



## **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, April 23, 2014

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

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

*Present:* Dan Billman  
Dan Bosch  
Tamás Deák, Chair  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
David Nyman  
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

*Excused:* Cherie Northon  
Bob Pawlowski

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

*Guests:* Northern Access Road Project Team  
–Rachel Steer, Patrick Whitesell, Stewart Osgood, Kristen Hansen, Brad  
Melocik – DOWL HKM  
–Jim Amundsen, Eric Miyashiro – Alaska Department of Transportation &  
Public Facilities (ADOT&PF)  
Cathy Gleason, Turnagain Community Council

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

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

### **III. ACTION SUMMARY**

#### **A. Regular Meeting of March 26, 2014**

*Commissioner Nyman* moved to approve the March 26, 2014 minutes.

*Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

**The minutes for the March 26, 2014 meeting were approved as written.**

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Northern Access to U-Med District – State of Alaska Road Project**

*Staff* introduced the discussion and explained that the Commission attempts to receive briefings and offer relevant comments on road and other large-scale projects during the scoping and design phases, rather than closer to the permitting and final design timeframes. This approach enables the Commission's findings to positively contribute to project designs that mitigate for and address wildlife impacts and relevant hydrology concerns.

*Patrick Whitesell* with *DOWL HKM* introduced the topic and provided information on the planning and design process to date. The planning effort includes a seven-party MOU and an executive steering committee. The MOU parties signed a resolution of support of the design and planning process to this point. Key drivers for the design include challenging environmental conditions, major utility conflicts in the corridor, and a fixed budget for design and construction. *DOWL HKM* presented a concept alignment, which includes: three roundabouts, a new signal at Northern Lights and Bragaw, three overhead/grade-separated pedestrian crossings, two travel lanes for 30 mph, and an 80' ROW with an urban section and curb and gutter. The planning team felt that the 30-mph travel speed, the extensive lighting plans, and associated site-distance clearing contribute to minimizing wildlife conflicts.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions about design and potential impacts to local hydrology and new outfalls for collected stormwater in the new roadway. The Commission asked the team to consider wildlife crossings on elevated sections and to minimize fill in wetlands and using wetlands as treatment for runoff before it enters ponds and Mosquito Lake.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

*Commissioner Kent* moved to adopt draft WNRC Resolution No.2014-02, which recommends that the municipal Planning Division modify Title 21 to restrict certain fence types that are known wildlife hazards.

*Commissioner Nyman* seconded.

**The motion to adopt WNRC Resolution No. 2014-02 passed unanimously.**

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS**

The Commission agreed to hold the May 2014 regular meeting at the State's Ship Creek fish hatchery.

The Commission suggested that staff and Commissioner Jokela look into a presentation from the APU team researching the Eklutna Glacier.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.