



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Room 700 - Training Room, City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Daniel Billman
Dan Bosch
Tamás Deák
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
David Nyman
Captain Bob Pawlowski
Rick Sinnott

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 12:18 p.m. *Commissioner Deák* agreed to serve as Acting Chair until the Commission elected new officers.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of December 23, 2009

Commissioner Deák moved to approve the December 23, 2009 minutes. *Commissioner Kent* seconded.

The December 23, 2009 minutes were passed unanimously as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 10-01: In-Stream Flow Measurement Gauging on Rabbit, Chester, and Campbell Creeks – Mel Langdon, MOA-Watershed Management Services

Mel Langdon, staff from the Watershed Management Services Division (WMS), opened the discussion concerning municipal support of local Anchorage in-stream gauges. The new MOA NPDES permit does not require the Municipality to do stream gauging, which means the forthcoming municipal budgets will not include funds to contribute to these measuring devices. WMS would like the Commission to suggest whether these data are important to continue the program and, if so, how. The Campbell and Chester Creek gauges have over 30 years of mostly continuous data. Because of municipal budget shortfalls and because the NPDES does not require this data gathering, WMS will not have 2011 money to contribute. Commissioner Pawlowski asked if it might be possible to include Pacific Salmon Recovery funds for the contribution that might allow for fish monitoring. *Ms. Langdon* thought it might be possible for at least Chester Creek, which is one of the program's salmon priorities. *Ms. Langdon* stated that the data from these gauges is useful for comparison with other creeks and it contributes to floodplain data and long-term flood and water volume records. *Commissioner Billman* noted that the data was useful for stream channel and floodplain map changes. The data is the oldest data set in Anchorage and for much of the State. Because of the loss of fund contributions, the gauges would likely be shut down otherwise.

Commissioner Kent opened discussion about a Commission resolution in support of these gauges. Discussion followed about the importance of the stream data relative to different sections of the Bowl with differing levels of disturbance and development. The Commission felt it was important to also note that the data supports and/or complements the resources spent by the Municipality on stream and habitat restoration projects over the past decade or so. The gauges were important for long-range planning. For all these reasons, they should be continued.

Commissioner Kent made a motion for a recommended resolution of support. *Commissioner Bosch* seconded.

The motion to support the continued operation of the existing long-term Anchorage Bowl stream gauges was approved unanimously.

B. Election of Officers

Commissioner Jokela nominated Commissioner Deák to be the new Commission Chair. *Commissioner Nyman* seconded.

Without further discussion, the nomination process for Chair was closed.

The motion to elect Commissioner Deák as Chair was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Kent nominated Commissioner Bosch to be the Vice Chair. *Commissioner Nyman* seconded.

Without further discussion, the nomination process for Vice Chair was closed.

The motion to elect Commissioner Bosch as Vice Chair was approved unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2010 Commission Actions & Goals Discussion

Discussion did not take place.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.