



Municipality of Anchorage
Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Room 525 - City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

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
Cherie Northon

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

Erika McConnell, Senior Planner, Community Development Department,
Planning Division, Transportation Planning Section

Guest: Bill Rice, Hydrologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:06 p.m.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of January 18, 2012

Commissioner Billman moved to approve the January 18, 2012 minutes as written.
Commissioner Sinnott seconded.

The January 18, 2012 minutes were passed as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Areawide Trails Plan

Erika McConnell, MOA-Transportation Planning, provided an overview of the current planning process underway for a full revision to the 1997 *Areawide Trails Plan*. Since 1997, the MOA has merged its trails planning documents into a 3-part system: the Pedestrian Plan, the Bike Plan, and the Areawide Trails Plan. The planning team is now in the initial stages of the plan update, highlighted by a public outreach process and a trail user survey. Planners are meeting with and obtaining input from trail user groups, with the hope of soliciting new trail ideas and links that may have been missed in the original plan or are otherwise not included in it. The team expects a draft plan sometime this fall, with the adoption of a final plan sometime in 2013.

Commissioner Billman and the other commissioners offered some basic trails policy ideas for the planning team to consider. These are important companion issues to simplify the location of new trails. These policies included trail design, and in some cases re-designs, to avoid wildlife and important habitats; at-grade vs. above-grade trail crossings of roads, waterways, habitats, etc.; consideration of new parking or no parking at certain new trailheads; ownership of land where future trails might go (e.g., TSAIA); safety closures of trails for flooding, wildlife, etc.; congruence of trails with utility easements.

Commissioners thought it might be important to offer the planning team a summary of trails policies to be considered and/or incorporated into the plan. They also thought it important that the plan include trail prioritization and consideration of the inclusion of funding. For instance, if an entity (community council, user group) brings funds to a trail project, does that push the project higher on the priority list? The Commission would like to brainstorm this list of policies at a future meeting.

B. Chester Creek Watershed Plan

Bill Rice, staff hydrologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, gave an overview of the process to revise the *Chester Creek Watershed Plan*. There is a planning team now working on a full update and revision to this first MOA watershed plan. The team is working on a consensus on the plan's focus and approval process (to the Assembly as a Comprehensive Plan element). The team will make this older document conform to the content and layout of the *Little Campbell Creek Watershed Plan*. These plans are mandated by the MOA's APDES Permit and *Anchorage 2020*. The Commission agreed that once this plan is far enough along, the planning team will present the basics and seek any additional needed input.

V. OLD BUSINESS (none)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.