

# DENALI BOROUGH

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*Clay Walker, Mayor*

## **September 2023 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

### **Alaska Municipal League (AML) Summer Conference Aug. 8-11 Homer**

- Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday afternoon
- Alaska Conference of Mayors meeting on Wednesday
- Thursday agenda included legislative updates, discussions on PERS and school funding, infrastructure funding access and an in-person address from Senator Murkowski.
- Friday morning centered on State fiscal policy and State and Federal legislative issues.

### **73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alaska Municipal League Conference Dec. 6-8 Dena'ina Center, Anchorage**

- Mark your calendars for the Annual Conference. Seats on the Board of Directors will be open for election. As I step away from serving as a Past President and nine years on the Board, it will be important for the Denali Borough to remain active in this statewide municipal advocacy and support organization.
- I will be presenting on Public Lands and the National Assn. of Counties' advocacy for public land policy.

### **Denali Borough Landfill Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Inspection**

- From the 2023 inspection report: "The landfill continues to be managed and operated excellently and received a compliance score of 99.4% during this year's inspection once again; thanks for running a great operation as always."
- Manager Scott Wright and all solid waste staff are commended for their contributions.
- The noted point loss was for a late submittal of last year's as-built survey. We are now on an every-other-year cycle for that survey.

### **Meeting with NPS Director Chuck Sams Aug. 30**

- Denali National Park Superintendent Merrell, Deputy Superintendent Cody, and myself met with NPS Director Chuck Sams. We met at the Antler Ridge Trailhead and highlighted partnerships such as the Antler Ridge Trail project, the Building Trades program, and discussed initiatives to grow entrance area visitor opportunities.

### **Federal Transportation Site Visit Sept. 6**

- I joined State DOT, Federal DOT, Federal Western Lands, and National Park Service personnel to tour the two Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) projects ongoing in the borough. We met at Antler Ridge and discussed the current infrastructure as well as next project steps of installation of a vaulted toilet and trail construction and improvements. We then went to the new MP 231 wayside and saw how that facility will tie together trail access – to existing and proposed trails and the scheduled new pedestrian bridge.

### **MOA with DOT for Separated Path Design**

- I signed a Memorandum of Agreement with State Department of Transportation for the delivery of design and engineering services for the separated paths within the highway Right of Way. This project will use the Congressionally Directed Spending funding the borough received for this purpose. The priority area is from Suntrana Road in Healy to the Antler Ridge Trailhead. Secondary areas, should funding be available, are Stampede to Suntrana and Carlo Creek to Crabbie's Crossing. This funding required a "federal nexus", or connection to federal lands.

### **Planning Commission Meeting September 27**

- This meeting was pushed a week back due to the Alaska Planning Conference falling on the third Wednesday of the month. By way of an update, Design Alaska finalized a Conceptual Plan for a new Lignite area subdivision, which will be on the Commission's agenda for review and consideration of next steps. As a reminder, the borough still does not have title to this land, so the planning process can and should be deliberative.

### **Draft DOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2024-2027**

- An updated draft STIP is out and has been available for comment. The only project identified in the Denali Borough is the Parks Highway Reconstruction south of Cantwell, MP 206-209. The STIP is a living document and is updated and amended during its lifespan.

### **November 7 Denali Borough Election**

- Candidate packets are due in the borough office by 4 pm on Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> . All seats are up for election.

### **November 3 Vaccine Clinic**

- The borough is working with the Department of Public Health and others to provide a local vaccine clinic, where flu shots and other vaccines as available will be provided.

Happy September, happy fall.

As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay