

MINUTES
WETLANDS REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 20, 2014, 5:15 p.m. City Hall room 224

Meeting Summary

Board Members Present: Hal Geiger, Brenda Wright, Amy Sumner, Dan Miller, Jerry Medina; Lisa Hoferkamp, Nina Horne, Gordon Jackson

Board Members Absent: Andrew Campbell

A quorum was present.

Staff Members Present: Teri Camery, CBJ Senior Planner

Public Present:

Meeting called to order at 5:22 p.m.

II. January 16, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes approved without edits

III. **Agenda was approved**

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

None

V. Board Comments.

None

VI. **Agenda Items**

Wetland Methodology Executive Summary

Ms. Camery explained that this document was presented to the Board at the last meeting. The Board had approved the WESPAK-SE wetland methodology, but had requested additional time to review the Executive Summary. She explained that CDD staff had prepared the document to address the Board's request for a formal document with the background on the methodology and the deliverables from this summer's revisions to the methodology. However the document may be used for a variety of purposes and may be useful, with revisions, to present to the Planning Commission, Assembly, or another entity at some point. She said that staff considers this document to be a work in progress, and she asked Board members if they had any additional comments or requested revisions. Ms. Wright asked about the status of the LiDAR and imagery,

and also the status of the stream mapping effort. Ms. Camery explained that the LiDAR and imagery was flown by the vendor in May and June 2013, but the final product is not yet available because CDD is waiting for final quality control revisions from the vendor. This has delayed work on the stream mapping part of the grant, however there is plenty of time to complete the mapping within the 3.5 year grant timeline. Coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the stream mapping effort will begin when the LiDAR has been finalized. Board members did not have any requested changes or further comments regarding the Executive Summary.

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge Management Plan State Request for Comments

Ms. Camery explained that this request for comments has come from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. ADF&G has requested comments on four elements of the plan, as follows:

- language that is challenging to interpret or implement
- language that has made it difficult to permit or evaluate activities
- regulations that have restricted proposed activities
- regulations that have created an undue burden on the public

Ms. Camery explained that CDD has had little involvement with the refuge plan during her 14 years with the department, and she could not recall when the Wetlands Review Board had ever reviewed the plan either. She said that the Juneau International Airport has had the most involvement with the plan. Ms. Wright stated that the Board had been heavily involved in past reviews of airport projects. Ms. Camery agreed, but said that these reviews had not involved the refuge plan. So in that regard, she was unsure about what the Board would want to comment on. Mr. Geiger stated that there were many significant issues in the refuge plan that were worthy of Board comment, and thought that additional review time from the Board would be necessary. Mr. Miller stated that the refuge plan was very important in regards to the Douglas second crossing. Ms. Camery explained that this type of review was quite unusual for the Board, since typically the Board provides comments on local wetland plans and policies and project reviews, and Board comments are given to the Planning Commission and Assembly. She said that in this case, she thought that the CBJ Manager's Office would develop comments for ADF&G on behalf of the city. She said that she would pass along Board comments to the CBJ Manager's Office, but she did not know what the Manager's Office would do with the comments or even if the Manager's Office would actually give formal CBJ comments to ADF&G. She stated that Board should try to address ADF&G's questions as requested, and if the Board wanted to address other issues, perhaps they could just use an "other issues" category. She reminded the Board that there are many challenging political issues associated with the Refuge, and the Board should respond from its role as a scientific advisory committee. She also reminded Board members that they are welcome to respond to ADF&G as individuals.

After much discussion, the Board concluded that they would review the refuge plan over the coming weekend and would email comments to Ms. Camery no later than noon on Monday February 26. Ms. Camery stated that if Board members gave her significant comments, then she would immediately schedule a special meeting for Thursday February 27, 5:15 p.m., location to be announced, so that the Board could develop formal comments. She stated that she would not

be in town on that date and Ms. McNally would need to be at the meeting instead. Mr. Jackson and Ms. Sumner noted that they would not be able to attend a meeting on that date. Ms. Camery also said that she would check with the CBJ Manager's Office to determine if the city has a specific comment deadline for comments on the plan from city departments. ADF&G's comment deadline is March 12, 2014.

VII. Pending Permits and Updates

Juneau Wetlands Management Plan Request for Proposals

Ms. Camery stated that the RFP deadline is next Wednesday February 26, and the evaluation committee meeting is scheduled for the following Monday, March 3. She said that she would provide detailed timelines, lists of deliverables, and more to the Board after the Vendor has been chosen. She reiterated that the project timeline and deliverables include many updates from the Vendor to the Board, and that the work would take place over two field seasons, 2014 and 2015, with a final draft Juneau Wetlands Management Plan due in early 2016.

VIII. Planning Commission Liaison Update.

Mr. Miller said that the Planning Commission had recently reviewed an interesting appeal regarding fences in greenbelts. He said that he would provide more detail to the Board after a final decision was issued.

IX. Next meeting: Tentative special meeting Thursday February 27, 2014. Tentative regular meeting Thursday March 20, 5:15 p.m. City Hall conference room #224.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.