

Protecting the integrity & biological diversity of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge....



**FRIENDS OF
THE
ANCHORAGE
COASTAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE (FAR)**

PO Box 220196
Anchorage, AK
99522-0196

Phone: 907-248-2503
Fax: 907-248-3159
email: bc@farak.org

Tiffany Briggs, Property Management Officer
Municipality of Anchorage
Real Estate Department
PO Box 196650
Anchorage Municipal Assembly
all sent by email

Subject: FAR support of MOA retaining Tax Foreclosed Property, PID 020-091-02,
reference AO 2018-7

2018 February 8

Dear Tiffany Briggs, Assembly Members, and Whom it May Concern:

I write today on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) to strongly support the portion of AO 2018-7 involving the retention of parcel referenced "which lies partly within Potter Marsh. Potter Marsh, including the parcel in its entirety, lies within the boundary of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (ACWR)...."
[Excerpted from Alaska Department of Fish and Game letter of support and comment from Joe Meehan, Program Coordinator.] The entire letter is attached for easy reference and FAR supports it. Additionally, FAR requests that the Municipality of Anchorage transfer the land to the State of Alaska for inclusion in the Potter Marsh part of the ACWR so that it can easily be managed to maintain the refuge values.

FAR was among the collaborative participants who worked on the Potter Marsh Master Interpretive Plan and we always have our eye on the big picture of conserving and preserving this beloved marsh for posterity. People come from all over the world to take in the wildlife sights and sounds of Potter Marsh and this is not just a treasure for citizens of Anchorage, nearby towns, and Alaska, but for all visitors.

We ask that you retain the parcel mentioned above and consider transferring it to the State of Alaska for optimal management.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Švarný Carlson

Barbara Švarný Carlson
President and Executive Director

CC: Joe Meehan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Frank Pugh, Rabbit Creek Community Council
Bob Hoffman, Bayshore/Klatt Community Council
Nikki Rose, Sand Lake Community Council
Steve Beardsley, Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council
Mayor Ethan Berkowitz



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Statewide Lands & Refuges Program

333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1565
Main: 907.267.2257
Direct: 907.267.2281
Fax: 907.267.2433
joe.meehan@alaska.gov
www.refuges.adfg.alaska.gov

January 11, 2018

Tiffany Briggs, Property Management Officer
Municipality of Anchorage
Real Estate Department
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650

RE: Tax Foreclosed Property, PID 020-091-02

Dear Ms. Briggs:

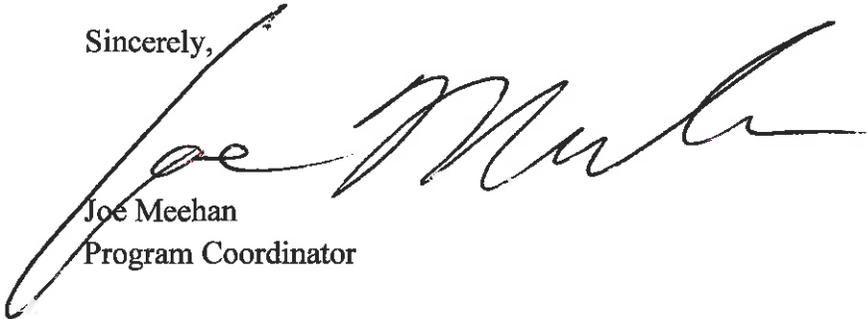
It has recently come to our attention that the Municipality of Anchorage has foreclosed on the referenced parcel located along the Old Seward Highway and which lies partially within Potter Marsh. Potter Marsh, including this parcel in its entirety, lies within the boundary of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, which was established by the Alaska State Legislature "for the protection of waterfowl, shorebirds, salmon, and other fish and wildlife species, and their habitat and for the use and enjoyment of the people of the state" (Alaska Statute 16.20.031). Potter Marsh is unique in that it is one of the largest freshwater marshes in Cook Inlet providing valuable habitat to an array of fish and wildlife and provides significant recreational and educational values to the residents of Anchorage and our visitors.

We are very interested in working with the Municipality to protect this parcel and to manage it for its fish and wildlife values for the benefit of the public. Little Survival Creek enters Potter Marsh through this parcel and this creek provides the majority of the impounded water in the marsh. Sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, spawning anadromous salmon, and a large variety of birds and mammals are found on or near this parcel.

The Alaska State Legislature included a provision in the refuge's enabling legislation (AS 16.20.031(d)) that allows the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, by agreement, to manage Municipality owned lands located within the refuge boundary as refuge lands. The Department and Municipality entered into such an agreement in August 2015, and a simple modification to that agreement could incorporate this referenced parcel.

Whether the parcel remains in Municipal ownership or is transferred to the state, we would like to see this parcel maintained in its natural condition and to continue to provide valuable habitat values to Potter Marsh. If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Meehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Joe Meehan
Program Coordinator

cc: Tony Kavalok
Howard Golden
Mark Fink
Ron Benkert
Tammy Massie