future revenue when state money is not available...suggestions welcome...grants? Motion fails by hand vote. However, an advisory vote by entire membership will occur before any investment decision is made by the Board. Other grant possibilities were discussed, where would they come from? who will champion? what project(s) would they fund?

Completed west side road improvement project report

Keith reported that another ½ mile of the west side road was ditched and screened gravel added, completing the work for this phase of the project. MAC's portion has been paid (\$5,219), he's collected about \$2,400 so far from private donations and still needs to collect the remaining \$2,400 from west side road users. Be sure to pay Rowcon if you pledged a contribution or if you use the west side road!

Other roads discussion: the roads on both sides of the vehicle bridge need work (known as Castle Road). We discussed driving on the island "runway" instead of the road leading to the bridge—it's not technically a runway, it's a dedicated vehicle right-of-way, the onus is on the pilots to make sure it's clear for airplane usage. We agreed that Castle Road needs grading, but aren't sure it's DOT's responsibility. Keith said that DOT has indicated that they may be willing to grade/improve it, if there is community support. There was full support to write a letter to DOT asking them to grade the "footbridge bypass route" (the roads leading to/from the vehicle bridge on both sides). This letter will be written this month.

Additional discussion about asking DOT for the earliest possible communication with MAC about upcoming projects/maintenance in our area. Discussion about difficulties knowing what DOT is planning to do in advance. We don't want to discourage them from doing routine maintenance, we'd just like to hear about it before the last minute, especially if the work will impact traffic. General opinion was not to address communications at this time.

Mail Shack Expansion Project

Trig Trigliano has generously offered to donate up to \$5,000 worth of materials to expand the size of the mailshack, a much-needed improvement, provided that construction is accomplished with volunteer community labor/effort.

Thanks to Matt Vial for drawing up plans and a materials list, Trig for donating materials, and Kaleb Rowland for offering to lead the construction effort! We'll aim for sometime in September, after the volume of mail has decreased. Motion made for MAC to cover the cost of freighting out any materials that need to be purchased in town, motion seconded and passed by voice vote. Please contact Tamara at mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com if you would like to help in any way.

NPS Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan—Bruce Rogers, NPS Planner

The park is starting a Backcountry and Wilderness management plan, covering all designated wilderness in the park, 9.4 million acres and another 1.5 million acres of backcountry/inaccessible area. The plan will guide consistent management of airstrips, cabins, visitor use impacts, snowmachine and off-road vehicle use, commercial use, etc. in these areas. Field staff have been working in the park for 2 seasons, gathering baseline data. Elizabeth Schafer has conducted interviews with commercial operators. Public meetings have occurred and more are planned. Public input will be encouraged throughout the entire 30-month process. Bruce has hired 2 staff to help with the process, Nyssa Landres and Morgan Gantz. For more information about the plan, where the NPS is in the planning process and to submit comments, visit:

www.parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=44299.

Comments can also be given by writing letters or calling 907-822-7213 or 907-822-7240. If you would like to be added to the NPS email list for planning-related announcements/updates, call those numbers.

MAC elected a committee to help with this process, provide input and keep the MAC membership informed. 3 people have agreed to serve on this committee and were approved by voice vote: Ben Shaine, Bill Morris and Greg Runyan. We'd like 2 more people to represent MAC; if you'd like to be considered, please email the secretary and we'll vote at the next meeting. mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com.

