

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
May 12, 2014

A Resolution regarding revisions to the Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan, scheduled for action at the Assembly Meeting 24 June 2014

Whereas:

- The purpose of the Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan (AWMP) is to identify high value and sensitive wetlands areas within the Municipality for protection
- Anchorage has lost of 78% of its wetlands since 1950 (1950 18,903 acres in AWMP; now ~4000 according to Thede Tobish-MOA)
- Wetlands provide unquestionable intrinsic value to the Municipality, by providing
 - Water storage capacity to buffer against flooding
 - Habitat for area wildlife, waterfowl, and bird populations
 - Corridor for seasonal moose population movement
 - Active-learning natural resource educational opportunities for the Municipality's primary and secondary school system and university students
 - Recreational opportunities in natural wildlands, within the heart of Anchorage
- The strategy of allowing development of high-value wetlands in one area, in exchange for protection of wetlands in another location, is an unbalanced and damaging management approach. For example, increase in flooding can occur downstream from where wetlands are developed
- The current AWMP protects Mosquito Lake and Goose Lake area wetlands due their functional value (habitat, water quality, and recreation)
- There have been no changes to the functional value provided by the Mosquito Lake and Goose Lake wetland areas since the current AWMP was written in 1996
- The currently proposed revisions to the AWMP would add discretionary language which weakens protection for these areas to accommodate potential development (Site numbers 18, 18A, 18B in AWMP 2012 Public Hearing Draft Table: Management Strategies, Enforceable and Administrative Policies)
- Rogers Park member presenting this resolution only reviewed the AWMP for sites important to the Rogers Park area

Now therefore, be it resolved that Rogers Park Community Council:

- Opposes revisions to the 1996 AWMP as contained in the 2012 Public Hearing Draft approved by Planning and Zoning Commission for adoption by the Anchorage Assembly (Site numbers 18, 18A, 18B in AWMP 2012 Public Hearing Draft Table: Management Strategies, Enforceable and Administrative Policies)
- Supports the adoption of amendments which reinstate 1996 plan protections for the Mosquito Lake and Goose Lake area wetlands resources
- Opposes any wording which removes authority from the MOA for enforcement of policies and management strategies within the AWMP
- Supports other councils who may present resolutions supporting amendments to reinstate protection of wetland sites important to their area.

Signed:

Date:

Yeas: Nays: Abstentions: