

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes April 27th, 2017 Tony Zak House

Members present: Jurgen Ogradnik, Mark Vail, John Bosshard, Stephens Harper, Trig Trigliano, David Hollis, Natalie Bay, Malcolm Vance, Chris Chester, Lyn Plomaritis, Tamara Harper

Others present: Stephanie Sever, Lynn Grams (NPCA), Leonard Wolf Wesemann, Kaleb Rowland, Jennifer Bosshard

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.

NPS and EMS Update—Stephens Harper

NPS: Stephens presented and summarized the annual letter to the community from the WRST superintendent, Ben Bobowski, who will be at our May MAC meeting. A few highlights from the letter include: Jim Baker, Kennecott renovation leader and 35-year park employee, is leaving in May to work in CA; Bruce Rogers, park planner for 9 years, will retire in May; Christine Johnson will join the interpretive staff in Kennecott; the new Kennecott Visitor Center in the old Blackburn School will open on Memorial Day weekend; the king salmon return is projected to be very low this season and the limit will be 2 kings total per subsistence fisher and fishing season will not open until June 1st; the number to call for emergencies ONLY on NPS-managed lands is 907-683-2276. This is a 24/7 dispatch number that will contact a ranger to respond.

Full letter and fishing news release attached: 2017 NPS letter & fish news release 2017

MXE EMS: The EMS board sent a letter out to the community describing what MXE EMS does, what they do not do, how to contact and how to support them. It is important that everyone be responsible for their own first aid and basic medical care. MXE EMS responds to emergencies only and is not a substitute for your doctor. Please maintain your prescriptions while you are in MXE. Contact MXE EMS early if you are unsure if you have a serious condition, as they will consult with you to prevent an emergency. Responders are volunteers and we need more help to cover call and do other important functions to keep the service available for everyone. Donations are needed to buy supplies, refill oxygen tanks, keep the ambulance stocked and train our responders. Jacob Schultz will teach a CPR-AED-FIRST AID class on June 14th in Kennecott, contact mxyems@gmail.com to sign up. Class details to follow.

Please donate, especially if you receive EMS care.

Call MXE EMS dispatch at 907-554-1240 for medical emergencies only.

Full letter attached: EMS letter 3.23.17

State Revenue Sharing Grant Application—Tamara Harper

We received our 2017 state grant of \$21,371 in the fall. We saved half of it, set aside \$7,500 for operations, and the remainder will be available for projects that benefit the community. Each project proposal can request \$1,387 and must show a 30% match of other funds. Guidelines are available in the mailshack and proposals can be presented at any MAC meeting.

We filled out the application for our 2018 grant from the state (now called the Community Assistance program), projected to be \$16,220. The state assistance continues to drop each year, so the MAC board is prioritizing saving a significant sum for the future.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$4,555

Savings account balance: \$84,917

1, 2 and 5-year CDs balance: \$76,173

Expenses since last meeting in August 2016:

Deposits:	interest on all accounts	\$694
	State of AK 2017 grant	\$21,371
	dues	\$85
	Tony's rental from AK State Forestry	\$2500
Debits:	outhouse pumping-Copper Basin sanitation	\$653
	2016 outhouse cleaning salaries-Harper/Johnson	\$2020
	MAC secretary 2016 salary-Harper	\$1200
	IRS filing fee	\$275
	office/outhouse cleaning supplies	\$33
	oxygen tanks filling	\$76
	Rowcon-west side road improve project	\$2474
	Rowcon-Castle road improve project	\$2474
	EMS phone fees	\$40
	MAC webpage fees	\$155
	Steph Sever-yoga equipment project	\$375

Announcements:

Trig shared a good number to contact Copper Valley Telephone for 4G/3G internet tech support: Emily Skilbred at 907-255-1611, in Valdez.

The annual spring Yard Sale will be June 3rd, at 11am, at Tony Zak's. Everyone is welcome to bring all your treasures for selling or swapping. Mark Vail's birdwalk will start at 7am from the Old Hardware Store that morning.

Kaleb Rowland does tire repairs from a new building on west side land near the end of the road. Tires can be dropped off there.

Bears and moose are out and about....keep food and garbage safely contained in bear-proof storage.

Burn season has started and you need a permit for burn barrels/piles. Permits are available in the mailshack; you must have it with you while burning and you must call the burn hotline each time before you burn to see if any restrictions apply. Call 907-822-8665 for burn permit/restriction information. This time of year is quite dry, especially old leaf litter, until new growth emerges, so be very careful when you burn and have water nearby. You can also fill out an online burn permit here: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/burn/fireareas/valdez-copper-river/permitform>
Local MXY-Kenn VFD fire emergency response number: 907-554-2102

Jurgen Ogradnik will present a classical guitar concert at Cyrano's Theater in downtown Anchorage on May 15th.
The Roadside Potatohead in MXY opens May 22nd.

