

**SUSITNA BASIN
RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
10:00am-12:00pm**

MINUTES

The recording for this meeting is available [online](#).

I. Call to Order

- A. The regular meeting of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Advisory Board was called to order at 10:02 AM on April 20, 2022, via Microsoft Teams.
- B. Roll Call – Board Members Present: Israel Mahay, Donald Redick, Mike DeMaria, Emma Pokon, Nancy Conklin, Tim Dabney, Mike Overcast, Stephanie Nowers
- C. Board Members Absent: Bruce Knowles, Aaron Benjamin, Joseph Wright, Jody Payton (resigned), Chris Elder (resigned)
- D. Stephanie Nowers MOVED to approve the meeting Agenda. Mike Overcast SECONDED. PASSED without objection.
- E. Stephanie Nowers MOVED to approve the Meeting Minutes from 3/16/2022. Mike Overcast SECONDED. PASSED without objection.

II. New Business

- A. Plan Process Update:
 - a. Monica Alvarez and Shelby Burrige with DNR presented a draft User Survey to be distributed during the scoping process. All survey responses are georeferenced and can be incorporated into ArcGIS. Much of the survey was created utilizing questions from the original 1991 plan process surveys. Additional questions have been included to gather information related to understanding how conditions may have changed since the last plan was developed. The results will help inform the plan revision process.
 - b. Stephanie Nowers suggested that DNR add more information to the introduction about the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan and to inform participants why it is important for them to complete the survey.
 - c. Monica Alvarez explained how the survey will be distributed. A link to the survey will be available on the website, included in public noticing documents and a press release, and will also be sent out to the Recreation Rivers email contact list. Participants will also be able to take the survey at Public Meetings via their mobile device. Don Redick stated that he can share the link to the survey on the Boards Facebook page.

- d. Stephanie Nowers asked for clarification on how the public provides input throughout the plan process. Monica Alvarez explained how the public participates in both the scoping process and for the public review draft of the plan. Stephanie will get ahold of Monica to get DNR the Mat-Su Borough contact list for the West-Su Access Project.
- e. Chair Israel Mahay suggested a special meeting next week after the board has had a chance to review the User Survey and can provide feedback to DNR. DNR will poll the board for a date/time and send out a meeting invite.

B. Board Member Vacancies:

- a. Jody Payton (Recreationally Oriented Commercial Users) and Chris Elder (Susitna Borough Planning Commission Representative) have both resigned from the Advisory Board. Their positions are now vacant.
- b. Interested parties can apply for Advisory Board member vacancies online:
<http://www.boards.alaska.gov/apply>
- c. The board discussed removal of Aaron Benjamin (Mining) and Bruce Knowles (Sport Fishing) from the Advisory Board due to greater than 3 unexcused absences. The board discussed the bylaws and process for board member removal. Mike Overcast MOVED to make removal of Aaron Benjamin and Bruce Knowles from the Advisory Board an agenda item for the next regular meeting of the board (5/25/22). Stephanie Nowers SECONDED. PASSED without objection. DNR will give notice to the board members ahead of the meeting.

C. Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan Review: Chapters One & Two Discussion:

- a. Board members discussed their review of the first two chapters of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. Topics of interest included: public involvement, plan implementation, working with the Mat-Su Borough, updating management guidelines and making the plan more concise. The board will discuss Chapter 4 as the homework for the next regular meeting.

III. Comments from Members of the Public (Maximum 3 minutes/person)

- a. Mike Wood and Becky Long called in to provide public comment.

IV. Comments from Board Members

V. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting 5/25/2022

- a. Stephanie Nowers MOVED to adjourn. Don Redick SECONDED. Without objection, the Board adjourned at approximately 11:18 AM.