



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Purchasing Conference Room
City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Daniel Billman
Dan Bosch
Heather Dean
Holly Kent
David Nyman
Bill Rice
Rick Sinnott

Excused: Brett Jokela
Tamás Deák

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Planning Department
Steve Ribuffo, Deputy Port Director, MOA-Port of Anchorage
Brad Dunker, MOA-Parks and Recreation
Scott Stringer, MOA-Parks and Recreation
Mel Langdon, MOA-PME, Watershed Management Services
Jeff Urbanus, MOA-PME, Watershed Management Services

Guests: Ingrid Carlson, HDR Alaska, Inc.

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:08 p.m.

Staff, acting as temporary Chair, changed the order of business.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ship Creek Feasibility Study—Port of Anchorage

Commissioner Billman noted that his firm is retained by the Port of Anchorage for this project, and he is presenting in his professional capacity and not as a member of the Commission.

Dan Billman and Ingrid Carlson from HDR Alaska, Inc., presented an update of their activity on this project funded by the Port of Anchorage as an element of their Corps of Engineers permit for Port expansion projects. They gave an overview of the process to date, which is based around identification of possible mitigation projects within the planning area bounded by Cairn Point and approximately 4th Avenue. HDR Alaska is in the data-gathering process, which so far has generated some 90 possible projects, for restoration, enhancement, or creation of new habitats similar to those lost in the Port permit. They will develop a ranking system to guide the prioritization process and produce a final report for the Port. This report will become the basis for possible mitigation activity funded by mitigation money as required in the Corps permit and overseen by a Port mitigation advisory committee. The Port and the consultants requested that when it comes time, they will solicit input and formal recommendations on the report, the prioritization process, and the final list of projects.

B. New MOA Urban Forestry Program—Parks and Recreation Department

Scott Stringer, the new Urban Forester for Parks and Recreation, gave an overview of the new urban forestry program in the Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and Recreation will initiate a tree management program on all MOA public lands (parks & municipal ROWs). Their first step is production and Assembly adoption of an overall management plan, which will serve as a policy document. It will create levels of service and will lead to a forestry ordinance to formalize the plan's policies and relevant tree management and maintenance standards and specifics. He asked that the Commission consider reviewing the plan and formally supporting the ordinance once it is released.

C. EPA West Coast Estuaries Initiative Grant Application—PME, Watershed Management Services

Mel Langdon, from MOA-Watershed Management Services, described this current grant application submitted by her section. The focus of the Municipality's project will be making links between watershed planning and land use. In brief, the basic program for this grant would include an inventory of existing MOA-area low-impact development controls, an analysis of related hydrology and engineering suitability for their uses in the northern environment, an economic analysis comparing costs and effectiveness versus other method's costs, and community outreach and education. Watershed Management also plans to do a couple of pilot projects (e.g., outfall disconnects). Watershed Management staff will update the Commission should the Municipality get this federal grant.

D. Anchorage Bear Issues/Strategies—Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Brad Dunker, staff from Parks and Recreation, gave an overview of bear-related planning activities for the Anchorage area, including actions from the Anchorage Bear Committee and an Assembly ordinance that recommends local municipal management and policing. Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff are considering re-doing their previous wildlife survey in the Anchorage area. He suggested that the Commission become the Municipality's formal interface between the MOA-Administration and state and federal resource agencies and the Anchorage Bear Committee. Brad will connect with the Commission on bear issues as these come up.

IV. OLD BUSINESS (none)

V. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of February 25, 2009

Commissioner Bosch moved to approve the action summary for February 25, 2009, as presented.
Commissioner Rice seconded.

The Motion passed without objection

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (none)

VIII. STAFF REPORT (none)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Nyman moved to adjourn.

Commissioner Billman seconded.

The Motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.