



Municipality of Anchorage
Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Room 155 - City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Dan Bosch
David Nyman
Captain Bob Pawlowski
Rick Sinnott

Excused: Tamás Deák
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent

One Vacancy

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

Guests: Christine Moore, MOA-Internal Audit Division

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of April 27, 2011

Commissioner Pawlowski moved to approve the April 27, 2011 minutes as written.
Commissioner Billman seconded.

The April 27, 2011 minutes were passed as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. *West Anchorage District Plan* - Preview

Staff presented an overview of the *West Anchorage District Plan*, which is currently in the public hearing draft phase. This plan is scheduled to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission in late September. The Community Development Department asked that the Commission review and consider making comments and recommendations on those sections of the Plan that are relevant to the Commission's purview.

Staff outlined the sections of the Plan that relate to or include wildlife and habitat, which mainly focus on a suite of parcels around the perimeter of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA). Several parcels within the TSAIA boundary and owned by the airport are currently used by the public for parks and recreation functions. These parcels include areas of Kincaid Park (Little Campbell Lake), areas where the Coastal Trail meanders, and Connor's Lake Park. Because of FAA regulations, these areas cannot be simply given or sold to the MOA for park purposes; and should the airport need more land for runways or other uses, these parcels could be turned into airport facilities at any time.

TSAIA has also had a long-term interest in establishing a new North-South (N-S) runway west of the existing N-S runway. The acreage for this future runway lies on land owned by the MOA, including AWWU reserves, Point Woronzof Park, and Heritage Land Bank sites. The *West Anchorage District Plan* highlights all aspects of these airport parcel conflicts and recognizes that there are few options for resolution. It concludes that the optimal solution is for the MOA and TSAIA to trade or otherwise find a means to acquire lands that each owns for their specific long-term needs: TSAIA would trade the various park parcels it owns for use of MOA lands where a future runway would be built. There has been considerable public interest in this airport area parcel issue as well as the issue of a new runway and airport growth impacts in general. There has been a mixed reception to the idea of a comprehensive land trade.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Boards and Commissions Sunset Ordinance/Internal Commission Audit

Christine Moore from the MOA Internal Audit Division gave an overview of her section's audit of the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission (Watershed Commission). The recent boards and commissions ordinance attached sunset provisions to most boards and commissions. The Watershed Commission was assigned a sunset date of October 2011. The MOA Internal Audit Section is required to complete an audit of each commission that is due to sunset. These audits are submitted to the Mayor's Office and the Assembly. At the time of this meeting, the Watershed Commission's audit was not yet complete. Each audit reviews and summarizes a commission's efficiency, resolutions, and processing of information and recommendations for the Municipality's interests.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Billman inquired about follow-up on the submission of Watershed Commission resolutions. To whom are these sent once they are finalized? *Staff* responded that all resolutions are sent to the Watershed Commission's standard list, the Mayor's Office, the Assembly, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Some are also sent to a requesting agency and to the MOA Watershed Management Section.

Commissioner Billman noted that he had been in communication with the new state Department of Fish and Game Ship Creek Hatchery manager, and they are working on finding the best time for the Commission to hold a meeting there and get a tour. It will be this fall.

VII. STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sinnott moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Nyman* seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.