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, May 25th, 2017 at 11:30am.
Mark Vail adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.
Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes May 25th, 2017 Tony Zak House

Members present: Keith Rowland, Arlene Rosenkrans, Jeremy Pataky, John Rice, Patt Garrett, Christine Johnson, Mark Vail, Stephens Harper, David Hollis, Chris Chester, Lyn Plomaritis, Nancy Rowland, Cindy Hendel, Laurie Rowland, Kristin Link, Tamara Harper

Others present: Laura Boniek (WMA), Ben Davis (NPS), Jon Cooperman (NPS), Ben Bobowski (NPS), Nate Anderson (WMC), Denise Jantz, Jacob Shultz (EMS), Johann Boniek, Jason Lobo

President Mark Vail opened the meeting at 11:45am with a quorum of 9 members present. He scolded whoever took his wooden burl gavel from Tony's....he's been using it for years and it's gone. A voice recorder was used to record the meeting. Motion made to approve the April 2017 minutes, motion seconded and passed.

Project wrap-up report/Project proposals—Keith Rowland

Keith reported that the 2016 westside maintenance project was completed with 2 summer bladings and 3 winter plowings and the MAC grant of \$2474, approved last year, has been paid. 14 donors also contributed \$1,152 to the project, providing the match.

Keith described 2 projects he's proposing for MAC funding: 2017 westside road improvements and road maintenance. Both continue the work that's already been done over the past few years and each proposal asks for \$1387. The Maintenance project costs \$3,840, so they need \$2,453 in private donations. The Improvements project, which will complete the roadwork this year, costs \$5020 for the last ¼ mile, so \$3,633 must come from donations. Both proposals will be voted on at the June 29th meeting; voters must be paid up MAC members. REMINDER TO WESTSIDE RESIDENTS and ANYONE else: Contact the Rowlands, 554-4498, to donate to your road's improvements!!

Attachments: Westside road improve and maintain 2017 proposals

Volunteer Fire Department update—Chris Chester

Chris explained that it's fire season and a burn permit is required for any burning in a burn barrel or brush pile. Permits are available at the mailshack, you must have a permit when you burn. Call 907-822-TOOL(8665) to learn about burn restrictions/suspensions before you burn. It's dry and fire risk is moderate, especially with dry grasses from last year, until new vegetation is fully greened up. He reported that a house in Copper Center burned down after catching fire from a burn barrel, so be very careful. The emergency fire # is 907-554-2102; call only for fire emergencies/fire-related questions. He emphasized that if you see smoke you're not sure about, call to report sooner than later!

He reported that the Copper River area has had 6 fires as of the meeting, burning 5 acres, including 2 homes and 1 outbuilding, all of them human-caused. Almost 65,000 acres have burned in AK so far. The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center's website, <https://fire.ak.blm.gov>, has a lot of good state fire information. Our general area is dry so far this season.

VFD trainings will start this week on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the VFD land near the airstrip. Everyone is welcome and wear sturdy shoes. Please consider attending for as many sessions as possible in order to make trainings more efficient; the most valuable members are returning residents who have skills year after year. Wildland fire is the biggest threat to our community, so please exercise the greatest care with any fire and keep fire-wising your properties continuously. Consider keeping a water supply stored at your home, such as a tank, a kiddy-pool or hole in the ground lined with plastic/tarp. If you want to get started filling the large tanks in your neighborhood, call Chris for direction/help.

New Wrangell Mountain Air ownership—Laura Boniek

Laura and Martin Boniek, along with a group of owners, purchased WMA from the Bays; the sale closed on May 11th. Most employees are returning from last year, and they expect a smooth transition. We wish them the best of luck!

EMS Update—Jacob Shultz

Jacob reminded us that the NPS has distributed the local EMS responder list in all of our mailboxes. A digital copy will be attached to these minutes. Please call 554-1240 for medical emergencies only or to consult about a condition that may become an emergency. Thanks to everybody on the list who offers their medical assistance.

Jacob reported that MXY-EMS has spent the last of its money from a previous grant to buy 2 new response bags and supplies for the University subdivision cache and the Kennecott cache. These bags include airway management and immediate response equipment. He also ordered a new AED for MXY Lodge.

He also announced there will be an AED/CPR class on Wednesday, June 14th, from 10am-2:30pm at the Kennecott Rec. Hall. Jacob is an instructor with the Emergency Care and Safety Institute. The class will cost \$50, but the fee will be waived for local EMS responders on the list.

Please email the MAC secretary to sign up: mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com.

Thanks to all who have donated to the EMS fund...the money will be used for ongoing costs, like filling oxygen tanks, servicing the AEDs and restocking medical supplies in the caches.

Attachment: 2017 MXY-EMS responders

NPS Update—Stephens Harper/Ben Bobowski

Stephens reminded us to read the letter from the WRST Superintendent about what the NPS is doing in the area this summer; he had hard copies and it was sent by email to the MAC list already.

He has fish permits that he or Elizabeth will issue after the meeting and at mail in the future.

He followed up on what both VFD and EMS talked about earlier--reporting emergencies. Depending on what kind of emergency (fire, EMS, search and rescue, law enforcement), there are different numbers to call. Please see attachment on how to report emergencies and keep it with your EMS responders call list.

Stephens updated us on a few things since the superintendent's letter: he introduced Ben Davis, the acting supervisor of the Kennecott restoration team until August 11th; four contractors will be arriving in June to start installing fire suppression equipment and alarms in Kennecott; the new Kennecott Visitor Center will be open 9:30a-6:30p everyday for the summer season (it's the first building on the left as you enter Kennecott); a cooperative local EMS responders meeting will be in Chitina on Wed, May 31st, our NPS and EMS reps will attend; the NPS search and rescue (SAR) on-call team will have its first meeting on June 2nd at Tony's.

