

# Meeting Minutes January 10, 2024

## Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

### Minutes of January 10, 2023

❖ 3 Officers required for quorum: TOTAL = YES ❖

Pres: Camden Yehle Y; Vice Pres: Steve Edwards  
Y; Treasurer: Trish Jacob Y; Sec: Patricia Fisher  
Y; Council Coordinator: Tim Swezey Y

❖ 13 Members of the Meadow Lakes Community required for quorum: YES ❖

**Meeting Quorum = Yes**

Meeting conducted at the on Zoom and in Person at Meadow Lake Seniors  
Recorded live and posted on Facebook after the meeting

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Camden Yehle.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.

*President Yehle reported that the MSB Clerk's Office failed to post the notice of our meeting on the Borough calendar. As a consequence, we are not able to vote on business at this meeting. Cam related that if anyone has comments on any of the items discussed at the meeting, they need to send the comments in writing directly to the Borough.*

#### **Presentation: Discussion of the Proposed Float Plane Facility on Island Lake**

**Army Corp of Engineers:** Estella Camponelli gave a presentation of the process that the Corp will follow with regard to ruling on the facility ("Alaska District Regulatory Overview"). Olivia Ortez and Emily Vullo of the Corp were also online.

The Corp acts under several Federal regulations: The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the Clean Water Act. This application will be evaluated as an Individual/Standard Permit.

Notice to the public must be made within 15 days of receiving a complete application.

Individual permits are required for large or controversial projects or those with more than ½ area of impact to waters; activities having **more** than minimal impact. Public notice is required. They may require EIS (Environmental Impact Statements).

The Corp's Evaluation of the Project is guided by 33 CFR 320 (Public Interest Review, 33 CFR Section 324 Appendix B (NEPA for Regulator Programs) and 404(b)(1) guidelines 40 CFR 230. NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). "The Corp alone is responsible for reaching a decision on the merits of the application."

Charlie Center asked about the process for notifying everyone on the lake. He believes he was the only one on the lake that received notice. Several attendees spoke up to say that they have not received a notice. The Corp said that they used a distribution list (those people who asked to be put on the Corp's distribution list) plus those names provided by the applicant.

Cam Yehle asked: who was on the distribution list. The Corp relied on the applicant for a list of residents. Patti asked for the timeline of the notification. Camponelli did not have the exact dates to respond to the question. Camponelli stated that they have extended the period for comment to January 31.

Emilly Vullo: by Corp regulations the applicant has to submit the addresses of adjacent property owners.

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Sherri Rusher: how are people going to know that the comment period has been extended? Camponelli said that they sent notices of the extension out to the people who had called the Corp when they heard of the project.

Ariel Cannon: what does "adjacent" mean? Camponelli said that it is vague, but should include at least two neighbors on each side. The Corp is required to provide notice to two neighbors. They are not required to give notice to Community Councils.

Chad Scott commented that "there is a complete break-down in process regarding notification. Does this render the application Incomplete?" The Corp implied No.

**Sterling Cooke (Applicant) Response:** Cook said he plans to put in 31 slips. He saw a need for the slips. He described his search for a lake on which to place a facility.

Tim Swezey: "How many of the slips will be transitory?" Cook said they were not transitory.

Patti Fisher asked: "Will this be a repair facility?" Cook: "No."

*(Conversation difficult to understand.)*

Steve Edwards made the suggestion that concerned residents ask for a public comment period. He asked Mr. Cook, "when you build the docks, will you bring in gravel?" Cook responded "No." Vehicles will not drive on the dock area.

Attendee: "Are you aware that there are loon and swan nests on the lake, and that Little Meadow Creeks flows through the lake?" *(Difficult to understand the answer.)*

Sherri Rusher: "Have you already moved dirt on the wetlands?" Cook responded "No, only on the uplands."

Camden Yehle reported that she had received the following statement from Alex Strawn, Planning Director for the Mat-Su Borough: "After a thorough review of the plans, I have concluded that the project development does not require any permits from the Borough." Cam suggests that the Lake Management Plan could be reviewed.

*(Conversation difficult to understand.)*

Camden thanked everyone for attending.

A break in the meeting was held. The MLCC business meeting continued after the break.

## **Board Reports**

Ariel Cannon, Gaming: Split the pot events were held in Palmer in October and November. The pots were \$500 and \$700 for those meetings. The next event is Jan 19.

Trish Jacob, Treasurer: Trish presented the Treasurer's Report.

Steve Edwards gave a report from the Road Service Area district. The upcoming projects for 2024 have been set. Meadow Lakes Loop is scheduled for repaving; Herkimer, Spring and Rainbow for upgrading ; Island Lake (Doubloon, Jolly Roger, Cove) for upgrading.. He does not think they will get to Gunflint this summer.

**President Comments:** The Transportation Fair will be held on January 25 from 3 to 7pm at Raven Hall on the Fair Grounds in Palmer.

Cam reported that Al Leonard's term on the Platting Board has not been renewed. There is a vacancy on

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the Board.

A public comment period is open on The Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. Meetings are scheduled for January 31 (virtual) and February 1 (in person) in Wasilla. This is a good opportunity to make comments on the plan.

There are three significant items on the Assembly Agenda for Tuesday January 16: 1) an ordinance changing Mayoral and Assembly terms from 3 years to 4 years, 2) an ordinance allowing candidates in an election to list their political affiliation, and 3) a resolution encouraging residents to own guns. Cam asked that members make their individual comments directly to the Assembly.

Assembly Person Ron Bernier spoke about his ordinance recommending that residents own guns. He referred the audience to the Assembly Agenda for further information on the ordinances.

Patti Fisher commented that the change in terms should be placed on the ballot, and not decided by the Assembly.

Dewey Bitler suggested if guns are recommended the Borough may have liability if there is a firearms incident.

## Agency Reports

Ron Bernier asked those attending the meeting for their opinion on the use of voting machines. Sherri and Cam commented that they favored the voting machines. Dewey commented that the machines were far more accurate. Ariel also commented in favor of the machine. Ron reports that there was a cost savings in 2023 because the machines were not used. Patti Fisher stated that the cost of the 2024 election would be greater than the 2023 election since it will be a federal election year and the turnout will be greater. More persons will need to be hired to count.

Senator David Wilson reported that his office has had a lot of comments about the float plane facility, and they are following the proceedings. He is headed to Juneau.

Sherri thanked those who volunteer for the Christmas basket project and the Mat-Su Health Foundation. 39 families were provided baskets, covering 216 people.

**Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, February 7th at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.



Camden Yehle, President    Date 3/12/24



Patricia Fisher, Secretary    Date