

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 6, 2001

Metro Council Chamber

Members present: Councilor Carl Hosticka, Chair, Councilor Bill Atherton, Councilor Susan McLain

Chair Hosticka called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the May 23, 2001 meeting were moved by Councilor Atherton, and unanimously approved without revision.

2. **Resolution No. 01-3077, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Executive Officer to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Metro and Clean Water Services, A County Service District in Washington County, for Coordination of Planning and Authorizing the Payment of Up to \$11,452 for Healthy Streams Data**

Motion: Councilor McLain moved with do pass recommendation.

Andy Cotugno, Planning Department, explained the resolution. This is a multi-year IGA. The budget that provides for this contract has not been approved by Council, and a budget amendment has been submitted for the first half of the amount for the next fiscal year. **Chair Hosticka** asked Mr. Cotugno to read Metro's Obligations on page 3 of the contract. **Mr. Cotugno** read them as provided in the meeting packet. **Councilor McLain** and **Chair Hosticka** said this was a good plan and reflected a spirit of cooperation. **Councilor Atherton** added that this could be a model for use in other watershed planning efforts by first complying with the water quality act.

Vote: **Resolution No. 01-3077** vote was 3/0, passing the motion unanimously. Councilor McLain will carry the resolution to Council.

3. DRAFT Regional Greenspaces System

Charlie Ciecko, Director, Parks and Greenspaces, provided background and context information. **Jennifer Budhabhatti**, Open Spaces Department, has worked closely with the Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) for the past three years regarding identification of the boundary for the regional system, on sub-watershed basis, open urban reserves, and all acquisition areas. Consultants were hired and an inventory was undertaken. She distributed a handout which is attached and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting, and utilized several oversized colored maps. **Councilor McLain** expressed appreciation for clear identification of values and criteria, and asked about the potential connections between the different sites identified as regionally significant, and if they were prioritized. **Ms. Budhabhatti** replied that so far there have been no prioritizations, and responded to some general questions touched upon in her report. **Chair Hosticka** read a letter received from Mike Burton, Executive Officer, indicating that the work being done on the regional greenspaces system could also support a Title 3 uplands effort. The letter is attached and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting.

4. DRAFT Functional Criteria for Determining Goal 5 Significance

Initial staff presentation to this committee, with possible committee action next month.

Chair Hosticka explained that this was the meeting at which the staff was to present a draft set of functional criteria for identifying regionally significant sites, and to apply those criteria to three different areas to demonstrate the diversity of potential sites within the metropolitan area. After this presentation, the Committee may wish to request that these criteria be presented to MPAC.

Andy Cotugno, Director Planning Department, introduced the issue of determining which of the riparian corridor areas are significant. A Vision Statement was established last summer following public comment which, when interpreted, suggested that the "Green Book" approach was too one-sided. A more tailored approach was needed that included State Goal 5, and also the goals of access to nature, and addressing federal requirements for endangered species. The program could be a regulatory, grant, acquisition or volunteer program. It has not yet been defined. With the maps, the important function of each resource can be evaluated. The criteria to be applied will be determined by these maps. He further commented on the connection between this and Greenspaces Masterplan. This was intended to be a way of evaluation all of the land territory around all of the streams and creeks to determine significance. The stream corridors of the Greenspaces Masterplan are not all of the stream corridors, only those that connect the region to the uplands. There are some crossovers; it is bigger from a riparian corridor point of view, but smaller from an uplands point of view, however there are opportunities for more integration of the two.

Paul Ketcham, Planning Department Regional Planner, explained the methodology they were directed to develop from the last Natural Resources Committee meeting which was to develop an ecological functional approach for determining the land base associated with our streams and rivers that could be considered in the inventory process. The method presented today is an objective scientific, identifies on a relative basis ecological functions, its purpose to establish a comparative basis for assessing those functions across the region. The methodology is consistent with Goal 5, and the vision statement adopted last year. He read the goal into the record. This methodology is responsive to that goal, but not sufficient ingredient toward achieving that goal. The staff intends to develop and refine criteria for the upland areas, but today's presentation is the criteria to define the functional relationship of the landscape to the streams, focusing on wildlife and the riparian corridors. He referenced the information in the packet. Today's presentation is to apply methodology to the eastside, westside and southside. They are nine square mile pilot areas: Johnson Creek, Bronson Creek and the City of Wilsonville.

The six functions (Attachment A, B and C in the packet) using the Johnson Creek Pilot Study as an example, were presented by **Justin Houk**, Planning Department. He incorporated wall maps into his presentation. **Councilor Atherton** stated that farmers are allowed to pipe streams. How does it show up in our evaluation. **Mr. Houk** said if already piped, it would not be considered a surface stream.

Councilor McLain and **Chair Hosticka** expressed appreciation to staff for the enormous amount of work that had been done, the manner in which it was presented, and the respect staff showed for fish and wildlife.

Paul Ketcham, Planning Department, said the next step was showing how the ecological functions, using a real, site-specific area of our region, manifest themselves into a single expression. He said fish, wildlife and people were well represented on the mapping. He referenced and explained Attachment B in the packet, using the same oversized maps. If the Council wanted to carry forward to the next level, the landscape that is functionally related to the ecosystem, it could decide, based on the minimum ranges of the scientific literature, to narrow or expand some of the criteria for that function. Another decision point for the Council to consider would be what portion on the rating scheme is a significant source. If the Council chose to narrow or enlarge the distances for these functions, it should be cautioned of the

ecological risks (either higher or lower) involved. After the Council makes its significance decision, the scale will have been identified for the ESEE analysis, which will enable the staff to analyze environmental consequences of economic and development strategies in these areas, because the areas of multiple functional values would be identified, as compared to the areas of few values. This rating scheme helps identify those areas in the landscape that have some functional value as opposed to those areas which have lost their functional values. **Chair Hosticka** reviewed a tentative schedule of work. It is attached and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting.. **Councilor McLain** requested the MPAC chair be advised of suggestion of an additional MPAC meeting to give that committee sufficient time to review this work. **Mark Turpel**, Planning Department, responded that Chair Naito has not given confirmation yet. **Chair Hosticka** said the Council was to give direction to staff to map the whole region before the end of July, so significance determinations would be made in September to apply to the ESEE analysis. **Mike Houck**, Audubon Society, asked a question (could not be heard on tape). **Mr Turpel** responded that July 20 was too late, but possibly they could revise their schedule with regard to the July meeting. **Councilor McLain** said it was important for the Metro committees reviewing this work to realize that this work represents five years of work. **Chair Hosticka** suggested staff revise the tentative schedule to reflect a special Goal 5 TAC meeting to make recommendations. At the next Committee meeting, June 20, 2001, an open forum for public comment will be provided.

5. Councilor Communication

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mannhalter
Council Assistant

:pm

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF June 6, 2001

Document Number	Date	Document Description	RES/ORD
060601.01		Process to Select Regionally Significant Natural Areas	
060601.02		Letter to Chair Hosticka from Mike Burton re: mapping effort of Goal 5	
060601.03		Metro publication, "Metro Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan"	
060601.04		Regional Goal 5 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Tentative Schedule for Reviewing Draft Criteria for Establishing Regional Resources	