He introduced our park's superintendent, Ben Bobowski, who reminded us he started last August and plans to spend more time in MXY-Kenn this summer. He said the third phase of Kennecott restoration work is funded at 5.6 million dollars; the NPS will be contracting much of the work. The NPS is working with Ray Kreig, a landowner in Kennecott who wants to improve access to his land along the Bonanza Mine trail. The road will cross both private and public land and Joshua Scott, the park's lands specialist, is the main contact working with Kreig on affected NPS land. The Backcountry and Wilderness stewardship planning process continues; large gaps remain between what the NPS originally proposed and the public feedback they received. NPS will send out a newsletter shortly outlining the changes made and the conversation between NPS and the public will continue this summer, hoping for more consensus on the plan. Ben and Stephens talk weekly, so if Ben is not available, issues of concern can be relayed via Stephens. Ben answered questions about the fishing situation on the Copper River. Subsistence fishers are limited to 2 kings this season due to low numbers, and fish wheels must be monitored continuously. Restrictions are on all users and there is no sport fishing for kings in the Copper Basin. Talks continue between the state and federal government and changes may occur as salmon returns are monitored. The acting Chief of Interpretation, Margie Steigerwald, has arrived and is working from NPS HQ in Copper Center; she returns after being the Chief at WRST in the 1990s. Greg Biddle continues to be acting Chief of Resources, but a job announcement for the Chief position should be out mid-summer.

Attachment: how to report emergencies in MXY

Tony Zak's public use

Tony Zak's is a public community center and is available for use by locals. However, recently Tony's was not cleaned up after use and as a kindness, some folks not responsible for the mess came down to clean it up. The Blackburn Heritage Foundation, which owns Tony's, and the MAC board cooperatively manage Tony's. They agree that Tony's use will be monitored more closely for the summer. If you would like to use Tony's, you must contact the MAC secretary to reserve. A \$10 fee will be charged if wood, propane or the generator is used. All dishes must be cleaned, firewood replaced, floor swept and garbage MUST be hauled away...there is no garbage service at Tony's. Availability to the public will be determined by our ability to clean up after ourselves. Guidelines for use are now posted in Tony's, so please take care of the center and keep it usable for everybody.

Contact mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com or call Tamara, 907-980-2290, to book Tony's.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

The MAC board voted to put another \$25,000 in a 5-year CD. The board also voted to buy Director/Officer and General Liability insurance, which will be about \$1,131/year.

Checking account balance: \$9,256

Savings account balance: \$79,917

1, 2 and 5-year CDs balance: \$76,173

Expenses since last meeting:

Deposits:	interest on all accounts	\$96
	dues	\$130
	EMS donations	\$175
Debits:	EMS phones	\$10
	outhouse cleaning supplies	\$8
	hand sanitizers	\$112
	EMS CPR/AED teaching materials	\$293
	Rowcon-w. side road maintenance project '16	\$2,474

Tamara has organized our MAC accounts this spring and has a better idea of what money is allocated towards certain things and what money is unrestricted. As a board and council, we'll now be able to make more informed decisions about how to use our money in the future.

We discussed how the beavers are living below Clear Creek and the concerns about our drinking water. Motion made to test the water both at Clear Creek and Tony's well, motion seconded and passed. Tamara will facilitate getting the water tested this summer with the same firm that did it in 2014.

Wrangell Mountains Center—Nate Anderson, Executive Director

Nate announced the WMC's work party on Sat, May 27th. Mark's birdwalk will be June 3rd at 7AM. The college summer program is happening again, after a 4-year hiatus. It is in cooperation with Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA and 15 students are currently registered. 4 faculty will run the program, which starts in late June. Students and faculty will be both in town and in the backcountry over the 7-week course. Contact Nate with questions, 907-554-4464.

Mailshack mural—Kristin Link

Kristin has offered to organize a painted mural on our mailshack, in cooperation with Patt Garrett and our local kids! Kristin will work with the museum's Kids Making History and the WMC's Mountain Arts for Youth programs to design and plan the mural in July. She will work on it in August and hopes to have it finished by Labor Day. Her general idea is a historical scene of the area, with important local plants and animals in the foreground.

She would like input/ideas, please contact Kristin, 907-242-0515, linkkristin@gmail.com.

Thanks Kristin for this effort, it will be a great addition to our community.

Announcements:

The museum is now open for the summer: 12-5pm Mon-Sat and 1-5pm Sunday.

The annual spring Yard Sale will be June 3rd, at 11am, at Tony Zak's. Everyone is welcome to bring all your treasures for selling or swapping. Mark Vail's birdwalk will start at 7am from the Old Hardware Store that morning.

Drive slow, be respectful, don't feed the bears and be safe!

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, June 29th, 2017 at 11:30am.

