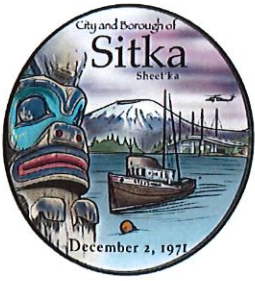


## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

**I MOVE TO** approve Resolution 2022-09 on first and final reading authorizing the Municipal Administrator to apply for and execute a grant with the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) for \$125,000 to support the Wachusetts Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project.



# City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

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*A Coast Guard City*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

**Thru:** John Leach, Municipal Administrator

**From:** Michael Harmon, P.E., Public Works Director *Shelie Williams,  
Acting for M. Harmon*

**Date:** March 8, 2022

**Subject:** Pursuit of Grant Funding for the Wachusetts Street Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project – Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund

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### Background

Peterson Creek is a first order stream originating on Gavan Hill above Sitka. The headwaters of Peterson Creek are largely pristine, with the lower portions of the watershed flowing through urbanized areas and terminate in Sitka Sound north of Sitka Harbor. Peterson Creek supports approximately 1.93 km of anadromous fish habitat and supports populations of coho and pink salmon and Dolly Varden char.

The purpose of this project is to remove the two existing 48" CMP culverts carrying Peterson Creek under Wachusetts Street and to replace them with a stream simulation design structure to restore fish passage and natural channel function. The existing crossing is undersized, structurally failing and acts as a partial to complete barrier to upstream passage of juvenile salmon. The culvert blocks or impedes fish access to over half of the stream length of fish spawning and rearing habitat. The new culvert will accommodate a self-sustaining planform for the creek under the road-stream crossing and will better handle seasonal floods, lowering City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) maintenance efforts. Substrate in the culvert will be designed to mimic the natural bed and designed to the 100-year peak flow, and the aluminum structure will have an anticipated service life of greater than 50 years.

The design is currently at the 65% design level and actively moving forward. Bidding is anticipated in November 2022 and construction summer of 2023.

### Analysis

This project will remediate a high priority, 'red' rated fish passage barrier culvert on Peterson Creek with a stream simulation culvert design ready for construction in 2023. 'Red' is ADF&G's second most severe rating a crossing can have and indicates the crossing is assumed to be inadequate for juvenile fish passage. Culverts at the



Wachusetts Street crossing block or impede fish access to over half of the stream length of fish spawning and rearing habitat.

The project is the sister project to Peterson Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project that was completed last year. Completing the replacement of the Wachusetts culvert will open a total of 1.2 km of stream habitat for coho and pink salmon, and Dolly Varden char and decrease CBS maintenance efforts associated with the existing failing culvert.

Like its sister project on Peterson Street, this project has the support from and partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS assisted in grant application and acquisition with Peterson Storm Sewer Rehabilitation and continues to assist CBS in obtaining grant funding for Wachusetts Street Storm Sewer Rehabilitation.

CBS put forth a resolution to the Sitka assembly to apply for a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, administered through the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership (SEAKFHP), to support the Wachusetts Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project. This grant would augment working capital currently available for the construction of the Wachusetts Street culvert replacement. The Sitka assembly approved the resolution at the February 8th, 2022, regular meeting authorizing CBS to apply for the grant. CBS, in partnership with USFWS, has applied for the grant and is awaiting a decision.

CBS is seeking to apply for a grant through the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) for \$125,000. CBS applied for and received an AKSSF grant for the Peterson Street project in 2019. The application window is expected to open this spring. Funding is required to be used within 5 years and will likely require reporting to various detail and at various intervals. CBS anticipates the Wachusetts Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project will be constructed and completed in summer of 2023 which is within the grant spending window and provides flexibility in case construction is delayed one year.

CBS and USFWS anticipate applying for two additional grants through USFWS National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) and USFWS Infrastructure Bill Funding (BIL). The application window for this grant is also anticipated to open this spring; the Assembly will see additional resolutions to apply for these grants in the upcoming months. The other prospective grants have spending timelines between 3-5 years and will likely require reporting to various detail and at various intervals.

### **Fiscal Note**

The Wachusetts project currently has ~\$300,000 in General funds. The four prospective grants total ~\$700,000, which, coupled with the existing General Funds is thought to be enough to complete the project. Obtaining grant funding would eliminate or minimize the amount of additional working capital needed.

There is sufficient funding in the project budget to provide the required match for all prospective grants. This AKSSF fund requires a 30% match equating to \$37,500. The SEAKFHP grant requires a 1:1 to match of awarded funds; in this case \$50,000. The USFWS NFPP grant does not require match but encourages 1:1 as providing match makes a project application competitive. With the available General Funds, a 1:1 match will be possible for the USFWS NFPP. The remaining \$112,500 of General Funds could

be used as match for the USFWS BIL grant, or approximately 26% of the total grant for the USFWS BIL grant.

The below table summarizes the anticipated funding for this project.

Source	Secured	Needed
General Fund	\$ 300,000 <sup>1</sup>	TBD <sup>2</sup>
SEAKFHP Grant		\$ 50,000 <sup>3</sup>
AKSSF Grant		\$ 125,000 <sup>4</sup>
USFWS NFPP Grant		\$ 100,000 <sup>5</sup>
USFWS BIL Grant		\$ 425,000 <sup>5</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ 700,000</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>	
<b>EXPECTED COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000 <sup>6</sup></b>	

<sup>1</sup> Existing General funds.

<sup>2</sup> Additional capital funding needed if any. Capital funding, if any, will be requested in the FY24 budget.

<sup>3</sup> Grant application was approved at the Regular Assembly meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the grant has been applied for.

<sup>4</sup> The subject of this memo.

<sup>5</sup> Additional grant opportunities offered by USFWS; Assembly requests for these grants separate and upcoming.

<sup>6</sup> Project Manager's ROM estimate of Total Project Cost.

If any of the prospective grants are not awarded, if the full requested grant amount is not awarded, or if scope modifications needed during final design and construction occur, additional General Funds may be required to complete the project.

### **Recommendation**

Approve this resolution authorizing the CBS Municipal Administrator to apply for and execute a grant with the AKSSF for \$125,000 to support the Wachusett Storm Sewer Rehabilitation project.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA (CBS) AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT WITH THE ALASKA SUSTAINABLE SALMON FUND (AKSSF) FOR \$125,000 TO SUPPORT THE WACHUSETTS STORM SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the CBS-owned culvert conveying Peterson Creek under Wachusetts Street is badly corroded; and

WHEREAS, the culvert blocks or impedes fish access to over half of the stream length of fish spawning and rearing habitat; and

WHEREAS, the AKSSF is soliciting applications for projects to protect, restore and conserve fish habitats in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the proposed culvert is being designed to improve the fish-passage characteristics of the existing, failing Wachusetts Street culvert.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka to authorize the CBS Municipal Administrator to apply for and execute a grant with the AKSSF for \$125,000 to support the Wachusetts Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project with a required 30% match funded by the project's existing General Funds.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 12th day of April 2022.

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Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 04/12/2022

Sponsor: Administrator