



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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MANAGER'S REPORT

February 10, 2014

TO: MAYOR WYTHER / HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WALT WREDE

UPDATES / FOLLOW-UP

NOTE: Some of these items appeared in the last report. I have updated them and brought them back in case the Council wanted to discuss.

1. Public Works Department: Carey Meyer wears many hats for the City and he juggles many important responsibilities. The Council and the Public see him and interact with him most often in his roles as Project Manager and City Engineer. In fact, that is where he spends a great deal of time and where his work is most visible. However, Carey is also the Public Works Director and the head of the City's largest department, with the biggest budget and the most personnel. The Public Works Department has experienced a number of retirements lately and it has lost many great employees and years of experience. This was not a surprise and we knew this was coming for several years. As a result, Carey has been involved in succession planning and in looking at ways to reorganize the department with the goal of increasing efficiency, saving money, and providing an even better product to the public. Carey has a report on this for you (attached) and I would like to devote my time for the Manager's report to Carey so you can get some insight into what is happening in the City's biggest (and many in the public would say most important) department.
2. Ramp 7: As most of you probably know by now, we experienced a structural failure at Ramp 7 last weekend and the lower end of the ramp is currently sitting in the water. The ramp is blocked off so that the public cannot access it. This is the ramp constructed by the Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT) to access the Seldovia Ferry Berth. It also provides much improved access to the System 5 float. The ramp is available for public use and will become the property of the City when the lease expires. We are currently working closely with SVT to determine the cause, get the ramp out of the water, and repair the damage.
3. Board of Fisheries Testimony: I went to Anchorage last week to provide testimony at the Board of Fish meetings related to Resolution 14-019. A copy of my testimony is attached for your information. I plan to head back to Anchorage on Thursday, the 6th to provide additional testimony at committee meetings.
4. Harbor Construction Projects: The last agenda contained a resolution awarding a construction contract for the replacement of Ramp 3 and several floats in the harbor. You may recall that this work was paid for by a 4.2 Million State grant and \$4.2 Million in bond

sale revenue. Here is the good news. All of the bids came in under the engineers estimate and the two lowest, from very reputable companies, came in approximately \$2 Million under the estimate. Carey has double checked the bids and he and Bryan have talked to the engineers who did the cost estimate to look for discrepancies. The Bond Bank and the State of Alaska have approved the idea (that we talked about at the last meeting) of using the unallocated funds for additional float replacement and improvements that are already on the CIP and are simply an expansion of the existing work. The Port and Harbor Commission has reviewed and endorsed this approach. This agenda contains a resolution authorizing us to proceed accordingly.

5. Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment: The second meeting of the Needs Assess Steering Committee took place on Wednesday, February 5th. The focus of this meeting was reviewing other needs assessments, reviewing draft RFPs, and talking about the kinds of questions that should be asked.
6. Citizen's Academy: Katie is working very hard on setting up the Citizens Academy. The Academy is scheduled to begin February 20. We appreciate the helpful input from Council member Howard. Attached is a memorandum from Katie on this topic. This information appeared in the last packet. Since the time is getting short and we want to get the word out to the public, I thought it would be good to include this information again.
7. Enstar Meeting: We had a meeting with Enstar officials last week to discuss the workplan for the upcoming construction season (which has already begun apparently!). In the next month we will be approving the workplan, and adjusting the assessment roll to account for decisions that were made during construction last year. Enstar's contractor, UTI is already working on the Spit, which you may have noticed. They expect to have gas to Spit business by April. Kachemak Drive will be next and then the bluff areas. Enstar projects that it could be done and construction completed by the end of August.
8. Critical Habitat Legislation: The legislation that would remove the Homer Port and Harbor from the critical habitat area is on the move. Companion bills have been read across in both the House and the Senate. Committee hearings in both Chambers are scheduled this week and I will testify, once from Homer and once from Anchorage.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Board of Fish Testimony
2. Public Works Reorganization and Succession
3. Citizens Academy
4. February Employee Anniversaries

BOARD OF FISHERIES TESTIMONY

January 31, 2014

Thankyou Chairman Johnstone and members of the Board. For the record, my name is Walt Wrede. I am the City Manager of Homer, Alaska and am here speaking on behalf of the Mayor and the Homer City Council. I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

The City of Homer is strongly opposed to Proposals 138,139,140,142,and 143, all of which which close or severely restrict driftnet fishing in Area 1. The City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 14-019 which states its opposition to these proposals. I believe a copy is in your packet.

