MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

TO:

Merrill Sanford, Chair PWFC

DATE:

January 6, 2005

FROM:

Rorie Watt, Chief CIP Engineer V

CBJ Engineering Department

r M

RE:

Nancy Street Pond Restoration/Land Purchase/High School Site Development

CBJ staff brings this item to the attention of the PWFC for consideration and action, and for referral to the CBJ Lands Committee for consideration and comment. In the interest of timeliness, I have already placed this item on the 1/10/05 Lands Committee agenda.

CBJ staff has been developing options for the disposal of an anticipated 100,000 cubic yards of unsuitable soils from the New Juneau High School construction.

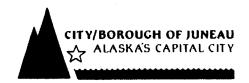
Disposal of these materials is a serious and expensive issue, worthy of substantial consideration. Excavation, loading, trucking and tipping charges for the project are substantial, the construction cost of trucking and tipping alone is estimated between \$350,000 and \$550,000.

A private owner of an un-reclaimed borrow pond is interested in selling his pond to the CBJ. The pond could be used as a waste soil disposal site for the high school project. Use of this private site could save the high school project between \$50,000 and \$150,000.

The pond would be used as a fill site for waste excavation from the high school site; restoration would be completed later, funded with grant monies and tipping charges from the high school project. The concept has huge support from regulatory and funding agencies (see attached).

Purchase of the pond could have a number of additional benefits to the CBJ:

- 1. Level the bidding field for the high school site work
- 2. Finally provide initial credits for the Mitigation Bank with no additional expenditure by the Assembly.
- 3. Wetland creation dedicated as public open space.
- 4. Reduced truck traffic on municipal and state roads.
- 5. Place build-able lot on the tax role.
- 6. Eliminate public hazard
- 7. Kudos from regulatory groups
- 8. Improve Duck Creek water quality
- 9. Does not fill existing permitted sites (the public needs available waste sites to help reduce development costs).



Merrill Sanford, PWFC Chair RE: Nancy Street Pond Restoration/Land Purchase/High School Site Development Page 2 January 6, 2005

Unlike a private developer, CBJ is well situated to purchase, fill and restore the pond for the following reasons:

- A. CBJ can provide sufficient quantity of fill.
- B. CBJ has an excellent track record with regulatory and funding groups, and can acquire significant grant monies to make restoration feasible.
- C. CBJ recognizes benefit in establishing the Mitigation Bank.
- D. CBJ can guarantee the completion of the restoration.
- E. CBJ recognizes non-monetary benefits (above).

This pond could be managed in a revenue neutral manner, and upon completion of the restoration, original purchase monies can be returned to original source. High School project monies are not a feasible option. Attached to this memorandum are letters of support and plans prepared for restoration. The site has been permitted and had engineering prepared by volunteer and regulatory groups. The CBJ's Wetlands Review Board has identified this site as its highest priority for initiating the Wetlands Mitigation Bank.

Recommendation:

- 1. I recommend that staff obtain an option agreement with the property owner, and locate possible purchase monies.
- 2. I recommend that staff present the concept to the Lands Committee.
- 3. Staff to return to PWFC for action to forward matter to the Assembly.

Attachments



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

December 6, 2004

Mr. Rorie Watt Chief of Projects, Engineering Department City and Borough of Juneau 155 S Seward Street Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Watt:

The creation of wetlands in the old dredge ponds on Duck Creek to improve water quality and salmonid habitat has been a restoration priority of the Duck Creek Advisory Group for several years. The Watershed Management Plan for Duck Creek identified wetland creation in three dredge ponds on the East Fork as one of the primary ways to restore the stream. The wetland created at the Church of the Nazarene site a few years ago has been successful in reducing the iron floc and turbidity, increasing dissolved oxygen and improving overwintering habitat for coho salmon. Creating additional wetland in one of the two remaining dredge ponds on Duck Creek will increase the stream's recovery rate.

Because Duck Creek is listed as an impaired waterbody by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, restoration efforts such as wetland creation will help immensely in improving water quality by treating stormwater runoff and reducing pollutants entering the stream. Restoration of Duck Creek has had tremendous support and involvement from the community and the creation of a new wetland in the Winchell Pond near Nancy Street will provide additional opportunities for partnerships. Besides being more aesthetically pleasing and improving salmon habitat, we also understand that wetland creation at this site has local support because the project would eliminate the deep, steep-banked dredge pond, which may pose a safety hazard for children or others.

NMFS highly recommends that the City and Borough of Juneau purchase the property known as the Nancy Street Duck Creek EP Pond in order that a wetland can be created at the site for improving water quality and habitat in Duck Creek and the downstream estuary. We appreciate the opportunity to support this worthwhile activity and hope you will as well.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: K Koski





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Juneau Fish & Wildlife Field Office 3000 Vintage Blvd., Suite 201 Juneau, Alaska 99801-7100 (907) 586-7240

Endinering

Rorie Watt, Chief of Projects City and Borough of Juneau, Engineering 155 S. Seward St. Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Nancy Street Pond Enhancement

Mr. Watt,

I appreciate the opportunity to have met with you to discuss CBJ's potential acquisition of the Nancy Street Pond in the east fork of Duck Creek in the Mendenhall Valley. We understand that CBJ proposes to acquire the pond and use portions of it to dispose of waste silt, gravel, and organic materials from the high school construction site at Diamond Park.

