

☒ President: Jodi Riddell
☒ Vice President: Margaret Billinger
☒ Secretary: Lisa Behrens
☒ Treasurer: Irene Crowley
☐ Director at Large: Ben Tew
☒ Director at Large: David Haggard
☒ Director at Large: Lindy Moss



PO Box 520931
Big Lake, AK 99652-0931

General Membership Meeting – September 10, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Big Lake Lions Recreation Center

DRAFT MINUTES

1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum

By: Jodi Riddell Time: 7:07pm
Quorum: Yes Attendees: 27 plus 6 board members

2.) Pledge of Allegiance

3.) Agenda Approval

Motion: Margaret Billinger Second: Yes

4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (August 13, 2024)

Motion: Lindy Moss Second: Yes Copy signed:

5.) Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$ Savings: \$ (report not available)

6.) Membership Report

Voting Members renewed for 2024: **98**

Associates (non-voting) renewed for 2024: **5**

7.) Presentation(s) (15 Minutes per presentation)

1. Sgt. Kessler, Alaska State Troopers – ATV Rules & Regulations

We have had a couple of tragic accidents this summer. It comes down to a lack of knowledge. Are people aware and are they abiding by the law? The bike paths are one of the most common points of problem. New signs are being placed. Most of these incidents involve juveniles who do not know the rules and regulations. Even the most tragic event this summer was a mistake, but mistakes still have consequences. Educating the public may be the key to solving these issues. AST has 12 new troopers coming to the Mat Su this fall, so we are hoping to have more manpower soon. Question: What about Northshore Drive? Answer: Paved trails are pedestrian traffic only. This is an evolving challenge that AST is trying to keep up with as much as possible. Question: Is it possible to ticket parents of the juvenile offender? Answer: Only one ticket can be issued... to the actual offender. Question: what if there is video of an offense? Answer: If the offender is identifiable via footage, AST can provide education. Issuing a violation is very difficult based on video evidence alone. Question: On another subject, what is happening with drug traffic in this area? Answer: Oh boy... It is remarkably difficult to address this issue because drug activity happens when the majority of residents are asleep, and police presence is less intense. AST has over 60 vacant positions. It is difficult to overcome this problem. Question: is the problem with staffing AST a budget problem or availability of qualified candidates? Answer: All of the above.

2. Sarah Myers, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game – Fish habitat permitting Here for Fish & Game habitat. Numerous complaints coming from Big Lake about erosion of shorelines. This is often associated with wake boats of recent years. We are here to talk about options for shoreline preservation. We have the authority to issue permits to modify banks to benefit anadromous fish species.

Joe Lyons, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Mat Su Restoration and Protection Cost-share Program <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=habitatrestoration.matsucostshare> I'm here to talk about the Mat Su cost-share program to restore shoreline. Our efforts are focused on programs to restore natural shoreline vegetation and salmon habitat. Owners are responsible for obtaining bids. If a bid is accepted, the owner is responsible for 1/3 of the cost.

Rodney Fodge, MSB Planning & Land Use – Big Lake Management Plan. The 1998 Big Lake Comprehensive plan is quite comprehensive. Quiet hours are designated as 11pm to 8am. Wake protection zones are 150 feet from shoreline. (Audible laughter from the persons present). For modifications, more than 50% of parcels must be represented. Multi-owner parcels include a vote for all owners. The entire process would need to be completed within 90 days. Handouts are available on the back table. Question: How do property owners navigate this complicated process? Answer: That would require a legal opinion from the MSB Attorney. Question: How many violations have been issued by the Borough in the past year? Answer: That would require some research. The larger the area of the lake, the more difficult it is to initiate or enforce restrictions. Some of these questions would require the knowledge of MSB Code Compliance personnel.