Others with much more expertise than I will testify about how these proposals are not based upon good science, effective management practices, or the sustained yield principle. You will hear how these proposals will fail to achieve the result the proposers want and will result in chronic over escapement, reduced product quality, lost revenues, and diminished economic opportunity.

My purpose here is to discuss the social and economic impacts these proposals would have on Homer and the Lower Kenai Peninsula. Area 1 has comprised the traditional fishing grounds of the Cook Inlet drift fishery since statehood. Cook Inlet Sockeye equals about 5% of worldwide sockeye production; a very important and valuable fishery . 300 or about half of the Cook Inlet drift permit owners live in Homer and neighboring communities. 250 Cook Inlet drift net permits have Homer addresses on them. Driftnet vessels usually employ two deckhands and that generally translates into financial support for two families and 900 jobs in the Homer area. These are primarily long time, year around residents, who have worked in this fishery for decades and in many cases, have passed the tradition down from generation to generation. These are our friends and neighbors and commercial fishing is deeply ingrained into the social and economic fabric of the community.

There are over 100 Homer based commercial fishing vessels that participate in the Cook Inlet Drift fishery. These proposals will triple travel time to the fishing grounds, increase costs, and reduce harvest opportunities. Instead of basing their operations out of the Homer Port and Harbor, they will likely be forced to move farther north near the Kasilof and Kenai River corridors. Moving the fleet's base of operations away from Homer will have a devastating ripple effect on all of the support businesses including the marine trades, marine supply stores, fuel distributors, seafood processors, Fish Dock operators, grocery stores, and so on. The money lost by third parties will ripple through the entire economy.

The Homer Port and Harbor is operated as an Enterprise Fund and it is the primary fishing port on Cook Inlet. The Port and Harbor is designed and operated to provide services and support to the commercial fleet. Homer has 170 accounts associated with fishing vessels, tenders, and fish processors which participate in the Cook Inlet Drift Fishery. These accounts generate between \$800,000 and \$900,000 annually in revenues associated with things like moorage, seafood wharfage, ice sales, slip fees, cold

storage and crane rentals. These revenues are needed to maintain critical infrastructure and services to the fleet. These proposals would likely result in significant revenue declines. Keep in mind that this is only direct revenue to the Enterprise Fund. It does not account for losses in sales taxes, fisheries business tax, local salaries, and payments to third parties that circulate through the local economy 2 or 3 times.

In summary, The Cook Inlet drift fishery is a vital economic engine which has sustained Homer for many years. The economic impacts associated with these proposals are immense and cannot be justified if they are not based upon good science, conservation, sound management practices, and sustained yield principles. We see no evidence that they are and we urge the Board to reject Proposals 138,139,140,142, and 143.

