

**University Area Community Council Resolution
on Revisions to the Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan
Scheduled For Action at the Assembly Meeting June 24, 2014**

Whereas, the purpose of the Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan (AWMP) is to identify high value and sensitive wetlands areas within the Municipality for protection.

Whereas, Anchorage has lost of 78% of its wetlands since 1950 (18,903 acres in AWMP in 1950; now~4000 according to Thede Tobish-MOA)

Whereas, Wetlands provide unquestionable intrinsic value to the Municipality, by providing --

- Water storage capacity to buffer against flooding
- Habitat for area wildlife, waterfowl, and bird populations
- Corridor for seasonal moose population movement
- Active-learning natural resource educational opportunities for the Municipality's primary and secondary school system and university students
- Recreational opportunities in natural wetlands, within the heart of Anchorage

Whereas, The strategy of allowing development of high-value wetlands in one area, in exchange for protection of wetlands in another location, is an unbalanced and damaging management approach. For example, increase in flooding can occur downstream from where wetlands are developed

Whereas, the current AWMP protects Mosquito Lake, Goose Lake and Chester Creek area wetlands due their functional value (habitat, water quality, and recreation)

Whereas, there have been no changes to the functional value provided by the Mosquito Lake, Goose Lake and Chester Creek wetland areas since the current AWMP was written in 1996

Whereas, the currently proposed revisions to the AWMP would add discretionary language that weakens protection for these areas to accommodate potential development (Site numbers 14A, 18, 18A, 18B in AWMP 2012 Public Hearing Draft Table: Management Strategies, Enforceable and Administrative Policies)

Whereas, the University Area member presenting this resolution only reviewed the AWMP for sites important to the University Area

Whereas, this resolution borrows heavily from and supports Resolution No. 2014-3 approved by the Airport Heights Community Council on May 15, 2014.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the University Area Community Council:


Opposes revisions to the 1996 AWMP as contained in the 2012 Public Hearing Draft approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission for adoption by the Anchorage Assembly (Site numbers 14A, 18, 18A, 18B, 18D and 18E in AWMP 2012 Public Hearing Draft Table: Management Strategies, Enforceable and Administrative Policies)

Supports the adoption of amendments (attached) that reinstate 1996 plan protections for the Mosquito Lake, Goose Lake and Chester Creek area wetlands resources

Opposes any wording which removes authority from the MOA for enforcement of policies and management strategies within the AWMP

Supports other community councils who may present resolutions supporting amendments to reinstate protection of wetland sites important to their area. □

The University Area Community Council approved this Resolution on June 4, 2014 by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.



Jacob Gondek, President, UACC

Amendments that reinstate 1996 plan protections for the Mosquito Lake, Goose Lake and Chester Creek area wetlands resources

14A Chester Creek

COLLEGE GATE SUBDIVISION #4, TRACT D (5.95 acres; Public Ownership) (Scores: Hydrology = 71; Habitat = 41; Species Occurrence = 18; Social Function = 74) Values for flood and stormwater attenuation, water quality. *A 65-foot setback shall apply along all drainage ways to Chester Creek. Maintain 100-foot setback from Chester Creek due to its anadromous fish resources.* Setback (100 feet) precludes a lower designation; provides buffer to stream. Eastern boundary of mapped wetland requires a COE Jurisdictional Determination.

18 Goose Lake

GOOSE LAKE (38 acres; Public Ownership) (Scores: Hydrology = 88; Habitat = 120; Species Occurrences = 122; Social Function = 97) Documented high values for habitat, water quality and recreation. Includes upper Mosquito Lake drainage. Important as feeder area for Mosquito Lake. Minor park amenities could be permitted but shall be concentrated at North end of lake only but key drainage sections shall be avoided. *A 65-foot setback shall be maintained as a minimum along all drainage ways. COE wetland delineation required.*

