

ASSEMBLY PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES - DRAFT



April 15, 2024 at 12:10 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/91849897300> or 1-669-900-6833 Webinar ID: 918 4989 7300

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – 12:10 p.m.

B. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – Read by Mr. Kelly

We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. Gunalchéesh!

C. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present In-Person: Chair Bryson; Ms. Adkison; Mr. Kelly

Members Present Via Zoom: David Epstein, Planning Commission Liaison

Members Absent: Ms. Hughes-Skandijs

CBJ Staff Present In-Person: Denise Koch, EPW Director; Dianna Robinson, Environmental Project Specialist; Greg Smith, Contract Administrator; Ashley Heimbigner, Grants Manager; Jill Lawhorn, Director of Community Development; Brian McGuire, Utilities Superintendent; Chad Gubala, Utilities Production & Treatment Manager; Breckan Hendricks, EPW Admin Officer; Susan Settje, Contracts Specialist;

D. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – No Changes or comments

E. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. February 26, 2024 - Regular Meeting - Minutes approved with an edit to correct \$500,00 to read \$500,000
2. March 11, 2024 - Regular Meeting - No comments or changes, minutes approved as submitted

F. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

3. Mendenhall River Outfall Check Valves – Director Koch presented there are several storm drain outfalls that would benefit from the installation of check valves to facilitate drainage and reduce flooding in the neighborhoods.

Q: Ms. Adkison asked how many private properties would be impacted or damaged by the installation of the check valves.

A: Director Koch said they do not have that number. The hope is that the costs for restoration will be less than the estimate but they wanted to err on the high side rather than having to come back later for more money if the costs went up.

Ms. Adkison moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee allow staff to use money from R72-136 Areawide Drainage Improvement CIP to pay for the one-way valves. Forward a funds transfer request of \$92,653 from R72-146, Flood Plain Mapping Technical Assistance to R72-136, Areawide Drainage Improvements to the full Assembly for approval.

No objection, motion approved

4. Solid Waste RFP – Director Koch explained the local landfill is approaching end of life with an estimated 10-15 years left. The department is requesting to use some funds to perform a study to determine options going forward.

Q: Mr. Kelly asked when could they expect to see the results of the study if the committee approves the request.

A: Approximately 6 months.

Q: Mr. Bryson mentioned the material waste characterization study discussed at a prior meeting and asked if it has been performed yet.

A: The department will conduct the waste characterization study in May. The purpose for delaying the project until May was to capture waste generated by cruise passengers as well as the local community.

Mr. Kelly moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee approve the use of the Zero Waste Program CIP funds for a high-level solid waste disposal and control feasibility study.

No objection, motion approved

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

5. Utility Water Production and Distribution Plan during the AEL&P Salmon Creek Penstock Replacement Program – Director Koch presented during the years 2025 through 2027, AEL&P will start a project to replace the upper penstock near Salmon Creek Dam. During this project, the water from Last Chance Basin will not be available during April, May, and June each of those years. AEL&P assures CBJ that this will not negatively affect potable water supply to the community.

Q: Mr. Kelly was concerned with the estimate that one-third of the local drinking water comes from the Salmon Creek catchment and asked if it is possible to obtain more precise numbers of how much water comes from there and how much is typically used during the April, May, June time period.

A: The department can get that information for the PWFC.

Q: Mr. Bryson remembered the 2004 fire in the Skinner Building and said that fire consumed about 9 million gallons of water and used two-thirds of the Salmon Creek Dam. He asked if there was a contingency plan to provide adequate water supply in the case of a catastrophic event that used a tremendous amount of water.

A: Staff confirmed that in a crisis, CBJ's public safety needs overrides DIPAC's water rights.

6. Solid Waste & Recycling Outreach Update – Director Koch presented JCOS held two Solid Waste Q&A sessions that were well attended and generated several questions. Based on that interest, the department will send out informational mailers on April 26 explaining what can be recycled at the CBJ RecycleWorks facility.

Mr. Bryson suggested adding information reminding the public that every pound of waste that is recycled extends the life of the landfill.

7. Skookum Recycling Use of Site Adjacent to Former South Lemon Creek Gravel Pit – Director Koch explained Skookum Recycling has informed the CBJ that they are rapidly running out of space to store junk vehicles and other metals that have been collected. They expect to be out of room in the next few weeks to months. They have requested the use of up to an acre of CBJ land for storage while they catch up with shipping it to Seattle.

Q: Mr. Kelly asked what processing is included in the contract with Skookum besides storing and shipping the junk vehicles.

A: Skookum drains the fluids from the vehicles, crushes them and ships them out. With the increases in shipping costs, Skookum is holding the materials and sending shipments when they have large batches at a time.

Q: Mr. Kelly asked what is the duration of the contract.

A: The contract ends in Fiscal Year 2028.

8. EPW Grant Update – Director Koch announced there have been several grants awarded this quarter totaling over \$9 million dollars.

Q: Mr. Kelly noticed there were several grant requests for the Lemon Creek Multimodal Path. One was awarded about \$653k in federal funding and another request for \$4.56MM in state funding was not awarded. He asked how the project would be impacted without that larger grant being funded.

A: With the grant that has been awarded, they can get a good start. Without the State grant, the path might not be as long, or it may be gravel instead of a longer lasting material.

H. PWFC 2024 ASSEMBLY GOALS

9. PWFC Milestones – Director Koch gave an update on the status of action items related to 2024 Assembly Goals specifically noting the Second Crossing (also known as the Juneau Douglas North Crossing). She shared that DOT and DOWL extended the stakeholder comment period, which just closed on April 11th. CBJ is considering this in the scheduling of future Listening Sessions to ensure they are arranged between the PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkages) events. Director Koch shared that Listening Sessions are open to the public rather than just stakeholders.

I. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

10. March 1, 2024 - April 8, 2024

J. NEXT MEETING DATE

11. May 06, 2024 at 12:10PM

K. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Kelly expressed concern regarding recent announcements that Capital Transit is suspending two routes due to staffing shortages and asked if there is anything the PWFC or the Assembly can do to help or show support.

Director Koch said they have hired new drivers but they need to move to town and be trained. Capital transit is not only short of drivers. They are also experiencing vacancies in mechanics and service techs as well. With the new hires, they hope to restart the suspended services soon.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Jorgensen Business Assists (907)723-6134 🇺🇸