Mark Vail adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes June 29th, 2017 Tony Zak House

Members present: Jeremy Pataky, John Rice, Patt Garrett, Christine Johnson, Mark Vail, Stephens Harper, Chris Chester, Lyn Plomaritis, Laurie Rowland, Bob Cook, Sunny Cook, Peggy Morsch, Hannah Rowland, David Rowland, Trig Trigiano, Ben Shaine, Leif Mjos, Cynthia Hendel, Michelle Latvala, Thea Agnew Bembem, Karen Loso, Maria Shell, Tamara Harper

Others present: Bradie Kozera, Kevin Coughlin, Pete Machado, Ben Davis (NPS), Kenny Smith, Ben Bobowski (NPS), Nate Anderson (WMC), Corinna Welzenbach, Greg Biddle (NPS), Fielding Link (NPS), Lynn Grams (NPCA), Paul Scannell, Jason Lobo

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. Motion made to amend and approve the May 2017 minutes to read: "However, recently Tony's was not cleaned up after use and as a kindness, some folks not responsible for the mess came down to clean it up." and "Availability to the public will be determined by our ability to clean up after ourselves." Motion seconded and passed.

Tony's Use

Mark reminded us that the use of Tony's for community events is dependent on each event being cleaned up right after use and leaving it better than we found it. Each event needs to be scheduled ahead of time in the summer especially, to avoid double bookings during the busy season. Contact Tamara, 907-980-2290 to reserve. The Blackburn Heritage Foundation's board would like someone to be a point-of-contact for winter use. We are looking for a volunteer from the winter user group to be this person. The Blackburn Heritage Foundation also funds the Kids Camp summer program, thanks to Tony Zak for his generous legacy to our community.

Project wrap-up reports—Hannah Rowland, Karen Loso, Chris Chester

Hannah reported on the completion of the 2016 Rowcon project to improve Hanagita and Castle roads, on either side of the vehicle bridge. They collected donations of \$4,717 from 26 donors to match the MAC money spent (\$2,474). The total project cost was \$8,635, so Rowcon is out \$1,444. Contributions can still be given to Rowcon, please consider donating, especially if you are a vehicle bridge user.

Karen Loso reported on MXY EMS and how they have spent money from 2 grants (\$7,395 total) received in 2012 and 2015 for ambulance equipment, supplies and ongoing expenses. Expenditures include: oxygen tanks and refills, phone fees, medical supplies, AEDs and batteries, ambulance batteries, medical response kits and supplies, EMT recertification fees for responders and class teaching materials.

Two new medical response kits will be put in community caches in Kennecott (in the general store building) and on the south side of McCarthy Creek in the University subdivision, near Cooks' driveway. MXY EMS is looking for people to help inventory and organize the caches a couple times a year. Contact mxeyems@gmail.com.

Chris Chester summarized how KMVFD spent the remaining money of 3 grants (\$11,045 total) from 2012, '13 and '16 including: mechanic's work on VFD truck, truck insurance, phone bills, fire pump, and truck equipment/supplies. He described other expenses the VFD has that are supported by grants from the state and money paid when they patrol by truck during high fire season.

From now on, money granted to fund projects will need to be used within a year, per the guidelines for requesting grant money from MAC. Unused money will be put back into the general project fund and may be applied for again. Reports to the membership are expected at the completion of each project.

MXY EMS general update

We were reminded that the local EMS response # for EMERGENCIES is 554-1240. If you have non-emergency issues that need a doctor's attention, please go to Crossroads Medical Center in Glennallen or a doctor/clinic in Valdez or Anchorage. We have a completely volunteer EMS service that can assist with life-threatening emergencies, but we don't have any clinic staff, facilities or services. Visitors who may call 911 will also be routed to our local EMS #, but it may take longer. Thank you to all our volunteer responders who assist fellow locals and visitors with emergency care.

Proposals for project funding—Karen Loso/EMS and Sunny Cook/Museum

Karen summarized the MXY EMS proposal for \$1,387 to fund recertification/purchase of 3 AEDs in the valley and

ambulance maintenance. Two AEDs need servicing, new batteries and pads. Recert for each one costs up to \$400, or if necessary, new AEDs are about \$700. MXY EMS also plans to share the cost of a new AED for the University subdivision cache (approx. \$350). The remainder of the money would go to ambulance servicing, repair and maintenance costs. MXY EMS has raised \$1165 in donations from locals and the 4th of July parade to provide their needed match. Voting will take place at the July 27th meeting.

Attached: MXY EMS 2017 grant proposal

Sunny Cook presented the plans for a project that will create a model of the CR&NW Railway to be displayed in the museum's railcar. They are hiring a professional modeler to make the scenery and buildings this winter, which is expected to take 32 weeks and cost \$8,000. They are applying for a MAC grant of \$1,350 to cover 5 weeks of his work (\$1,250) plus materials (\$100), and the museum will cover the rest of the project with money from the 4th of July fundraiser, the museum's railroad account and support from the Blackburn Heritage Foundation.

This project will help locals and visitors better understand our area's history. Voting will take place at the July 27th meeting. Attached: Museum 2017 project proposal

NPS update—Stephens Harper, Ben Bobowski, Greg Biddle

Stephens said contractors are working on fire suppression and detection equipment installation in Kennecott currently. An area-wide siren will be installed in Kennecott to alert the public of fire/disaster. The first training day for our volunteer search & rescue team was successful, 15 locals volunteers worked on rescue techniques in Kennecott. The next training is July 12-13 with the Denali climbing rangers.

