



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 P.M.
Wednesday, November 24, 2010

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Community Development Department,
Planning Division, Long-Range Planning Section

Guests: Kathy Bourke-Parker, Consultant, Stream Restoration Projects Coordinator
Holly Spoth-Torres, Parks Superintendent, MOA-Parks and Recreation
Department, Park Development and Natural Resources Division
Mel Langdon, Watershed Hydrologist, MOA-Public Works Department,
Project Management and Engineering Division, Watershed Management
Section

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:09 p.m.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of October 27, 2010

Commissioner Billman moved to approve the October 27, 2010 minutes as written.
Commissioner Bosch seconded.

The October 27, 2010 minutes were passed unanimously as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report on Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), Watershed Management Section's Stream Projects

Kathy Bourke-Parker, contractor for the Watershed Management Section, offered an update on the more significant municipal stream restoration projects. This is an ongoing program initiated in 2002. Projects, including current planning and active restoration work, now span activities in Chester Creek, Ship Creek, Campbell, and Little Campbell Creeks. Focus remains on salmon restoration activities and fixing priority culverts identified in an Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) report. Removal of fish passage barriers and reduction of floodplain are the highest priority projects. Projects often end up with unforeseen challenges and adjustments during construction, which require change orders and budget adjustments. Many culvert fix projects include floodplain reductions and costs to private landowners and resolved chronic icing problems. The current Pacific Coastal Salmon Restoration Fund and Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund cycle ends in March 2011. The MOA will need to request funds in the new cycle.

Commissioner Pawlowski asked about the program's sustainability given the local match requirements. Ms. Bourke-Parker noted that the MOA is committed to the program and its long-term restoration goals. The Commission should show support for the long-term creek restoration projects.

B. Homeless Camps in Municipal Parks and Greenbelts

Commissioner Billman introduced this item as one that he has been curious and concerned about relative to homeless camps within the greenbelts and floodplains. He wanted the Commission to know what the municipal policies and management approaches were to homeless camps and if the Municipality needed advice on the issue relative to impacts to stream corridors.

Holly Spoth-Torres, Municipal Parks Superintendent, provided background from the Parks and Recreation Department's perspective. A recent lawsuit with the ACLU and the Municipality has dictated what role Parks and Recreation can have in managing these camps. The Parks staff can approach these sites to resolve an outstanding issue if an activity is illegal. The Anchorage Police Department is not responding to these items otherwise. The Parks and Recreation Department is addressing urban forest issues in the greenbelts and around the homeless camps, relative to safety and habitat management. Vegetation is removed or managed for safety and

natural functions, especially for bank stabilization. Homeless camps are a public health, housing, and safety issue, as well as a greenbelt/habitat issue.

Discussion centered on concerns about extensive tree removals near these sites and in the greenbelts in general. Some members noted that there should be a mapping program to identify homeless camps, extent of damages, and extent of tree clearing along streams. This would help manage both aspects of the program. *Commissioner Pawlowski* stated that a municipal database and mapping program would assist agency coordination and management. *Ms. Spoth-Torres* suggested that the Commission could provide recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Department relative to municipal management and coordination of homeless camps management.

V. OLD BUSINESS (none)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.