



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Virtual Teams Meeting

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Regular Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Establishment of Quorum

Present: Emily Creely
Tamás Deák
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
Paul McLarnon
David Nyman, Chair
Rick Sinnott
Simon Wigren

Excused: Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Vice Chair

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, Planning Department, Long-Range Planning
Tamiah Liebersbach, Health Department Staff to Animal Control Advisory Board
Michael Tierney, Health Department Staff to Animal Control Advisory Board

Guests: Cathy Foerster, Commissioner on Animal Control Advisory Board
Pamela Schamber, Commissioner on Animal Control Advisory Board
Brad Meiklejohn, The Conservation Fund, Alaska

B. Disclosures

No disclosures.

II. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of May 27, 2020

Commissioner Deák moved to approve the May 27, 2020 meeting minutes as written. *Commissioner Kent* seconded.

The May 27, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously as written.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2019-03, Cat Ordinance Continued Discussion with Animal Control Board

Commissioner Sinnott recapped the status of the Commission's Cat Report and the Commission's outreach to the MOA Animal Control Advisory Board to consider taking formal action to address cats in Anchorage. Specifically, the Commission appealed to the Animal Control Advisory Board to pursue cat licensing as a possible first step to treat cats more like dogs, and as a way to begin to control the local feral cat population.

Animal Control Advisory Board staff and members briefed the Commission on previous actions it has attempted to address regarding cat issues, which has not been successful. The Board is currently pursuing an off-leash ordinance amendment, but cat licensing is not on its agenda at this time.

The Board recognizes the concerns about feral cats, but it is a small board saddled with a lot of responsibilities and it has not heard concerns or gotten cues from the Assembly to address feral cats.

Following additional discussion, it was agreed that both advisory bodies will initiate a feral cat subcommittee to fine-tune the feral cat message and develop a course of action moving forward that will also involve the Assembly. Commissioner Sinnott will organize and convene the joint subcommittee.

B. WNRC Case No. 2017-03, Eklutna River Restoration—Need or Not for Resolution Regarding Mitigation Plan

Commissioner Jokela noted that the Commission is concerned about a lack of a study plan for evaluating impacts of releasing high-water and sediment over the upper dam in the fall. What are impacts to sediments and fish habitat? If the Commission is to support this high-water release, it needs to understand the purpose and impacts.

Brad Meiklejohn, from the Conservation Fund, gave a recap of Eklutna Dam and water background and efforts and actions to date on the Eklutna River restoration and this release action.

To date, there is no sediment release study plan, so the subject resolution will help this current effort to address sediments above and downstream of the dam as important to the long-term river restoration.

The Commission agreed to review and revise the current draft resolution and title to focus on initiating the flushing experiment with a study plan as soon as possible. Commissioner Sinnott will review and revise the title and the summary resolve for action to be taken at a special meeting in early July.

IV. NEW BUSINESS (none)

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (none)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.