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**Eklutna Valley Community Council  
Meeting Minutes for  
April 8, 2003**

The meeting was presided over by Council President Bob Reagan and began at 7:00 p.m. Guests were Tim Schwanke and Don Wagar, with Pruhs Construction, and Dan Amyot, Chugach State Park. The community council met at Larry and Theresa Traw's. At least 25 community members attended.

**Bears and Garbage.** Rick Sinnott, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (and community member), gave a short presentation on bears and garbage. He passed around copies of a guide to living in bear country entitled "Living In Harmony With Bears." Other than annual problems with bears at the campground, Fish and Game gets few calls about problem bears from Eklutna Valley. Community members were urged to keep up the good work by not letting bears get into garbage or birdseed. Call Rick (242-0424 work; 248-7303 home) if you have problems with bears.

**Eklutna Valley Road Construction.** The main purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the Eklutna Valley road construction. Tim Schwanke (279-1020) asked everyone present to tell him his or her name and approximate home location so he could put a face on all the names.

As many as 30 trucks will haul gravel for the roadbed. Pruhs Construction is looking for a good source of gravel on the upper end of the road to reduce truck traffic and save money on hauling it from below. He has talked with several community members and asked others to get in touch with him if they have gravel to sell or trade.

Surveying will begin immediately. Surveyors will "as built" the existing road, making the existing centerline the centerline for the 100-foot right-of-way. They will then mark the clearing limits. Slana Surveyors are doing the work; contact them if you have surveying needs. You might be able to get it done for less than normal if they can piggyback on the road surveying.

Traffic delays will begin about two weeks after this meeting. The general plan is to widen the road on the uphill side to avoid wasting gravel on the downhill slope. Where the uphill side of the road is steep, they will lessen the slope as much as 28-30 feet from the edge of the road, including the drainage ditch. Pruhs is looking for Eklutna Valley properties that can use some of the 100,000 square yards of soil and gravel they will remove. They prefer to trade the soil for other goods or services. In other words, they would rather not pay for permission to dump the soil. Stumps will be ground in place to minimize hauling. Call Don Wagar (279-1020), the on-site manager, if you want any of the overburden or would like to contact the stump grinders to make a deal on the side.

MEA will need to move some poles and wires; however, their alignment probably won't change. The new road will flatten the large S-curve east of Traw's property, but stay in the existing right-of-way. The paved portion of the road will be 20 feet wide, with gravel shoulders. It will look like the new Hatcher Pass Road. A guardrail will be provided in some sections.

They will work 6-day weeks and 10- or 12-hour days. They plan to start work at 7:00 a.m., but may adjust start time a little to accommodate morning commuters. The bulk of the work each day should be done by 6:00 p.m. Access will be restricted at one or two short stretches each day while dumping gravel, grading, and paving. Pruhs will use pilot cars and probably use stop lights on either end. At most, vehicles will have a 20-minute wait, but the crews will use radios to

minimize waits where possible. Access will be unrestricted on Memorial Day weekend and other holidays; however, they may still work on those days.

Construction should take about 100 working days. They plan to have the road paved by mid-July. The campground parking lots and loops will also be paved.

Tim Schwanke was under the impression that the community didn't want pullouts. However, it was clear from the discussion that most or all of those present thought pullouts were a good idea, unless they were too close to a home or driveway. Tim said it wasn't a big deal to add several pullouts. Pruhs would like to use them for turn-arounds during construction. Jim Riley obtained a project map and volunteered to drive the road with Tim or Don to identify potential locations for pullouts. Jim will scan the map with pullouts identified and email it to Bob Reagan. Bob will email the map to everyone we have email addresses for. Community members are urged to respond quickly if they have a problem with any potential pullouts or would like to suggest others. There seemed to be general agreement among those who were paying attention that the road needed pullouts most at the top and bottom of the big hill (for chains and RVs), and it didn't need any pullouts in the last three miles before the campground (because it would encourage roadside campers).

Pruhs will pave 20-foot-long sections where driveways intersect the road. If anyone wants his or her entire driveway paved, call Don Wagar (279-1020) and to discuss terms. It probably won't get any cheaper if you do it later.

Call Don if you have any questions or problems about the road construction.

**Amend the November 28, 2001, minutes.** A motion was made and seconded to amend the November 28 minutes. According to Debbie Thon, she inadvertently forgot to document the vote on keeping the community council boundaries the same. Those who were at the November 28 meeting remembered the vote. The motion carried.

**Pullout map.** A motion was made and seconded to provide Pruhs Construction and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) with a map of recommended locations for pullouts. Bob Reagan will send the map with a letter to DOTPF. The motion carried.

### **Old business:**

**Coastal Trail.** At the February 5, 2003, meeting Mike Jens, with Friends of the Coastal Trail, asked the community council to send a letter to DOTPF in support of the Modified Orange route, identified in the draft Environmental Impact Statement as the preferred alternative. At that meeting the motion was tabled. A motion was made and seconded to not take a position on the Coastal Trail or Modified Orange route. The motion carried.

**Eklutna Public Health Building.** Debby Thon reported that the meeting for the Eklutna Village public health building was postponed until May.

**Annual Road Cleanup.** Construction of the Eklutna Valley road will interfere with the annual road cleanup, normally scheduled around Mother's Day. A motion was made and seconded to not pick up trash along the road this year. The motion carried.

Minutes from the February 5, 2003, meeting were approved.