



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

### **Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission**

Room 525 - City Hall  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

#### ***ACTION SUMMARY***

12:00 Noon  
Wednesday, February 26, 2014

#### ***Regular Meeting***

### **I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

*Present:* Dan Bosch  
Tamás Deák, Chair  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
Cherie Northon  
David Nyman  
Bob Pawlowski  
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

*Excused:* Dan Billman

*Staff:* Nicole Jones-Vogel, Associate Planner, MOA Community Development  
Department, Planning Division, Long-Range Planning Section

*Guests:* Melissa Hall, Manager, State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources  
(DNR)-Alaska Hydrologic Survey  
Wade Strickland, Manager, State of Alaska, Department of Environmental  
Conservation (DEC)-Wastewater Discharge  
Mike Walton, Manager, DNR-Water Management Unit  
Merry Johnson, DNR-Water Resources

### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.

### **III. ACTION SUMMARY**

#### **A. Regular Meeting of January 15, 2014**

*Commissioner Pawlowski* moved to approve the January 15, 2014 minutes.

*Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

**The minutes for the January 15, 2014 meeting were approved as written.**

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Temporary Water Use and Water Discharge Authorization Process— Chester Creek, State of Alaska DNR and DEC Staff**

Staff introduced the presentation topic and the team of presenters: Melissa Hill, DNR Manager; Wade Strickland, DEC Manager; and Mike Walton, DNR Manager.

- Melissa Hill introduced the UMED District area's cooling well locations and provided an overview of past and proposed monitoring requirements and upcoming changes to permit conditions. Commissioners interjected and asked several questions regarding reinjection, closed systems, and direct discharge into waterbodies. Temperature of the discharge water at Chester Creek was discussed at length, and questions about the reporting requirements were answered.
- Mike Walton provided a background of permitting since 2004. Mr. Walton reviewed and adjudicated Temporary Water Use Permit (TWUP) for many years, and did a review of those permits prior to presenting at this meeting. None of the permits requested were objected by agency reviewers; TWUPs do not require public notice, but agency review only. Any amount of water use must be permitted by DNR; there is no *de minimus* amount of withdrawal that bypasses a DNR review and permitting procedure. Most of the cooling wells in the Anchorage Bowl were issued under a TWUP; however, there are a few cooling wells that have a Water Rights permit.
- Wade Strickland discussed DEC's role in permitting discharges into waterbodies. DEC received the NPDES (renamed APDES) from the EPA in 2008 and has been incorporating new phases of permitting. In 2012 DEC received phase IV, which included cooling water discharge. Prior to the State of Alaska receiving the NPDES permit, there were three State cooling water discharge permits. DEC is currently working on creating General Permits for cooling water discharges, and a Chester Creek GP will be out for Public Notice in April 2014. MOA Watershed Management Services (WMS) permits discharges from the structure to the stream or waterbody and DEC permits discharges into the waterbody. There are some instances where the EPA permits discharges, one of them being discharges into federal waters (three miles off the coast).

The Commissioners raised many questions throughout the presentations and parted on questions pertaining to supply, mapping efforts, and the need to study cumulative effects of water use in the MOA. DNR will follow up providing R&M report of Chester Creek temperatures and a map of cooling well locations, which staff will forward to the Commissioners.

*Staff note:* While it was not mentioned in the meeting, the Commissioners should be aware that MOA Long-Range Planning staff (Tobish and Jones-Vogel) both receive and review all TWUPs issued by DNR within in the MOA. Additionally, efforts were recently made to include WMS in these TWUP notifications. DNR staff agreed to include WMS in all TWUP notifications.

**V. NEW BUSINESS (none)**

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS (none)**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.