



**Municipality of Anchorage**  
**Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission**

Room 155 - City Hall  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

***ACTION SUMMARY***

12:00 Noon  
Wednesday, December 21, 2011

***Regular Meeting***

**I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

*Present:* Dan Billman  
Dan Bosch  
Tamás Deák, Chair  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
David Nyman  
Captain Bob Pawlowski  
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair  
*One Vacant Seat*

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

*Guests:* Karen Keesecker, Associate Planner, MOA-Community Development  
Department, Long-Range Planning Section  
Tom Davis, Senior Planner, MOA-Community Development Department,  
Long-Range Planning Section

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**III. ACTION SUMMARY**

**A. Regular Meeting of November 23, 2011**

*Commissioner Pawlowski* moved to approve the November 23, 2011 minutes as written.  
*Commissioner Billman* seconded.

**The November 23, 2011 minutes were passed as written.**

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. WNRC 11-05, Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan – Technical Draft**

*Karen Keesecker* is managing this project for the Community Development Department's Long-Range Planning Section. She offered an overview of the revision process, which updates the 1996 Plan. This revision focuses on complete new wetlands mapping and an updated Table 2-Management Strategies section. The MOA wetland maps will be fully revised to reflect areas filled since 1996, new wetlands delineated, and existing wetland boundary adjustments. She hoped to receive input from the Commission on technical issues within their areas of expertise and responsibility.

The Plan is currently under a technical, in-house review, and Ms. Keesecker hopes to release a Public Hearing Draft later this winter.

The Commission suggested that the Plan revision include a description about the decision to not include intertidal wetland areas and that the Planning Division consider adding the intertidal/marine wetland boundaries to the new maps.

Commissioners also suggested that the Plan have a table and discussion that articulates wetlands acres permitted and filled for each wetland designation through present.

Some members had concerns that the Plan provide some guidance to providing setbacks in upland areas that are contiguous to wetlands—neither the Wetlands Plan, nor current Title 21 provide for such setbacks. (*Note that the new Title 21 requires 15-foot setbacks from certain wetland areas.*)

##### **B. WNRC 11-06, Title 21 Amendments**

Tom Davis, Title 21 Project Manager from the Community Development Department's Long-Range Planning Section, gave an overview of the Title 21 process. The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Assembly gave provisional approval to a full revision of Title 21, which is now going forward for final review and approval, with a suite of amendments from the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's amendments come as a subset of items recommended by a consultant to modify the provisional code.

Tom noted that Amendment #s 57 and 59 were directly tied to the Watershed Commission's duties and responsibilities. These amendments address the consultant's Major Category #27 relative to problems with the provisional code's stream setbacks. The Mayor's amendment #57 deals with stream setbacks and changes the setback distances and details from the provisional code; specifically, stream setbacks are proposed by the Mayor to change from the new recommendation of 50 feet back to the current code setback of 25 feet. Land use regulations within the new/reverted setback area have also been changed by amendment #59.

Mr. Davis suggested that the Watershed Commission could provide comments in this final adoption and amendment process by the end of January for inclusion. It would be ideal if these comments also included rationale for the Commission's recommendations for how best to treat

setback distances and land uses within these. Mr. Davis will provide web site links to items for the Commission to review for their next meeting.

The Commission briefly discussed stream setback distances and how it is difficult to provide for a single setback width for the various sized stream channels in the Municipality.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.