3. Nicole Swenson, Mat Su Elodea Task Force <https://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/elodea.htm> This is an update from last year's presentation. Elodea is an invasive species that is present in Big Lake. Last year's study provided encouraging results, indicating that elodea presence was very limited in Big Lake. Recent results are less encouraging, as there is evidence of elodea spreading in the Big Lake area. Elodea is difficult and expensive to get rid of. There are a number of organizations that can assist with a problem like this. Cleaning waterborne vehicles is very important to limit/prevent the spread of elodea. Float planes are common means of elodea spread. The Elodea Task Force is looking for Big Lake volunteers. Signage has been placed in the area re: cleaning boat and airplane gear, etc. to limit further spread of elodea. The current plan is containment of the infestation. There is no long-term eradication plan in existence for Big Lake at this time. There is information about the "Clean, Drain, Dry" campaign on the back table tonight. Question: Is this limited to lakes only or does it affect rivers too? Answer: Any freshwater body is subject to infestation.

8.) Reports

1. Legislative (State House & Senate)
Senator Shower: Provided by Shonda Erickson. State Capital Improvement Project timeline starts this November.
Representative McCabe: Provided by Linn McCabe. Big Lake Road overlay project is scheduled to begin this week.
2. Assembly (District 5)
Assembly Representative Gamble: Not available due to concurrent assembly meeting
3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department)
Chief Hightower: Monthly report re: Fire and other emergency responses. Early spike in structure fire calls already in August. West Lakes is always hiring additional responders. See our Facebook page for real-life photos of our responses. We need community help. Our work is always rewarding, even if not always exciting...
4. Road Service Area: No one available

8.) Correspondence

1. Rodney Fodge, MSB Planning Dept. FY26 CIP application results. Update on Big Lake project awards. Big Lake received 4 of the 12 top priority approvals.
[Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) FY2026 \(arcgis.com\)](#)

10.) Unfinished Business

1. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: Bill Haller – Big Lake Rep.
<https://matsugov.us/boards/waterbody-setback-advisory-board> Update: Bill is on the Al-Can Hwy

11.) New Business

12.) Persons to be Heard (3 Minutes per person)

Michael Dale: Here to advocate for our high schools. All teachers spend money from their own pocket to help students have what they need. Mat Su School District can't fund everything. I want to advocate for donations for local high school shop programs. A list of needed supplies has been supplied by Houston High School. See me for details. Please support your local high school programs.

Jim Faiks: Good news re: relief of Hollywood Road flooding from Jolly Creek. Bad news, it is being redirected to Jordan Lake Park. Some years will be negligible, others will be significant. We are starting a plan to mitigate this issue. Mat Su Borough is supportive of a plan to improve Jordan Lake Park but cannot move quickly enough to make this happen without community participation. There is a proposed community donation initiative. There will be a meeting this Saturday at the Big Lake Library at 10:30am. Please see the illustration of the proposed improvements, provided by local artist, Karen Crandall.

Terry Gorlick: Big Lake Drainage plan addresses the Jolly Creek drainage area. There have been various proposals for addressing the drainage problem. This year, funds from the Big Lake Road Service Area are being considered for spending to deal with the Jolly Creek drainage area. Some community members are concerned about this use of local taxpayer funds and are proposing other strategies for this project. Community members who would like to speak to this issue should contact our district Assembly representative.

Linn McCabe: Speaking on behalf of candidate Kevin McCabe, for Alaska House of Representatives.

Doyle Holmes: Candidate for Alaska House of Representatives.

13.) Announcements

Big Lake Lions "Trunk or Treat" is coming up... donations for candy needed

14.) Board Member Closing Comments

Jodi Riddell:

Margaret Billinger: Big Lake Chamber needs people to get going again, once hunting season is over.

Lisa Behrens:

Irene Crowley:

Dave Haggard:

Ben Tew:

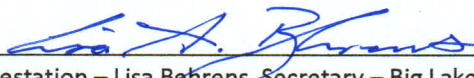
Lindy Moss:

15.) Adjournment

Motion: Jodi Riddell Second: Yes Time: 8:43pm



Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council Date 10-8-2024



Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council Date 10-14-24