

MEMORANDUM

TO: Grace Merkes, Assembly President
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: John J. Williams, Borough Mayor
Craig Chapman, Finance Director
Max Best, Planning Director
Bonnie L. Golden, Grants Manager

FROM: Gary Williams, Coastal Management Program Coordinator

DATE: July 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2008-19-13: Accepting and appropriating a State grant in the amount of \$27,290 for the Borough's coastal management program

The Borough's Comprehensive Plan identifies the need to establish coastal erosion zones, with guidelines for setbacks from the bluff edge in order to minimize accelerated erosion or adverse impacts to neighboring properties or resources caused by bluff hardening. The Borough has included the need for coastal erosion studies in its list of federal priorities for several years.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough has been awarded \$27,290 from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to designate coastal erosion hazard areas based on historical erosion. This study, coupled with our previous study of bluff erosion in 2007, will provide an initial analysis of how shoreline processes are connected with bluff and cliff erosion on the western Kenai Peninsula.

At present, all evidence of erosion-prone areas lack the science necessary for policymakers to develop clearly supportable conclusions about the placement of development near coastal bluffs. New science that establishes the rate of erosion over time and leads to improved prediction of future rates of erosion with acceptable reliability will enable Borough planners and policymakers to make better decisions for the future.

Enactment of the attached ordinance will provide the funding for this shoreline process study and will authorize the project to be completed expeditiously. Your consideration of this ordinance is appreciated.

Attachments: Ordinance; Notice of award of grant