Superintendent Bobowski updated us on the Copper River king salmon run, which has been better than expected. He also told us about private landowner Ray Kreig, who owns the Motherlode mine up McCarthy Creek. He is planning to access his underground mining tunnels, but needs an escape route from an NPS tunnel. NPS will be issuing a special-use permit for Mr. Kreig to get into the mine through the entrance on NPS land, which will require a helicopter. NPS will assess the mine tunnels in order to protect the public resources. Josh Scott is the main contact on this project, Joshua_scott@nps.gov, 907-822-7243.

If you have any concerns or questions for Ben, contact him at 907-822-5234, or Stephens Harper, 907-707-9307. Greg Biddle, the Cultural Resources manager at WRST, described the early stages of their plan to preserve the Kennecott cemetery along the wagon road. He offered the draft cultural landscape report, which describes the history, existing conditions and analysis of the cemetery and its cultural resources. This will be a slow process and he would like public input along the way; it is a part of the Kennecott Operations Plan and he's keeping us informed as the plan proceeds. Discussion included concerns about how to preserve the cemetery, whether to let it naturally degrade or restore to original condition or something in-between, how to manage the public interest vs. private land along the wagon road, what is the NPS role as manager, different ways to interpret the cemetery's stories, how to accommodate various interested parties--visitors, descendants, NPS, local neighbors, etc. NPS is looking for historic photos of the cemetery, they currently only have one and would appreciate making copies of others. To add your input or with questions, contact Greg at Kenneth_biddle@nps.gov, 907-822-7237.

Beavers at Clear Creek/drinking water safety

Beavers continue to be active in Clear Creek, below the town's drinking water source. Stephens reviewed the beaver hunting regulations: trapping season is closed now and we are not allowed to shoot beavers under state regulations in our game unit 11. However, federally qualified subsistence hunters (with a state hunting license) may hunt beavers from June 1-Oct. 10, limited to 1 per day and must salvage either hide or meat. Beaver populations seem to be high, with active dams along the MXY road as well; DOT has been working to manage those locations. Water samples from both Clear Creek and Tony Zak's well were sent in for testing and results will be in by next meeting. We did receive notice that Tony's well tested positive for E. coli and total coliforms.

Wrangell Mountains Center—Nate Anderson

The college program students are here now and will be around town and in the backcountry over the next 6 weeks. Public lectures are scheduled throughout the summer, either at Porphyry Place or the Kennecott Rec. Hall. Kids programming starts next week, including Mountain Arts and Science for Youth on Mondays and Fridays, 1-4pm, at Porphyry Place. Pre-school science and art classes are on Wednesdays from 11-12:30.

See www.wrangells.org for more info. Then we sang Happy Birthday to Nate!

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$3,968

Savings account balance: \$51,921

1, 2 and 5-year CDs balance: \$101,269

Expenses since last meeting:

Deposits:	interest on all accounts	\$96
	dues	\$185
	EMS donations	\$475
Debits:	EMS phones	\$7
	outhouse cleaning supplies	\$10
	biennial state report filing fee	\$25
	AED for MXY lodge	\$735
	2 medical response bags for med caches	\$1550
	bridge cart replacement wheels	\$293
	KMVFD truck work reimburse	\$2,938
	2 water tests-Clear Creek and Tony's	\$300
	4 oxygen tanks-EMS	\$462

Mailshack mural—Patt Garrett

Kristin Link is the lead on the mural project; she applied for an Alaska Humanities Forum grant for materials to paint a mural with the local kids on the mailshack. The target date for starting is July 17th. Thanks Kristin and Patt!

Thoughts on our future—Jason Lobo

Jason talked about the future possibility of being included in a borough and is a proponent of self-determination, whether that be creating a city or choosing to be unincorporated. He encouraged us to take responsibility for choosing the future of our town and making that happen ourselves. He talked about the idea of taxing ourselves 10% on commerce transactions to fund our own local services and stressed the importance of taxation with representation and making responsible decisions ourselves.

Voting on Westside Road Improvement/Maintenance proposals

Rowcon's 2 project proposals were each for \$1,387 to improve and maintain the Westside road. Both proposals passed by unanimous voice votes. Each proposal needs additional funding to cover the matching portion of the project, so please give your donations to Rowcon.

Announcements:

4th of July coming up, be safe and go slow. The parade marching band needs musical volunteers!

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, July 27th, 2017 at 11:30am.

Mark Vail adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes July 27th, 2017 Tony Zak House

Members present: John Rice, Patt Garrett, Christine Johnson, Mark Vail, Stephens Harper, Hannah Rowland, Keith Rowland, Trig Trigliano, Kaleb Rowland, Gayle Gordon, Charlie O'Neill, Dave Hollis, John Adams, Tamara Harper

Others present: Bradie Kozera, Kevin Coughlin, Geo & Linda Bradbury, Julie Truskowski, Nate Anderson (WMC), Jon Cooperman (NPS), Lynn Grams (NPCA), Kenny Smith

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. Motion was made to approve the June 2017 minutes; motion seconded and passed.

Voting on EMS and Museum proposals

The membership voted by paper ballot on 2 funding proposals: one from MXY EMS for \$1,387 for medical supplies, equipment and ambulance maintenance and the other from the Museum for \$1,350 to help construct a display model of the railway from the mining days. Both proposals passed: EMS 19 Yes 1 No, and Museum 21 Yes 1 No.

