



## **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 27, 2016

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

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

*Present:* Dan Billman  
Dan Bosch  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

*Excused:* Tamás Deák, Chair  
Cherie Northon  
David Nyman  
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson

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

*Guests:* Brad Meiklejohn, The Conservation Fund  
Joe Miller, HDR Alaska  
Angela Bolton, AWWU  
Government Hill Community Council Representative  
Iris Mathews-President, Rogers Park Community Council

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:10 p.m.

### **III. ACTION SUMMARY**

#### **A. Regular Meeting of March 30, 2016**

*Commissioner Bosch* moved to approve the March 30, 2016 minutes as written.  
*Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

**The minutes for the March 30, 2016 meeting were approved as written.**

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference Update**

Angela Bolton, AWWU staff member, gave an update on a Hydrology Conference she attended recently with information relevant to the Commission. One focus item included a Runoff Model that was being implemented in some areas to monitor watersheds in the Lower 48. Another program was the Glacier Model, which uses remote sensing LIDAR to manage and monitor floodplains. It is also contributing to climate change effects monitoring in coastal communities, source water protection policies, and watershed dynamic changes. Ms. Bolton will update the Commission on these models as they are changed or if there is opportunity to put to use in Anchorage.

#### **B. Eklutna Dam Removal Project Overview**

Brad Meiklejohn from the Conservation Fund and Joe Miller from HDR Alaska gave an overview presentation on this dam removal project located on the Eklutna River near the AWWU facility on the lower end of the watershed. This is an orphan, non-functioning old dam built in 1929.

Although five species of salmon use the Eklutna River, all appear to be impeded by downstream obstacles and this dam from moving upriver to spawning and overwinter areas. Nearly all of the Eklutna River water volume below the lake is reserved and used by the Eklutna Power Plant and AWWU treatment facility. River fish habitat has slowly declined since the dam was constructed and since the lake was dammed above. Most of the substrate is sandy. The old dam reservoir is filled with sands up to a mile upriver.

The Conservation Fund is partnering with Eklutna, Inc, to remove the dam and restore fish passage to the entire river to the lake. Work will begin in summer 2016 in a stage construction process. The removal plan was reached after considerable analysis of potential methods. The restoration process to increase water volumes once the dam is removed has yet to be concluded. The proponents offered to update the Commission when progress for that action had been reached.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. WNRC Resolution No. 2016-01, Bear-Garbage Issues**

Following previous meetings and discussions with Assembly members and representatives from Government Hill, South Addition, and Rogers Park Community Councils, the Commission took action to revisit their earlier resolution on bear-garbage conflicts. They reviewed and discussed a new revised/changed resolution that better addresses the long-term and areawide issues and concerns about bears in garbage. They agreed to remove the last “Whereas” item in the draft new resolution (No. 2016-01), since it was considered anecdotal and doesn’t change the intent of the resolution.

*Commissioner Bosch* moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-01 with the agreed-to modifications. *Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

**The motion passed without objection.**

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.