

CHUGIAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 671350
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

September 9, 2006

TO: Distribution

SUBJECT: Resolution for Peters Creek Maintenance Plan

A RESOLUTION to request federal, state, and municipal officials to cooperate with the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District's Peters Creek project, including design and construction of erosion and flood control measures, habitat enhancement, and the development of a comprehensive and on-going maintenance plan for Peters Creek to resolve persistent winter icing problems and to preserve salmon habitat.

WHEREAS Peters Creek is a creek located within the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), is a boundary between the Chugiak Community Council and the Birchwood Community Council, and runs through a residential area; and

WHEREAS salmon spawn in Peters Creek and other fish species are present; and

WHEREAS residents living near Peters Creek report that boulders in the creek are causing an ice-damming problem that diverts the creek out of its natural banks and causes persistent flooding and glaciation of private property, homes, and roadways; and

WHEREAS a representative of the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District reported that Peters Creek is slowly self-destructing by continually eroding its banks which, in turn, causes flooding, property damage, and destroys salmon habitat; and

WHEREAS these persistent icing problems are concentrated along Peters Creek west of the Glenn Highway; and

WHEREAS residents attempted to protect their property from flooding and glaciation during the extreme season of winter 2005; but, their actions are severely limited by permitting requirements, municipal stream setback requirements, and the persistent events caused by the creek; and

WHEREAS a habitat biologist from the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Habitat Management and Permitting, reported that the emergency measures taken by residents during winter 2005 are not a long-term answer to the problem; and

WHEREAS this winter icing is a continuing problem on Peters Creek and has been known since the 1980's; and

WHEREAS there have been some older studies done on Peters Creek but there is little available scientific data on Peters Creek leaving it still relatively unknown; and

WHEREAS a representative of the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District reported that it is possible to address these problems associated with Peters Creek, resulting in protection of the banks from further erosion, flood control measures, and maintenance and/or enhancement of natural salmon habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District is working with all parties and is presently contracting for the necessary hydrological expertise to design and construct the necessary flood and erosion control measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chugiak Community Council urges the Federal government, the State of Alaska, and the Municipality of Anchorage to cooperate with the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District in obtaining emergency funds for mitigation of damage by the creek this winter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chugiak Community Council requests that funding be secured for the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District to perform a comprehensive hydrologic study of Peters Creek to determine a restoration design, to construct flood and erosion control measures, to enhance the wildlife and salmon habitat present, and to create and implement a maintenance plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chugiak Community Council urges federal, state, and municipal agencies to actively work with the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District to expedite the permitting process for the design work; implementation of the restoration work; and subsequent creek maintenance.

Passed by the Chugiak Community Council on May 18, 2006.

If you have questions, please contact the Chugiak Community Council President, Merten Bangemann-Johnson, at 688-6575, email: mertenbj@chugiakcouncil.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kovac
Secretary-Treasurer
Chugiak Community Council

Distribution

U.S. Government

Marcia Combes, Director, Alaska Operations U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tracy Degering/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District

State of Alaska

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of Alaska
The Honorable Charlie Huggins, Alaska Senator
The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Alaska Representative
Ryan Stencel/Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District
Stewart Seaberg - Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Habitat Management and Permitting
Ed Weiss - Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Habitat Management and Permitting

Municipality of Anchorage

Mark Begich, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage
Municipality of Anchorage Assembly
Tom Nelson - Municipality of Anchorage Planning Department
Thede Tobish - Municipality of Anchorage Planning Department
Scott Schnell - Eagle River Street Maintenance
Gail Dial - CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors
John Rodda - Eagle River Parks & Recreation Department
Bobbi Wells - Birchwood Community Council
Randy and Gail McCain – Residents in Chugiak & Birchwood Community Councils

Cc

The Honorable Fred Dyson, Alaska Senator
The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom, Alaska Representative
The Honorable Con Bunde, Alaska Senator
The Honorable Mike Hawker, Alaska Representative

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