Kennecott Update—Rick Obernesser

Superintendent Obernesser informed us about an incident the week of July 7th in Kennecott, when a crew of 6 NPS staff, working outdoors in heat near the Mill building, experienced symptoms from possible exposure to substance(s). The crew members experienced various degrees of symptoms, and all but 1 felt OK after 72 hours. Blood work was done on the staff, wipe tests were taken from surrounding areas, air sampling has occurred, including inside the Mill building, soil and material samples were taken and NPS industrial hygienists are consulting. Bloodwork results did not show elevated levels of anything harmful. Wipe tests from the Mill show mercury/arsenic/heavy metals, but air monitoring inside the Mill show nothing in the air visitors/workers breathe. Tests will continue and we may see unfamiliar people around doing monitoring/testing. The NPS is taking measures to figure out what the problem substances were/are and how to manage them safely in the future. Industrial hygienists are advising on the best ways to proceed. For more info, contact Jim Baker: 907-960-1016

MXY EMS Proposal—Matt Vial

Matt presented a proposal from MXY EMS for \$2,395 for medical supplies for our community caches. The supplies will be used to stock the VFD fire shed in the University subdivision along the Nizina Road and to create a new publicly accessible cache in Kennecott. MXY EMS would purchase 2 quick-response bags w/ oxygen tanks (1 for each new cache)--\$850 each (\$1700 total) and 2 additional oxygen tanks (\$140), total \$1840. The remainder of the grant money would be used for recurring expenses such as refilling O2 tanks, ambulance fuel/maintenance, restocking supplies and EMS trainings. MXY EMS received \$420 in donations at the 4th of July parade, which is an 18% match towards the grant request. They are hoping to earn the rest of the 30% required match from additional donations. EMS is working on standardizing the caches/kits, so they are consistent/complete in all locations. Please consider donating to EMS by writing a check to MAC, earmarked for MXY EMS. This proposal will be voted on at the August meeting. Thank you and great job, EMS!!
See attached: EMS15proposal

VFD/Forestry Update—Chris Chester and Cynthia Beshaw

The fuel-break clearing work is completed along both the Nizina and Silvermine Roads. The WUI firewise grant program is ending on August 15th. If you need your final assessment, contact Chris Chester, 554-2102. Firewise Day in June was successful, we'll be doing one each year to maintain our status as a Firewise Community. Thanks to all who participated. VFD was hired by Forestry to patrol this summer, so their truck earned about

\$25,000 for the VFD! They are looking to buy a small truck for initial fire response and to transport a water/foam unit. VFD earned \$400 from T-shirt sales at 4th of July, thanks to all who bought shirts. There may be a kickball fundraiser on Aug.12th??

Call Chris if you want to bring slash and yard debris (nothing else!) to the NPS burnpile. The VFD will burn the whole pile in September. Please keep the pile neat and as orderly as possible until it is burned...it's a privilege to be able to use it.

Thanks to VFD and NPS for cooperating on this burn-safety project.

Call Chris Chester to report a fire or for anything fire-related: 907-554-2102, or Zack Barrett 554-2100.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$6,680

Savings account balance: \$119,562

Expenses:	CVT—EMS phones	\$6
	EMS supplies/new response kit/O2 tanks	\$1,370
	Oxygen tanks fill	\$94
	VFD support for fire suppression	\$250
	Outhouse toilet paper-2 cases	\$277
	Outhouse cleaning salary-Eleanor Jensen, 10 days	\$160
Deposits:	EMS 4 th July donations	\$417
	Interest	\$6
	Dues	\$45

Announcements:

Connor Byrne announced that he'd like to work on restoring both cemeteries in the area. He asked people to share photos and information about the cemeteries with him. Contact Conner: 907-554-2346

DOT has reported that most of the Lakina bridge work will be done next summer. Public meetings will be held prior to any work is started.

Movie nights at the Kennecott Rec. Hall...7pm, Mondays, all of August. Contact Nik Merlino for info.

Elections for MAC officers and the Board of Directors are scheduled for the August meeting. If you would like to run for an office (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) or a Board seat, contact mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com to indicate your candidacy. Candidates must be paid voting members. Members must be paid up before the meeting to vote. Emailed proxy votes must be submitted 24 hours before the meeting. Proxies (your vote written down or a note designating a voting member to cast your vote) can also be delivered to the secretary at the August meeting.

Jason Esler brought up the idea of including the Strelina community in MAC.

Dave Syren was thanked for constructing the kiosk and historic vehicle display at the Kennecott footbridge.

