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## New Planning and Geology Staff Join R&M

**Ben Coleman, AICP Candidate** and **Alex Brown, WAQTC** recently joined **R&M CONSULTANTS, INC. (R&M)**. Ben is a Planner in the firm's Planning Department and Alex is a Geologist in R&M's Earth Sciences Department. Both professionals bring additional skills and expertise to R&M, expanding the firms' capabilities.

A former Matanuska-Susitna Borough planner, **Ben** has three years of experience in transportation and land use planning, plan and conditional use permit review, data analysis, feasibility studies, and stakeholder and agency coordination. During that time, Ben was involved in developing transportation plans, coordinating with the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to develop a new Metropolitan Planning Organization in the MSB, and working with the MSB Transportation Advisory Board. He is also experienced in grant writing, plan and conditional use permit review, data analysis, feasibility studies, and stakeholder and agency coordination.

"I was looking to jump into a fast-paced work environment that rewarded quality work and going the extra mile," said Ben. "I was attracted to the agility that a smaller firm like R&M could provide for both its clients and employees. I've definitely enjoyed getting to know everyone since being here—R&M has a killer team, and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Since joining the firm, Ben has provided planning analysis and land use permitting services for the downtown 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Multi-Use Redevelopment project and an expanded utility substation in Chugiak. He has a B.S. in Intercultural Studies from Crown College and a Masters of Regional Planning from Cornell University, and is an AICP Candidate. Ben is also actively involved with the Alaska Chapter of the American Planning Association and is on the Board of Directors for Valley Transit.

**Alex** originally joined R&M in May 2019 as a Materials Technician in the firm's Materials Laboratory. In this role, he provided field inspections, materials testing, sample logging, density testing, and gradation and concrete testing for airport and highway improvement projects. With his interest and education in geology, Alex was a perfect fit for transfer into R&M's Earth Sciences Department. He moved into this new role at the conclusion of the 2019 construction season.

"I joined R&M because it seemed like a great local business in terms of its relationship with the communities it works with, and like a safe and lucrative long-term option for my career," said Alex. "I always wanted to apply my knowledge and skills in practical ways with tangible results, and R&M allows me to do exactly that."

Since moving into Earth Sciences, Alex has been involved with geotechnical investigations for the Dalton Highway MP 18-37 project and assisted with materials testing and other miscellaneous tasks for a variety of projects. He has a B.S. in Geological Sciences from the University of Alaska Anchorage.



**Coleman**



**Brown**

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*Founded in Alaska in 1969, R&M offers civil, structural, geotechnical and waterfront engineering; surveying and mapping; GIS services; geology; hydrology; environmental services; transportation and land use planning; public involvement; right of way and lands consulting services; construction administration; materials testing; and special inspection. R&M has offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks.*

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