

McCarthy Area Council Meeting Minutes (Annual Meeting)

Thursday, August 25, 2022, 6:30 PM, Wrangell Mountains Center, Hardware Store/Zoom

Mission: McCarthy Area Council is a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of locals and visitors in the McCarthy-Kennecott Area

Specific Objectives and Purposes: The specific objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be (1) to provide structure for discussion, decision-making and planning on issues faced by the McCarthy area community; (2) to receive and administer funds for community projects and for the administration of the public affairs of the McCarthy area community.

Members present: *(in person)* Brad Grossweiler, Greg Runyan, Craig Neill, Dave Hollis, Rob Wesson, Hannah Rowland, Laurie Rowland, Keith Rowland, Nancy Rowland, Tom Golden, David Rowland, Neil Darish, Cynthia Shidner, Jon Erdman, Jesse Nee, Lyn Plomaritis, Wendy Pollock, Maya Huebner, Greg Fensterman, Tamara Harper, John Rice, Caleb Aronson, Meghan Seifert, Kristin Link, Matt Smith, Ian Gyori, Elizabeth Schafer, Victoria Tanner, Matthew Shidner, Bernadette Martel, Molly Mylius, Megan Turner, Malcolm Vance, Corinna Cook, Michelle Latvala, Erin McKinstry, Nik Merlino, Michelle Raven *(virtual/phone)* Dave Syren, Pat Garrett, Sally Gibert, Sam Gregory, Kris Gregory, Denise Jantz, Kim Meck, Gina Merlino, Erik Mundahl, Jeremy Pataky, Stephanie Sever

Others present: *(in person)* Joshua Scott, Colin Warren, Jamie Rowland, Dan Talcott, Ryan Talcott, Sharon Tingue, Jake Armstrong, Jon Cooperman; *(virtual/phone)* Judy Miller, Sophie Littee

President Nik Merlino opened the meeting at 6:37 PM with a quorum of 9 members present at the Hardware Store and online. He thanked everyone for coming to the annual meeting and thanked the Wrangell Mountains Center for hosting the meeting this month. He also thanked the volunteer vote counters Sharon Tingue, Jon Cooperman, and Colin Warren

July Minutes Approval

A motion was made to accept the July 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded. One amendment was presented to change the “Kennicott River footbridge/DOT bridge” to the DOT bridge in the Roads and Access report committee. The friendly amendment was accepted by the motioners. The motion passed as amended with no opposition. The July minutes can be viewed on the MAC website at www.mxyCouncil.org.

President’s report and announcements (Nik Merlino)

Nik thanked Erin for her hard work as secretary and preparation for the election. He thanked long-time board member John Rice, who is stepping down after many years of service. He also thanked Tamara Harper for 16 years of service. As secretary and treasurer, she put many hours of work into the organization and helped keep everything running. Gifts were presented to Tamara as a thank you.

Annual Elections (Erin McKinstry)

Some candidates spoke for a few minutes ahead of the election. The candidate slate was finalized. Secretary Erin McKinstry read out the list of voting members and other board members distributed ballots and put email ballots in the ballot box. Erin and Nik counted the number of ballots and made sure it didn’t exceed the number of voting members that received ballots. Three non-MAC members took the ballot box to count the votes. President Nik Merlino called the meeting back to order.

Treasurer’s report (Tamara Harper)

Checking, savings, CDs: \$161,126

Total spent in 2022: \$101,438

Operations: ~\$5,000
EMS: \$47,800 (donations + ECI)
VFD: \$41,810 (donations + ECI)
West Side Road Maintenance: \$1,120 (small grant 2021)
Attorney Fees, Jed Van Loan, Roads & Access Research Project: \$2,400 (small grant 2022)
EMS, general operations: \$2,400 (small grant 2020)
Total received in 2022: \$1,831
Dues/donations: \$645
Interest CDs: \$1,186
Pending Expenditures 2022:
Small grants proposals (approved, but not completed) \$8,970
Unapproved proposals (small grants & ECI, pending vote later in the meeting): \$28,754
Operations: \$5,000-\$6,000 (secretary pay, outhouse cleaners, outhouse pumping, misc. supplies)
Pending Revenue 2022:
Community Assistance Grant 2022: \$24,296

Committee reports

Roads and Access committee (Michelle Raven)

