

Notes

AGENDA

ALASKA WATER RESOURCES BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 7 - 8, 1979

NORTH STAR BOROUGH LIBRARY

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Tuesday August 7, 1979:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Field trip to Chena River Flood Control Project   | 8:00 a.m.  |
| Lunch   | 12:00 Noon |
| Call to Order and Organizational Business   | 1:00 p.m.  |
| North Star Borough<br>Phil Berrian, Planning Director   | 1:30 p.m.  |
| League of Women Voters<br>Coordination and Communication Between Agencies<br>Arlayne Klein, President<br>Fairbanks League of Women Voters | 2:30 p.m.  |
| Alaska Municipal League   | 3:30 p.m.  |
| Break for Dinner  | 5:00 p.m.  |
| Public Comment  | 7:00 p.m.  |

Wednesday August 8, 1979:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Tanana Chiefs Conference<br>Roland Shanks                     | 9:00 a.m.  |
| Alaska Miners Association                                     | 10:00 a.m. |
| Fairbanks Environmental Center<br>Alaska Conservation Society | 11:00 a.m. |
| Break for Lunch   | 12:00 Noon |
| Department of Environmental Conservation                      | 1:00 p.m.  |
| Department of Natural Resources                               | 2:30 p.m.  |
| Water Resources Board<br>Additional business as needed        | 3:30 p.m.  |

No. Star Borough

contract of U.S.G.S.

dissolved arsenic in ground water

perched aquifers

1 person 1 1/2 acres near top of ridges

more plentiful descending hills

many upland wells subject to

nitrate - can be fatal to ~~the~~ infants

arsenic

Strata where contamination <sup>occurs</sup> can be

Flood plain -

abundant  $H_2O$

high contamination

Potential of <sup>contamination</sup> wells by septic systems high on

Well drilling reg. does not preclude contamination of one aquifer by another

Implication of U.S.G.S study relative to land disposal plans

Proposed Level B Study

Questions need to be asked

1. Where is study to be conducted from?

2.



2. What true implementation strategies & ~~enforcement~~ <sup>implementation</sup> / enforcement sanctions
3. Participation weighed toward federal-state agencies - local govt. native assoc.

Chena River

~~assessment of~~ <sup>need</sup> a system to ~~later~~ assess impact of major water projects



Comm

cost of operation of oversized fly. ~~sewer~~ waste disposal

Is any move occurring to bring areas outside of the city into the waste disposal plant.

Deep philosophical difference over sewer ~~into~~ use charge

fly - supply - ground water

very interested in protecting ground water

100 ft wells - owned & operated by Power Plant

Water samples / carbon filter for GHS



What responsibility does a community have  
for <sup>land</sup> planning vis a vis ~~state~~ regulations.

flood plain

St Mary's - inadequate H<sub>2</sub>O supply for ~~fire~~ fire protection

2nd class

St Yukon, Port Lions, Wasilla

mager managers

mayor

financing → →

Wasilla wants coal fired  
energy source

Borough

Flax-Nor Star, Klnad (2)

Kodiak

different

Med Sea

quan. qual data

~~for~~ on site concern - state not able to monitor adequately  
classification of wet lands



Chuck Hawely  
A.K. Miners Assoc.

Mineral exploration - largest sect.

small-med size develop/producing

about 200-300 placer mines

viability varies  $\frac{1}{3}$  -  $\frac{1}{4}$  productive - sophisticated

$\frac{1}{3}$  have potential

$\frac{1}{3}$  subsistence - little background, little potential

Ak. Miners Assoc. tell miners to conform to the laws whenever possible.

To Mine one must

Mining license

Water Dis. Permit

contact ADF&G - letter of intent

if on St. land. must get misc. land use permit -

Bonding req. - virtually impossible to get bonding

Forest Service - have to fill plans

Mining on Monument { Denali / Chulitna Kontestona  
Wrangell / St Elias  
Yukon Charlie

Park Service goes for validity determination

valid discovery on each claim

"prudent man rule" - is now being  
tightened

courts ruled claim must be economic



More leeway on precious metals

10-15,000 claims on N.P.S. lands may exist

Emergency regulations

validity assumption could be made if certain criteria are met.

Mining plan procedure - "cookbook env. assmt"

Too early to tell if it will work

Teams of mining engineer & one env. office working with miner to work out mining plan

Problems

overlapping jurisdiction

requirements of certain Acts difficult to meet

lack of technical background and data

little advancement

Solutions

One stop permitting approach

"may be window dressing"

look at specific problems, ~~and~~ develop knowledge base to address & work

DNR should strengthen research/analysis capabilities

Punitive approach not productive



Chuck

Tolovana

livingood has mine with gold reserves - covered  
by thick layer of muck - 80 ft thick

water, organic material, glacial flour  
much can have

about 6  
have settling ponds - materials won't settle out even added  
flocculants

material very fine grained - carry a long way

mine pits - regional drying

structural basin sinking in ground

material filling dikes

Company is trying to solve problem

Small individual miner cannot meet regulations

Corporation can

Yukon Water Bd will meet in a couple of weeks

similar gravel

white channel gravels are extremely good at settling  
out fine grain materials

Nyak has low head hydro system - supplement

these methods can be used for tin

uranium

mercury (depressed)

antimony

stibnite



physical chemist at UAFbx.

Dan Hawkins - control settling will control mercury  
arsenic pollution

Tests for arsenic only measures amount does not  
chemical make up - i.e. amt of sulfide / arsenic.

"Unless we know how it occurs we don't know how to  
handle it".

