

2006 JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS)
JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

July 19, 2010

A Technical Committee meeting was held in the Chizmar Conference Room, 1st Floor, Borough Administrative Center, 809 Pioneer Road, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order by Bernardo Hernandez at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bernardo Hernandez, FNSB Community Planning Director
Kerry Barnes, FNSB Retained Land Officer
Kate Siftar, Chief, Master Planning Division - Fort Wainwright
William Rice, Community Planner - Eielson
Diane Hutchison, Military Affairs Committee Vice-chair
Paul Martz, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Jacobson, FNSB Chief of Staff
Jim Lee, Community Planning Deputy Director
Marnie Long-Boehl, FNSB Community Planning JLUS Secretary

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Paul Costello, FNSB Land Management Director
Jeff Roach, State of Alaska DOT&PF
Mike Schmetzer, Public Works Director and City Engineer - Fairbanks
Bill Butler, City of North Pole, Director of City Services
David Sanches, Directorate of Public Works – Ft. Wainwright

A. ROLL CALL

1. Introduction.

B. CITIZEN'S COMMENT

None.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.
 - Chairman - Kerry Barnes, FNSB Retained Land Officer.
 - Vice Chairman - William Rice, Community Planner – Eielson.

D. *MINUTES: July 12, 2010

MOTION: by William Rice, seconded by Bernardo Hernandez.

VOTE:

- Unanimously with spelling corrections to the following:
- Page 1 of the minutes – spelling correction on the name Kerry Barnes per Kerry Barnes.
 - Page 3 of 6 of the minutes - #4 – change the spelling of the word strengthen per Diane Hutchison.
 - Page 3 of 12 on the Memorandum - #4 - change the spelling of the word strengthen per Diane Hutchison.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: N/A

VOTE: N/A

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Jim Lee** would like the JLUS Technical committee members to review the changes made to the Local Jurisdiction thirteen (13) recommendations to make sure they are consistent from the meeting on July 12th. We are going to review the Military Recommendations with the same time frames approved by the JLUS Technical Committee on July 12th. These time frames start at six (6) months to twelve (12) months; twelve (12) months to twenty-four (24) months; and start work in August 2010, and fully implemented between twenty-four (24) months to sixty (60) months.
- **Jeff Jacobson** commented on **Local Jurisdiction Recommendation #6** does not have a status.
 - **Publicize established legal requirements for full disclosure in real estate transactions.**

Alaska Statutes (AS 34.70) requires full disclosure by the seller. This existing tool can and should be used to ensure all buyers of property around military bases understand the potential noise environment. This tool requires working with the local real estate community to ensure they understand and comply with this requirement.

✓ Jim Lee indicated that it was partially implemented.
- **Diane Hutchison** wanted clarification on **Local Jurisdiction Recommendation #13** – we do not have the maps.
 - **Maintain residential densities within existing and future noise sensitive areas.**

Adopt policy forbidding an increase of residential density for existing residential areas within the existing and future 65 DNL contour. This will prevent increased development of incompatible residential uses within air operations areas. This tool requires amending the comprehensive plan and zoning codes as necessary.

✓ **Jim Lee** stated that we do not have the DNL contour determination from Ft Wainwright.

✓ **Diane Hutchison** wanted clarification – if someone owned 160 acres in that area, does this mean that they could not subdivide.

✓ **Bernardo Hernandez** said that we would want to work with the property owner on the density of the area.

✓ **Bill Rice** said that the property owner would have to work with the military regulations.

✓ **Kate Siftar** said that this is only a recommendation to have a density, need more communications to the property owners. She showed samples of land maps and what the zoning was for the area – concerns would be on the runway and the range firing area.

- **Kate Siftar** wanted to change the implemented time frame on **Local Jurisdiction Recommendation #2**.
 - **Create a JLUS Natural Resources Working Group.**

To continue the momentum created by this effort, the local jurisdictions, in collaboration with the Army and Air Force, would establish an FNSB Joint Land Use Natural Resources Working Group to address issues of recreational access and resource management. The group will focus on issues around training ranges, including civilian recreational access and natural resource management. The group will include a full range of stakeholder organizations that have an interest in hunting, fishing, recreation access, and habitat management on military training ranges. This Committee could also be expanded to include the Delta Junction community and military representative in that area. FNSB Planning Department is suggested as the organization to provide staff support, meeting space and other logistical support in a similar manner as for other FNSB-sponsored committees.

