



**WACO General/Board Meeting Agenda Draft**  
**Meeting scheduled for September 4th, 2019 at 7 PM**  
**PLEASE NOTE: Location - Willow Elementary School**

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PAST MEETING**
- E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- F. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
  - 1. Board Officers' Reports - Attached**
    - a. Secretary, Teri Petram
    - b. Vice-Chair, John Spitzberg
    - c. Chair, Linda Oxley
    - d. At-Large Representative 1, Wes McClure
    - e. At-Large Representative 2, Chris Stitt
    - f. At-Large Representative 3, Barbara Ensley
    - g. At-Large Representative 4, Lisa Schooler
  
  - 2. Committee Reports - Attached**
    - a. Carnival
    - b. Trails
    - c. Youth Forum (40-acre park)
    - d. CERT
    - e. Recycling
- G. BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REPORT**
- H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - 1.
- J. NEW BUSINESS**
  - 1. Mckinley/Deshka Fire
  - 2. Petersville Community fundraiser concert for Mckinley Fire at WCC
  - 3.
- K. COMMUNITY GROUPS/CLUBS**

Fire Service Area, Library, Chamber of Commerce, Community Enrichment, WDMA, Lion's Club, PTA, WHO, WHWF, Garden Club
- L. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONS TO BE HEARD**
- M. ADJOURN**

*Please submit reports or motions to be made in writing to Teri Petram, WACO Secretary by email:  
waco\_secretary@waco-ak.org*

## BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

**Secretary Report:** Sharing information from DNR, MEA, MSB and AST about fires posted on our Facebook page which also appears on the lower half of our website homepage in the news section. Added a page with links to fire info and resources here <https://www.waco-ak.org/fireinfo/> with a link to it from our homepage. Will continue to add or update as new resources are available. Email updates can go out as useful information is compiled and can be presented as an informative resource versus junk mail.

WACO General and Gaming account balances as of August 29th are:

General Account Balance Overview	
Money Market	\$123,805.71
Share Draft	\$11,187.84
Primary Share	\$25.90

Gaming Account Balance Overview	
Money Market	\$5,830.94
Share Draft	\$3183.92
Primary Share	\$25.44

It was a quiet month for the WACO accounts. No pull tab revenue this month. Large expenses included \$1877 for the Shem Pete trail construction and \$1369 to the M.S.B. Rec. & Library Services for solid waste and electricity for the last fiscal year.

**Vice-Chair:** Practically all activity has been revolving around the needs of those who are responsible for putting out the fires which are taking a heavy toll upon citizens in the Willow area. To that end Tom Wise repaired the shower head in the men's room so that fire fighters and others could take showers. I assisted some of the staff in getting the Mat-Su Facilities Manager to make some changes in electrical sockets so that copying could be done in spaces other than the kitchen. Sabrina has worked with those appointed to keep the Community Hall as clean as possible and there is a crew doing so. The vending machine company sent a repair person out to work on the drink machine. It was not giving out change, but apparently it is fixed presently. As Vice Chair I have been attending all meetings held in the Willow Elementary School and will continue to be available to anyone who needs something attended to in the Community Hall. John Spitzberg, Vice Chair, WACO

**Chair Report:** I have been attending as many meetings related to the fires as my work schedule allows. It has been gratifying to see the extraordinary cooperation of federal, state, borough and local leaders to solve problems and provide support to the fire fighters and the people of Willow/Caswell. All of us have been encouraged to bring forward concerns of people of our community. Significant efforts continue to contain and eventually control the McKinley and Deshka fires. The first meeting of the group named the MatSu COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) will have occurred on Wed Aug 28. This multi-agency group has been developing (proactively) a robust structure to efficiently provide resources to the victims of the McKinley fire. Stay tuned for important info from this group. We may be a relatively small community but we have great heart and WILL get thru this.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Carnival:** Our first meeting was cancelled due to the fires, however many key functions have begun to be addressed by key leaders in our community. Our next meeting will be 9/15, 6-8P. Location to be announced (depends on fire related building needs). As has been historically addressed, we will meet monthly, the third Monday of each month. There will likely be a few extra meetings to make sure that we have all ready for some serious fun in Jan & Feb 2020!! Please join us. There are lots of opportunities to participate.

**Trails:** The Willow Trail Committee and the Willow Library Association will be hosting a picnic for those participating in the Willow Trail Challenge. It will be held at the WCC pavilion, the exact September date will be announced soon. Enjoy hamburgers, chips, desserts and drinks and share some trail stories. Great prizes will be raffled away so be sure to bring your passports no matter how many trails are stamped.

Volunteers are needed for various trail projects or for general maintenance. Some projects include installing road crossing signs and clearing vegetation as well as clearing trails of tree fall after wind events.

Whether you would just like to volunteer or just get some trail information, your welcome to attend our monthly trail meetings or email at [trails@waco-ak.org](mailto:trails@waco-ak.org).  
<https://www.waco-ak.org/committees/trails/>

The Willow Trail Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7pm and the Willow Community Center. All are welcome.  
Join us on Facebook: Willow Trail Committee

### **CERT: Activities in response to the fires**

Early in the afternoon of August 17th Willow CERT was activated by Mat Su Borough OES through Alert Sense to help set an evacuation site at the Methodist Church. 10 members responded as several subdivisions were evacuated because of the Lucky Shot Fire. Fortunately, due the outstanding work of Willow, Caswell and other fire departments, that fire was successfully extinguished and our team was released. That same day, as the McKinley Fire began to rage the Red Cross asked the Borough to request CERTs assistance in setting up a shelter at the Willow Community Center. 5 team members responded and help transport cots and supplies from the shed to the hall to set up a dormitory.

