



## **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, October 21, 2015

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

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

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

*Excused:* Dan Bosch  
Brett Jokela

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

*Guest:* Barbara Karl, Airport Heights 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 August 19, 2015**

*Commissioner Billman* moved to approve the August 19, 2015 minutes as written.

*Commissioner Pawlowski* seconded.

**The minutes for the August 19, 2015 meeting were approved as written.**

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

##### **A. Stream Protection Ordinance, Draft WNRC Resolution No. 2015-02**

*Commissioner Billman* moved to approve the *draft* Stream Protection Ordinance Resolution No. 2015-02 as written.

*Commissioner Nyman* seconded.

The Commission agreed there was no need for discussion or amendments to the resolution. WNRC Resolution No. 2015-02 and the draft ordinance reflect the Commission's findings and earlier recommendations.

**WNRC Resolution No. 2015-02 passed unanimously as proposed.**

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Report/Discussion on WNRC Resolution No. 2015-01 Regarding Government Hill Garbage and Distribution of WNRC Resolutions**

The Commission reopened discussion on Resolution No. 2015-01 following receipt of letters from the Assembly, the Rogers Park Community Council, and an email from the Government Hill Community Council voicing concerns. All the correspondence focused on the senders taking exception to the item in the resolution that recommended Solid Waste Services (SWS) require curbside garbage pick-up for Government Hill as a means of minimizing bear-garbage conflicts. The Assembly and both community councils offered more background about the importance of alleys to each area and the prior history of negotiations with SWS to provide alley garbage pick-up. The Commission noted some surprise since the discussions with SWS staff did not offer this information or background.

The Commission tried to understand what the community councils wanted, which was for the Commission to have honored past history and agreements between them and SWS. Commissioners noted that the Watershed Commission is an advisory body, which periodically offers advice on relevant issues and policy recommendations to the Mayor, the Assembly, and other commissions. The body generally decided that it should respond via letter format to the Assembly and two community councils.

In short, it should be conveyed that the Commission never intended the curbside pick-up recommendation as the definitive action to cease bear-garbage conflicts. The Commission's intent and thinking behind the recommendation should be clarified and explained. It should be noted that the resolution was a response to the information provided by SWS. The Commission wishes to work with the Assembly, the community councils, and SWS to fine-tune garbage policies and strategies to reduce bear-garbage conflicts. The Chair agreed to initiate a draft letter of response for review.

**B. Follow-up to WNRC Resolution No 2014-003 Regarding U-Med Northern Access Route**

Staff outlined an issue that came up following Resolution No. 2014-03, dated June 25, 2014, which recommended that the Northern Access design team evaluate the use of certain features to reduce wildlife conflicts with the future road. The planning team voiced concern that it was not properly appraised of the existence or content of this resolution until much later in the processing of the road project. The team felt that it had offered adequate responses to the Commission's concerns from its April 2014 meeting when they described certain design elements that addressed wildlife issues. Staff took blame for the miscommunications around the presentation and timing of the resolution and noted that the resolution was not forwarded to the planning team until the project was before the Planning and Zoning Commission. At that time, the Watershed Commission's resolution was noted as an outstanding issue and the road planning team had not had the opportunity to formally respond to the recommendations.

The Commission reiterated that the design features noted by the planning team at its April 2014 presentation did not address the concerns of the Commission. The project moved forward past the Planning and Zoning Commission. Staff noted its lack of posting the Watershed Commission's resolution. Staff is working to fine-tune the Commission's web page to provide for timely presentation of links to passed resolutions. And all future resolutions will be sent immediately after passage to appropriate and relevant parties. The Commission asked staff to monitor the review process of the Northern Access Road project and alert the Commission to any future approval milestones that might provide opportunity for a Commission review and comment.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT**

**All members offered appreciation for service and best of luck to outgoing Commissioner Pawlowski. This was his last official meeting.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Kent moved to adjourn. Commissioner Sinnott seconded.*

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.