 - ✓ **Jeff Jacobson** said that this recommendation also applied to the JLUS Natural Resource Working Group and will stay at **Partially Implemented** until this group is created.
 - ✓ **Kate Siftar** advised JLUS Technical Committee to call Gary Larson with the Hunting Group from Ft. Wainwright.
 - ✓ **Move to six (6) to twelve (12) months.**

- **Military Recommendation #2:** Coordinate training schedules.

The military would work with local and state government natural resources managers to communicate training schedules. This would help to minimize the impacts of training activities on wildlife populations and wildlife management particularly during hunting season. This information would be presented before the proposed JLUS Natural Resources Working Group.

 - ✓ Ft. Wainwright is working with Fish & Game and with the Hunting Groups. FNSB is going to create the JLUS Natural Resources Working Group, so when this is established then these groups can be integrated.
 - ✓ When there is train schedules, public affairs would send information out to a list of people and the Eielson Resource Manager would coordinate what is going on in the different areas.
 - ✓ Ft. Wainwright will be making an announcement soon of what areas that will be closed for hunting this fall.
 - ✓ **Move to twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months.**

- **Military Recommendation #5:** Develop an information and education program for Natural Resource management and continue and improve hunter awareness education.

The military would develop and implement an information and education program for personnel using military lands. The program would emphasize conservation of wildlife and natural resources; develop protocol to reduce wildlife disturbance and negative wildlife-human interactions. It would provide recreational information such as hunting closures and recreational restrictions in a timely manner. The natural resources managers would develop the program and work with JLUS Natural Resources Working Group and PAOs.

The military would continue to hold and expand hunter safety education courses and partner with ADF&G and other hunter safety groups to provide educational opportunities to the military community. This will help to promote awareness of the Alaska outdoors environment to interested military personnel who are new to Alaska.

Classes would be programmed around seasons: fall and spring hunting season, spring/summer fishing seasons. This would minimize conflicts and maximize safety and enjoyment through positive education.

- ✓ **Bill Rice** said that most of the safety education courses are held by ADF&G.
- ✓ **Diane Hutchison** commented that when you register to hunt on military land, you have to show that you have attended a hunter safety course.
- ✓ **Move to twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months.**

- **Military Recommendation #12:** Avoid flying over residential areas to the extent practicable.

To minimize noise-related conflicts the military would review flight operations on an ongoing basis and include civilian land use patterns into that review. To the most practical extent possible, the military would avoid flying low over residential areas. They would maintain a database of noise-related complaints, and incorporate that information into operations review.

- ✓ Change to **Fully Implemented on Ft. Wainwright** – need a letter from the Military.

- **Military Recommendation #18:** Strengthen implementation of INRMPs as a means of enforcing of JLUS recommendations.

Integrated natural resources management plans (INRMPs) contain specific actions to inventory, maintain, and improve wildlife habitat, as well as proper management of natural resources and recreation resources on military installations. They also guide civilian use of military training ranges and other lands, thus minimizing conflicts between civilian and military use. By strengthening the implementation of the INRMP, there is potential for improving or maintaining good habitat and wildlife conditions. Some of the types of recommendations of the INRMP process include:

- Monitor the effects of military training on select wildlife species (especially herd animals and waterfowl) during critical seasons such as breeding, rearing of young, and migration.
- Conduct a detailed study to assess impacts of recreational vehicles to vegetation and continue to enforce recreational vehicle use policies.
- Continue the use of environmental limitations overlays that indicate areas where maneuver training is and is not allowed.
- Provide appropriate training to MPs and land managers.

The INRMP process involves regular reviews and updates. During this process, coordination with JLUS Natural Resources Working Group would be required.