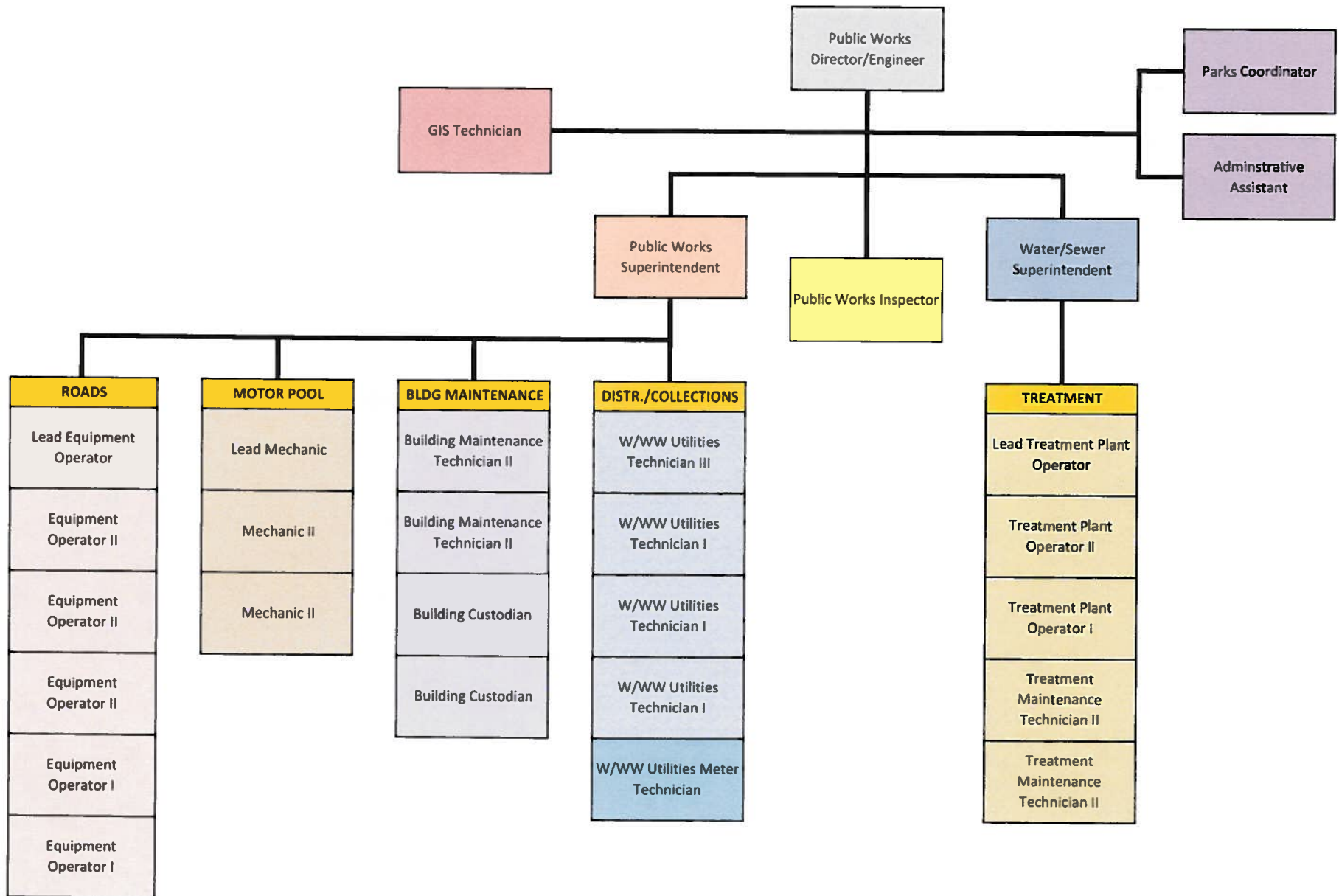
Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Challenges/Opportunities

At the Public Works Department

- Experienced Personnel Retiring
- Changing Water System Regulatory Environment
- Opportunities to Promote from Within
- Potential for “New Blood” in Organization
- Organizational Culture Change Opportunities
- Span of Control Improvements
- Increased Productivity/Effectiveness

