

Thomas Atkinson

From: Peter-Contesse, Fabienne (DNR) <fabienne.peter-contesse@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 2:26 PM
To: Thomas Atkinson
Cc: Fogels, Edmund J (DNR); Bruno, Jeff J (DNR); Mackey, Dayna M (DNR); King, Ed M (DNR); Ibias, Raquel M (DNR)
Subject: FW: Follow-up question on the genesis of wetlands mitigation bank

Hi Tom,

Please see Jeff's response below regarding your additional question, and as always, let me know if you need more info. Best,

Fabienne

From: Bruno, Jeff J (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 1:26 PM
To: Peter-Contesse, Fabienne (DNR) <fabienne.peter-contesse@alaska.gov>
Cc: King, Ed M (DNR) <ed.king@alaska.gov>; Fogels, Edmund J (DNR) <ed.fogels@alaska.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-up question on the genesis of wetlands mitigation bank

Efforts for a DNR managed mitigation program were funded when the State looked into gaining primacy over the USACE's permitting authority under section 404 of the clean water act (I'm not sure when those efforts were exactly initiated but I think it was 4-5 years ago). To summarize those efforts DEC looked into primacy for 404 permitting and DNR explored setting up a compensatory mitigation program using State resources (i.e. wetlands, rivers, creeks, etc.). Efforts/funding for 404 primacy were cut in FY14 which included DNR's efforts for exploring compensatory mitigation options on State land. The Legislature wanted to continue DNR's efforts in FY16, because at that time there were real concerns due to a lack of available mitigation options in the State, which in turn lead to escalating prices for compensatory mitigation.

DNR saw, and still sees, the benefit of making State resources available for compensatory mitigation. My understanding is that efforts to establish a compensatory mitigation program of some sort have a long history in the State and even predate the State's 404 primacy efforts, described above. I apologize but I don't have the historical perspective of where these efforts and ideas were born, but I can say at this time these efforts are currently supported by DNR.

Jeff Bruno
Deputy Director
Office of Project Management and Permitting
State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
907-269-7476

From: Thomas Atkinson [<mailto:Thomas.Atkinson@akleg.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 7:37 PM