- ✓ **Diane Hutchison** said that everything that is listed in Recommendation #18 is already in place and this should be fully implemented.
- ✓ Change to **Fully Implemented with Eielson** - need a letter from the Military.
- ✓ **Bill Rice** asked who the letter should be address to.
- ✓ **Jim Lee** replied - send the letter to him at FNSB Community Planning.
- ✓ **Bill Rice** asked who the Borough would like at the Military to sign this letter – should it come from management.
- ✓ **Bernardo Hernandez** said that the letter should come from management.
- ✓ **Kate Siftar** said the letter should be addressed to the JLUS Technical Committee and then presented to the JLUS Policy Committee. We should send all letters to the Chairman of the JLUS Technical Committee.
- ✓ **Bernardo Hernandez** would like to see that every six (6) months that this committee sends a letter to Senator Murkowski, Don Young, and Senator Begich office and inform them what the JLUS Technical committees are accomplishing and their progress.

- ✓ **Kate Siftar** said that the funding is not at 100% - they have funding capabilities at RED, AMBER, and GREEN. Green is 100% funding, Red is no funding, and Amber means they can implement some of the requirements but not all of them at this time – so partially would be correct for Ft. Wainwright.
- ✓ Leave **Ft. Wainwright at Partially Implemented.**
- ✓ **Move to twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months.**

- **Military Recommendation #19:** Maintain / initiate two-year renewal duration. Maintain the extended two-year renewal duration on the FWA and DTA Recreational Access Permits. A two-year permit duration would simplify public access to military lands. It would also help to guide civilian use of military training ranges and other lands, thus minimizing conflicts between civilian and military use.
 - ✓ Change to **Fully Implemented on Ft. Wainwright** – need a letter from the Military.

- **Military Recommendation #15:** Consider establishment of formal MOU with state and federal resource management agencies. Use the Sikes Act amendments as a model to formalize cooperative land management responsibilities with USFWS and ADF&G. This will allow for resource sharing and improved communications between Federal and State agencies. Task the natural resources managers to develop the memorandum of understanding (MOU) and work with JLUS Natural Resources Working Group.
 - ✓ Ft. Wainwright already has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State and Federal Resource Management – US Fish & Wildlife Services, and US Fish & Game.
 - ✓ **Bill Rice** believes that Eielson has a MOU also – he will check into this.
 - ✓ Will stay at **Partially Implemented** until a JLUS Natural Resource Working Group is created – this should be a 1st priority.

- **Military Recommendation #16:** Access cards permit system for snowmachiners. Currently the military has a successful program for allowing snowmachiners access to military lands via an access card permit system. This would maintain this system and continue community goodwill through use of a proven ongoing program.
 - ✓ **Change language to Not Implemented** instead of No implemented or No implementation.
 - ✓ Eielson has trails that snowmachiners can access but he doesn't know if Eielson has an access card permit system.
 - ✓ **Diane Hutchison** asked why does Eielson need a card system in place – what is the purpose.
 - ✓ **Bill Rice** doesn't think that they have areas for non-military persons to snowmachine.
 - ✓ Ft. Wainwright has a card system and is fully implemented.
 - ✓ **Jim Lee** said that this could be considered N/A from Eielson but would need a letter.

- **Military Recommendation #17:** Study longer term lease agreements
Consider longer term lease agreements with local governments or recreational user groups for outlying military lands. This will provide a climate of certainty for ongoing public support and investment in those lands, e.g. Birch Hill ski area and the skeet area. Have legal staff review and determine issues. Work with congressional delegation to modify statutory requirements, if necessary.
 - ✓ **Kate Siftar** communicated that this is not possible for Ft. Wainwright. They have a commercial activity process – so commercial lease agreements are not allowed – will get more information on this.
 - ✓ **Bill Rice** said that Eielson lease agreements have to go through the Real Property section.
 - ✓ Need more information on how long the lease would be.
 - ✓ **Diane Hutchison** said that there is no implementation because it is calling for a study of longer term lease agreements and that has not been accomplished.
 - ✓ Change **Eielson** status to **Not Implemented** and **Ft. Wainwright** status to **Not Implemented**.
 - ✓ **Move to twenty-four (24) to sixty (60) months.**

- **Military Recommendation #22:** Partner with ADF&G to create a one-stop permitting shop.
Partner with ADF&G to establish a one-stop hunting and fishing permitting station at the ADF&G offices in Fairbanks. This eliminates potential problems related to access to the permit office on the bases.
 - ✓ Eielson does their own – does not coordinate with ADF&G.
 - ✓ Get more information from Eielson and Ft. Wainwright to see if this can be accomplished or that it should be N/A.
 - ✓ Leave the status the same.

