

Mayor's Report December 13, 2012

1. Staff Visits. My top priority was to meet with staff in all our departments. We are lucky to have such dedicated, motivated, and competent employees serving our community! My job is to ensure they have what they need to accomplish the work they do for all of us. In my view a manager's job is to carry water for the troops. It's my pleasure to do so.

Road projects and the Beach Park CRMA have kept me busy since October. Tom Williams, Lewis Sharman, Todd Boris, and I comprise the Road maintenance Team. Here are highlights:

2. Good River Road ditch cleaning and drainage improvement. We cleaned and improved the ditch on the north side of Good River Road from Meadow Ln to the Good River to improve flow and prevent flooding of Good River Road and adjacent properties after heavy rainstorms. We armored the ditch where it slopes down to the Good River to prevent erosion. That ditch is a continuously flowing stream with an origin in the willow swales north of Meadow Ln and Berry Drive. We upgraded the culvert under the Fredell Driveway to relieve a flow restriction at that point. I'm pleased with the results and thank our contractor Glacier Bay Construction for executing the project effectively and efficiently.

3. Good River Bridge repairs. Thanks to Chief Sol Martinez and Assistant Chief Jeff Jarvis, and firefighter Dena Bruchu for hosing off decades of accumulated sand on the deck of the Good River Bridge. That makes inspection and repairs much easier! After the council's award of the consulting engineering contract to PND Engineers I issued a notice to proceed to PND to begin evaluation of the embankment at the northwest corner of the bridge where a side stream is incising deeply next to the bridge approach. Shortly after the project was awarded, heavy snow forced postponement of the engineering inspection of the embankment. PND will evaluate it when snow is gone in the spring.

4. Wilson and Rink Creek Road Culvert Riprap. This project awarded in November to Glacier Bay Construction will stabilize the big culvert at the bend of Wilson/Rink Creek Roads at the Gravel Pits against high water flow when the Salmon River overflows into the pits. In the August 12, 2021 flood a large sink hole developed in the culvert embankment and the culvert could have been washed out if the road contractor had not been on site to fill the sink hole. The project will riprap both ends of the culvert to armor it against future floods. This work is vital to our flood diversion work intended to keep flood water off Wilson Road and out of adjacent residential subdivisions. After award I issued a notice to proceed (NTP) to Glacier Bay Construction to install the riprap, but the heavy snow that followed immediately has caused us to postpone. I thank Todd Boris for design work and help with project specs.

5. Wilson Road Drainage Rehabilitation. This project, also awarded to Glacier Bay Construction in November, is another vital part of the flood diversion effort. It will improve ditches along Wilson Rd to control any flood water escaping the primary control system at the gravel pits and flooding onto Wilson Road. This first phase extends the deep ditch on the east side of Wilson Rd from the Chase Drive intersection north about 200 ft past the ADF&G cabin and installs a culvert under the driveway to the ADF&G cabin. The project will also install a new culvert under Wilson Road just north of the Chase Drive intersection to carry water from the west side ditch to the deeper east side ditch. Todd Boris also contributed design work for this project. I issued the NTP to Glacier Bay Construction after the council award and the contractor cleared brush and trees for the ditch extension. However heavy snow has caused postponement of further work until snow melt.

We are designing later project phases to continue ditching and install culverts on both sides of Wilson Rd nearly to the big culvert at the road bend near the pits. When flood control work is complete, we hope to prevent future flooding of the road and the adjacent subdivisions.

6. Other drainage and flood control projects under design inhouse. The Road Maintenance Team is designing further drainage improvements along Rink Creek Road, including replacing culverts under several driveways and the entrance to the Woodlands Court subdivision, and at least one culvert crossing under Rink Creek Road, plus ditch and culvert improvements for Tong Road, Fairweather Road, and Same Old Road. We are evaluating these projects for possible Federal funding. The Tong Road project already is qualified for FEMA flood recovery funding.

