



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Room 830 - Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

(Note: This month's meeting was rescheduled from October 28.)

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Daniel Billman
Dan Bosch
Tamás Deák
Heather Dean
Brett Jokela
Bill Rice
Rick Sinnott

Excused: Holly Kent
David Nyman

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Planning Department
Kristi Bischofberger & Jeff Urbanus, MOA-Project Management &
Engineering Department, Watershed Management Services Division

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:04 p.m.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of August 26, 2009

Commissioner Deák moved to approve the August 26, 2009 minutes.

Commissioner Bosch seconded.

The August 26, 2009, minutes were passed unanimously as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Utility Project Construction Practices near Streams

Commissioner Rice gave background information about this ongoing issue, which focused on concerns about construction practices and problems with utility projects along stream corridors and with in-stream crossings. He consulted with Watershed Management staff to better understand what the historic shortcomings have been with this issue—mainly that permits are not always obtained or adhered to, and there are occasional violations or problems with permit compliance. There are no apparent standards or best practices for certain common activities. *Commissioner Rice* introduced a draft resolution for the Commission to consider as an advisory recommendation to affected municipal agencies.

Commissioner Jokela asked if the provisionally adopted Title 21 changes address the concerns and issues. *Commissioner Deák* noted that the Title 21 changes address new utility work in stream corridors but not past actions or repairs and upgrades. *Commissioner Rice* said that there should be an attempt to standardize construction practices and techniques that reflect what the regulations intend and that provide for optimal approaches that minimize damage in these corridors. He also hoped that the Municipality could provide better guidance by creating a definition for the term “hazard trees.”

Following additional discussion and explanation, *Commissioner Deák* thought that the resolution title needed clarity to summarize the extent of the issue, so that standards and procedures can be updated in terms that the Assembly and managers can clearly understand. The resolution should also have a process of implementation described. *Commissioner Jokela* agreed but added that the resolution should be reviewed by utility companies and managers prior to adoption. The Commission came to a consensus that the resolution should be simplified to give guidance for Watershed Management to have some flexibility in implementation and recommendations. It should clarify and address the issue of prioritization of above-ground utilities. *Commissioner Rice* agreed to modify the draft and bring it to the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Port Mitigation Feasibility Project-Update

Commissioner Billman updated the Commission on this project. The report is complete and has been submitted to the Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Port of Anchorage. The Corps will now determine what to do next with this report, as per conditions of the original Corps permit.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (none)

VIII. STAFF REPORT

Staff reported that three commissioner terms are up in October (Rice, Dean, Jokela). The commissioners were asked to provide a letter or e-mail to staff noting whether or not they wish to be considered for reappointment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Deák moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Billman* seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.