

City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
FINAL Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2014
Downtown Library Large Conference Room

I. Meeting called to order at 5:33 P.M.

Present: Lisa Weissler (Chair), Beth McKibben (CBJ Staff Liaison), Kate Bevegne, Amy Skilbred, Bob Deering, Duff Mitchell, Steve Behnke, Clint Gundelfinger

Visitors: Samantha Stoughtenger (Wastewater Utility Superintendent), Michele Elfers (CBJ Engineering Department), Charlie Ford (Building Official), Rob Steedle (Deputy City Manager)

II. Agenda amended to move Biosolids Treatment and Disposal Evaluation Phase II Update and Building Codes and Energy Efficiency from agenda action items to agenda information items.

III. Minutes of September 10, 2014 approved.

IV. Public Participation: Ryan Hosman, Marissa Capito, Rico Tempel, Don Dodson, Joe Lassiter, and an additional member of the public (illegible name on sign-in sheet)

V. Action Items

A. Web Page Update - none

VI. Information Items -

A. Biosolids Treatment and Disposal Evaluation, Phase II Update – Michele Elfers and Samantha Stoughtenger presented the same information that was presented at the CBJ Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on October 6, 2014 addressing the Phase II Update of the Biosolids Treatment and Disposal Evaluation Project. The presentation referenced the September, 2014 Biosolids Treatment and Disposal Evaluation-Phase II final report prepared for the CBJ by CH2MHILL (hereinafter referred to as the Biosolids Report). Main topics covered during the presentation included an historic review, biosolids treatment and evaluation, and the next steps. During the historic review section Mr. Deering inquired as to how the original list of thirteen potential solution alternatives was narrowed down to the current three. In response Ms. Elfers referenced the criteria matrix found within the Biosolids Report. During the biosolids treatment and evaluation section both Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Gundelfinger inquired about the (biosolids) current shipping distance (@2,000 miles) and associated costs which were again referenced from the Biosolids Report. Mr. Deering asked about the viability of using wood pellets or wood chips as a potential furnace fuel to which Ms. Elfers replied that those fuel sources were a potential option and would be looked at and considered. The next steps for the project include such topics as funding, input from CBJ committees/commissions, public outreach, and CBJ assembly decisions. Ms. Skilbred asked about potential future utility rate increases. Ms. Stoughtenger discussed current and potential future rate increases already decided upon. Mr. Deering inquired as to the ownership of any new biosolids treatment facility to which Ms. Stoughtenger replied that the CBJ would own the facility. Ms. Weissler asked if there was anything the JCOS could do to assist to further the process. Ms. Elfers responded that a comment from the JCOS to the CBJ Assembly regarding the project would be the most beneficial at this stage of the project. Mr. Mitchell suggested that the CBJ Engineering Department and Public Works Department might consider getting into direct contact with potential contractors for the project.

B. Building Codes and Energy Efficiency- Charlie Ford discussed the CBJ building codes from an energy efficiency viewpoint. Among the items discussed, Mr. Ford stated that the CBJ adopted International Codes which are on a 3 year cycle and that even though the State (of Alaska) Fire Marshall has always deleted state energy efficiency codes, the CBJ can be more strict as regards energy efficiency and add codes back in; historically there has been resistance from building developers due to concerns about increased up-front construction costs. Mr. Ford also commented that the CBJ has thermal standards for residential structures but there are no thermal standards for commercial structures currently required. Ms. Weissler inquired that setting costs aside is there was reason to pursue energy efficiency codes, and if so, what steps should be followed. Mr. Ford agreed that there was sound reason for pursuing energy efficiency codes and suggested that as a first step to coordinate a visit by Building Code Committee to a JCOS meeting in December or January. Mr. Mitchell asked where the CBJ was (state of energy codes) in relation to the rest of Southeast Alaska and the State. Mr. Ford replied that the CBJ was ahead of other communities in Southeast and in a good place to lead by example; and as a comparison Anchorage has energy efficiency codes for both residential and commercial. Mr. Gundelfinger inquired if implementing new thermal standards for commercial structures would affect existing commercial structures. Mr. Ford stated that any new code would only apply to new construction or to the retrofit/remodel of existing structures.

C. City Liaison Report – Ms. McKibben announced a training with the Deputy City Clerk Beth McEwan was set for the Wednesday, October 22, 2014 work session.

D. Items Up For Assembly Action - none

E. Committee Reports

- i. Solid Waste – see above Information Item Biosolids Treatment and Disposal Evaluation Phase II.
- ii. Energy – see above Information Item Building Codes and Energy Efficiency. Mr. Mitchell commented about electric chargers being set up around town and that currently there are now over 25 electric cars within the CBJ.
- iii. Comprehensive Plan Update - officially change to energy efficiency codes?

VII. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.