



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

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

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Regular Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Establishment of Quorum

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

Excused: Paul McLarnon
David Nyman, Chair

One Vacancy

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

Guests: Jason Bockenstedt, Mayor's Office

B. Disclosures

No disclosures.

II. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of October 9, 2019

Commissioner Sinnott moved to approve the October 9, 2019 meeting minutes as written.
Commissioner Jokela seconded.

The October 9, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously as written.

NOTE: The agenda order was changed to take up IV. New Business first, and Old Business was taken up after.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2019-05, Stormwater Utility Project —Jason Bockenstedt

Jason Bokenstedt from the Mayor's Office provided an overview of the Municipality's efforts to research components of establishing a new municipal stormwater utility program. Phase one of this project included a comprehensive identification of the stormwater pipe system and an analysis of the overall conditions of each pipe, accomplished by a remote camera census. This and other details were published in a January 2019 report, which recommended continuing to pursue evaluating and ultimately creating a new utility.

Forty percent of Anchorage Bowl storm pipes are owned by the MOA, another 40% by the state, and the rest by various other private and public owners. Nearly 70% of MOA-owned pipe (400 miles) is damaged or failing and outdated. Pipe maintenance and capital needs are largely covered by property owners.

A new public utility for the Bowl would provide an equitable program with a steady funding source. A long-term utility program would be based on a watershed scale. Future steps include establishing the utility management structure along with operations and maintenance capital needs, proposed fee scale, public engagement, and RCA approval via a certificate. Status quo maintenance of the stormwater system will lead eventually to catastrophic failures.

The Assembly created a new 10-member Stormwater Utility Commission.

NOTE: The remaining agenda resumed from here.

III. OLD BUSINESS

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

Commissioner Sinnott introduced a draft letter from the Commission to the Animal Control Board regarding recommended management considerations for cats in Anchorage. After some initial discussion about the intent and content of this letter, it was agreed that Commissioners should bring comments and ideas about this letter to the December 18 meeting. Following today's suggestions and comments to (1) shorten, (2) clarify the Commission's objectives of these recommendations, and (3) reorganize/refocus the letter, Commissioner Sinnott offered to redraft the letter to be taken up at the December 18 meeting, and members should bring comments.

He reminded the Commission that the Animal Control Board needs this letter to help justify their initiating action on a future cat management ordinance. The intent is to set up a collaboration and agree on a course of action to address management of cats in the Municipality.

**B. WNRC Case No. 2019-04, Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan
—Natural Assets Map**

Tom Davis requested the Commission do one final review of the *2040 Land Use Plan-Natural Assets Map*. The current map version incorporates changes and recommendations from an earlier Commission review in February 2017. This map version still includes old data sets, which have not been updated—the adopted 2040 Land Use Plan includes an action item to update and maintain these natural assets data sets.

The Commission offered some additional map legend and map feature comments today, including showing the limits of anadromous fish and clarifying the lakes coverage as habitat. Members should review this map and bring final comments to the December 18 meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS (taken up before *III. Old Business*)

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (none)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT

Next meeting date is December 18.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.