



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

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

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Regular Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:04 p.m.

A. Establishment of Quorum

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

One Vacancy

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

Guests: Meghan Cavanaugh, Alaska Center
Austin Williams Trout Unlimited
Heather Hanson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

B. Disclosures

No disclosures.

II. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Special Meeting of June 12, 2019

Commissioner Deák moved to approve the June 12, 2019 Special Meeting minutes as written. *Commissioner Jokela* seconded.

The minutes for the June 12, 2019 Special Meeting were approved as written.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2017-03, Eklutna River Restoration

Meghan Cavanaugh from the Alaska Center, *Austin Williams* from Trout Unlimited, and *Heather Hanson* of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) offered information about the history of the Eklutna Dam removal and Eklutna River restoration project. Commissioner Quinn-Davidson was asked by project advocates to put the project on the agenda.

Meghan Cavanaugh described that new action on the project included an agency workshop on the restoration project. Fish passage in the Eklutna River is limited by diminished water levels. In a 1991 formal agreement, CEA, MLP, and MEA are required to investigate ways to mitigate the original dam's impacts on fish and wildlife populations by 2022. CEA initiated a study this summer.

By 2027, the dam owners must begin mitigation actions, to be completed by 2032. Stakeholders are seeking a more aggressive timeframe and hoping for Commission and Assembly support. The Commission noted that the restoration actions and timing must represent and account for the needs and management responsibilities of the utility companies.

Austin Williams described the river hydraulics, watershed conditions, and fish populations and distribution. The goal is to restore conditions and fish distribution throughout the watershed. The 2019 summer stakeholder workshop focused on potential restoration actions, target species, watershed reaches, hydraulics, and habitat types, and habitat or physical constraints.

Heather Hanson, USFWS, summarized channel characteristics, sediment history and current conditions in the river. The Commission offered input and ideas for consideration of a draft resolution to come from today's presenters and stakeholders.

B. Herbicides Issue Update (*added to agenda*)

Commissioner Sinnott updated the Commission on the Chester Creek herbicides project status, which had gone from the Commission to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. Commissioner Sinnott and members of the herbicides team testified.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will review the testimony, weigh options, and make a recommendation for the Parks and Recreation Department in September. *Commissioner Sinnott* has asked Parks and Recreation for the testimony so he can respond to technical items he heard at the meeting.

C. WNRC Case No. 2019-03, Cat Ordinance Discussion

Commissioner Sinnott rehashed the background and evolution of this cat ordinance, which focuses on cat issues, management, and licensing in the Municipality. He produced a comprehensive report on management and related issues for the Commission to review and approve for use by the Animal Control Board and the Health Department.

The Commission will review Commissioner Sinnott's list of potential future actions in the back of his report and take up discussion at the September meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)

No persons to be heard.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT

No other business/staff report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.