



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, March 30, 2011

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Dan Bosch
Tamás Deák
Brett Jokela
Captain Bob Pawlowski

Absent: Holly Kent
David Nyman
Rick Sinnott

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

Guests: Erika McConnell, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning Section, Planning Division, MOA-Community Development Department

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:10 p.m.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of February 2, 2011

Commissioner Pawlowski moved to approve the February 2, 2011 minutes as written.
Commissioner Jokela seconded.

The February 2, 2011 minutes were passed as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sport Fishing in Anchorage – Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) Overview for Anchorage Creeks and Discussion of Policies and Practices

Dan Bosch, ADFG-Southcentral Region Sport Fishery Manager, offered an overview of sport fishing information from the Anchorage area. *Commissioner Bosch* produced several salmon distribution maps for the Anchorage streams. He also included handouts with an executive summary of an economic data survey, which showed the various economic contributions that sport fishing has provided to the Anchorage economy (e.g., Ship Creek fishery contributes upwards of \$7 million to Anchorage).

Commissioner Bosch also spoke about ADFG's new Ship Creek Hatchery, which will produce stock for area lakes and streams, which benefits Anchorage residents and visitors. The Hatchery staff has counted over 63,000 visitors to the facility in each of several past years.

There was some discussion about the issue of bear conflicts that might increase with more stocking and release programs. *Commissioner Bosch* said ADFG feels that the stocking program has little to no effect on bear issues since all Anchorage streams include historical native runs and resident fish.

Commissioner Billman discussed ongoing concerns about riparian habitat impacts from increasing angler access and use. *Commissioner Bosch* noted that ADFG manages release streams and areas to take pressure off of the more sensitive streams with more limited access; e.g., Glacier Creek in Girdwood.

The Commission discussed how the Ship Creek Hatchery facility could be of major economic and educational benefit to the community and the local economy. It was decided that the Commission would consider ways to bring that fact to the attention of the Administration. Staff agreed to investigate the best method to convey to the Administration the sport fishery benefits to the community, either via a letter from the Commission or a resolution.

B. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Public and Agency Participation

Erika McConnell, Senior Planner in the Transportation Section of the Planning Division, offered an overview of the update process for the *Anchorage Long-Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP), which is required every five years. This planning process is intended to produce contemporary strategies for future road and transportation projects that implement the Comprehensive Plan.

The LRTP, which is now being identified as the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan*, is meant to solve major transportation conflicts and prioritize projects that fit with funding schemes and allotments. The new *Metropolitan Transportation Plan* must conform to federal transportation laws and programs, and it will combine planning recommendations for the Anchorage Bowl and Chugiak-Eagle River. The planning team is required to undertake environmental consults with various entities, including the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission.

Ms. McConnell will be asking the Commission to review certain portions and new road alignments of the plan for environmental concerns relative to streams and fish and wildlife habitats. She will introduce the draft plan later this year.

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 1:15 p.m.