

MINUTES
WETLANDS REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

October 24, 2013, 5:15 p.m. Marine View 4th floor conference room

Meeting Summary

Board Members Present: Hal Geiger, Amy Sumner, Nina Horne, Andrew Campbell, Dan Miller

Board Members Absent: Brenda Wright, Lisa Hoferkamp, Jerry Medina

A quorum was present.

Staff Members Present: Teri Camery, CBJ Planner, Travis Goddard, Planning Manager

Public Present: none

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. September 3, 2013 Regular and September 26, 2013 Special Meeting minutes approved with edits

III. Agenda was approved

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None

V. Board Comments.

None

VI. Agenda Items

New CBJ Planning Manager Travis Goddard explained his resource management background and history with reviewing habitat restoration projects. Ms. Camery explained the history of the Board's formation, the Board's role, and Board member backgrounds to Mr. Goddard.

Update on Wetland Methodology

Ms. Camery explained that the wetland methodology contract has been extended by one month to November 29, 2013, without changes to compensation or scope of work, because Dr. Adamus has not been able to complete the required deliverables within the original timeline. This will change the release date of the Request for Proposals for the Juneau Wetlands Management Plan

Update from December 1 to the first week of January. Contract field work for the JWMP update will still begin in early May 2014.

Juneau Wetlands Management Plan Request for Proposals

Ms. Camery explained that this meeting is intended to be a general brainstorm of the key elements of the JWMP RFP. Key elements for the board to consider are priority areas for wetland assessment, the level of detail and ground-truthing within the project area, and special issues to be addressed, such as uplift/glacial rebound.

Ms. Camery showed Board members the priority area map that was developed for the LiDAR/Orthoimagery RFP and final contract to focus the discussion. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Miller suggested listing lower priority areas as alternates in the RFP, e.g. Priority One, Alternate A, with a more detailed breakdown. Mr. Geiger suggested looking at Eaglecrest Road, because of private development that has been proposed past the Fish Creek Bridge. Ms. Sumner noted that mining areas would not be necessary for the update, because the U.S. Forest Service already has detailed information. Mr. Campbell noted that DOT has information on Cascade Point to Antler River.

Ms. Camery explained that the focus is on wetland assessments in the developing areas of the borough, along road corridors, but that wetland assessments could also be used to identify high value areas that could be used for mitigation.

The Board had an extensive discussion on how the wetland assessments would be used in the planning process, and how the assessments for small individual parcels would be conducted in relationship to assessments of large areas. Ms. Horne wondered what the value is of doing large areas if you would have to do the small areas again anyway. Ms. Camery agreed that this is an important question, and agreed to research so she could give a more complete answer to the question. Ms. Camery explained that it was too early to know if the final JWMP would include local regulations or not, due to federal regulations and the State's ongoing effort to develop wetland permitting authority. The Board had questions on the overall purpose of the JWMP update and exactly what it will be used for. Ms. Camery said that she would develop a clear and thorough response to these questions in the future.

Mr. Miller stated that areas that are planned for development such as Peterson Hill, North Douglas, and other CBJ lands proposed for development should be included in the JWMP priority areas. We should look at where we plan to put infrastructure. Mr. Campbell noted that the Comprehensive Plan dictates priority areas for development and the JWMP needs to follow that.

Mr. Geiger asked several questions regarding sampling and functions, and wanted to know if the assessments could be used to determine if the borough has X number of acres of wetlands with a particular function. Ms. Camery said that she believed that the wetland database information could be used in this manner, but she would need to discuss it with Dr. Adamus to be sure.

Ms. Horne wondered if the JWMP field work could be done over two field seasons, to allow time to address problems along the way and ensure that the final product meets expectations. Ms. Camery agreed that this would be a good approach, but she doesn't think that the grant timeline would allow for two seasons for field work. She said that she would check to see if this is possible. Mr. Miller mentioned economies of scale and thought that it would be cheaper for the contractor, and thus the city, to do the work all at once.

Mr. Campbell noted that Taku Harbor could be left out of the priority areas.

Ms. Camery mentioned having a special analysis in the plan regarding how uplift may change wetlands over time, since the goal is to have a JWMP that will be useful for a period of 20 years or more. Mr. Campbell requested information on the percentage of changes in wetlands over time.

VII. Pending Permits and Updates

1. Board Vacancy

Ms. Camery reminded the Board that there is still a vacant seat, and the application process is on-going through the city's website. Vacancies may be filled by a variety of professional backgrounds including engineering.

VIII. Planning Commission Liaison Update.

Mr. Miller described the ongoing Comprehensive Plan Review process.

IX. Next meeting: Tentative Thursday November 14, 2013, Marine View Fourth Floor conference room

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.