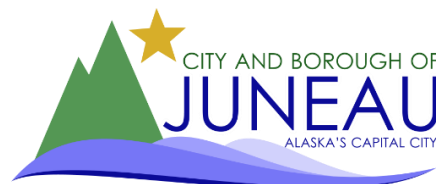


# ASSEMBLY PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 18, 2023 at 12:10 PM

Room 224 City Hall/Zoom Webinar

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<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 – Ms. Hale**

**C. ROLL CALL – Members Present: Chair Bryson; Ms. Hale; Mr. Jones; Ms. Weldon (joined at 12:50)**

Staff Members Present: Rorie Watt, City Manager; Katie Koester, EPW Director [via Zoom]; Denise Koch, EPW Deputy Director; and Breckan Hendricks, EPW Admin Officer

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

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. N/A

**F. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

2. Long-term Follow-up to 08-05-2023 Jökulhlaup and Mendenhall River Flood Event

Manager Watt presented the memo updating the committee on the status of recovery and mitigation actions taken since the Jökulhlaup and resulting flooding. CBJ is working with residents concerning permits for repairs; assessing infrastructure status and risk and is working with DOT and surveyors regarding mapping. USGS requested an additional \$27,500 (in addition to \$7,500 for total \$35,000). *(Note: per the [October 23, 2023 Assembly Reorganization Meeting](#), the amount requested was changed to \$28K)*

Included in the memo were the following recommendations to the Assembly:

- 1- Introduce an ordinance to add \$27,500 to the operating budget to aid USGS monitoring Suicide Basin
- 2- Introduce a resolution to support University requests for funding for ongoing research.
- 3- Discuss appetite for different levels of CBJ involvement in research, mitigation, adaptation, and next steps (discussion at Committee of the Whole, for example).

Ms. Hale – Felt the most important thing CBJ can do is pull together and coordinate the ‘right’ project team to address risks and mitigation of future Jökulhlaup and flooding events.

Ms. Hale – Asked if CBJ should consider providing funds to the University in the short-term considering how long it can take to get grant funding. Mr. Watt said they would need to identify the needs first.

Mr. Bryson – Asked if CDD will force people to undo work that was done in response to the flooding or if those people would be required to fortify the banks and strengthen what has been done without permits. Mr. Watt said he does not believe people will have to undo any work done in response to the emergency.

Regarding the ‘Protect CBJ Infrastructure’ portion of the memo, Ms. Hale felt it is important that CBJ work closely with property owners. She asked if CBJ is allowed to compel landowners to armor their property. Mr. Watt said that is not normal CBJ business and he is not sure how the CBJ would move forward with that.

Ms. Hale – Wondered if a LID would be an option for those properties. Mr. Watt said it might be possible under the current LID code. They would first need to determine what will be done, who will it benefit, who will pay the costs up front, can we compel them to participate, and they would need to determine/define a direct public purpose for the project.

Mr. Jones moved that they introduce an ordinance for the \$27,500 to be heard at the November Assembly meeting.

No objection, motion passed

Ms. Hale moved the PWFC a resolution to support University requests for funding for ongoing research. Additionally, the Manager shall find out if funding is needed that CBJ could provide in the immediate term.

No objection, motion passed

Ms. Hale moved that PWFC request the Director of Public Works to advise PWFC on what the appropriate team to advise the assembly and CBJ on all levels and aspects of the river and ask that the Director of Public Works bring back that recommendation to the next PWFC meeting so they can forward a request on to the assembly.

No objection, motion passed

Ms. Hale moved to provide an opportunity for members of the public to testify to the assembly at a Committee of the Whole meeting about the situation.

No objection, motion passed

Mr. Watt presented a LIDAR map illustrating comparisons of the river and banks from 2013 to 2023.

This topic will be on the agenda for the next PWFC and will be open for public testimony at the next Assembly Committee of the Whole meeting.

#### **G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **3. Waste Management Quarterly Update – Jim Denson, Waste Management, Presented via Zoom**

The fundamental goals are to mitigate odors, control litter, and safety.

- Odor mitigation is progressing well. Public complaints have decreased.
- Litter control work includes bird deterrents and installing bear fencing
- Safety measures include taking steps to ensure customer compliance with PPE and vehicle speed requirements. They are also encouraging public to use curb side pickup rather than bringing garbage to the landfill.

Completed projects include construction of the new cell, stormwater conveyance improvements, gas collection improvements, bird deterrent systems.

There are plans for projects to remove the maintenance bay and add a second scale in 2024.

Landfill safety measures include delaying opening as needed due to snowfall/ice, restricting access inside the Recycleworks building, and adding signage.

Ms. Weldon asked about the status of public dumpsters so people can drop off waste without having to go to the landfill. Mr. Denson explained the dumpsters were tried but there was not good public compliance. Mr. Bryson told the committee the option for residents to call and have Alaska Waste pick up extra items is affordable and it seems to be gaining acceptance in the community.

##### **4. Clean Energy Programs – presented by Mr. Watt**

The Assembly Committee of the Whole heard a presentation on August 7th regarding on-bill financing and referred it to PWFC. Mr. Watt does not recommend on bill financing saying he is not in support of linking

energy financing with utility billing. Mr. Watt recommended continuing work with Alaska Heat Smart and AELP programs.

It was decided to keep this in committee and to ask for additional information.

**5. Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Increases – Presented by Superintendent Brian McGuire**

The last rate increase already approved takes effect 7/1/2024. To meet projected FY2025-FY2029 funding needs, there would need to be a 10-15% increase in revenue. This could be met via rate increases, bonds, or a combination of the two.

**6. Juneau Douglas North Crossing Project Update – Bridget LaPenter presented**

The PEL Study is currently through the level 1 screening of possible locations. Surveying and mapping are in progress. If funding allows, they expect this phase could be completed in 2024. Currently CBJ is working on the North Douglas Sub Area Plan. CBJ was awarded \$16.5M in federal funds from USDOT for 2023. This grant requires a local match of \$866,000 which the assembly has approved.

An additional \$7M in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) has been awarded toward the project.

However, there is a 9% local match requirement that CBJ Engineering was not aware of when the award was accepted. ADOTPF has agreed to split the local match with CBJ. Our portion of the 9% comes to \$315,000.

**H. PWFC 2023 ASSEMBLY GOALS**

**7. PWFC Milestones for 2023 Assembly Goals (one more meeting to provide input for goals)**

No comment

**I. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT**

**8. August 24, 2023, to September 13, 2023 – No new information**

**J. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 6, 2023**

**K. ADJOURNMENT –**

Having no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

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