



Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com>

Re: Hillside stream setbacks-- could we meet?

1 message

Vivian Mendenhall <fasgadair@gmail.com>
To: "Weddleton, John" <WeddletonJ@ci.anchorage.ak.us>
Bcc: rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com

Mon, May 21, 2018 at 11:13 PM

John-- Thanks for your quick reply, John! I understand your point.

Maybe you can enlighten me: Do you have any idea when the AO might be introduced? (Weeks, months?) And would the working meeting with Planning be after that?

I will be out of town (fish camp, where else) about mid-June to mid-July. As you say, it would be good if we could meet before the working meeting on the AO.

Best-- Vivian

Vivian Mendenhall
4600 Rabbit Creek Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99516, USA
(907) 345-7124
fasgadair@gmail.com

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On Mon, May 21, 2018 at 7:49 PM, Weddleton, John <WeddletonJ@ci.anchorage.ak.us> wrote:
Vivian,

It would work best for me to meet when we have a copy of the introduced AO. You will be just as smart and I will have our conversation fresh in my mind when we are working on the actual document.

John Weddleton
Anchorage Assembly
South Anchorage, Girdwood and Turnagain Arm
770-0685

From: Vivian Mendenhall <fasgadair@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 3:56 PM
To: LaFrance, Suzanne; Weddleton, John
Subject: Hillside stream setbacks-- could we meet?

Suzanne, John-

I wonder if I could meet with you for ca. ½ hour sometime next week or the week after. The subject, as I mentioned briefly during a break in the May 8 Assembly meeting, is the Watershed Management Section's proposed ordinance to amend Title 21.

As you know, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted on May 7 to advance the proposed ordinance without considering alternate options. (Out of 18 written comments before their February 5 meeting, ten specifically requested no change in Hillside stream setbacks.)

I would like to suggest some scientific considerations regarding their proposed changes in these setbacks. Watershed Management proposes to reduce all setbacks from 50 to 25 feet, except for the few named streams. Colleagues and I

5/22/2018

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have done research on "best management practices" for rural stream setbacks elsewhere in the US, and they differ from WMS's proposal. I have also documented the percent of Hillside streams that are still undeveloped, which is much greater than WMS says. (I'm not a hydrologist, but I have a PhD in zoology, which includes habitat conservation.)

WMS also seems not to be considering potential impacts on Potter Marsh, which gets all its water from the Hillside. It is one of the state's best areas for public nature viewing and education, and it's an important migratory stopover for birds. Compromised inflow could impact the marsh badly.

I can summarize what we've learned about the protection of small streams on sloping ground, and I can provide references in case your aides wish to pursue the subject.

Thank you, and I hope to see you soon.

-Vivian

Vivian Mendenhall
[4600 Rabbit Creek Rd.](#)
Anchorage, AK 99516, USA
(907) 345-7124
fasgadair@gmail.com<<mailto:fasgadair@gmail.com>>

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