

Mat-Su Joint Land Use Study

Technical Committee Meeting #1

Project: Mat-Su Joint Land Use Study

Date/Time: 7/10/08 1:00 pm

Location: Conference Room, 3rd Civil Engineering Squadron, Elmendorf

Reporter: Nicole McCullough, WHPacific

Participants:

Emerson Krueger, MSB PM

Fran Seager Boss, MSB

Lauren Kruer, MSB

Nicole McCullough, WHPacific

Kelly Singh, WHPacific

Amanda Fagan, OEA

David Witschi, OEA

William Bruu, MSB Planning Commission

MAJ Malcolm Brown, AKARNG

Michel Coy, FRA-DPW

Chuck Monie FRA-DPW

Colonel Andrew Mamrol, Alaska Air

National Guard

Valerie Payne, EAFB planner

LTC Joe Streff, AKARNG-AVN

Meeting Summary: Emerson Krueger, Matanuska Susitna Borough project manager, opened the meeting with a welcome and thanked the participants for their time. He briefly reviewed the agenda and introductions were made. He stated that the composition of the policy committee and the extent of the study area are important topics to discuss at the meeting.

Amanda Fagan, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment presented a slide show that provided an overview of the program including information about the goals, factors that can impact military operations, the process and organization of a JLUS, the roles and responsibilities that her office, the military and the community have in a JLUS and background information about the DoD nomination of both Elmendorf AFB and Fort Richardson. She also reviewed some of the initial conflicts identified.

Nicole McCullough, WHPacific Incorporated, the consultant selected to help assist in developing the study, reviewed the scope of work and schedule for the project. She stated that Technical Committee members could review the draft pamphlet provided at the meeting. She also stated that there was a need to select a boundary for the study area.

Emerson reviewed other conflict issues known to date, particularly the following:

- Nelchina Plateau – There have been some conflicts with recreational users and low flying aircraft.
- Point McKenzie – The population is currently at 150. The population will likely increase dramatically with the upcoming prison, operation of the ferry and the extension of the Railroad. The prison alone will include 375 construction jobs and 200 long term prison jobs. The port will be able to handle ammunition and other items that the Port of Anchorage cannot transport.
- Low Level Training area 4 – LTC Streff said that training area 4 was of concern, the area bordered by the little Susitna River on the east, Mt Susitna, and Alex Lake. There is likely to

be conflicts with future residents and the need to use this area for training purposes. The Borough sees a need to develop zoning ordinances (perhaps an overlay zone) to advise buyers of the occurrence of military training in the area.

- Big Lake – There has been some concern expressed with regards to military aircraft and civilian general aviation aircraft, particularly in the Big Lake area.

Emerson then led the discussion on who should be on the Policy Committee. It was agreed that Major General Craig E. Campbell, the adjutant general for the State of Alaska, commander of the Alaska National Guard should be invited to participate on the committee but it was likely that he would appoint someone in his stead. Colonel Tim DeHass or Brigadier General Thomas Katkus were mentioned as good candidates.

Amanda suggested that we contact someone at FAA to participate in the Policy Committee. She also suggested the group consider other state or federal agencies. Knik, Eklutna and Chickaloon Tribal participation was also suggested.

LTC Streff said that there are 38 landing zones in the Mat-Su borough. He would like to see a formal agreement between the military, the Borough, state, Native entities or other land owners that these areas would be retained.

There was a general discussion about when to have the first Policy Committee meeting and the public open houses. Bill Bruu cautioned that if the Policy Committee meets prior to the first public meeting, the public may assume that a decision has been made. LTC Streff said that on the other hand, he would like the military policy members to have met so they don't get questioned by the public and be unaware of the project. Amanda offered to brief Lt Gen Atkins when she met with him later in the day. Emerson said he would prepare a one page brief before the end of the week for distribution to the Policy Committee members and their superiors.

The first round of public meetings was tentatively set for the week of August 11th with the Policy Committee meeting to follow shortly after.

David Witschi, OE, said that it is important to remember the "end game" early in the process of the JLUS. An example of a product that could come out of the study is a recommendation to change the Borough's zoning if appropriate.