We view this project as an opportunity to meet complementary goals within the community by providing a cost -effective materials disposal site and incrementally restoring one of the most impaired reaches of Duck Creek. Filling the dredge ponds adjacent to Mendenhall Loop Road has been identified in the Duck Creek Management Plan as a priority action since 1999 due to the benefits to fish and water quality. The restored wetland at the Church of the Nazarene immediately upstream of the Nancy Street site provides an example of how a created wetland can reduce iron flocculation, increase fish and wildlife habitat value, and improve the human values and aesthetics of the Duck Creek corridor.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program works through non-federal cooperators to financially support fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects in Southeast Alaska. Using the National Marine Fisheries Service's existing engineering design as a guiding document, we could cost-share with CBJ any final site survey, grading, revegetation, or water control structures associated with the Nancy Street pond up to \$25,000, the limit of the program. The Partners program accepts project nominations October through June annually, and we have partnered with CBJ through at least 6 grant agreements since 1997. We seek to continue this relationship as joint project opportunities arise in Juneau-area waterways. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 586-7482.

Sincerely.

Neil Stichert

Habitat Restoration Biologist

Juneau Fish and Wildlife Field Office

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service Juneau Field Office 175 South Franklin Street, Suite 424 (907) 586-7220 fax (907) 586-7383 web site www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

December 6, 2004

Rorie Watt, Chief CIP Engineer City and Borough of Juneau 155 S. Seward Street Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Nancy Street pond on Duck Creek

Dear Mr. Watt,

It is my understanding that the City and Borough of Juneau is considering acquiring the Nancy Street pond on Duck Creek. I am writing to you in support of that effort, and to provide some information on habitat improvement assistance available through NRCS.

As you know, restoration of the dredge pond complex on the east fork of Duck Creek has been identified as a priority in the Duck Creek Watershed Management Plan and has been a goal of several resource agencies for years. Wetland creation in the borrow pit immediately upstream has provided fish and wildlife habitat in a residential setting, and helped improve water quality in the stream, which is listed as an impaired waterbody. The upcoming construction of the new high school presents a unique opportunity to increase habitat complexity in the Nancy Street pond while benefiting the City with a nearby fill disposal site. By purchasing the pond property, the City could add to its parks and natural areas.

NRCS has planning and technical assistance available upon request. I encourage the City to sign up for our Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), which provides cost-share assistance for habitat conservation or improvement practices at a rate of up to 75%. A brochure outlining the program is enclosed. NRCS currently has a WHIP contract to replace the McGinnis Street culvert on Duck Creek.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Barria Z. Barll

Samia L. Savell

Watershed Program Coordinator

Juneau Field Office

cc: Phil Naegele, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations (electronically)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

Mendenhall Watershed Partnership

P.O Box 32559 - Juneau, AK 99803

Phone: (907) 586-6853 Fax: (907) 586-6856 mwp@acsalaska.net

www.mendenhallwatershed.org



12/6/2004

Rorie Watt, Chief of Projects City and Borough of Juneau, Engineering 155 S. Seward St. Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Nancy Street Pond Enhancement

Dear Mr. Walt;

The Mendenhall Watershed Partnership supports the City and Borough of Juneau's effort to acquire the Nancy Street Pond as a fill site for waste materials from the valley school construction project.

The Duck Creek Management Plan lists filling the dredge ponds adjacent to Mendenhall Loop Road as a priority action. Duck Creek is listed as an impaired water body by the State of Alaska and the proposed fill plan to create wetlands and control flow are designed to improve water quality, protect residential property and increase the aesthetic appeal for the neighborhood.

We support continued efforts of the City and Borough and State and Federal agencies to monitor and evaluate this and other restoration and enhancement projects on Duck Creek.

Sincerely

Mark Jaqua

Executive Director

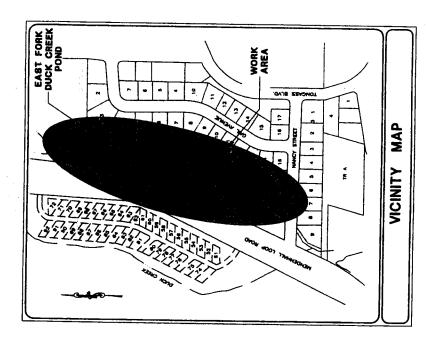
CC: MWP Board of Directors

EAST FORK DUCK CREEK MARSH RESTORATION

to Bus Mr. Mand 1/2 ay 739 - 6024

INDEX

	SHEET NO.
COVER SHEET	- of 6
EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY AND SITE MAP	2 of 8
FINISHED STR PLAN WITH HORIZOHTAL AND VERTICAL CONTROL: STA "D" 10+60 TO 16+80	3 of 8
FINISHED SITE PLAN WITH HORIZONTAL AND VENTICAL CONTROL: STA 'D" 16+80 TO 23+60	4 of 8
POND CROSS SECTIONS STA "D" 10+00 TO 13+50	5 of 8
POND CROSS SECTIONS STA "D" 14+00 TO 16+50	6 of 8
POND CROSS SECTIONS STA "D" 17+00 TO 19+50	7 of &
FOWD CROSS SECTIONS 5TA "0" 20+00 TO 23+00	8 0,8



CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR NOAA NIMES NAMES NAME
--

SHEET NO.	-	, j o	8
APROVED BY	CONTRACTING OFFICER TECHNICAL MEP.	SIGNATURE DATE	SIGNATURE BATE

