



Municipality of Anchorage
Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

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

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Dan Bosch
Brett Jokela
Captain Bob Pawlowski
Rick Sinnott
4 Vacant Seats

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

Guests: Tamás Deák
David Nyman
Cherie Northon, Executive Director of the Anchorage Waterways Council

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of July 27, 2011

Commissioner Billman moved to approve the July 27, 2011 minutes as written. *Commissioner Jokela* seconded.

[Staff clarified that Watershed Commission resolutions are supposed to go out to the Mayor's Office, the Assembly, and other relevant boards and commission.]

The July 27, 2011 minutes were passed as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. *Watershed Plans* – Overview of Chester Creek and Little Campbell Creek Watershed Plan revisions

Cherie Northon from the Anchorage Waterways Council gave an overview of the current planning process underway for two municipal watershed plans. The Waterways Coalition has been hired to update both the Chester Creek and Little Campbell Creek Watershed Plans. The USFWS is funding the plan updates and the Waterways Council is working with a technical advisory group on the plan revisions/updates. Revisions to each plan will reflect new channel and land conditions, new maps, and new policies and goals for each system. A revised project for creek enhancements and an updated policy list will be included for each, which is to also include project prioritizations. The section on invasive species will be expanded. The plan revision schedule is still being developed but will include adoption by 2012.

Commissioner Jokela requested that the Waterways Council update the Watershed Commission quarterly.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. WNRC 11-02, *West Anchorage District Plan* – Consideration for Resolution

Staff presented an overview of the *West Anchorage District Plan* and highlighted sections of the Plan that are relevant to the Watershed Commission. Specifically, this focused on how the Plan proposes to resolve a longstanding land use and ownership conflict with numerous parcels around and within the airport boundary. Many airport-owned parcels have been historically used for public park and recreation activities while the airport's long-range plans involve an interest in MOA lands. The planning process found that the only clear path towards resolving these land use conflicts, to preserve public uses and create permanent airport buffers near neighborhoods was to have the MOA acquire certain airport lands. The Plan advocates for a comprehensive land trade involving a swap of certain MOA parcels for certain airport parcels.

Several commissioners noted that the comprehensive land trade would resolve long-term public use conflicts, and it is the main item in the Plan relevant to the Commission. Since it seems that the airport could use eminent domain to obtain lands it might need in the future, the trade makes sense.

Commissioner Billman initiated discussion and ideas for a Commission resolution in support of the land trade element of the *West Anchorage District Plan*. He offered several findings in support of the Plan's recommendations to resolve land use conflicts. It was evident that the Commission also supports airport growth and the importance of long-term airport development.

Commissioner Jokela moved to direct staff to draft a resolution for the Commission in support of the *West Anchorage District Plan* that includes items from this meeting's discussion, and then circulate it through Commissioner Billman to the rest of the Commission for review, comment, and additions.

Commissioner Sinnott seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS (none)

VII. STAFF REPORT (none)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.