One member expressed hopes earlier in the meeting that MAC can provide a neutral space to discuss road and access concerns as the DOT begins their longer-term Planning and Environmental Linkages study of the area. Michelle Raven said in her candidate statement that the Roads and Access Committee won't gather people and ask for opinions about changes and alterations for the study. Instead, she hopes that individuals can talk with DOT and NPS directly during the process to ensure calmness and fairness. She said the committee will help people understand how to do so. She shared a link to the guidebook for the upcoming study: https://dot.alaska.gov/rfpdocs/25213030/pel_guidebook.pdf, and [the proposal for the study](#). The committee also has a new website: <https://mccarthyroads.com>. Another member expressed a need for a community discussion as the study moves forward and hoped MAC could provide that space. Nik Merlino said that falls within MAC's mission, and he appreciates the sentiment of providing a neutral space. Contact for roads and access committee: michelle_raven@yahoo.com

Community partner reports

NPS (Joshua Scott)

NPS is working with the state historic preservation office to streamline projects and make sure they're in line with the state office. They met with the Department of Natural Resources to look at water issues and applications for water rights. One community member asked for clarity. Scott said they were reviewing an old NPS application and helping them make sure they're in compliance with state water regulations. The review process for the Kennecott Operations Plan is ongoing. A letter will come out soon with results from the review and then the revision will begin in 2023. The visitor's center closes on September 11. NPS is working with DOT on the McCarthy Road Planning and Environmental Linkages study mentioned earlier in the Roads and Access report. DOT is heading up that study. NPS is also working with DOT to start something similar for the Nabesna Road. One member mentioned the road at the swimming hole that has a damaged culvert and how the repairs can't wait for years until the study is completed because of safety issues. Several members expressed impatience with the process. Joshua said they're working on a fix, but it's complicated. They're working to transfer the road from NPS to the DOT easement, so DOT can do the maintenance. There is also a desire by some community members to preserve the swimming hole, and a new culvert could drain the swimming hole. Further discussion ensued. One member suggested the community present a solution to the NPS. Keith and David Rowland volunteered to come up with a temporary solution and present it at the September MAC meeting. Joshua Scott said NPS is open to considering that and encouraged a community proposal. Contact: joshua_scott@nps.gov

Kennicott-McCarthy Recreation Alliance (Hannah Rowland)

The KMRA is focusing on the playground design. They're contacting the Valdez Park and Recreation and the Lions Club in Glennallen to help with ideas.

EMS (Jacob Shultz)

Jacob said there was a good turnout for the ETT class and expects about 10 people to take the EMT course next summer. He also spoke in support of soft shoulder signage. There were 8-10 vehicles off the road this summer because of soft shoulders. They had well over 20 EMS calls this summer.

Old Business

Small Grants Proposals

KMRA: Playground proposal for bench and picnic table (Hannah Rowland)

Hannah Rowland reviewed the proposal to build two picnic tables with umbrellas for the playground. They'll use local lumber, and they're looking for volunteer labor in September. They were also requesting funds for the KMRA filing fees. The request was for \$1,354 with \$1,050 in matching in-kind donations. A motion was made to approve funding requested for the KMRA Playground Proposal.¹ The motion was seconded. The motion passed with 6 no votes, 2 abstentions, and all else in favor. Contact Hannah at 907-259-5648 with questions or to volunteer.

EMS: Funding proposal for operations, equipment and training (Kristin Link)

Kristin Link reviewed the proposal to cover EMS operating expenses, ambulance insurance, equipment and supplies, and training.² They've requested similar grants in the past. EMS requested \$2,400 with \$1000 in matching funds. A motion was made to approve the funding request. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with no abstentions/no votes.

Mail Shack Committee (Elizabeth Schafer)

Thea Agnew Bemben, Jeannie Miller and a few others are looking for people to help form a committee to help revamp the mail shack. They want to make it a more functional space that works better for the community, particularly to create better space for packages. The committee could also look at the mail shack's foundation and the puddle that forms in front of it every spring. If you are interested in joining or spearheading the committee, contact the MAC Secretary at mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com.

