



# West Dowling Road Connection Project Agency Meeting

HDR Alaska, Inc.

Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

## Minutes

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### **Attendees**

Miriam McCulloch (DOT&PF), Edrie Vinson (FHWA), Dan Simpson (HDR), John McPherson (HDR), Laurie Cummings (HDR), Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes (Corps of Engineers), Heather Dean (EPA), Ed Weiss (DNR) and Karen Keesecker (MOA Planning).

#### Introductions

Miriam McCulloch of DOT&PF welcomed participants.

Dan provided an update on the project. He described the changes that have been incorporated in the Proposed Action since January 2006. There have been changes at Arctic Boulevard because of a recent safety project.

He mentioned that one of the main tasks was to get more information about Tina Lake. Tina Lake is privately owned except for a DOT&PF easement. The lake level should be around 105 feet with a maximum elevation of 106. The standpipe is at an elevation of 102. The replacement standpipe will prevent the water from running out. The standpipe is assumed to be privately owned by the same property owner as the north portion of the lake. The new standpipe would be publicly owned and maintained. The standpipe would be relocated. The new standpipe would increase the lake depth by approximately 4 feet before water started to drain out.

In the MOA GIS, the lake is approximately 3.2 acres. The new lake will be about 2.8 acres. The exact lake size will depend on the topology of the area and the amount of rainfall.

The project will impact about 1.67 acres of wetlands with approximately 1.77 debits. Credits for the project have not been calculated. Different credits are given for permanently flooded areas than seasonally flooded areas. Areas with water on July 15<sup>th</sup> are considered permanently flooded. Approximately 0.8 acres of lake and wetland will become publicly owned and DOT&PF will get credits for this.

The project will also drain water into wetlands after the water has gone through a swale or other filtration measure.

The road drainage will be treated but the details have not been decided. It would be a good idea to bring the water back to the lake through the wetlands the extend north from Tina Lake.

Dan discussed the \$20 million of State funds available to the project. While this is not enough to acquire right-of-way for the entire project, the funds may be used to acquire some right-of-way between the Old Seward Highway and C Street.

An EA should be available in the next 4 to 6 weeks. A draft 404 permit will be included in the EA.

There was a question on how to handle the debit-credits in the EA. The decision was to do a debit-credit methodology.

Creating a conservation easement that includes the adjacent uplands would get a lot of credit because these uplands are at high risk for development. It is possible that the debits and credits may balance.

DOT&PF may be able to get credits for putting water through some treatment if it now goes directly into Tina Lake. Credits could also be given if DOT&PF purchased some of the small lots adjacent to Tina Lake or provided money to Great Land Trust to acquire these parcels.

Mary Lee wants to visit Tina Lake again. She had a few items from the PJD that she wanted to look at. HDR could arrange for someone to go out with her if she wants.

Mary Lee would also like to know more about the unfrozen depth of the lake. The lake depth is important because different birds like different depths.

Ed is willing to throw some fish traps in the lake. He mentioned that we may be able to determine an ordinary high water line on the power poles.

#### Action Items

- Mary Lee to make a visit to Tina Lake.
- Ed to place fish traps in Tina Lake.
- HDR to measure lake depth.
- HDR to complete a debit-credit package.