

Juneau Commission on Sustainability

Minutes—Meeting of May 7, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Marian Call at 12:03 pm.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Marian Call, Duff Mitchell, Brennen McCulloch, Jessica Barker, David Teal, Nick Waldo, Griffin Plush

Absent: Jim Powell, Laura Achee

Staff & Others Present: CBJ Staff Ashley Heimbigner, CBJ Staff Nate Abbott, Lori, Zach Gianotti (DEC), Nina Keller (PC)

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approved with the additional topic of JCOS member terms and recruitment without objection.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 03/24/2025 JCOS Worksession--Approved without Objection
2. 04/02/2025 Regular Meeting--Approved without Objection

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Zach Gianotti (DEC) introduced himself as a solid waste regulator for Southeast Alaska and requested advisory input from JCOS for future Southeast Conference solid waste meetings. Will follow up with opportunities for JCOS to comment on regional projects.

G. AGENDA TOPICS

2. CBJ Energy Management Discussion - Nate Abbott, CBJ Facilities Maintenance Superintendent

Nate Abbott shared CBJ's energy management progress and fielded questions:

- CBJ has been using an energy tracking software for three years. Electricity tracking is straightforward while fuel data is delayed due to billing cycles and more challenging to interpret.
- Fuel-reduction efforts include recent and upcoming boiler upgrades at Glacier Fire Station, Eagle Valley Center, and Auke Bay Fire Station.
- The Floyd Dryden and Marie Drake buildings are particularly high energy consumers. A controls project at Floyd Dryden is expected to significantly improve efficiency.
- Efforts to convert boilers at the wastewater treatment plant to electric are underway.

- New projects are evaluated based on energy savings, life safety, functionality, cost savings, and facility age.
- While school district buildings are expected to have similar inefficiencies to Floyd Dryden, limited funding restricts school district action. However, the district is participating in a federally funded energy audit and upgrade program.
- Nate raised concerns about inadequate commissioning frequency. Currently, new systems are only commissioned once; twice-yearly commissioning would better reflect seasonal performance. Examples cited include issues with the ground source heat pump systems at Dimond Park and the Valley Library.
- A recent facility-wide energy audit will soon be released publicly.
- Nate encouraged JCOS to support CBJ's capital renewal (deferred maintenance) funding efforts, which is how most of these types of projects are funded.

3. JCOS Member Terms and Recruitment

- Nick Waldo and Duff Mitchell announced they will not seek reappointment when their terms expire on June 30. Both are open to remaining informal resources. Duff noted potential conflict of interest as Juneau Hydropower progresses.
- Marian encouraged members to invite potential candidates. David expressed interest in retaining institutional knowledge and encouraged Nick and Duff to consider continued involvement in some capacity.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Marian Call shared that a new mining project by Grande Portage Resources is starting sampling near the Herbert River. Duff Mitchell added that the company plans to power operations electrically and ship ore north for processing.
2. Marian Call encouraged members to share agenda-linked resources, including comprehensive plan materials. Griffin Plush is serving on the advisory committee for the Comprehensive Plan and available for questions.
3. Nina Keller: Reminded members of the Downtown Douglas/West Juneau Draft Area Plan Open House, May 7, 5:30–7:30 PM at Sayeik: Gastineau Community School Commons. The plan spans Sandy Beach to the Douglas Bridge and will guide local development if adopted.

I. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None

J. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 4, 2025, 12 PM @ Zoom

K. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 1:02 pm