New Business

WMC Update (Jon Erdman)

Jon read a statement about an event that happened at the Wrangell Mountains Center's annual storytelling fundraiser. He apologized for a lack of a trigger warning for explicit content and acknowledged that issues of sexual harassment and abuse are serious topics that deserve a thoughtful conversation and intentional action to create safe spaces. The full statement is attached to the minutes.³

4th of July (Hannah Rowland)

Hannah wants to have more community involvement in the 4th of July festivities. She's hoping community members can work with Neil Darish and the McCarthy Lodge to plan the events. Potentially the Kennicott-McCarthy Recreation Alliance could help. Neil responded by saying he hosts a big event every year where he invites businesses and community members to participate. A member asked if the community

¹ See attached: Playground Picnic Table Proposal

² See attached: MAC_grant_EMS2022

³ See attached: MAC Statement from WMC - Aug 2022

could be involved in helping plan. Neil discussed past events, dates and the parade. He said everyone can participate in the events. There was some discussion about collaboration.

Road Report Hanagita Road Small Grants (Hannah Rowland)

ROWCON obtained \$2,185 in matching funds for the Hanagita Road Proposal. They were awarded \$2,400 for the road improvement. They added ditches along the road and put gravel on top. The project is complete.

Crisis Training (Elizabeth Schafer)

Elizabeth suggested hosting community trainings to respond to people in crisis. She's reached out to different agencies for ideas. She plans to have more concrete information at the September meeting. Another member suggested also including sexual harassment training in the discussion.

September Membership Meeting

A motion was made to host a September MAC meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with 2 abstentions and no opposition.

Future Meeting Locations

Porphyry Place was suggested, but it's smaller than the Hardware Store. Tony Zak's is still closed to the community. It will be open again sometime in September. Dan Talcott, from the Blackburn Heritage Foundation, said it's undecided whether it will be open for use next summer.

2023 Election Results

President: Nik Merlino (66)

Vice President: Thea Agnew Bembem (65)

Treasurer: Matthew Shidner (68)

Secretary: Erin McKinstry (68)

Board Members (7 seats)

Chris Chester (74)

Greg Fensterman (66)

Jeremy Pataky (73)

Michelle Raven (36)

Hannah Rowland (60)

Greg Runyan (72)

Stephanie Sever (73)

Julie Truskowski (64)

Write-in: Denise Jantz (1)

Write-in: Malcolm Vance (1)

Write-in: Elizabeth Schafer (1)

Geodesic Dome Proposal: No (69) / Yes (9)

President Nik Merlino thanked everyone for participating. A motion was made to end the meeting. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Minutes taken by Erin McKinstry, Recording Secretary

McCarthy Community Playground Proposal

Phase 2: Picnic Tables, Bench and KMRA Filing Fees

Name(s) of sponsor(s) and contact information

Kennicott McCarthy Recreation Alliance

President: Hannah Rowland, 907-259-5648 , hannahroserowland@gmail.com

Board Members: Cheryl Antenucci, Jon Erdman

Specific project description

The Barret Family has donated a 6000 sq. ft piece of land to the McCarthy Heritage Foundation for the purpose of building a community playground for young kids and their families. It is located across the street from the outfield of the McCarthy ball field.

This proposal is to order locally harvested and milled lumber to construct 2 picnic tables and 1 park bench for the playground. We will be looking for community members to donate time in helping to construct the tables and bench.

This proposal also includes the cost of the startup of the KMRA. The cost of the startup is mainly the IRS fee for filing to become a 501C3 non-profit. Chuck Schuetze has donated his time to help as an attorney with the process to start this nonprofit.

Who will benefit from the project:

Local families and visitors with small children will have a welcoming place where their children can play. Those who will benefit from this project are those who are using the playground. The Playground is open to all children to use, the tables and benches will provide a place for an adult who is with them to sit down and possibly get some emails sent while the children are playing. The Tables will also provide a place for the families to enjoy a picnic at the playground. The umbrellas will keep the rain and intense sunlight off those sitting at the table.

Budget:

<u>Item list</u>	<u>Cost (\$)</u>	<u>Estimated Donated value (\$)</u>
Cost of Lumber	396.00	
Cost of Screws and bolts (estimated)	50.00	
Cost of 2 Umbrellas (estimated shipping)	240.00	
Cost of Labor (\$25/ hour x 10 hours for 2 people)		500.00
Cost of Tool Rental		100.00
Cost of 3 gallons of gas to run the generator	18	
Fees for filing for KMRA	625.00	50.00
A portion of Attorney Fees for KMRA (\$400/hour)		400.00

Percentage of total amount	56%	44%
Total	1354.00	1,050.00

Proposal Request: I request for MAC to approve of giving the funds in the amount of \$1,354.00 needed to complete this phase of the project. There has been more than the minimum required of 30% community funds through volunteering has been and will be given to this project.