7. FEMA Flood Recovery Application. Tom Williams and I have met weekly online with FEMA representatives to document the December 2, 2020 nearly \$100,000 in flood recovery repairs expenses for reimbursement. It's a long and tedious process to enter the diverse site work and billing documentation into the federal grants portal, but the FEMA staff have been very helpful in getting us through their complicated process. Some portions of the work have already been reviewed by the payment section and we will soon have an idea of what we will receive. We hope to finalize all the documentation this month.

8. Beach CRMA. I have been working directly with Bruce Weyrauch of DNR to finalize our requested update to the Beach Park Cooperative Resource Management Agreement. Two years ago, the council authorized Tom Williams, Shelley Owens, and me to negotiate improvements to the original CRMA that was signed in early 2020. The council approved a set of negotiating points, including corrections to the tract legal descriptions, clarification of the limits to motorized vehicle use, confirmation of the City's authority to manage the beach park under its code of ordinances, and our proposal not to provide for camping in the beach park area.

With input from Shelly and Tom, I re-wrote the Beach Park Development Plan and Whitney Rapp created a beautiful new map to accompany the plan. DNR representatives in late 2020 approved our requested provisions except that the camping must still be provided for in a designated area of the park, in accordance with the Quieting Title agreement with the DeBoer family regarding lands accreted to their family homestead. We accepted that required compromise.

Bruce Weyrauch took over the CRMA update task at DNR in October and has written a new legal amendment to the CRMA, greatly improving the original text. His long legal experience is evident in the quality of the agreement. The next step is for the regional director to approve before DNR puts it out for public comment. The DeBoer family, as covenant holders, must also review and sign their approval. The City council will put it on the agenda for public hearing locally before council approval. Once approved by the council, I will sign it as Mayor finalizing the process. As we implement the agreement, I don't expect much in the way of visible changes at the park, other than posting a designated camping area. Developments such as a hardened pathway for wheelchair use, as provided for in the original and updated CRMA, will be the subject to public input and acceptance before any construction. Thanks to Tom Williams, Shelley Owens, Whitney Rapp, and local beach advocates as we reach a milestone toward a functioning park for all the community. Thanks also to Chris Carpeneti and Bruce Weyrauch at DNR.

9. Pandemic protective measures. Since October, we have improved outside air ventilation rates at the library and maximized use of three portable HEPA-filtered air cleaners there. The library staff has

reviewed their procedures with my input. We have purchased additional portable HEPA-filtered air cleaners for City Hall and the Firehall. We are looking into a heat recovery outside air ventilation system for City Hall.

In accordance with past council direction I support department and staff requirements for mask use in our facilities as part of a layered pandemic protective program in accordance with the recommendations of the Federal CDC and the Alaska Division of Public Health. We will continually evaluate changing pandemic conditions, regional risk, and State health recommendations for opportunities to adjust provisions, so long as health protection for staff, volunteers, and public members using our facilities is not compromised. Thanks to City Clerk, Karen Platt, for getting our council chambers set up for hybrid zoom council meetings!

10. Snow plowing. We jumped through hoops to get a snowplowing contract fully into operation. We owe a big thanks to Glacier Bay Construction for agreeing to plow all our roads and lots for the winter, when they would have preferred only to plow a few. Their public spirit shines brightly!

It's shaping up to be a very heavy snow year. I don't recall seeing so much snow so early in the season. It means postponing road improvement projects to keep up with the snow removal. "First things, first!" For now, the first thing is snow removal. We may need additional budgeted road maintenance if this month is indicative. That said, we hope for a good return from FEMA for the expenses for flood recovery, so that may come in time to refill the budget line.

11. Comments to NPS on Project to Replace Lodge Employee Housing. I submitted on Dec 7, 2021, comments on behalf of the city supporting the Park's preferred alternative to construct a new employee housing unit and remove the existing outdated and deteriorated facility.

I wish all our community a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

Mayor Taylor