18 South Side of Northern Lights/Bragaw, East of Goose Lake

SOUTH SIDE OF NORTHERN LIGHTS/BRAGAW, EAST OF GOOSE LAKE (33.24 acres; Public Ownership) (Scores: Hydrology = 76; Habitat = 75; Species Occurrence = 17; Social Function = 74)
*Maintain all drainageways and flow patterns in wetlands. **General Permit applicable.** GP Site Restrictions and Design Criteria: *Construction timing window; Wetland Delineation; identify surface water features; BMPs for local flooding and stormwater controls required* A 65-foot setback shall be maintained as a minimum along all drainage ways. A 15-foot transitional buffer shall be maintained between fill authorized under GPs and adjacent "B" wetland; and a 25-foot transitional buffer shall be maintained between fill authorized under these GPs and adjacent "A" wetlands to the west. No development shall be authorized by the GPs east of the trail where the interface between areas designated B and C is closest to the trail. No fill shall be allowed to be placed under the GPs from April through June within 200- feet of the A-designated wetlands and within 50 feet of B-designated wetlands due to concern for nesting.*

18A Mosquito Lake

MOSQUITO LAKE (14.34 acres; Public Ownership) (Scores: Hydrology = 85; Habitat = 88; Species Occurrence = 67; Social Function = 76) *The lake itself and the "A" wetlands shall be preserved without disturbance. A 65-foot waterbody setback shall be maintained as a minimum around Mosquito Lake. Isolated lobes south of Mosquito Lake and bike trail are less valuable and could be filled for recreation or road expansions. General Permit applicable. GP site restrictions and design criteria: Construction timing window required BMPs for local flooding, prevent the dewatering of adjacent wetlands, storm water controls and visual screening requirements. No fill shall be allowed from April through July in this unit under the GPs to protect nesting near Mosquito Lake. A 25-foot transitional buffer shall be maintained between fill authorized under these GPs and adjacent "A" wetlands.*

18B Mosquito Lake Drainage Basin

NORTH SIDE PROVIDENCE, ALONG BRAGAW RIGHT-OF-WAY (MOSQUITO LAKE DRAINAGE BASIN) (36.18 acres; Public Ownership) (Scores: Hydrology = 58; Habitat = 73; Species Occurrence = 12; Social Function = 64) Includes upper mosquito Lake drainage. Area important hydrologically for Mosquito Lake. Site filters runoff from easterly sections to Mosquito Lake complex. *Runoff drainageways into flooded Mosquito Lake complex shall be maintained. Fill in "B" wetlands requires a 25-foot transitional buffer from adjacent "A" wetlands; 65-foot setback for drainageways. Although identified and justified as developable in Goose Lake Plan; this site provides waterbird habitat in flooded westerly areas, which shall be maintained.*

18D WEST OF UAA DRIVE, SOUTH OF MALLARD ST., EAST OF CHESTER

WEST OF UAA DRIVE, SOUTH OF MALLARD ST., EAST OF CHESTER (1.63 acres; Public Ownership) (Scores: Hydrology = 76; Habitat = 50; Species Occurrence = 48; Social Function = 41) General Permit applicable. GP Site Restrictions and Design Criteria: Construction timing window; identify surface water features; BMPs for local flooding and stormwater controls required. *Maintain both surface and subsurface cross drainage, and prevent drainage of adjacent wetlands. A 25-foot transitional buffer shall be maintained between fill authorized under the GPs and adjacent "A" wetlands to the west.*

18E SOUTH OF CHESTER CREEK CORRIDOR NW OF EAST 40TH AVENUE AND DALE ST.

SOUTH OF CHESTER CREEK CORRIDOR NW OF EAST 40TH AVENUE AND DALE ST. (1.13 acres; Public Ownership) (Scores: Hydrology = 95; Habitat = 79; Species Occurrence = 48; Social Function = 41) *Minimum 25-foot buffer shall be required from greenbelt and adjacent "A" wetlands. Maintain drainageway connectivity to the Chester Creek corridor and adjacent Class A wetlands. Values for flood and stormwater attenuation, water quality and recreation.*