Volunteer opportunity Announcement:

In September we will be putting the tables and bench together if the proposal is approved. Please call Hannah Rowland at (901) 259- 5648 if you have any questions and would like to volunteer.

MAC Funding Proposal for McCarthy Emergency Services
Submitted 7/26/2022 to be voted on 8/25/2022
Total request \$2400
Community match (secured) Amount \$1000

Name(s) of sponsor(s) and contact information

McCarthy Emergency services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
P.O. Box MXY #50, Glennallen, AK 99588, mxyems@gmail.com
Tax ID # 82-280155

Our board of directors include:

Jacob Shultz (president)
Kristin Link
Cindy Hendel
Matt Vial
Stephens Harper

Specific project description, including start and end dates

Start Date: 8/26/2022
End Date: 7/31/2023

We are requesting \$2400 to help cover annual operating expenses, insurance for the ambulance, equipment and supplies, and training.

Ambulance Insurance: In 2020 we expanded the list of community members who could operate the ambulance. We have used it numerous times for medical responses in the past couple of years and it is a valuable asset to the community and our EMS response. This grant will help us purchase insurance for 2023.

Medical Supplies and other Operating Expenses: We operate and stock five community medical caches in the McCarthy area with AEDs, oxygen, and medical supplies. The caches are located on the West Side, University Subdivision, Kennicott, downtown McCarthy, and in the ambulance. We have used MAC funding in the past to purchase quick response bags with supplies to treat trauma and airway issues. We received CARES funding in 2020 to stock up on medical supplies, but this grant funding will allow us to replace any items that have been used and repair and maintain equipment. Routine expenses include fuel for the ambulance, ambulance registration, filling oxygen tanks, maintenance for AEDs, and other miscellaneous medical supplies.

Training: Education is in our mission statement and we try to make medical training available to volunteer responders. Since 2019 we have offered a subsidized WFR (Wilderness First Responder) recertification class for EMS and SAR volunteers. We also offer other community medical classes and are interested in providing support to community members pursuing higher level medical

training (i.e. EMT 1 and 2) and are planning to help sponsor Swift Water Rescue certification for members in 2023.

An explanation of who will benefit from the project

McCarthy Emergency Services is a volunteer, community effort focused primarily on improving emergency medical response in the McCarthy/Kennicott area. Our mission statement is “Saving lives by coordinating EMS response, providing education and supporting area medical and search and rescue volunteers”. Residents of the McCarthy/ Kennicott area, seasonal employees, and visitors benefit from EMS response and education we provide.

Proposed budget for the project. Itemize all anticipated expenses, including materials, rate/hours of labor, rate/hours of machine/equipment rental, etc.

Expenditures:

Ambulance Insurance 2021: \$2100

Operating Support including supplies, equipment, and/or training: \$1300

Total: \$3400

Income:

MAC grant request: \$2400

Unrestricted Donations (Pick Click Give pledges): \$1000

Total: \$3400

All board members and responders for McCarthy EMS are unpaid volunteers.

A specific explanation (with dollar amounts) of how the Community Assistance funds from MAC will be matched by money/labor/materials from community members and/or from external funding sources (other than MAC).

We have a pledge of \$1300 in unrestricted donations through Pick Click Give. We also have more donation funds but are planning on using most of these towards finishing the EMS building or to reserve for future needs.



THE WRANGELL MOUNTAINS CENTER

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Connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in Alaska

August 25, 2022
McCarthy Area Council Meeting
Submitted for the meeting minutes

On Sunday, August 14, the WMC held the third and final “Truth Be Told” storytelling event at the Kennecott Rec Hall. Organizers and attendees experienced a spontaneous and unexpected introductory speech that was upsetting to many. The Wrangell Mountains Center apologizes to the attendees for the lack of a trigger warning about the explicit content, and because attendees (especially those with children) were not provided an opportunity to choose to stay or leave.

The WMC recognizes that issues of sexual harassment and abuse in the McCarthy community are indeed serious topics that deserve thoughtful conversation and intentional actions to create safe spaces. Sometimes a confluence of circumstances creates a special opportunity to learn and grow, and this is indeed one of those opportunities.

Over the coming months the WMC looks forward to continued conversations, both internally and externally. We are committed to making our campus, staff, volunteers, programs, and visitors physically and mentally safe. The board and staff are also committed to addressing these challenges with integrity, accountability, and transparency.

Sincerely,

Jon Erdman, Executive Director, and the Wrangell Mountains Center Board of Directors