



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

### **Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission**

Virtual Teams Meeting

#### ***ACTION SUMMARY***

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

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

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:06 p.m.

#### **A. Establishment of Quorum**

*Present:* Emily Creely  
Tamás Deák  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
Paul McLarnon  
David Nyman, Chair  
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Vice Chair  
Rick Sinnott  
Simon Wigren

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

*Guests:* Gino Graziano, Invasive Plants Instructor at the University of Alaska  
Cooperative Extension Service

#### **B. Disclosures**

No disclosures.

### **II. ACTION SUMMARY**

#### **A. Regular Meeting of June 24, 2020**

*Commissioner Deák* moved to approve the June 24, 2020 meeting minutes as written.  
*Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

***The June 24, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously as written.***

## **B. July 15, 2020 Special Meeting**

*Commissioner Deák* moved to approve the Special Meeting of July 15, 2020 minutes as written. *Commissioner Kent* seconded.

Staff should note in minutes the change in WNRC Resolution No. 2020-01 for the fifth *WHEREAS* from the bottom that deletes ~~it is no surprise that~~ before “some water will need to be spilled from Eklutna Lake...”

*The July 15, 2020 Special Meeting minutes were approved unanimously as amended.*

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. WNRC Case No. 2019-01, Report on Bird Cherry Eradication Effort —Gino Graziano, Invasive Plants Instructor at the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service**

*Gino Graziano, Invasive Plants Instructor at the University of Alaska’s Cooperative Extension Service*, provided an overview of the bird cherry eradication efforts as previously shared with the Commission. Research has been initiated with UAA evaluating bird cherry herbicide impacts on control sites. Impacts include how herbicides affect local plant species and soils. Initial findings show there are soils concentrations and some damage to certain plant species.

The Commission suggested that the cumulative impacts of herbicides application be evaluated. *Mr. Graziano* is working on a cumulative impacts assessment at UAF, which includes lab experiments. The intent is to increase the scale of this impacts evaluation on a larger plot size, potentially on a study site in west Russian Jack Park. The area was chosen because of the bird cherry distribution there.

*Mr. Graziano* is coordinating with the Parks and Recreation Department to address their concerns, as well as those of park users and adjacent residents. He is also open to sharing the new study proposal with the Commission and encouraged support.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. WNRC Case No. 2020-01, Land Clearing and Bird Nesting Discussion**

*Commissioner Creely* opened discussion concerning how federal changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act could lead to local impacts from land clearing activities. The changes to this federal program would allow more incidental takes of local wildlife and may change the local bird timing guidelines.

*Commissioner Creely* recommends bringing the USFWS staff to a future meeting to discuss federal guideline changes and what the Commission might consider to advise the Municipality. *Commissioner Creely* will work with staff to liaison with USFWS to fact-find about the Urban Bird Treaty and pursue possible future action.

## **V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (none)**

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

***The motion passed without objection.***

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.