

Kenai Peninsula Borough Service Area
Seward/Bear Creek Flood Service Area Board

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Memorandum

TO: Ron Long, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly President

FROM: Christina Stauffer, Administrative Assistant

DATE: 12 April 2007

RE: SBCFSA Project Priority for FY2007/KPB Ordinance 2006-19-50

I would like to clarify the Seward/Bear Creek Flood Service Area board project prioritizing process for the transfer of service area funds requested in Ordinance 2006-19-50.

At the regular board meeting of February 19th, 2007, the SBCFSA Board reviewed the budget proposal for FY 2008 and decided to request transfer of funds from the Fund Balance to Contract Services in order to allow the board to do flood repair work on Seward area streams this summer. It was further decided that some of the flood mitigation/repair work that needed to be done could not wait until FY2008 in July to be started. The board determined to request a transfer of funds under the current budget, FY2007, to allow the most urgent work to start as soon as possible in the spring.

At the regular board meeting of March 5, 2007, the board considered and reviewed the Seward area watersheds most in need of repair following the October 2006 flood event (see attached list).

At the regular board meeting of March 19, 2007 these watershed needs were listed and sorted by cost, urgency (some being anadromous streams that must be worked in before mid-July) and probability of being able to obtain permits quickly. Five projects were chosen (see board meeting minutes of 3/19/07) as being equally urgent and of equal priority. Scoping is in progress. The order of accomplishment for these projects will be determined by availability of permits, melting of snow pack and the gathering and approving of quotes on the work with the assistance of the borough Mayor's office and the KPB Purchasing department.

The SBCFSA Board appreciates your support of this ordinance.

(attachment)

Agenda Item N. 2.

Committee Finance

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**FY2007/FY2008 SBCFSA FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS
SUMMARY**

Salmon Creek: (anadromous/navigable)

- Dike repair/Conant (finger dike at Salmon and Clear Creeks)
- Marathon View I and II/Weak spot on stream bank
- Nash Road Bridge

Kwechak Creek:

- Original dike mostly gone
- Lower section debris removal
- Engineering for long term solution

Lost Creek: (anadromous)

- Debris removal above and below proposed borough bridge project
- Re-channel

McKean (No Name) Creek:

- Debris removal
- US Forest Service Property – Get them involved

Box Canyon Creek:

- Dike repair
- Re-channel
- Engineering for long term
- CIRI and Nat. Park Service infrastructure at risk - Get them involved

Grouse Creek: (anadromous)

- Debris removal at confluence with Salmon Creek
- ADOT infrastructure at risk – Get them involved

Sawmill Creek: (navigable)

- Debris removal
- Re-channel
- ADOT and CIRI infrastructure at risk – Get them involved

**SEWARD / BEAR CREEK FLOOD SERVICE AREA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEAVIEW PLAZA BUILDING, SUITE 122**

I. PERMITS FOR REVIEW

• **Marina Subdivision Seward resort Addition/Plat Approval**

Discussion was held regarding this plat approval and it was determined that there were no floodplain issues involved.

Tina McLean moved to let the KPB Plat Committee know by e-mail that the SBCFSA had no comment.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved and the administrative assistant was so directed.

• **Alaska Railroad Debris Removal/Resurrection River and Salmon Creek, KRC# 6552**

Christina Stauffer pointed out to board members that this permit was a request for an extension on KRC#6059 issued in 2006 and that a copy of this permit was available in the lay down.

Dave Dieckgraeff commented that he felt that any debris removal was a good thing.

Discussion was held regarding this issue.

Tina McLean moved to respond to the Kenai River Center via letter that the SBCFSA had no objection to issuing this permit extension.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved and the administrative assistant was so directed.

J. OLD BUSINESS

• **Watershed review and prioritizing for SBCFSA Flood Hazard Plan**

Steve Schafer pointed out the news print that had been tacked up on the walls of the meeting room with headings for the watersheds the board had deemed most in need of flood mitigation after the October 2006 flood. He invited the public present to contribute to the watershed discussion and summarized the board's intent to use unreserved funds accumulated over the past months to address smaller mitigation projects.

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Randy Stauffer volunteered to write down suggestions as they were made on the news print lists.

John Gage spoke first about the need to address anadromous streams first as there was a time limit on doing work in these waters.

Discussion was held regarding which creeks in the service area are anadromous.

○ **Salmon Creek**

Brian Nipp stated that he was a member of the Marathon View Homeowners Association and that residents of the subdivision were concerned regarding repeat flooding. He stated that the last couple of times Salmon Creek flooded that it came through the bank in the same place and flowed down Meridian Avenue. He suggested that the board consider armoring this part of the stream bank or deepen the stream channel in this location. He went on to say that the flooding cuts down Henry Melville's driveway and that Mr. Melville had lost about 20 feet of property along the river in the last flood.

Tom Gillespie commented that the area of Salmon Creek under discussion was a difficult spot as the channel was tight here and anything done to one side of the stream would adversely affect property on the opposite side. He said that dredging could be done but that any rip rap placed would have to be done on both sides.

Steve Schafer added that permission would be needed from property owners on both sides of Salmon Creek for this work. He stated that armoring was more problematic than dredging and more apt to raise liability issues.

