

**Subject:** FW: Notes from our Thurs evening telecon + THANK YOU!

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**From:** Shelly Wade [mailto:shelly@agnewbeck.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 15, 2011 7:34 PM  
**Subject:** Notes from our Thurs evening telecon + THANK YOU!

Hi Again Everyone -

Thank you all so much for taking the time to meet tonight and for a very productive discussion. Outlined below in **bold purple** (writing from home, it's the best option I have :) are the agreed to next steps and a few other relevant notes. If I've missed anything or captured something incorrectly, please REPLY ALL and let us all know. Also - I wanted to remind you all that Frankie Barker with the Mat-Su Borough has agreed to write a letter of support for the project. If it's OK with you all, I'll share these notes with her and let her know you'll be in touch. As always, it's a tremendous pleasure working with the community of Big Lake. It's exciting to see all of the pieces coming together on this project...**thanks** to all of you and your dedication to Big Lake. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

And, don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any comments, questions, concerns.

Take care,

Shelly

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**From:** Shelly Wade  
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**Subject:** Update on Big Lake Water Quality Fiscal Agent + Grant Opps

Hi Everyone –

I presented to the Big Lake Chamber Board of Directors last night on the water quality project and their potential role as a fiscal agent for the Mat-Su grant. Catherine Inman, Cc'd here, was also there to introduce herself and explain her role on the Cook Inletkeeper ACWA grant. Here is a quick summary of what I've learned since then from conversations this morning with Ina Mueller of the Chamber and Elizabeth Ripley from the Mat-Su Health Foundation:

- Fiscal Agent – The Chamber Board said they were interested and the project was a good match for them. However, they are a 501(c)(6), not (c)(3). **To apply for a Mat-Su Health Foundation Grant, an entity must have 501(c)(3) status.** So, although the Chamber can be a partner on the grant, they cannot apply for the grant as your fiscal agent. Not great news, but there are options:
  - Elizabeth from the Mat-Su Health Foundation said the Mat-Su Resource Conservation + Development (RC+D), <http://www.matsudevelopment.org/>, is often looking to partner with community groups that are working on environmental projects. She thinks they would be a perfect partner for Big Lake and strongly encourages the group to reach out to them for assistance with the *Health Impact Grant*. In fact, she said if she did get an application from Big Lake, she would expect to see some kind of partnership with the RC+D. Seems like the next step there is to arrange a meeting with Marty Metiva, the Executive Director. His contact info is here: <http://www.matsudevelopment.org/contact.htm>.
- **Catherine will meet with Marty tomorrow, 12/16, to discuss the Big Lake water quality project and to confirm the Mat-Su RC+D will serve as the fiscal agent/partner on the Mat-Su Health Foundation *Healthy Impact Grant*.**

**Catherine will send a summary of her discussion with Marty to the group (hopefully confirming it's a go and an explanation of what needs to happen next).**

- **The group feels the chances of Marty saying "yes" to the Big Lake water quality project are high as he's already established a relationship with the community, through Seth, on other projects and this project aligns really well with what they do.**
- Logistics for Project Pitch Submission + Working with the Foundation – The Foundation is currently updating their web page to ensure info is correct and all of the links work (I was having a hard time getting onto the “Project Pitch” link). It should be up and running again today with all of the correct information including:
  - January 6, 4pm is deadline for the pitch.
  - The maximum pages for the **project pitch is 3 pages, NOT 1 page.**
  - Elizabeth also recommended that the Big Lake group meet with Sharon Scott, the Program Officer, to talk about your proposal ideas and to get her feedback/support. Catherine has volunteered to arrange that meeting (with Seth and Floyd).
  - The Foundation regularly conducts grant writing trainings to help communities. They are currently in discussions with Rasmuson to jointly provide this training. Elizabeth strongly recommends Big Lake community members that are interested attend.
- **On 12/16, Catherine will call to set up a meeting with Sharon Scott to share Big Lake water quality project ideas and to get Sharon's feedback. Since Seth and Floyd will be out of town, Catherine will do this meeting along with Sharon (face-to-face) and then share back the results through a summary to the group and then via teleconference with Seth and Floyd. Catherine will then take a first pass at the "Project Pitch" and when Seth and Floyd are back in town, the three of them will sit down to firm up the proposal. This should happen by no later than January 4th to give the group time to submit the pitch electronically (and just in case there are any issues with electronic submission).**
- **During the conversation with Sharon, Catherine will also share that the community completed a Comp Plan in 2009 and that this water quality project builds from that. Equally important, this project will build on the upcoming Community Impact Assessment Report that the community has been funded to do via a legislative approp. of \$250K. The water quality project could (and is already) help set up a model process for the Comm Impact Assessment by providing a great example of the community using its Comp Plan to guide future decisions and development at Big Lake. Additionally, the community has proven its ability to work with and get feedback from a broad range of stakeholders including with federal, state and local partners.**
- Infrastructure Funding – Elizabeth also mentioned that in her discussions with Rasmuson, they mentioned the desire to fund more projects in the Mat-Su. Basically, Mat-Su is underrepresented in their proposal and successful grantee pool. So, she suggests that the Big Lake group call and meet with them to discuss potential infrastructure funding for the Big Lake water quality project. My thinking on this is the community needs to establish that relationship for the water quality project and for other priority projects in the community.
  - **Catherine mentioned Rasmuson likes to see cash matches in their grant proposals. The community of Big Lake will be that much stronger in a potential proposal to Rasmuson on water quality infrastructure projects if they secure the Healthy Impact Grant and with the already secured ACWA grant monies.**
  - **From Shelly - I would recommend you guys set up a time to meet with one of the program officers at Rasmuson. It is good to start establishing those relationships NOW and to share**

**some of your project ideas (water quality and others).**

I think that's about it. In terms of immediate next steps, I would recommend that we go ahead and do the Thursday evening teleconference. This would give me the opportunity to explain what I've written here and then help folks get clear on what happens next. Cindy has already set up the teleconference. That information is here: **Thursday, 6 pm, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Call in number # 800 315 6338 code: 3066.** Please let me know if you are able to participate in that conversation. It's critical that Seth, Floyd and Catherine be online, at a minimum.

Thanks much, all,  
Shelly

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Senior Planner