

BLM/DNR Working Group Report, August 6, 1999

Present: BLM - Frank Hardt, Steve Hamrick, John Toms, Linda Resseguie

DNR - Denny Daigger, Carol Shobe, Julie Murrell, Bill Brown

GUEST - Rick Brown, Platting Officer, MAT-SU Borough

T. 17 N., R. 3 E., SM

There was a brief discussion of the Regional Solicitor's Opinion dated 7/22/96 on this issue. Although the opinion did not address all of the issues DNR had hoped would be covered, the group agreed that the last sentence of the opinion made it sufficiently clear that the federal position is that the patents which have been issued are and must be based on the BLM's survey.

The 1979 Federal Survey control Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian for the purpose of issuing patents; for all other purposes, the 1972 State survey controls.

~~Rick~~ Brown indicated that the Mat-Su Borough could live with this decision. But the Sandvick lease/purchase area is more problematic. DNR will meet separately with the Mat-Su Borough to discuss their options and will get back to BLM within a couple of weeks.

1973 MOA

DNR informed the BLM attendees that Jane Angvik had written a letter to Tom Allen dated 7/25/96 encouraging BLM to stand by the 1973 agreement. None of the BLM attendees had seen this letter or been asked to help draft a response.

Carol provided a historical perspective on this issue. She explained that in the 60s, the State filed a selection application for each half township. At that time, half-mile monumentation was common and the standard used to survey State grants in the lower 48. The Statehood Act, however, requires survey of only the exterior boundaries of selections. Relying on the Administrative Procedures Act, BLM combined the serialized applications so that one application included an entire township.

Title Recovery

BLM still intends to respond to the State's July 3, 1996 letter on survey requirements for Native allotment title recovery.

Tracting

At least two plats have been approved in the Prince of Wales Island window which include partial sections without lot numbers, interior subdivision, or an area designation. Linda will check with the Mike Wilson, lead for the team that devised the draft tracting policy to see whether these plats represent an interim style of platting or something else.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Frontier Building.

Prepared by: LResseguie