

City of Edna Bay - Special Meeting

1 — Meeting Date, Place and Call to order:

This Special meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10th, 2015 at Edna Bay School.
Mayor Richter called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

2 — Roll Call:

Heather Richter	- Mayor / Presiding Officer	(Present)
Tyler Poelstra	- Clerk / City Council	(Present)
Myla Poelstra	- Treasurer / City Council	(Present)
Carleigh Fairchild	- City Council	(Present)
Doris Greif	- City Council	(Present)

2.1 — Public Participants:

Fran Wright	Sharon Wargi	Joe Wargi	Lee Greif	Kelly Organ
Pat Richter	Spencer Lamkin	Mike Williams	Curtis Greif	

Guests:

Patrick Kelly (University of Alaska)	Clarence Clark (DNR)	Eric Nichols (Alcan)
Corey Wyatt		

3 — Consent Agenda:

A: Approval of Meeting Agenda:

The current agenda was read by Councilor (Mr.) Poelstra.

Consensus of the public attendants was taken in favor, and no objections were noted.

- **Consent Agenda Approved by unanimous vote of the council**

3.1 — Business:

Special Business:

- a: *Discussion with Patrick Kelly (University of Alaska) Regarding Planned Activities*

4 — Special Business

Item A – Discussion with Patrick Kelly (...) Regarding Planned Activities:

Mayor Richter introduced Patrick Kelly from University of Alaska.

Mr. Kelly gave congratulations on Edna Bay becoming a City. Patrick noted that he is visiting with Eric Nichols. They worked together to mark out an area in Straw Pass to be established as a reserve. The University of Alaska wants to seek input from the residents of Edna Bay. They were out to look at some areas that will be worked on this summer and noted that they do not have much to address at this meeting.

A question was raised by member of the public about what the odds were of the public utilizing the lands for subsistence after the logging is completed. Patrick said that the question should come from the City of Edna Bay to him. Eric responded to the question noting that a 4500 acre logging project area around the back of Ketchikan was opened up on Sundays for the public to utilize with the condition that if any logging equipment was tampered with the roads would be barred. Patrick added that there is currently a policy that says no hunting is allowed on University land. He said that we could see a special use area with special conditions.

Mayor Richter noted that the City is requesting land for its entitlement. If the City is successful obtaining the lands, what is the possibility of the City entering into an agreement to maintain the roads to them through the University lands? Is it possible? Patrick said yes, if there can be a cost share plan, "We're in". Due to the economic climate of the State, sharing costs is the only way to make things work going forward.

A question was raised about what would be the best way of starting this process. Patrick said to send him a letter requesting it to be initiated. Eric noted that liability is the key item of concern, however one reason why the roads are so wide is so that people can get by as trucks pass.

Eric said he would like to talk about Straw Pass. One third of the harvest is on straw Island. He has worked out how to construct the road to the timber and would like to discuss the specifics. He is currently unaware how long permitting will take and noted that the roads and bridges to the island will be temporary. He asked if the public has any issues with the proposals as outlined.

Eric then went into detail on the logging processes and indicated that the project was unlikely to be done in one large clear-cut. He showed a comparison in the trees, where they were cut, and when they were cut to show why that is unlikely to be the case. Eric showed cross cut samples of two different types of trees to convey to the public why thinning will be the long-term plan to create a sustainable yield.

Myla asked that at the age of the wood shown, would thinning do any good? Eric noted that they would need a market for the timber. He then expressed his desire to see the USFS work on a wood fire power generator system to make a market for using up the excess timber that is small, dense, old and on un-merchantable. He noted that it's his plan to mark and log/thin 3 to 5 acre parcels in these areas. Further, he stated that regardless of whether a market is available the contract expires in 2015-2016. Eric noted that he will go for the old growth in straw Island first to ensure it gets to market before a regional corporation potentially floods it with their timber. Harvesting is likely to begin in 2016.

A member of the public had a question about Straw Pass Bridge. Will the bridge be at 2 feet above the mean high or high-high tide? It was noted that some people live in Edna Bay use Straw Pass. Eric clarified that he is asking permission to put the bridge in. He will be leaving a map showing where it is planned for construction. He suggested that all materials and bridges to Straw Island would be removed at the conclusion of the project. Rock removed from the project would be put back in the pits where it came from in this project scenario.

A question was raised about if there is a possibility of procuring firewood permits from University of Alaska. Patrick said that, yes, they're available online for purchase and can be purchased using a credit card. Eric added that there will be a lot of extra wood available at the sort yard.

Patrick stated that Edna Bay has a lot of revenue opportunities. It could be a key location for research from the University of Alaska. The University wants to 'build a bridge' to make our goals possible. Eric reiterated that he is pushing the USFS on investing in woody biomass power generation. Patrick noted that the University of Alaska works on designing and forming solutions of this nature.

Councilor (Mr.) Poelstra asked, how do we go from possibility to possible? Patrick said to contact the USFS, University of Alaska, and the AEA to seek assistance in identifying a power solution in order to get the process started. Patrick said that we are a shining star in the state of Alaska and indicated we are in a key position to have research done on power generation plans. He stated that he will need a letter from the City of Edna Bay to get the process started.

No further questions comments or discussions were held.

5 – Persons to be Heard:

None.

Adjournment

Councilor (Mr.) Poelstra moved that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion seconded by Councilor Greif
Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.