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, August 27th, 2015 at 11:30am.

Board of Directors will meet at 10:30am, before the August meeting.

President Vail adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes August 27th 2015, Tony Zak House

Members present: Jason Esler, Jeremy Pataky, Mark Vail, John Rice, Charlie O'Neill, Lyn Plomaritis, Elizabeth Schafer, Patt Garrett, Dave Hollis, Kristin Link, Tessa Bay, Trig Trigiano, Mike Monroe, Laurie Rowland, Kelly Bay, Tom Golden, Natalie Bay, Tim Mischel, Kathy Drury, Samuel Gregory, John Bosshard, Stephens Harper, Bill Morris, David Rowland, Tamara Harper

Others present: Jim Baker (NPS), Mark Keogh (NPS), Jon Coopermen (NPS), Jennifer Johnson

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:30am with a quorum of 9 members present. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting.

Motion made to accept the July 2015 MAC meeting minutes, motion seconded, passed by voice vote.

Kennecott Update—Mark Keogh/Stephens Harper

Mark updated the membership on the exposure incident in Kennecott. NPS received results from soil samples (in/around Mill) and wipe tests. The soil samples showed elevated of lead, arsenic, mercury and cadmium. The wipe samples showed mercury presence. Bloodwork from NPS maintenance workers were all in normal range. The industrial hygienist recommends protective equipment for maintenance workers, ground-disturbing work has been halted until a work plan exists. Mill tour participants/visiting public will be asked to avoid touching surfaces/structures. Further testing is planned; soil sampling and air monitoring (on-person and fixed station) of Kennecott will occur this season, for heavy metals, preservatives and pesticides. They are taking a broad approach to try and determine what may have caused the exposures. Signage for the Mill specifically and/or the NHL generally is planned for the visiting public, once the NPS has determined what the risks are. Lead continues to be in historic paint and in the ore body in the Kennecott area.

Mark circulated a briefing statement from NPS, see it attached: Exposure-actions brief.doc

For more info, contact Jim Baker: 907-960-1016

Stephens announced that Superintendent Rick Obernesser accepted a new job in Washington DC, starting October 4th, as an Associate Director of the NPS. He sent his farewell and thanks to our community for being such "straight-forward, passionate, hard-working, funny, tough, and truly decent neighbors."

A fatality occurred in the park recently, the 5th in the last 12 months. A father-son sheep-hunting pair on the north side; the father succumbed to a heart attack. NPS staff and troopers responded to this incident. 2 search and rescues have also occurred in the last week; NPS, Wrangell Mountain Air and the U.S. Air Force responded to these incidents, all persons were rescued safely.

The WRST Subsistence Resource Committee will meet Oct. 19th and 20th at Tazlina Village Hall. Several proposals will be considered: a sheep-hunting regulation change, brown bears allowed to be taken over black bear bait stations. The winter moose hunt will occur again this year, no quota has been set yet. Stephens is issuing permits for both the current moose hunt and the winter hunt, for those who qualify.

Planning update: Bruce Rogers hopes to meet with the MAC sub-committee for the Wilderness/Backcountry planning effort this fall sometime. Park staff continues to interview commercial use operators/backcountry users as part of the planning work.

MAC Financial future/planning

The MAC Board met with the AK Community Foundation to educate ourselves about investing options they offer for our public funds, for possible future investing. They offer both endowed and non-endowed investment funds, each with different features. Endowed funds require \$25,000 initial deposit, the principle is non-refundable, and would provide income from the interest for our community. Non-endowed funds require \$5,000 initial deposit, the principle is returnable at any time, also providing interest income. Both provide funding for pre-determined purposes, set by the community, at the onset of the fund. Others could donate to either fund, on behalf of MAC, as gifts or in wills/bequests, for example. The endowed fund is a secure way for anyone to donate to MAC, knowing that the principle/donation is always kept with ACF, and the income will only be used for purposes outlined by MAC/community and supported by the donor. Both are invested the same and come with similar risks/rewards and each incurs various management fees (minimum yearly fee \$250); the AK Comm. Foundation's goal is 4-5% return, depending on the market. The Board did not make any decisions on these options yet, our goal so far is just to learn and report back to the membership. The Board decided to put \$50,000 in 2 CDs (\$25K in each, 1yr and 2yr), to increase the amount of interest we receive from some of our savings; there were no objections. Any future investment plans will be discussed more thoroughly and presented to the membership. Discussion followed...put