Dave Dieckgraeff said that the borough had given permission to channel this part of Salmon Creek a couple of years ago and that the board should check to see if any of those permits are still in effect.

Tina McLean suggested that, with regard to property owner permission, it would be helpful to the board to talk to the homeowners association. She encouraged Mr. Nipp to keep in touch regarding the willingness of property owners to let us in there to do this work.

○ **Kwechak Creek**

Tom Gillespie stated that Metco had been allowed to do just a little bit of work at the mouth of the Kwechak dike during the October 2006 flood emergency.

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Steve Schafer said that Afognak had spent about a week a couple of years ago extending the dike to about one third mile.

Tom Gillespie replied that the dike had now eroded down to about one fourth mile.

Discussion was held regarding the current state of the stream banks and the dike and what mitigation might be needed.

John Gage pointed out that this creek can be worked on in FY2008 if necessary as it is not anadromous.

Tom Gillespie noted that, aside from dike repairs, Kwechak Creek needed dredging below Bruno Bridge by the Mormon Church.

Tina McLean added that the dredging needed to be carried on down to where Kwechak emptied into Salmon Creek as there was virtually no stream bed left.

○ **Lost Creek**

Dan Rice stated that he lives up on Lost Creek above the Bardarsons. He said he would like to see some bed load and debris removed and the Lost Creek channel reestablished.

Tom Gillespie brought up the need for debris removal on McKean Creek which empties into Lost Creek. Since this was on Forest Service land he suggested the Forest Service might like to assist.

Dave Dieckgraeff remarked that the borough was already talking about replacing the Timber Lane bridge and working upstream and downstream from the bridge to deepen channel. He suggested that the board consider working upstream and downstream of the area proposed under the borough bridge work.

Steve Schafer commented that, due to the lack of anywhere to dispose of it, debris removal would be expensive in this area but that rechannelization was at least possible.

○ **Box Canyon Creek**

Steve Schafer stated that the borough had made it clear they would not work on the Box Canyon Creek dike. He suggested the board might pay for some dozer work at least.

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Dave Dieckgraeff suggested getting CIRI and the Park Service to assist as their infrastructure in this area was at risk.

Steve Schafer recommended that, as the borough engineers had declined to help with this dike, that engineering on the Box Canyon Creek dike be put on the list as a long term goal.

○ **Grouse Creek**

Discussion was held regarding whether or not Grouse Creek was anadromous. It was noted that if dredging was done where Lost Creek turns the corner into Grouse Creek that it would avoid this issue. It was suggested that the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) be involved and that the SBCFSA might address the stream area between the borough work on the bridge and the DOT area.

Jim Conant addressed the issue of Grouse Creek at its confluence with Salmon Creek. He stated that he had a discussion with Don Kuhl regarding the rip rap finger that had been left between the streams. The Corps of Engineers had seemed upset at the decision to leave the finger dike there. Mr. Conant suggested that it might be wise to have an engineer assess this situation. He believes that a separation is needed in this stream mixing zone to prevent further flooding.

Steve Schafer brought the discussion back to Grouse Creek. He noted that Lost Creek dumps into Grouse Creek and Grouse Creek dumps into Salmon Creek. Whatever is done needs to be done without interfering with the fish and, therefore, before July.

○ **Sawmill Creek**

Discussion was held regarding areas of Sawmill Creek that needed flood mitigation work. It was noted that any dredging needed at the bridge itself would be under the authority of the DOT.

Steve Schafer commented that dredging and debris removal was needed at, as well as above and below the bridge as well as rechannelization. He noted that, if not taken care of, any flooding could adversely affect the historic Iditarod Trail.

Further discussion was held with regard to the area of Sawmill Creek mentioned previously by Nashwoods resident Jerry Dixon. It was suggested

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that CIRI might want to be involved on work in this area as well as it will affect them eventually.

Christy Terry remarked that she did not see Japanese Creek on the list being considered and reminded the board that they had offered assistance to the City of Seward on this project.

Tom Gillespie noted that dredging should be done on Fourth of July Creek as well but that it was not a priority.

Randy Stauffer added that there were a number of areas outside of the current list, such as the Resurrection River and Lowell Canyon that were under mitigation project consideration by other groups.

John Gage stated that there are some flooding issues out at Lowell Point as well on one of the smaller creeks which floods routinely and cuts off access to Lowell Point. He said that he thought that the problem could be handled with a ditch and a culvert and that this should be a borough project.

Randy Stauffer mentioned the high level of sedimentation under the Nash Road bridge across Salmon Creek.

Steve Schafer pointed out that the biggest problem with all these projects was what to do with the material that was removed.

Discussion was held regarding possible sites where this material might be of use and the potential cost of transporting it.

- **FY 2008 Budget Update**

Christina Stauffer presented the ordinance and memo that had been drafted to propose the transfer of money in FY 2007 from Unreserved Balance to Contract Services. She also presented the Budget Change Request for FY2008 to increase the amount of money in Contract Services to allow for flood mitigation projects to be accomplished.

The board thanked Christina for her work on this and had no comments at this time.

K. NEW BUSINESS

No new business is on the agenda.