



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

### **Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission**

Mayor's Conference Room - City Hall  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

#### ***ACTION SUMMARY***

12:00 Noon  
Wednesday, August 26, 2009

#### ***Regular Meeting***

#### **I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

*Present:* Dan Bosch  
Tamás Deák  
Heather Dean  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
David Nyman  
Rick Sinnott

*Excused:* Daniel Billman  
Bill Rice

*Staff:* Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Planning Department  
Mel Langdon, MOA-Project Management & Engineering Department,  
Watershed Management Services Division

#### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:07 p.m.

#### **III. ACTION SUMMARY**

##### **A. Regular Meeting of May 27, 2009**

*Commissioner Bosch* moved to approve the May 27, 2009 minutes. *Commissioner Kent* seconded.

*Commissioner Jokela* requested that future minutes reflect that items are “expressed” and not “felt.”

**The May 27, 2009, minutes were passed unanimously as written.**

**B. Regular Meeting of June 24, 2009**

*Commissioner Jokela* moved to approve the June 24, 2009, minutes. *Commissioner Bosch* seconded.

**The June 24, 2009, minutes were passed unanimously as written.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. MOA Agency Construction Projects in Riparian Corridors**

*Mel Langdon*, from the Watershed Management Services Division of the Project Management & Engineering Department, presented background information on issues involving how utilities do construction and emergency projects in streams, setbacks, and watercourses. She discussed ideas to assist in fine-tuning regulations, possible permit conditions, and BMPs to insure better practices, restoration, and project success. The new NPDES permit requires utilities to submit SWPPs for projects > 1 acre, but if no permits are required it has been difficult to get SWPPs submitted. Watershed Management enforces setback regulations so they should take the lead. They recommend new or improved standards for construction practices in the MOA BMP manual; for instance, directional drilling under creeks, veggie removal in overhead easements, etc. They recommend creating policies for utilities with smaller footprints that might not require permits. Also needed are a hazard tree removal policy and a possible requirement to bore under streams.

The Commission discussed various aspects of how regulating consistent BMPs at riparian construction sites, which focused on the use of memoranda or formal policies and procedures between departments. There was talk about expanding these procedures and BMPs to road projects. Some Commissioners described that clear standards would facilitate planning and construction projects in creek easements and a policy and procedure would be more acceptable to users than changing Title 21. *Commissioner Deák* said that the Commission and the MOA departments should clearly define the problem, define the extent of the issue, and define a solution(s). The Commission agreed that Chair Rice, with their assistance, should craft a resolution for them to pass along to the Administration.

*Commissioner Dean* moved to request that Chair Rice work with the involved departments and draft a resolution for the Commission. *Commissioner Kent* seconded.

*Commissioner Deák* added a friendly amendment, accepted by *Commissioner Dean*, that the Chair's draft resolution include a refined description of the problem.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Port Mitigation Feasibility Project**

*Commissioner Dean* updated the Commission on her role in the evaluation of HDR's Port Mitigation Project Feasibility Study. The Port Mitigation Advisory Committee scored all nominated projects based on a suite of items contained in the Corps permit and other subjective issues. The advisory committee is now doing a pair-wise comparison between the projects and the contractor will then produce a final set of projects in order of their significance and feasibility, based on the advisory group's scoring and comparisons. *Commissioner Dean*

recommended that the Commissioner weigh in on the final set of projects as advice to the Port Mitigation Advisory Group. She asked that this topic be included in the next meeting.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)**

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS (none)**

*Mel Langdon*, from the Watershed Management Services Division, stated that the MOA's NPDES Permit is out for public review and the comment period ends in early September. The new permit roughly follows current projects and WMS policies.

**VIII. STAFF REPORT (none)**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Kent* moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Dean* seconded.

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.