



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

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

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Dan Bosch
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
Cherie Northon
David Nyman
Bob Pawlowski

Excused: Tamás Deák, Chair
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

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

Guests: Stewart Osgood, P.E., and Mel Langdon, P.E., DOWL HKM

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:09 p.m.

In the absence of both the Commission Chair and Vice Chair, *Commissioner Northon* nominated Commissioner Pawlowski as temporary Chair.

Commissioner Nyman seconded.

The Commission unanimously approved Commissioner Pawlowski as temporary Chair.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of June 25, 2014

Commissioner Bosch moved to approve the June 25, 2014 minutes.

Commissioner Billman seconded.

The minutes for the June 25, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. U-Med Northern Access Road Project —Briefing on Project Hydrology and Wetlands

Stewart Osgood, P.E., from DOWL HKM, Project Manager of the U-Med Northern Access Road Project, introduced the DOWL HKM project team and gave an overview of the road project's schedule, goals, and objectives. He noted that the latest design alternative is the Orange Alignment, and he explained the cross-sections and typical plan/engineering views of that alignment's current design features. The DOWL HKM team is still resolving some outstanding issues, including submission of the Corps permit application.

Mel Langdon, P.E., from DOWL HKM provided an overview of the project's existing soils and hydrologic conditions, which included historical data via soils and topo maps and aerial photo sequences. The alignment contains 12-20' of peat in places. The plan is to remove the deeper peat (in winter) and backfill road sections with NFS gravels to a finish grade of 4' above existing. Geotextile will be wrapped under fill and cross-culverts will be set at or lower than existing ground.

Ms. Langdon confirmed that there is a substantial topo and hydrologic divide in the project area's northwest corner towards Goose Lake. Goose Lake was enlarged in the 1950s, and the area had minor to significant hydrologic changes over the years due to the placement of East Northern Lights Boulevard, a 1970s main sewer trunk line, and UAA buildings in the 1980s. Mosquito Lake area includes lacustrine fine sediments, while Goose Lake includes sandy alluvium. The MOA's wetland mapping reflects the underlying geology and soils profiles.

Mosquito Lake is perched with some occasional outflows in the past to the south. The planning team did some new data gathering on soils and local hydrology. DOWL HKM reports that the Goose Lake wetlands will not be impacted by the road project. The Mosquito Lake wetlands will be bisected in part by the road; but since it is a perched, groundwater-fed system, it will be unaffected. The road project will not alter groundwater volumes or flow patterns. The team

reports that 75% of the road's new runoff will stay in the drainage basin—the north and south ends of the road will take water away into the local storm drains. The road will be designed per the MOA's Design Criteria Manual (DCM) for sediment treatment. Rock-lined sediment ponds will hold and treat road surface runoff. In response to a commission question, DOWL HKM notes that the project engineer is prepared to respond to and redesign for the presence of running sands should any be found in construction.

The Commission noted that the placement of trench blocks in the gravel road bed backfill should be considered near the north or south ends to reduce water outflow along the road bed. This may well be a condition of the Corps permit also.

V. NEW BUSINESS (None)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.