PREVIOUS PUBLIC WORKS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

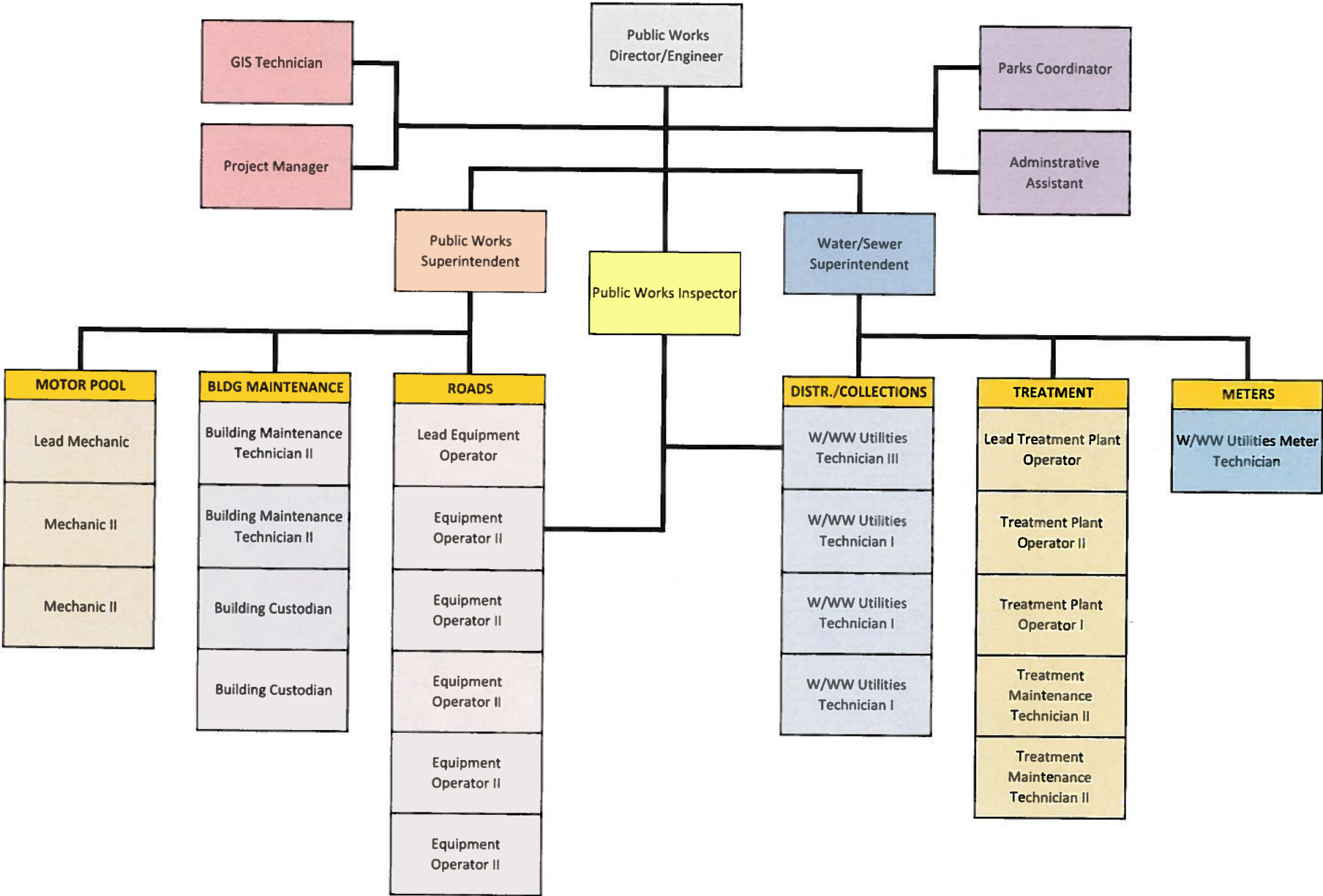


What We Did

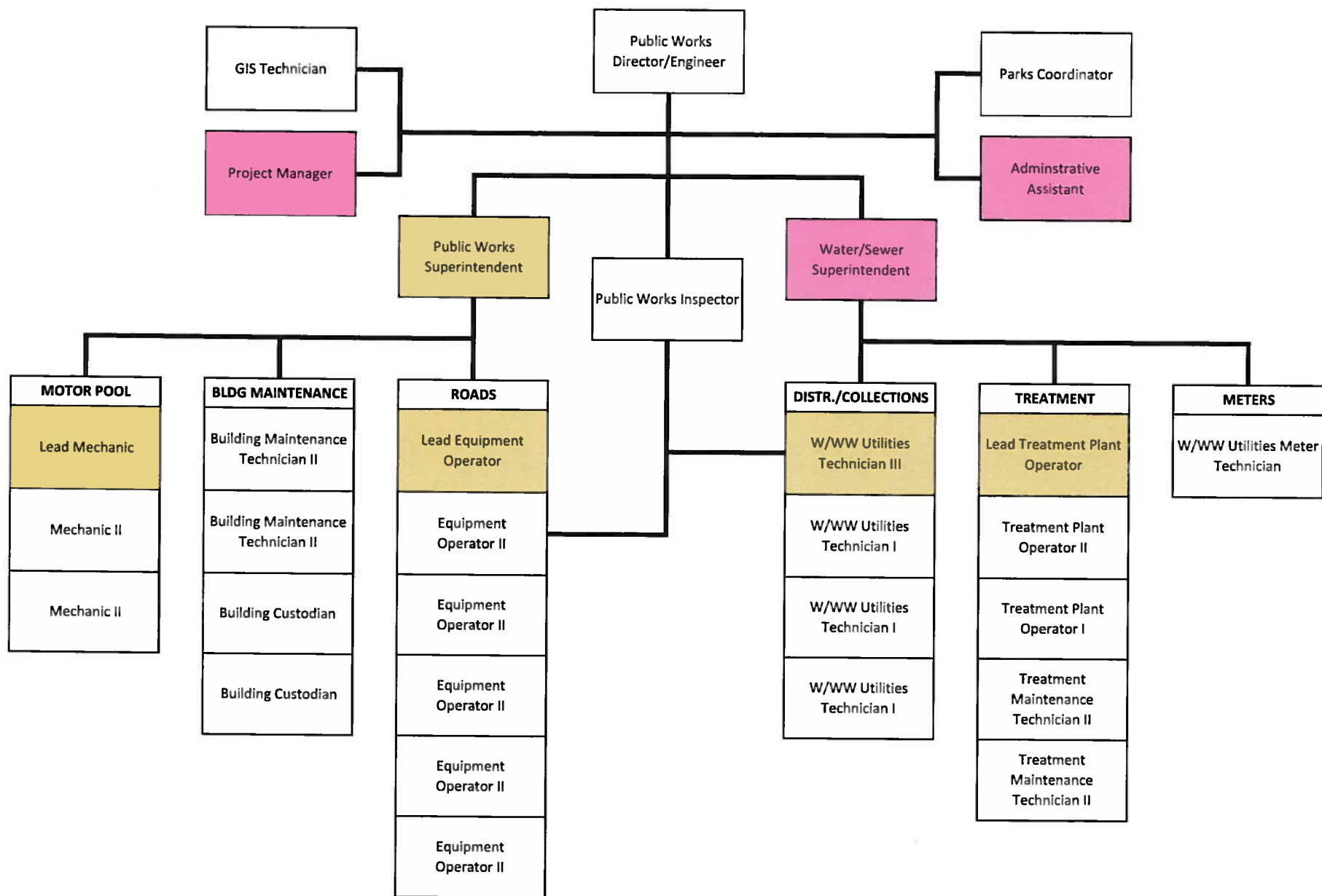
At the Public Works Department

- We moved supervision of the Water Distribution/Sewer Collection Unit from the PW superintendent to the Water/Sewer superintendent
 1. Improved our ability to address changing regulatory environment
 2. Improved span of control
 3. Supported organization change
 4. Provided opportunity for in-house promotions
 5. Increased productivity/effectiveness
- We hired a new Project Manager and Administrative Assistant (New Blood)
- Gave opportunities to existing employees to play a bigger role

NEW PUBLIC WORKS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



IN-HOUSE PROMOTIONS vs "NEW BLOOD" INFUSSION





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Memorandum 14-023

TO: Honorable Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Walt Wrede, City Manager
FROM: Katie Koester, Community and Economic Development Coordinator
DATE: January 22, 2014
SUBJECT: Citizens Academy

The purpose of this memo is to update Council on the planning for the City of Homer Citizens Academy.