On 9/18 three members of Willow returned to help the shelter as assigned by Red Cross. That evening, as the fire grew rapidly, MSB OES activated the team again to dismantle the Willow shelter and help set up the Menard shelter. 4 members immediately responded to the community center and 2 went on to help set up the Menard . They worked setting up 50 cots, carrying 60 cases of water and distributing blankets to those who chose to sleep in their vehicles outside. One of the team members was there until 11:30 pm! On 9/19 one CERT member helped the Salvation Army in the kitchen.

In the CERT Basic course we are trained to first assess and ensure the safety of ourselves and our families. From there we look into the safety of our immediate neighbors. Six members of our team live in the evacuation area. Many CERT members spent hours on August 17th going to their neighbors and informing them of the fires and in some cases helping evacuate neighbors. Members also worked 26 hours on the Borough's Call center line, as we had been previously trained to do.

CERT leaders have been attending daily Cooperator's meetings with the Interagency Fire team as well as all the community meetings in Willow. We are now working with Mat Su Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) in forming the Fire Recovery Workgroup. CERT Willow will continue to be active in the long term recovery from the fire. Total volunteer time for Willow CERT 8/17-8/28/19 > 175 hours

**Mat Su Emergency Preparedness Fair Sept 28 at the Menard Center** - Willow CERT will again have a booth there!

### **My PI (Preparedness Initiative)**

4 members of Willow CERT and 3 MSB Emergency Services Staff were among the 13 that took a 30 hour course in August to earn certification to teach My PI (Preparedness Initiative). This national award winning comprehensive teen emergency preparedness program begins with them completing the CERT Basic training. It has additional components that encourages civic responsibility, career tracks and communication skills.

125 students across the state will be trained the first year, with 56 in the Mat Su Valley. Talon will be the lead instructor for the Mat Su Valley and Willow CERT help with this exciting program

For more info on this program go to: <https://mypialaska.org>. You can also find My PI Alaska on Facebook.

### **CERT 20 Basic Course November 2019 in Willow (Seating is limited, sign up now)**

Willow CERT will be presenting a free FEMA 20 hour Basic CERT training for the community at the Willow Community Center November 9-10h and 16-17h 2019. This training is available to those that may want to join Willow CERT or just want to learn more about emergency preparedness for personal use. CERT Basic Training includes classroom instruction and hands on practice in:

- o Identifying hazards in our homes and community
- o Fire Safety
- o Disaster Medical Aid
- o Light Search and Rescue
- o Team Organization
- o Disaster Psychology
- o Terrorism and CERT
- o Disaster simulation drill at conclusion of training

For more info or to register for the course contact: Kathy Watkins at 907-795-0969  
watkins9351@live.com

Next CERT meeting: Saturday, September 21 at 10 am. Please contact Kathy Watkins to confirm location of the meeting. All are welcome to attend

**Recycling:** Recycling continues as usual. Second Saturday and Last Friday 11:00 - 1:30 Volunteers are always needed. We noticed an up tick in office paper, mixed paper, and cardboard last month. We believe this is due to the fire ban, so not a bad thing. We have arranged a tour of VCRS and the Central Land Fill for Tuesday Sept. 24. This is an opportunity to see how our recycling relates to the total

picture of waste management in the Mat Su Borough. Contact Fran Lynch at 907 232-7100 if you would like to participate.

**Youth Forum:** Very exciting! The Shem Pete Trail is fully laid in altho it is a pretty rough trail for most of it's distance. It is a beautiful walk in the woods, probably about 3/4 of a mile. A grant request is almost ready to be submitted to obtain funds to make this trail ADA compliant next summer so that people of all abilities can have a good trail to get into the woods.

The bat boxes built by last years 4th & 5th graders are fully installed!! Many thanks to Casey Sanford, 4th grade teacher, who milled us the 4X4 posts, to Jeff Fuller, Clearing the Way Services, who carried these 20 foot posts to the park, to Jake Schnieder, Lead Dog Construction, who stenciled the school's mascot onto the boxes and prepared the 4X4's ready to put in the ground and to Jim Spain, Willow Heavy Equipment, and his folks who have gotten them into the ground, ready to receive bats next spring. Now we cross our fingers and watch for our bug eating friends to move in!! Thanks to everyone for this park enhancement!!

Thanks also to Vic Fitzgaird for repairing the stolen fence top rail on the dog park fence. He also installed the poop bag dispenser, the poster of safety rules there, and the Neighborhood watch signs!! Jake Schnieder also brought in some gravel to improve the entrance area to the dog park!! Thank you both!!

We are grateful to the Lion's Club for \$400 to enhance security in our park. We truly appreciate the way everyone keeps on eye on the park to help protect it.

Ramey Smyth was awarded the contract to build a cabin for the park's porta-potty and it will be built in a style to compliment the pavilion. It should be completed this fall.

Bids have been requested to build the walkway from pavilion to a 10X20 foot deck at marsh's edge behind the pavilion. This will also be build to ADA standards so that everyone can access the deck. The view from the deck's location is magnificent. It will be a lovely place for wedding pictures, among many other possible uses. These may be built this fall... depends on weather. Otherwise... in the spring. Thanks to John Butcher for continuing to donate clearing services for the area that will become the softball field!! Across this winter the Alaska State Sno-Cross Lion's Club will again be sponsoring kiddee snocross training and rides on top of that softball field area!!!

This is a fun group to work with. Please join us, the first Thursday of each month. Next meeting will focus on finishing the grant request items: Sept 5, 2019. Location to be announced.