



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Virtual Teams Meeting

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, November 18, 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
Brett Jokela
Paul McLarnon
David Nyman, Chair
Rick Sinnott
Simon Wigren

Excused: Tamás Deák
Holly Kent
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Vice Chair

MOA Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, Long-Range Planning Division, Planning Department
Michelle McNulty, Planning Director
Carol Wong, Long-Range Planning Division Manager
Kristi Bischofberger, Watershed Manager, Watershed Management Section
Project Management & Engineering Department
Steve Ellis, Flood Hazard Administrator, Watershed Management Section
Project Management & Engineering Department

Guests: Andy Couch, Mat-Su Valley Fishing Guide
Ted Eischeid, Planner, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Mat-Su Borough)
Larry Engel, Mat-Su Borough Fish Commissioner
Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager, Mat-Su Borough

B. Disclosures

No disclosures.

II. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of October 28, 2020

Commissioner Sinnott moved to approve the October 28, 2020 meeting minutes as written. *Commissioner Jokela* seconded.

The October 28, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously as written.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2020-01, Land Clearing and Bird Nesting—Kristi Bischofberger and Steve Ellis, Project Management and Engineering Department, Watershed Management Section

Kristi Bischofberger and Steve Ellis, Watershed Management Section (WMS) staff, gave an overview of municipal land clearing procedures. Title 21 provides a definition of land clearing and the Municipality's MS4 water quality permit requires WMS to manage and minimize erosion and sediment deposition into local waterbodies.

Anchorage initially introduced land clearing regulations in the late 1990s and now regulates mechanized land clearing actions via a permit for sites of one acre or more. These actions are reviewed and issued by the Development Services Department and are enforced by the Watershed Management Section.

There is no direct link with this permit and the USFWS bird timing window. The Commission suggested consideration be given to somehow incorporating the bird timing window into the land clearing permit process.

NOTE: The agenda order was changed to hear IV.A. New Business item before III.B. Old Business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2020-02, Potential Collaboration with Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission—Ted Eischeid, Mat-Su Borough Staff

Ted Eischeid, Mat Su Borough Planner and staff to the Borough's Fish and Wildlife Commission, reached out to the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission at the request of the Anchorage Assembly.

At a recent joint Mat-Su Borough-Anchorage Assembly meeting, both bodies recommended that the two governments pursue collaboration on fish and wildlife issues of mutual concern. It was suggested that collaboration would enhance fish and wildlife management issues, since both areas share many fish and wildlife resources.

Mr. Eischeid presented the issues of concern to the Mat-Su, most notably fish and fish habitats and the economic impacts of declining fish populations in Upper Cook Inlet. The commissions might jointly comment on issues of mutual concern to the Alaska Board of Fish and/or to the Department of Fish and Game on prioritizing habitat restoration projects. The Eklutna River restoration project is an example action that both commissions could contribute expertise and guidance. The Commission suggested it give further consideration to how this collaboration might work at its December meeting.

The agenda continued with III.B. Old Business and then remaining items from V. on.

III. OLD BUSINESS

B. Eklutna River Restoration Study Document

Commissioner Sinnott introduced this study document and recommended that commissioners review and comment and identify which elements of the plan need more guidance or detail. There is a quick turnaround for comments due, so commissioners should comment directly to the project manager.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (none)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.