

STORMWATER UTILITY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION No. 2021-02

RECOMMENDING CONTINUATION OF IMPROVING STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the infrastructure to control stormwater runoff is essential infrastructure.

WHEREAS, stormwater infrastructure currently has oversight in parts by several different municipal departments and programs and the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF). In addition, many entities such as local and rural road service areas assume stormwater management. There are some parts of the city where there is no management or oversight of stormwater. A map of Anchorage Road Service Areas can be found in Attachment 1. This fragmented approach leads to inefficiency in managing MOA's stormwater infrastructure.

WHEREAS, Municipal watersheds, (e.g. Ship Creek, Fish Creek, Campbell Creek, Chester Creek, Rabbit Creek, Furrow Creek) are community assets and the MOA has a responsibility, along with the ADOT&PF, under the Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System to ensure there are no adverse impacts resulting from stormwater. Although the MOA has regulatory responsibility for the downstream water quality, most upstream parts of the watershed are currently under the authority of other entities, or are not managed at all.

WHEREAS, the municipality currently has no entity tasked with watershed based planning and management of stormwater infrastructure.

WHEREAS, managing stormwater infrastructure and focusing on emergency repairs after failure within the stormwater system-results in gaps in managing the infrastructure in a fair and cost-efficient manner.

WHEREAS, managing stormwater infrastructure by focusing on emergency repairs after failure within the stormwater system results in gaps in managing the infrastructure in a fair and cost-effective manner.

WHEREAS, in Anchorage, stormwater infrastructure costs are borne disproportionately, the "cost causers" are not the "cost payers." Consolidated management of stormwater infrastructure, such as a stormwater utility under consideration, will provide a more equitable and predictable distribution of costs to property owners.

WHEREAS, residential property owners fund operation of the existing stormwater infrastructure disproportionate to their share of the impacts they have. Continuing the work to determine a cost causer, cost payer rate structure is important. Work to date shows it is expected to provide residential property tax relief.

WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate drainage management among road service areas, ADOT&PF, and MOA departments/programs.

WHEREAS, a fuller needs assessment can be found in "[Stormwater Utility Findings Report and Recommendations](#)" January 2019, and a Condition Assessment Summary can be found in Attachment 2.

WHEREAS, the need for a Stormwater Utility has been identified by numerous groups since the late 1990's, and Anchorage Assembly authorized the creation of a Stormwater Utility (AO 2019-106(S-2)), and a Stormwater Utility Commission (AR 2020-276).

WHEREAS, The research and development of better assessment and management tools for stormwater infrastructure is a significant undertaking, and the work for this was tasked to a contractor. Despite the recent termination of this contract, the work remains to be done to best serve the residents of Anchorage.

WHEREAS, work to improve our stormwater infrastructure includes:

Develop long-term Stormwater Infrastructure Master Plan which creates an inventory & assessment of the existing system, with a capital improvement program which includes identifying areas that need replacement/upgrade and coordinated with other infrastructure projects (e.g. AWWU, roads).

Develop comprehensive stormwater infrastructure fiscal plan which includes identifying costs (maintenance and capital) and develop a rate structure for stormwater infrastructure, preferably considering cost-causer cost-payer model for equitable financial responsibility. The impact of a property on stormwater has much more to do with the quantity of impermeable surfaces than the value of the property.

Determine best approach to funding stormwater infrastructure improvements.

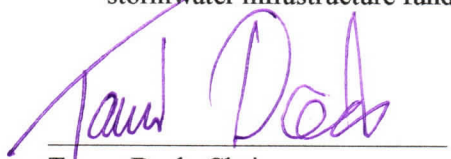
Develop a municipal organizational structure to plan, guide, and implement sustainable, resilient, cost-effective stormwater system.

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed information developed by and for the Municipality and agrees that the Municipality and its residents would benefit from a consolidation of responsibility for the operation, management and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, and that it is important to develop a fair system to recover the costs of operation, management, and maintenance, and

THEREFORE, the Commission recommends that the Administration and Assembly continue to work together in the near-term to:

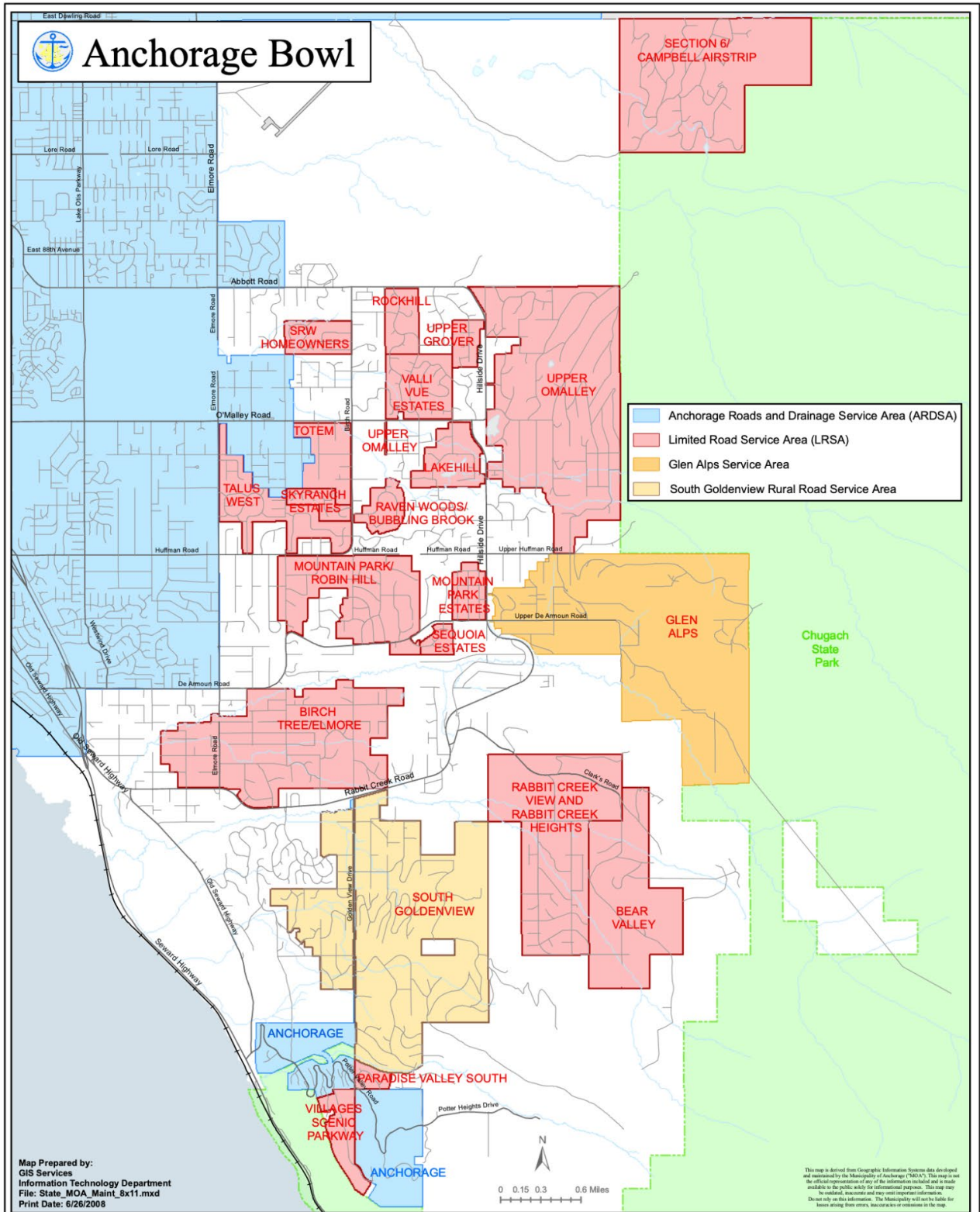
Continue the inventory and assessment of the existing system to develop a Master Plan through Watershed Management; and,

Continue to evaluate establishment of a stormwater utility, or other processes to improve fairness of stormwater infrastructure funding and efficiency of management.



Tamas Deak, Chair

10.18.21



Anchorage Road Service Areas

Attachment 2

Stormwater System Condition Assessment Summary

Source: [Stormwater Utility Findings Report and Recommendations](#), January 2019; Appendix A: [Stormwater Infrastructure and Management Assessment](#), November 2017. Zones refer to locations in Assembly Districts. More detailed breakdown of the zones is contained in Appendix A of the report.

Zone	Primary Installation Decade	Primary Conveyance Infrastructure Type	Estimated % of Pipe Failing or Near Failure	Estimated Miles of Pipe Failing or Near Failure
1a	Pre 1970	Metal Pipe	85	68
1b	Pre 1970	Metal Pipe	Nearly all	6.5
2	Post 1980	Metal Pipe	Nearly all	3.8
3a/b	1980s	Metal Pipe	72	79
3c/d*	-	-	-	-
4a	1980s	Metal Pipe	72	110
4b*	-	-	-	-
5a	1970s & 1980s	Metal Pipe	77	64
5b*	-	-	-	-
5c	1980s & 2000s	Open Channel	**	**
6a	1980s & 1990s	Metal/Plastic Pipe	51	26
6b	1980s & 1990s	Metal/Plastic Pipe & Open Channel	45	19
6c	1970s	Open Channel	**	**
6d	1980s to 2000s	Open Channel	**	**
Total			75	376

* Zones not analyzed due to special land use and/or limited amounts of drainage infrastructure (e.g. park land).

** See specific sections of Appendix A for a general discussion of open channels.