Clear Creek/Beavers/Water Quality

Tamara reported that the water tests done at Clear Creek and Tony Zak's well came back. Both tested negative for arsenic and nitrates/nitrites. Clear Creek tested negative for E. coli and total coliforms, but the Tony Zak well tested positive for both E. coli and total coliforms. Water taken from the well at Tony's is drink-at-your-own-risk and should be boiled or filtered. It was suggested that the kids have a "pump-a-thon" over Labor Day weekend to flush the well, which should be done periodically to keep the water cleaner.

We discussed the ongoing issues with beavers damming Clear Creek and backing it up into our drinking water source. Thank you to whomever has removed any beavers so far, we appreciate your efforts. However, as of the meeting, some beavers remain active below the water hole. Stephens reminded us that federally qualified local residents can take a beaver a day, either the meat or hide must be salvaged. Options include killing more beavers, removing dams, putting grates in the culverts, asking DOT to take action, spend MAC money on culvert work and gravel, community work party, etc. We noted that the fine gravel has been removed from the roadway from the previous flooding; a community work party was agreed upon and Keith Rowland offered to donate gravel. This event has yet to be planned. Mark will contact DOT to request that they work on the culverts and road. If DOT does not respond, we will take community action. Stay tuned for a plan.

MAC elections

Elections for the Board of Directors of MAC will occur at the August 31st meeting. All positions (President, VP, Treasurer, 8 directors) are open. Board members meet an extra hour before most general meetings and they conduct extra business outside of the meetings on behalf of MAC. Please email the MAC secretary by August 20th if you would like to run for any position. A slate of candidates will be sent out ahead of the meeting so members may vote by proxy. Candidates can add their name to the list at the meeting and may have 5 minutes to speak to the membership if they wish. Contact the MAC secretary if you would like more information on the Board's position descriptions. mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com

Mailshack mural—Kristin Link

Kristin is leading the effort of painting a lovely mural on our mailshack with the local youth. She has sketched the scene and some of it is painted already. She will organize additional painting sessions in August, stay tuned for updates. Thanks to everyone who has helped so far and thanks to the Alaskan Humanities Forum for funding the project. Great work Kristin and the kiddos, big and small! If you have ideas for the mural, there is still time to add more. Email Kristin ideas. linkkristin@gmail.com.

EMS update—Stephens Harper

MXY EMS is active and busy. Jacob and Stephens have either attended to or dispatched nearly 20 calls (non-NPS-related medical calls). Thank you to this local volunteer service!

Wrangell Mountains Center—Nate Anderson

Kids programs continue at the WMC on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Yoga is on Sundays at 6:30 at Porphyry Place and Wednesdays at 7pm at the Rec. Hall. Tall Tales will be Saturday, August 26th at the Golden Saloon. \$500 first place prize for best tall tale....\$20 to enter and 8 minute limit. Auction item donations are being accepted now, call Tamara at 907-980-2290.

NPS update—Stephens Harper

He reported that landowner Ray Krieg got through the ice in the NPS mine entrance and was able to get to the private underground tunnels of his Motherlode mine property. He hopes to have both the main and emergency entrances accessible from his own property, possibly by helicopter, to be determined. Krieg will only be able to access his private underground mining tunnels, not the NPS-owned portions. The general public is prohibited from accessing tunnels on/in NPS land within the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark.

Mike Loso reported that the Hidden Lake flood on July 17th this year was about half the size of last year's.

Community/NPS search-and-rescue trainings have been very successful and well attended. Thanks to everybody who has participated.

Two contractors continue to work in Kennecott doing electrical work and installing smoke/fire detection equipment; work should be done by August 14th. They are also installing sprinkler systems/water tanks in the Rec. Hall and the general store; work should be done by August 5th. A siren will be installed in Kennecott for disaster warnings. The final phase 3 of the restoration project will start next year. Several companies will bid on the 5.6 million dollar contract; the NPS will award the contract by Sept. 30th.

Interpretive exhibits for Kennecott will arrive by truck Sept. 5th and installation will begin.

Contaminated mine site experts visited Kennecott a month ago upon request by NPS. They assessed both Kennecott and the Nabesna mine site off the Nabesna road for heavy metals contamination. New, bigger signs will inform the public about the contamination and how to reduce exposure. Washing hands is most important and NPS will install a handwashing station in Kennecott. The Nabesna site is heavily contaminated with cyanide, whereas Kennecott has less acute contamination, but it's widespread and consists of many heavy metals and some remaining explosives. There is also asbestos buried in the ground behind the leaching plant and around the boilers that was encapsulated before the NPS purchased Kennecott, but that encapsulation is now failing. NPS will increase water-spraying on the roads to reduce dust and will do more water testing of National Creek. Test results will be shared with the public. The Mill Tour operating plan will require the operator to inform clients about the contamination before they start the tours. The mine site team will also advise the NPS on long-term clean-up strategies. NPS will contract an industrial hygienist and other consultants to assess the situation, test results, and synthesize it all into a comprehensive report and recommendations for mitigation. The NPS is taking the contamination issues and protecting the public's health seriously. The question of why the NPS does not provide clean drinking water to the public was raised; wells have not worked and public surface drinking water must be more highly treated than the current treatment systems in Kennecott can accommodate and funding does not currently exist. Handwashing water will not be legally drinkable.