- **Military Recommendation #7:** Post local military noise contour maps and related information on the web and publish in local papers.
The military would make the AICUZ and the Installation Environmental Noise Management plan and related maps available on publicly accessible website(s). This would be a task for the Fort Richardson PAO office to implement.

At the beginning of the spring, the military would publish a lay-public-friendly summary of noise related information in the local newspapers. It would include information about current and proposed changes to operations that might impact noise generation. Both of these actions would help to minimize conflicts through positive communications.
 - ✓ Eielson looks at this recommendation as providing a certain service which would include additional funding. They do have the information available on line.
 - ✓ **Bernardo Hernandez** stated that Eielson would have to publish in the newspaper that this information is available online.
 - ✓ **Jim Lee** asked if this should be Ft. Wainwright instead of Fort Richardson PAO.
 - ✓ **Kate Siftar** said that it should be Fort Richardson PAO. – will check to see if it is on the web and if it is not – why? Need updated plans.
 - ✓ **Move to twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months.**

- **Military Recommendation #8:** Consider identification and acquisition of land that may be needed to protect military operations from encroachment.
The military would conduct an internal review to determine if there is a need to purchase or otherwise obtain ownership to lands that may be needed in the future to prevent encroachment that represents a threat to mission-essential military operations. This would remove key land use conflicts. A potential candidate might be Secluded Acres.
 - ✓ **Bill Rice** said that they have a special program to get funding to buy land – most of the land around the base is owned by the military now.
 - ✓ **Bernardo Hernandez** stated that it sounds like Eielson has already conducted a internal review.
 - ✓ Change **Eielson** status to **Fully Implemented** – need letter.
 - ✓ **Kate Siftar** said that there is a program called the Army Compatible Use Buffer Zone – Ft. Wainwright has done the review and submitted the proposal – safe to leave this status the same.

- **Military Recommendation #9:** Pursue funding for DoD conservation land purchases.
Consider partnering with local, state and non-profit entities to acquire land around military installations to prevent encroachment and allow for compatible recreational activities including hunting and fishing. This would minimize conflicts by purchasing land when a potential exists for recreational conflicts.
 - ✓ Change the status of **Eielson** to **Fully Implemented** – need letter.

- **Military Recommendation #11:** Maintain up-to-date noise contours in GIS.
Installations would maintain up-to-date noise contours for both air traffic and firing ranges on installations in a GIS database. This information would be provided to the FNSB for integration into the Borough's data base and would be available to the public. This would assist in the review of air operations and major flight paths for conflicts with existing residences. It would also serve as a resource for individuals considering purchase of land in the impacted area.
 - ✓ Leave status the same for both military bases.

- **Military Recommendation #13:** Study the potential to locate or relocate firing areas.
This would locate future firing and artillery ranges and training exercises away from noise-sensitive receptors and noise-sensitive areas. Military planners would review civilian land uses in siting facilities, and meet with the Planning Commission to solicit their input.
 - ✓ Need letter from Eielson for Fully Implemented.

- **Military Recommendation #21:** Fund conservation officers.
Fully fund conservation officers to enforce state and federal game laws, and military rules and restrictions. This would help to guide civilian use of military training ranges and other lands, thus minimizing conflicts between civilian and military use.
 - ✓ **Kate Siftar** said that Ft. Wainwright does fund conservation officers, so it is fully implemented but the funds could get cut.
 - ✓ Change **Ft. Wainwright** status to **Fully implemented** – need letter.
 - ✓ Eielson could be N/A – Bill Rice will check into this recommendation – need letter if it is N/A.
 - ✓ **Move to twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months.**

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.