



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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DAVID R. CAREY
BOROUGH MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pete Sprague, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: *DR Carey* David R. Carey, Borough Mayor

FROM: *John Mohorcich* John Mohorcich, Director, Donald E. Gilman River Center
Craig Chapman Craig Chapman, Finance Director

DATE: April 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2009-19- 34, appropriating \$55,000 for riverbank restoration at the River Center

The Donald E. Gilman River Center ("River Center") has approximately 500 linear river frontage that has been developed and managed for a seasonal use fishery. This fishery begins in June and runs through early September. During peak salmon returns, the facility will have 200 to 300 visitors a day with up to 80 people fishing at any time. This seasonal use is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week activity. The facility is designed with elevated light penetrating stairways into the river that provide fishers access to an in-stream hip boot type of use. The gently sloping near bank gravel river bottom with ankle to knee high water provide a popular fishing experience while protecting the adjacent vegetated riparian area. Two separate high water events in the 2009 fishing season forced many fishers from the in-river normal hip boot fishery up and onto the vegetated riverbank. The users caused damage from trampling the existing spruce tree revetment and riparian vegetation along the riverbank.

This project will reestablish damaged or lost vegetation along the riverbank and provide an effective protective measure from river hydrology and boat wake erosion forces. This repair and maintenance requires 500 lineal feet of spruce tree revetment maintenance and installing 239 lineal feet, (597 square feet) of vegetation mat at the toe of the slope along the river's edge. A shortened hearing is requested so that we may accomplish this work prior to this seasonal use and during low water in June. The staff at the River Center and Capital Projects will work cooperatively to acquire necessary permits and manage the project.