



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

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

Virtual Teams Meeting

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

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:02 p.m.

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

*Present:* Emily Creely  
Tamás Deák  
Luke Graham  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
David Nyman, Chair

*MOA Staff:* Daniel McKenna-Foster, Senior Planner, Long-Range Planning Division,  
Planning Department

*Guests:* Ted Eischeid, Planner, Mat-Su Borough  
Rick Sinnott, former Commissioner  
Jenn Miller, CEO, Renewable IPP, LLC  
Shelly Rowton, Land Management Officer, MOA HLB  
Craig Lyon, Director, MOA Planning  
Julia Makala, Civil Engineer, MOA Project Management & Engineering (PME)

#### **B. Disclosures**

No disclosures.

### **II. MINUTES**

*Commissioner Deák* moved to approve the 11/24/2021 minutes. *Commissioner Kent* seconded.  
The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. MOA Snow Dump Site**

Presentation by Julie Makala, MOA Civil Engineer, PME, on the Connors Bog Snow Dump site.

**B. Proposed Chugach Solar Farm**

- Discussion of what to do with the report and which versions had been seen or approved. Approve as submitted, approve with edits, drop altogether.
- Questions about spacing and sun angles.
- Comments by IPP requesting closure on the report.
- *Commissioner Creely* requested future guidance about how to weigh in on policy and procedures rather than individual projects.
- Discussion about the origins of the report.
- Discussion about whether the report was a draft or final version.
- *Commissioner Jokela* proposed submitting all final comments to the author of the report, then having him bring it back at the next meeting for acceptance, but not necessarily endorsement.

*Commissioner Jokela* moved to postpone review of the report indefinitely.

*Commissioner Creely* seconded.

The motion passed. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Report on Stormwater Utility**

The meeting ran out of time to discuss this item.

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

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

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

# Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

## Action Summary for January 26, 2022 Regular Meeting

### Page 3

#### Teams Chat:

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

ChatFilesMeeting NotesWhiteboard+

Meeting started 11:53 AM

David Nyman (External) has temporarily joined the chat.

Holly Kent (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

Makela, Julie A has temporarily joined the chat.

Emily Creely (External) has temporarily joined the chat.

Jennifer Miller (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

Tamas Deak (External) has temporarily joined the chat.

Theodore Eischeid (External) has temporarily joined the chat.

Brett (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.


12:05 PM

Quorum established.

TE

Theodore Eischeid (External) 12:06 PM


Solar@Scale Webinar Series ([planning.org](http://planning.org))



Solar@Scale Webinar Series

Join APA and ICMA for a nine-part webinar series on how local governme...

[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)



Solar@Scale Guidebook: Solar@Scale Guidebook | [icma.org](http://icma.org)

Solar@Scale Guidebook

A Local Government Guidebook for Improving Large-Scale Solar...

[icma.org](http://icma.org)

Luke Graham (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

JM

Jennifer Miller (Guest) 12:10 PM

thanks for sharing the solar planning guide Theodore!

Brett (Guest) no longer has access to the chat.

Brett (Guest) has temporarily joined the chat.

Rowton, Shelley A. 1:03 PM

Thanks for that, Emily. We really were hoping it was going to have been a collaborative process.

Michelle McNulty specifically asked us to seek your opinion on the effect on the wetlands.

EC

Emily Creely (External) 1:04 PM

That's good to know and if so, that was not clearly communicated.

1:08 PM

That said I think we're better suited to reviewing policy/processes and in the cases of technical reviews, such as 'effect on wetland,' we should probably have even clarified that goal even further (effect on wildlife? on community values? on soils? on its ability to functions? etc etc)...

Rowton, Shelley A. 1:09 PM

Lesson learned, and a good spot to stop.

We'd ask that any reference to Renewable IPP be removed from ANY publication.

# Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

## Action Summary for January 26, 2022 Regular Meeting

### Page 4

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Chat

Files

Meeting Notes

Whiteboard

+

Lesson learned, and a good spot to stop.

We'd ask that any reference to Renewable IPP be removed from ANY publication.

1:11 PM

FYI everyone I will append the chat here to the minutes for the record

Bunnell, Kristine R.

1:13 PM

The commission was not asked if they "wanted a solar farm in a wetland." The commission was asked to determine how a solar farm may impact a Class A wetland pursuant to Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan guidance.

Rowton, Shelley A.

1:17 PM

If no one makes a motion, it dies.

I think it is important to know that even draft reports, when communicated over official channels become public record and can kill a small business. Words matter - even drafts.

The commission said they would form a subcommittee and write a white paper, not that they would have a private citizen write one.

Theodore Eischeid (External)

1:28 PM

Point of Information: A motion to postpone the action item III-B indefinitely kills it.

Bunnell, Kristine R.

1:28 PM

I need to drop off for another call. Thanks for your dedication to Anchorage helping the Muni make that a great place to live!

Jennifer Miller (Guest)

1:29 PM

I want to make sure Renewable IPP's public comment is captured with a published report. Our comment is as such, "Renewable IPP does not dispute the technical findings of the report, we strongly object to the original draft reports (December version) mischaracterization of our Company's intent."

Emily Creely (External)

1:30 PM

i have to go, so we vote now or we table it ! sorry!

Rowton, Shelley A.

1:30 PM

Can someone make a motion to extend for 5 minutes?

Jennifer Miller (Guest)

1:31 PM

I agree with Brett's recommendation and would appreciate a vote on this

Thank you all for providing closure today!

Rowton, Shelley A.

1:32 PM

Thank you.

Jennifer Miller (Guest)

no longer has access to the chat.

Luke Graham (Guest)

no longer has access to the chat.

Holly Kent (Guest)

no longer has access to the chat.

Meeting ended

1h 43m

1:35 PM

🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉🎉

How was the call quality?