



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

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

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

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

12:00 Noon  
Wednesday, December 23, 2009

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

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

*Present:* Daniel Billman  
Dan Bosch  
Tamás Deák  
Heather Dean  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
Rick Sinnott

*Excused:* Bill Rice  
David Nyman

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

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:10 p.m. *Commissioner Deak* agreed to serve as Chair.

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

##### **A. Regular Meeting of November 25, 2009**

*Commissioner Bosch* moved to approve the November 25, 2009 minutes. *Commissioner Jokela* seconded.

**The November 25, 2009, minutes were passed unanimously as written.**

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Utility Project Construction Practices near Streams**

*Commissioner Jokela* moved to approve WNRC Resolution No. 2009-03 with the latest changes incorporated.

*Commissioner Billman* seconded.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

Discussion followed about how and to whom the resolution will be distributed. *Commissioner Jokela* recommended that the resolution should be signed and transmitted to the key MOA agencies; i.e., Watershed Management Services, Parks and Recreation, Project Management and Engineering, Development Services, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Anchorage Assembly. The Commissioners agreed that all signed resolutions should go to relevant agencies, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Assembly.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Anchorage Debit-Credit Method, Heather Dean, EPA**

*Commissioner Dean* brought forward some technical questions relative to determining credits for creek activities as covered in the Anchorage Credit-Debit Method. This formal methodology is used by the federal wetland regulatory agencies to assign project debits and associated mitigation credits for projects that require Corps authorizations. The method is being refined to allow for assigning proper credits for stream functions that do not actually improve the REV (relative ecological value) of the stream area. She needs feedback and guidance on ways to evaluate and portray hydrologic functions of streams.

*Commissioner Dean* asked the Commission for a recommendation on how to depict a reference characterize for flow geometry, to show differences at a site for before and after work that would create mitigation credits. The Commission recommended using the site's entrenchment instead of the wetted perimeter, which was in the original method. The Commission also recommended using a comparison of a channel cross-section for before and after the channel work as a means to measure improvement of functions.

##### **B. 2010 Commission Activities and Goals**

*Staff* asked that the Commission discuss ideas for future projects and items to be brought forward for review. For example, the Commission should probably review park master plans and agency plans (like the Corps of Engineers' Eklutna Master Plan). The Commission should play an active role if departments include new policy or plan items within the Commission's purview of interest. The Commission can also provide technical advice and findings on special projects or

research, for instance today's EPA questions. Staff agreed to draft a memo for the Commission to send out to relevant agencies requesting their submittal for Commission review.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)**

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS (none)**

**VIII. STAFF REPORT**

*Staff* reported again that three commissioner terms expired 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. These three are permitted to remain seated with the Commission for 120 days.

Watershed Management Services must develop two new watershed plans during the permit term.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.