



## **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, January 28, 2015

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

*Guests:* Mike Petrula and Kyle Smith, State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game

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

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

#### **III. ACTION SUMMARY**

##### **A. Regular Meeting of October 22, 2014**

*Commissioner Pawlowski* moved to approve the October 22, 2014 minutes.

*Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

**The minutes for the October 22, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously as written.**

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

##### **A. Waterfowl Concentrations in Municipal Parks, ADFG**

Mike Petrula and Kyle Smith from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) presented information and some preliminary findings on their waterfowl studies in the Anchorage Bowl. Given concerns that both the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the Anchorage Waterways Council have with fecal coliform in local waterbodies, ADFG wanted to find out more about bird numbers and uses of local ponds, especially in winter when concentrations are highest. ADFG gathered general information on movements, distribution, and population in the Bowl.

Highest concentrations were at Cuddy Park and Eastchester Lagoon and a few other sites. They marked mallards to monitor winter movements and distribution. They initiated blood sampling to attempt to identify winter diets and bacterial load, and for the presence of avian influenza. The main goal of the study was to provide baseline population information and local winter biology (food and diet) to support other agency studies and future management decisions. There is no funding to do water quality sampling or to assess bank stability at sites. Biologists have preliminarily determined that the local winter mallard populations do not pose a bacterial risk and that the birds survive reasonably well by moving between a few regular sites.

ADFG hopes to release preliminary results of this study in April 2015. The Commission noted that there are concerns about the contribution that this non-migratory population has on water quality in certain creek systems and secondary impacts to streamside bank stability and erosion. They also asked that ADFG attempt to quantify what the carrying capacity is for certain sites (especially Cuddy Park and Eastchester Lagoon), i.e., how many ducks can the area support before bacterial loads and increasing coliform are realized.

##### **B. Bear Safety in the Chester Creek Watershed**

The Commission asked that staff request the presence of representatives from Solid Waste Services and Alaska Waste to discuss updates and ongoing concerns about bear vs. trash conflicts in the Municipality. Discussion was tabled till that can occur.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS (none)**

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.