Dates for the Academy are Thursday evenings 5:30-8:00 pm from February 20 to March 27th with a graduation ceremony at City Council on April 14.

Registration begins Monday, January 27th and is open for three weeks until Monday, February 17. Class size will be limited to 15 participants with a couple of overflow spots for staff, media or Council members. Nonresidents are welcome to apply, however the City Clerk will verify residency and priority will be given to City of Homer residents. The Academy will be advertised in the local papers, online and on the radio. Interested applicants can get more information and register online at the City of Homer homepage (www.cityofhomer-ak.gov).

Department Directors have been flexible and accommodating in scheduling the Academy and are excited about the opportunity to showcase their departments. Seven individuals have already expressed an interest in participating in the Academy before any advertising effort.

Please let your friends and colleagues know about this opportunity to get an in-depth look at the how the City of Homer operates.

Enc.

City of Homer Citizens Academy Agenda

Registration Form: City of Homer Citizens Academy (copy of online form)

City of Homer 2014 Citizens Academy Frequently Asked Questions

Poster Advertising Citizens Academy (reduced from 11x17)

City of Homer Citizens Academy Agenda

Thursdays 5:30-8:00pm February 20 through March 27

Certification Ceremony April 14

- 1) Thursday February 20, 2014. 5:30 -8pm. City Hall Cowles Council Chambers. 491 E. Pioneer Avenue.

5:30 – Overview and Welcome

5:45 – Office of the City Manager

6:45 – Break/Dinner

7:00 – Office of the City Clerk

8:00 – End of Day. Submit Evaluation

- 2) Thursday, February 27, 2014. 5:30-8pm. Harbormaster's Office. 4350 Homer Spit Road.

5:30 – Welcome and Tour of Harbormaster's Office

5:45 – Load on bus. Maintenance Shop for Dinner/Overview

6:15 – Port and Harbor Facilities Tour: DWD, Pioneer Dock, Fish Dock/Ice Plant, Overview of Facility Improvements Underway

8:00 – Wrap up at Harbormaster's Office. Submit Evaluation.

- 3) Thursday, March 6, 2014. 5:30-8pm. Homer Public Library. 500 Hazel Avenue.

5:30 – Library

6:30 – Break/Dinner

6:45 – Personnel

7:30 – Information Technology

8:00 – End of Day. Submit Evaluation

- 4) Thursday, March 13, 2014. 5:30-8pm. Homer Public Works. 3575 Heath Street.

5:30 – Community Recreation

5:45 – Public Works

6:45 – Break/Dinner

7:00 – Water/Sewer Treatment (tour of Sewer Treatment Facility)

8:00 – Wrap up. Submit Evaluation. Sign up for Water Treatment Tour

5) Thursday, March 20, 2014. 5:30-8pm. City Hall Cowles Council Chambers. 491 E. Pioneer Avenue.

5:30 – Homer Volunteer Fire Department.

6:30 – Break/Dinner

6:45 – Homer Police Department

8:00 – End of Day. Submit Evaluation. Sign up for tour of Police Station/Fire Hall

6) Thursday March 27, 2014. City Hall Council Chambers. 491 E. Pioneer Avenue Lower Entrance.

5:30 – Planning Department

6:40 – Break/Dinner

6:50 – Finance Department

8:00 – End of Day. Submit Evaluation

1) Monday April 14, 2014. City Hall Council Chambers. 491 E. Pioneer Avenue Lower Entrance.