A complaint was raised about NPS contractors driving too fast and recklessly on the MXY road. Stephens stated that the NPS takes this seriously and he would address it. Stephens was also questioned about guided motorcycle tours that visit the area. This company does not have a permit to conduct guided tours on NPS land. However, it is common for them to send their clients "unguided" up to Kennecott for the day.

A revised NPS subsistence brochure is available now at the mailshack. Stephens and/or Elizabeth are issuing federal subsistence hunting permits now. Superintendent Bobowski will be here for the August meeting.

Swimming hole and plastic water toys

The accumulation of plastic water toys in the swimming hole was raised. The swimming hole is on NPS land and things can be legally left unattended for up to 4 months if they are labeled with the owners contact information. The membership generally agreed that the toys detract from the beautiful natural scenery at the swimming hole. Could the owners please stash the toys in the bushes overnight? Could they be taken home between each use? Plastic breaks down, sinks and pollutes water. Word of mouth can help spread the word to "pack them out" after use. The paddleboat, whose owner has not lived here for many years, will be removed this fall by the NPS and disposed of. The plastic toys need to be removed by their owners in the fall. Motion was made to request in these minutes that locals remove their plastic toys from the swimming hole when they are not being used. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$2,438

Savings account balance: \$51,925
1, 2 and 5-year CDs balance: \$101,366
Expenses since last meeting:

Deposits:	interest on all accounts	\$100
	EMS donations	\$515
Debits:	EMS phones	\$6
	2 cases toilet paper	\$237
	Board of Directors insurance	\$1,281

Announcements:

Thank you to Trig Trigiano for financially supporting the VFD and EMS in order to defer costs for MAC. We appreciate your generous support of these important local groups.

Mail sorters are needed on mail days! It would be appreciated if especially businesses, who receive lots of mail, send somebody to help with mail sorting.

Soap berries are out and bears are around. Keep your garbage and food contained and help keep bears from becoming conditioned and dangerous.

Thank you to Orion and Karolina for cleaning up Tony's so well after their wedding reception!

Jacob Shultz is a certified EMS instructor and can teach many EMS classes. Contact Jacob at mxeyems@gmail.com if you're interested in getting some EMS training, such as WFR or ETT. EMT classes must be taken elsewhere; it's a month-long full-time class for an EMT 1 certification.

The University Lotowners Association will be sharing the cost of a new AED in their subdivision with MXY EMS. A new medical response bag is now located in the VFD cache at the entrance to the University subdivision and another new medical bag is in the public cache in Kennecott, located in the general store building.

MAC elections will happen at the next meeting.

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, August 31st, 2017 at 11:30am.
Mark Vail adjourned the meeting at 12:45pm.
Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes August 31st, 2017 Tony Zak House

Members present: John Rice, Patt Garrett, Mark Vail, Stephens Harper, Hannah Rowland, Keith Rowland, Laurie Rowland, Trig Trigiano, Kaleb Rowland, Charlie O'Neill, Lyn Plomaritis, Jeremy Pataky, Elizabeth Schafer, Julie Truskowski, Cynthia Hendel, John Bosshard, Jen Bosshard, Neil Darish, Ben Shaine, Arlene Rosenkrans, Chris Chester, Kenny Smith, Malcolm Vance, Tamara Harper

Others present: Bradie Kozera, Nate Anderson (WMC), Lynn Grams (NPCA), Paul Barrett, Glenda Barrett, Julie Keniry, Jenny Yager Fish, Carol Harding (NPS), Ben Bobowski (NPS), Laura Boniek, Martin Boniek, Colin Warren

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 was made to approve the July 2017 minutes; motion seconded and passed.

MAC Officer/Board Elections

We voted by secret ballot for a board of President, Vice President, Treasurer and 8 board members. The following people were elected for the 2018 MAC Board of Directors:

Mark Vail-President

Hannah Rowland-VP

Tamara Harper-Treasurer

Board: Thea Agnew, Jeremy Pataky, Elizabeth Schafer, Patt Garrett, John Rice, Kaleb Rowland, Trig Trigiano, Christine Johnson

Clear Creek/Beavers/Water Quality

Mark reported that he talked to DOT staff on the MXY road about our culvert/beaver issue at Clear Creek. DOT is aware of the beaver problem, but they likely won't work on the road until the beavers are gone. The latest dam had been recently removed—thank you to whomever did that work! It was confirmed that at least one beaver still exists and is still working on the dam. We agreed that the beavers need to be permanently removed before we can work on fixing the road. Stephens relayed a message from Matt Vial that he is willing to volunteer his welding skills to build removable grates for both ends of the culvert at our drinking water source. These would at least keep beavers from building blockages inside the culvert where it is hard to remove. The grates would need to be maintained and cleaned. Motion made for MAC to fund these grates, motion seconded and passed.

Chokosna Bridge replacement

Alaska DOT is proposing to replace the bridge at Chokosna, mile 27 of the McCarthy Road. Associated roadwork will occur and the project is ½ mile in length. There is little other information thus far. Comments or questions can be directed to Colleen Ackiss, Engineering Manager at 907-451-5179 or colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. Comments may be submitted until September 29, 2017.