Mining districts are being reorganized -  
may be a negative thing  
But may provide support / knowledge



## Related

inadequate planning & testing

most have been a PHS or St. of AKs program

Some villages in old mining areas

## Level 3 proposal

confined to Tanana drainage

later study in Yukon drainage

Native input would come from the "water group" that has been formed from the

7 villages in the Tanana basin

fledgling step of native/non-native planning coordination.

## Population growth -

Some rampant

one almost disappeared

"small" population changes can have drastic effects

\$50-\$80 per mo. electric bill per household

large electrification projects

Italy Creek - \$1,000 per month water/sewer bill for electricity

Hydro-electric project - vs - historical-cultural problem potential

Stream grazing - APT has statutory mandate to establish stream grazing

Minimum stream flow - HB 186

Responsiveness of state agencies - to village needs

some yes - some no

Not much state involvement in areas other than villages



located

Regional Centers -

Tok, Hylukon, Salina, McGrath & Holy Cross

↓  
no tax base

tax base

1991 - villages must become profit making corp. & tax payers



Bob Carlson - Institute of Water Resources

ask Corps to stop

18-24 mo. would provide enough time to

Study should not go to the Corps - but to an independent contractor  
\$ 100,000

Mr. Neil - Canadian hydrology engineer -

Municipality Assembly asked for study

Corps says they may do the study after project is done.

Bent - information has been difficult to get on this project.

DNR will defer to DOT/PE

Dept. of Adm. - division of Risk Management

So far there is no comprehens

state

Three agencies involved - DNR, DOT/PE/Dept. Adm.

LeLake Peshaw ~

Resolution proposal: - one more meeting -

Copy to WRC  
Gol.  
Borough

eng. in DOT/PE is former Corps eng. on China River Proj. revolving door



Right-of-way application has not been filed

Corp wants to start construction in October

Dis. Dir. Level Decision to Order to Stop/PE

Personal communication  
with the Governor

Terry Reichart -

Devil Canyon

635 ft high

36 kH

Watona

810

54 m reservoir

430

3.1 bKH

1.8

6.9

# 3 billion

Concerns.

Seismic

Active zone

Corps just recognized Susitna Fault  
this has been active - source of a number  
of moderate

loading factor - weight of water so  
known to induce quakes

Windall Milton Mickey

NOAA



# 15-m. fishery in Cook Inlet

40% comes from Sitka

fy fry spend 2 summer

winter when water is clear fy move into

Siltation/clear cycle will be changed.

siltation may be greater in winter

Corps has not dealt with ~~sea~~ possible

Studies should be done

Caribou herd

5,000 - 6,000 says EIS

20,000 says ADF&C

ice sheaving

calving ground disturbed

23% state moose harvest from Unit 13

winter moose browse

normal yearly flooding controls

extension of aspen & spruce into  
areas that now contain

Procapra inc per yr. of 3% projection - made in 1975

Shx - GVA fig. <sup>commercial</sup> 5.5% decrease  
residential 12.5% decrease



ff  
ff  
ff

Susitna Electrical energy will not be cheap  
cost of coal generating plant  
annual maintenance

Needs to be a state policy ~~statement~~ on energy  
on growth

OMB - over 30% <sup>will cause</sup> over run - benefit/cost less than 1  
50% - 500% over run on large project

Gov. should stipulate The three co. not be involved in bidding on  
construction to the feasibility study

Akers - Dubelius

International

Horace

Public participation has been difficult



Don Thacker - Geochemist -

Mr. Wilson -

50 ppb to 8-10 ppm

100 ppb. considered hazardous

(above this accumulation occurs)

arsenic - carcinogenic

arsenic content is comparable to areas where arsenic poisoning  
have occurred -

length of rise

nutritional level

slow ultraviolet exposure

Report on neurological effects due out now

R.M. Feldman

arsenic

Ground water, distribution controlled

Arsenic on surface is in an anionic state



Jeff -

Beginning to organize Phase III

This is the point that is most critical

Turf battles may emerge

Let contracts to review study projects - proposal

Study Director -

Substantial problems if selection process must be started over

Proposals - met peculiar responses

FY 81

Tanana Level B

Special Studies

1. instream flows

2. assessment of geothermal potential in Yakon area

~~CCSP~~ - permanent, on going water planning

885

If villages do not become profit-making they can not protect their lands

Village decline is out of the control of the people themselves

LUFC in '77 - Study - villages on decline - movement into regional centers - Jeff questions figures that went into the study.



As water is diverted from streams - may make a  
bad matter worse

Fish reduction -

Water quantity / quality - effects subsistence & commercial  
fishing

Native Corporations - Diverse as

confrontation within culture

taxable deadline will provide a real crunch

W Minto - water quality (color of chocolate milk)  
"Ducks won't"

Birch Creek - production stepped up - effects village  
use down stream

Water heated - industrially in  
commercial

Chemical pollution - mining  
milling  
phosphate fire retardant  
agricultural

New source of  $H_2O$

Ground water

several villages have drilled wells



## Roland Shanks

- Tanana Chiefs Conf. - oldest org. 1915

12,000,000 acres - Doyon

- Interior Village Assoc.

- Doyon

corporation activity crisis

reorganized under Indian Self-determination Act

BIA - down to 4 people -

Tanana Chiefs now have the contracts for most of the services BIA used to handle - (exception - schools)

Gardens - to reduce cost & improve nutrition

Photo interpretation shop - forest inventory, etc.

3 groups have formed a "water problem comm" to discuss water projects & issues

Doyon - 43 villages

133 m. acres

Villages rely on some type of transportation form.

Water level problems

" " constancy problems

Titlin - navigation system inadequate -

short season

limited in what can go up

depth of water - major problem