



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

City Hall, Room 525
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Tamás Deák, Chair
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
Paul McLarnon
David Nyman
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson (via phone)
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair
Simon Wigren

One Vacancy

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

Guests: Hans Thompson, South Addition citizen
Tim Stallard, Anchorage Park Foundation, Invasive Plant Program
Matt Labrenz, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage Outreach Center
Gino Graziano, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage Outreach Center

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A Disclosure Forms Update

A copy of the form was handed out to commissioners.

IV. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of December 19, 2018

Commissioner Deák moved to approve the December 19, 2018 minutes as written. *Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

The minutes for the December 19, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Use of Herbicide on Bird Cherry along Chester Creek – Hans Thompson

Hans Thompson, representing himself, requested that the Commission provide guidance to the Parks and Recreation Department and the State Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources to allow the application of herbicides within 150' of MOA streams as part of the program to eliminate or control bird cherry and related invasives.

The invasives removal team wants to attack this issue along Chester Creek and in Valley of the Moon Park where bird cherry is choking native riparian plants, threatening moose health, and compromising public safety—all problems associated with this plant. The commonly used herbicide is glyphosate, typically applied with spray or painting methods and with a “frilling” process. Some research shows this chemical to have impacts on human and aquatic resources; it is considered the best available product for this project and the application is considered the least invasive. The Commission asked questions about the methods, efficacy, and safety of applying the herbicide.

Tim Stallard from the Invasive Plant Program and expert from the Cooperative Extension Service provided answers and additional details about the chemicals and their application methods and the administration of the invasive program in general. Their goal is to eradicate and keep bird cherry plants out of native habitats. Mr. Thompson and the invasive program team want the Commission to offer its support of the program to eradicate this invasive species and to apply glyphosate and other herbicides within the MOA creek setbacks.

Does the Commission consider the use of glyphosate as a safe mechanism for eradication? Several local community councils passed resolutions of support. The Commission agreed to revisit and debate this request at its February meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2015-02, Bears-Garbage Conflicts – Solid Waste, Garbage Proposed Standards, New Concepts

Staff was asked to follow up with the Administration about how best to engage the Assembly.

B. Parks and Recreation Collaboration – Follow-up from December

No follow-up was needed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.