Chris Richards Memorial Trust (CRMT) letter

Tamara read a letter sent by the CRMT explaining that they manage a piece of property on the Bonanza Mine trail and will soon be doing improvements and changes to this land. They will be installing a gate and sign on the property to minimize motorized visitation and trespassing. They are concerned with the accumulation of garbage, human waste and unauthorized commercial use of their property. They described an incident when a helicopter tried to land on the property without permission, disturbing a group of authorized campers. The co-trustees ask that Lot 138 be respected as private.

Discussion followed and information was shared about the incident described. The helicopter pilot was not sure where to land and it was disputed that anyone asked the campers to leave. People involved with the incident said it was a series of mistakes about where to land, what pile of lumber to pick up, and whose property it was. It was not associated with any filming or commercial venture, and they said there was no ill intent and apologies were expressed. The CRMT private property improvements will not affect access to the Bonanza Mine trail.

Wrangell Mountains Center—Nate Anderson

Nate thanked everyone for their support this season and reminded us about the ½ marathon on Sept. 2nd. A lecture on the Wrangells volcanic arc will be Sunday 3rd at 7pm.

NPS update—Carol Harding/Stephens Harper/Ben Bobowski

Carol said the Kennecott interpretive exhibits that we started planning in 2011 will be installed between September 5th-15th. The exhibits will be open to the public next season in several Kennecott buildings.

Stephens updated us on the search and recovery of Nick Larsen, a hiker who went missing earlier in August. NPS searchers found and recovered his body on the Nizina River on August 30th. He thanked the local community members who volunteer to train as a search and rescue (SAR) team; the NPS appreciates their time and commitment.

Ben Bobowski thanked the SAR team also and encouraged folks who were involved in the search for Nick to take advantage of the resources offered by the NPS. He thanked the community for their support during these difficult incidents.

He said that phase 3 of the Kennecott restoration, due to start early next season, will be postponed because the contractor estimates are higher than anticipated. NPS will review/rework the project and the work start date is unknown at this time, possibly later next summer season.

The backcountry stewardship plan newsletter that was anticipated for August did not happen. NPS has realized they need to gather more public input before they can progress on the plan. He suggested the MAC work group we created last year convene again next spring to review the plan changes and collaborate with the NPS.

Ben said he's been at WRST for a bit over a year now and he appreciates McCarthy as a special place.

EMS update-Stephens Harper

The membership booed when Stephens said our community ambulance was vandalized recently. The electrical system is destroyed and the ambulance is inoperable. It likely happened late at night either August 18th or 19th; if anyone has any information, please contact mxeyems@gmail.com. If anyone is able and willing to help fix it, MXY EMS is looking for volunteers with electrical skills. Hauling the ambulance to ANC for repairs would likely use most of our current EMS funds. The membership agreed that the culprit should confess and pay to fix it. A couple folks offered their assistance.

Treasury Report—Tamara Harper

Checking account balance: \$2,465

Savings account balance: \$51,928

1, 2 and 5-year CDs balance: \$101,512

Expenses since last meeting:

Deposits:	interest on all accounts	\$147
	EMS donations	\$415
	outhouse donations	\$75
	dues/Tony's rental fees	\$100
Debits:	EMS phones	\$8
	1 case toilet paper	\$119
	MAC board general liability insurance	\$514
	hand sanitizer for outhouses	\$72

MAC has 2 \$25,000 CDs coming due this fall. Both will be reinvested in the same timed accounts.

We have received \$25,446 from the state for the 2018 community sharing program. \$7,500 will be allocated toward general operations, half of the remainder will be saved and half will be available for project proposals. Each proposal can request up to \$1,800 from MAC in 2018. Guidelines for applying will be available in February.

Announcements and Thank yous:

Patt Garrett suggested that local businesses contribute toilet paper to the community outhouses. She also expressed dismay at the ambulance vandalism and hopes that local businesses will donate to the EMS fund, especially considering the repair will cost money that was not anticipated. Neil Darish/MXY Lodge offered to pay for an electrician's labor costs to fix the ambulance; thank you Neil!

THANK YOUs to:

DOT for grading the road recently.

The dam busters, whoever they were, for clearing the beaver dam and allowing Clear Creek to flow freely again. Jason Esler for removing the deflated pool toys at the swimming hole. Owners of remaining pool toys/surfboards-- please remove for the non-swimming season.

Trig for his funding of MXY EMS and VFD.

Kristin Link and the local kids for a beautiful mailshack mural.

Chris Chester thanked the community for a successful kick-ball event which raised over \$2,000 for the VFD. VFD will be shutting down for the season and fire trucks will no longer be usable due to freezing temperatures. Be careful with woodstove fires as the season progresses and clean your chimney now! If you have a chimney fire, throwing cups of water in your stove and shutting it down can help extinguish the stack fire.

Patt Garrett encouraged younger folks to consider joining the museum's board or becoming more involved at the museum...they would welcome some new blood!

Mark reminded us to join the meeting in March and have a great winter!

Next MAC meeting will be Thursday, March 29th, 2018 at 11:30am.

Mark Vail adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Minutes taken by Tamara Harper, Recording Secretary.