

McGrath City News

City Council Meeting Highlights January 27, 2009

Guests: Jim Kaercher of KAE, the Contractor/Engineer for the Village Safe Water Project, Trevor White TCC water system engineer, and George Wilson VSW Engineer

Since summer, they have been doing well drilling, water quality and piloting testing. They shared a recap from a meeting earlier in the day with city staff. A memorandum DRAFT report is being left for the council, giving an analysis regarding surface and ground water options.

Three options were presented for consideration and are depicted on large drawings in the Cap'n Snow Center.

1. Well #1 - DNR land (Dishna Subdivision) well did not give results conducive to providing satisfactory water.
2. Well #2 and #3 – City land adjacent to BLM land and next to existing Water Treatment Plant produced water of good quantity, and can be treated to taste good but is very “hard”, something McGrath residents have not had to contend with since individual wells were the norm.
3. Surface Water (river) with a new, modern intake located along the riverbank opposite Wells #1 & 2 and featuring improved water treatment equipment and processes that would provide comparatively “soft” water with good taste and less Operator labor than the current method.

Using either Option 2 or 3, the Water Treatment Plant could be rebuilt mostly within the existing plant building, saving considerable capital and operating expense. A council decision will be made in the near future and after community input as to which option is preferred.

MOTION: Resolution 09-08 - Adopt the McGrath Flood and All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

VOTE: Yes, 4 of 4 votes – Adopted

McGrath Welcomes

Iron Dog, Iditarod Invitational and Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Racers as they blaze through town



The Iron Dog course length is 1971 miles, starting in Big Lake to Nome and finishing in Fairbanks, making it the World's longest snowmobile race.

PRO-CLASS

This is a team race, consisting of two persons, and two snowmobiles (track driven and ski steered). Participants travel north from Big Lake to Nome, then south to Fairbanks, Alaska for a total of 1,971 miles.

RECREATIONAL-CLASS

This is a team race, consisting of two or more persons. Recreational Class participants must each have their own snowmobile.

McGrath is proud to have had our own Dad & Son Team #36 Steve and Casey Graham to support and cheer on their way. An unfortunate series of circumstances besieged the team, culminating in a crash that resulted in an impacted fracture of Steve's wrist and the team was forced to scratch. Fans and supporters are saddened and know that Steve and Casey are experiencing great



Iditarod Invitational

McGrath is either the end or a major checkpoint on this human powered endurance race that starts Sunday, March 1, 2009 at 2:00PM at Knik Lake. A full field of 50 racers from 6 countries will start the race either on foot (18), bike (30) or by skiing (2), following the Iditarod Trail across the Alaska Range and on to McGrath for 42 and Nome for 8 racers. Lodging and food are provided at only 6 locations between Anchorage and Nome. In testament to the endurance and unfathomable physical and mental strength of these racers, all survival gear, sleeping bags, clothing etc. must be carried from the start.

www.alaskaultrasport.com

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

A field of 74 dog teams and drivers have signed up for the XXXVII Iditarod set to start on March 7th. Teams will travel from Anchorage along the “southern route” of 1,131 miles to Nome. McGrath serves as a major checkpoint for teams, the volunteer “Iditarod Airforce”, and for the media and communications volunteers. Borealis Broadband's live webcam will be online from the checkpoint at the Cap'n Snow Center which can be accessed from anywhere in the world to view the action which is updated every 60 seconds. Although many McGrath residents have repeatedly run this race, none have participated in recent years.

www.iditarod.com



Letter of Interest to serve on the city council was received from Richard Strick. **Consensus:** Table action on this until the next council meeting when Richard will be in McGrath and attending the meeting.



Of note

- **McGrath Population** The State of Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community Economic Development notified the city that population shows McGrath's population to be **315**, the same as last year. This number is determined between decade years are based on last year's PFD applications and excluded any student, military or other resident claiming that they have been out of McGrath for 6 months and one day or longer.
- **McGrath Barge Landing Scoping Analysis Report** The Denali Commission requested the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a reconnaissance level review of the marine facilities. A copy is available at the city office for comments, as well as being included on the agenda of the next city council meeting for same.
- **Tax Assistance & Education** The volunteer tax and Loan Program staff will be in McGrath on February 12-13 at the McGrath Native Village Council offices, to help fill out your tax forms. PDF amounts and your particular IRS stimulus payment amount must be known along with providing all of your tax documents. Dates are subject to travel considering weather and other circumstances. These services are sponsored by TCC, First National Bank of Alaska, IRS Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and locally, by the McGrath Native Village Council.
- **THANK YOU!** To Vera Mercer, Bruce Kalfas and the city's Public Works Dept. for clearing out around the fire hydrants when there is new snowfall. If you have a hydrant near your house, you are always welcome to do the hand shoveling close to the hydrant once the equipment has gotten the area generally cleared. This community effort is greatly appreciated by the McGrath Volunteer Fire Dept.

- **The NRCS Erosion Project's D & L Construction** crew is returning to McGrath to continue their pre-construction activity on Tuesday Feb. 10th.
- **Community Garden and McGrath Fair** – It may seem early to be thinking about these activities, but you may have an edge if you start planning now. Seeds donated by Johnny's seeds have been ordered and potting soil components for starting plants is also on its way for those participating in the community garden. An organizational meeting will be held within the next month or so. It is hoped that there will be enough interest in reviving the McGrath Fair in August and word is that there will be a giant veggie and sunflower contest this year. Keep tuned for further developments and the opportunity to be involved.
- **Dishna Subdivision Lot Sales** by DNR will take place this spring, in both a local outcry auction and published in the Spring 2009 Land Sales brochure. Some details are being finalized at this time and the city will make current plans available once we hear.
- **McGrath School hosted Native Traditions Week** in January and students report that there were many fun activities to do, including crocheting, Native dance, dog sled building, cooking, carving, kuspuk sewing, skin sewing and beading among other cultural activities.



Students carving fishing "sticks" and learning the fine art of yarn craft.



City of McGrath

PO Box 30
McGrath, AK 99627
Phone:
(907-524-3825
Fax:
(907) 524-3536
E-Mail:
mcgrathcityadmin@gmail.com



All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Cap'n Snow Center unless otherwise noted

Public Works Comm.
Tuesday Feb. 10th
5:00pm

Planning Commission
Wednesday Feb 11th
7:00pm

Public Safety Comm.
Thursday Feb. 12th
5:00pm

Administration & Finance
Monday Feb 16th
7:00pm

Volunteer Fire Dept. and KVRs Joint meeting
Wed. Feb. 18th
7:00pm

City Council Meeting
Tuesday Feb. 24th
7:00pm