

FINAL MINUTES  
WETLANDS REVIEW BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING

February 19, 2015, 5:15 p.m. Marine View 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room

**Meeting Summary**

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Amy Sumner, Brenda Wright, Nina Horne; Jerry Medina , Andrew Campbell, Hal Geiger

Board Members Absent: Lisa Hoferkamp, Dan Miller, Ben Haight

A quorum was present.

Staff Members Present: Teri Camery, CBJ Senior Planner

Public Present:

Meeting called to order at 5:20 p.m.

**II.** January 29, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes approved

**III.** Agenda was approved

**IV.** Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None

**V.** Board Comments.

Ms. Sumner noted that CBJ is listed as a partner with the SEAKGIS website but doesn't know if the LiDAR has been posted because she couldn't find it on the site. Ms. Camery will check to see if the imagery has been posted as well. Mr. Campbell noted that the Board had made a formal motion to request the LiDAR and imagery be made public, so this is good news.

**VI.** **Agenda Items**

**1) Juneau Wetlands Management Plan Update and Field Season Report Discussion**

The Bosworth Botanical Consulting (BBC) 2014 Field Season Report was received just a few days before last month's meeting, so the report could not be sent in the packet to the Board until this meeting. Ms. Camery noted that she has sent requested revisions to BBC on the report, with a special emphasis on documentation of Dr. Adamus' quality control measures. She expects to

receive the final revised report in a few more days. The Board is not formally reviewing this document; it is presented to the Board for information and discussion only.

Ms. Camery reviewed the highlights of Bosworth Botanical Consulting's 2014 Field Season Report. Ms. Camery explained that BBC ended the 2014 wetland assessment field season in mid-October. BBC completed a total of 345 assessments and they are far ahead of schedule. The report thoroughly documents the revisions that were made to interpretations of the WESPAK-SE assessment method to adapt to unusual conditions that BBC encountered in the field.

Approximately 20 assessments are left, so BBC expects to the 2015 field season to end as early as mid-May, rather than August as listed in the schedule, depending on weather conditions. Ms. Camery reviewed the next steps on the grant scope of work, including the 2015 field season work, off-site assessments, and JWMP Update preliminary draft report, which is due in October 2015. The preliminary draft requires formal review by the WRB and also the Habitat Mapping Working Group. The Board will also review the final draft. The project is on schedule for completion by May 2016. The project is significantly under budget in most budget categories, and Bosworth Botanical Consulting has done excellent work.

Mr. Medina asked about whether Goldbelt Inc. had authorized permission for on-site assessments. Ms. Camery said no, and noted that Goldbelt was opposed to doing off-site assessments on their property as well. She said that CBJ does not need permission for off-site assessments, since these assessments are completed using information from adjacent public sites and from the 2013 LiDAR and imagery. She said that the Manager's Office and others within the city strongly supported obtaining off-site assessments of the Goldbelt property to facilitate city planning efforts and road development on the back side of Douglas.

Ms. Camery again noted that she has been working with two enthusiastic private property owners on their private property assessments, and believes they will be strong advocates for the JWMP Update in the future. She said that CBJ Engineering and CBJ Lands are already actively using the results of several assessments. She noted that the overall update will be approximately 90-95 percent public lands. However if through this process CBJ is able to demonstrate how to use the assessments effectively in planning, perhaps CBJ could obtain additional funding in the future to conduct more private property assessments and expand the plan.

Ms. Camery also noted that Ms. McNally expects to have draft stream maps available to present to the Board and Planning Commission later this summer.

## **VII. Pending Permits and Updates**

**Lemon Creek Gravel Extraction.** Following up on the Board's request at the January meeting, Ms. Camery checked into site visit options but found that there was limited or no public parking in areas where gravel extraction could be viewed. An additional problem is that the site visit would have to be scheduled during work hours, which would make it difficult to have a quorum. She mentioned the email that she sent to the Board regarding this issue a few weeks ago which explained the problem. As an alternative, Ms. Camery has contacted SECON, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to attend the Board's March meeting for a discussion on ongoing habitat restoration efforts on the creek as related to gravel extraction. Ms. Camery will not be here for that meeting, so Ms. McNally will follow-up and finalize the meeting. Ms. Camery noted that SECON conducted mining in the stream last week and this week, and it was excellent news that she was not aware of it until she contacted SECON, because she normally receives a flood of public complaints from the neighbors on the activity. She explained that for the past two years she has met with SECON to go over each project condition (38 total) to ensure compliance, and this year she was also able to meet directly with SECON's contractors. That seems to have made a difference.

Ms. Wright noted that she visited the gravel extraction site last week and was pleased with SECON's measures to protect the stream and isolate extraction areas. She shared photographs with the Board.

**Auke Bay Loading Facility.** Ms. Camery said that she has been working with CBJ Docks and Harbors and USFWS to develop a plan for vegetating the rip-rap at the site, which would provide habitat benefits and visual screening for the neighborhood. She said that this development is long past the permitting stage, so it would have to be completed with donations and volunteers. She said that she is looking for a site scheduled for clearing that would have meadow plants such fireweed, salmonberry, thimbleberry, elderberry and beach rye. These plants would provide habitat and screening, but would not damage the rip-rap the way that trees could if the trees blew over. She said Docks and Harbors supports the idea and John Hudson at USFWS has impressive experience with rip-rap vegetation projects in other areas of the community. She said there is growing consensus that all rip-rap projects should be immediately vegetated both for habitat and screening reasons, and this site has strong support.

#### **VIII. Planning Commission Liaison Update.**

None.

**IX. Next meeting:** Thursday March 19, 5:15 p.m., City Hall room 224. Mr Geiger noted that he will not be able to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.