MAC money into a non-endowed fund over the next few years and fundraise from outside donors to get to \$25,000, then roll it into endowed fund? With less state funding in the future, this fund could generate needed income if we could grow the principle large enough. Include a donation to the fund, from MAC money, in our annual budgets, as a regular expense? No matter what the future holds for MXY/Kenn, this money could be there for community uses. Possibility of asking large donors to match our fund contributions, in order to build the endowment. Fundraising would be a long-term project/goal...it would take some significant work/time. We need to define what the money could be used for in the future, before we invest. What happens if MAC changes its mission over the years, can the contract with ACF be altered? More information is needed. We decided the Board will seek more information over the winter on the funds' rules, how to create a contract designating the uses of the money, etc and come back with a more concrete plan in the spring.

Mailshack Expansion

Matt Vial made a materials list and building plan to expand our mailshack by 12' out the back...THANK YOU MV!! Most of the materials are purchased and were freighted here/offloaded at the mailshack. THANK YOU TRIG for starting this whole project by donating the cost of the materials...this would not be in the works without your initiation! We will now follow the leadership of Kaleb Rowland in the near future, with volunteer labor, and start work on the expansion. MAC secretary will send out notices when this will occur, please contact mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com if you want to help. NOTE: we still have 8' metal roofing at SBS that needs hauling in, let me know if you can help.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$4,778

Savings account balance: \$151,811

Expenses:	CVT—EMS phones	\$5
	printer ink	\$43
	Rowcon—w. side road improvement	\$5,219
	medications for EMS kits	\$27
	biennial state financial report fee	\$30
Deposits:	interest	\$7
	dues	\$90
	2016 AK State revenue-sharing grant	\$32,243

Follow-up from last meeting on letter to DOT

Following a request/vote in July, a letter was sent to John Hoffman from MAC, requesting DOT work on the roads leading to the vehicle bridge on either side of the Kennicott River (known as Castle Rd). John replied that they could not do anything right now, but will consider some work in the future, he'll keep us posted.

EMS proposal vote and Officers/Board of Directors Elections

MXY EMS requested \$2,395 for new medical kits, supplies and ongoing expenses. They got \$420 from 4th July donations and the MAC board contributed \$320, to fulfill the 30% necessary match. President Vail requested a voice vote; motion passed unanimously. A couple people mentioned the great service they received and EMS provides in MXY—THANK YOU to all the MXY EMS volunteers!!!

Votes for officers and board of directors were tallied by board members, including both ballots by present voters and proxies sent by absentee voters. All 8 current board members were re-elected: Christine Johnson, Kaleb Rowland, John Rice, Bill Morris, Natalie Bay, Trig Trigiano, Patt Garrett, Jeremy Pataky. Secretary/Treasurer Tamara Harper and Vice President Elizabeth were re-elected, unopposed. Mark Vail was re-elected president with 65 votes, candidate Jason Esler received 24 votes.

Announcements:

We discussed our 2016 AK revenue-sharing grant (\$32,243) and how to allocate the money. Motion to put aside \$7,500 for annual operating expenses and divide the remainder (\$24,743), saving half for future use and adding half to funds for proposed projects. Motion seconded and passed by hand vote. Following the funding guidelines, 20% of \$12,371 (\$2,474) will be available for each project proposal in 2016.

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, March 31st, 2015 at 11:30am.

President Vail adjourned the meeting at 12:50 pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.