6:00 – City Council Regular Meeting. Certification Ceremony. Cake with Council, guests, and public.

Registration Form: City of Homer Citizens Academy

Published on City of Homer Alaska Official Website (<http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov>)

Registration Form: City of Homer Citizens Academy

Unpublished

Left

Categories Forms, Permits, and Applications

Thank you for your interest in the City of Homer Citizens Academy.

Registration is limited to 15 participants and will be reserved on a first come basis. Although nonresidents are welcome to apply, the City Clerk will verify residency and priority will be given to City of Homer residents. Meetings will be held Thursday evenings from February 20 through March 27 from 5:30-8:00pm with a certification ceremony at City Council on Monday, April 14. Attendance is mandatory: participants must attend 5 out of the 6 classes to certificate. Photos taken during the program may be used by the City. Please enter a valid email address. Unless requested otherwise, most communication regarding the Academy will occur via email.

Registration closes February 17 at 5:00pm

Name: *

Mailing Address: *

Physical Address: *

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail Address: *

Emergency Contact (Name and Phone): *

Physical Limitations (academy will include tours):

Dietary Restrictions:

What do you hope to get out of the Citizens Academy:

Source URL (retrieved on 2014-01-22 14:07):

<http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citycouncil/registration-form-city-homer-citizens-academy>

City of Homer 2014 Citizens Academy

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the City of Homer Citizen's Academy? It is a free program created to increase and develop citizen's knowledge of how the City operates. Citizens will learn the complexities involved with running a municipality.

Why was the Academy created? To provide residents with an inside look at city government and provide the education, skills, and interest for members of the public to serve on city commissions, committees, and City Council.

How do I register? Register online at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Who can participate in the Academy? The Academy is open to the public, however, because of space limitations priority will be given to City of Homer residents.

When is the Academy? The Academy consists of six consecutive Thursday evening sessions from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. Sessions begin February 20, 2014 and end March 27, 2014 with a graduation ceremony during City Council on April 14, 2014. Additional tours of City facilities will be available but not mandatory.

What materials are provided? You will be provided with a binder at the beginning of the Academy. Materials will be given to you to add to your binder as the different departments present.

What do I do at the beginning of each class? When you arrive sign in and pick up an evaluation form. There is a lot to cover and the program will start on time, it is best to arrive a few minutes early to get situated.

Will food be provided? Yes. Simple fare and refreshments will be provided. There is a section on the registration form to note dietary restrictions and we will do our best to accommodate.

Where are the classes held? The classes will be held at various City facilities. Information on the classes will be included in each participant's acceptance letter along with a agenda for each class.

What do I wear to class? Dress is casual. In some instances you will be asked to wear warm clothing and/or comfortable shoes for tours of facilities.

May I bring a guest or relative? Due to space limitations participants may not bring guests to classes; however they are strongly encouraged to bring guests to the certification ceremony.

What do I do if I need to miss a class? Participants are allowed to miss one of the 6 sessions.

What if I still have more questions? Contact Katie Koester at kkoester@ci.homer.ak.us / 907.435.3101



City of Homer Citizens Academy

A behind the scenes look at how the City of Homer operates

Thursday Evenings
5:30pm-8:00pm
February 20 - March 27th
Certification Ceremony April 14th

Space is limited. Spots will be held on a first come first serve basis.
Registration closes Monday, February 17th at 5:00pm.

For more info, including online registration, visit:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov





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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR WYTHE AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Walt Wrede
DATE: February 5, 2014
SUBJECT: February Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Tim Yarbrough,	Fire	12	Years
Dan Miotke,	Fire	12	Years
Walt Wrede,	Admin	11	Years
George Tyrer,	Port & Harbor	10	Years
Debra Waldorf,	Library	6	Years
Jim Knott,	Police	4	Years
Nathan Hull,	Police	1	Year
Dan Nelsen,	Public Works	1	Year