

Minutes for HALO Annual Meeting, May 6, 2010  
Holy Spirit Retreat Center, Anchorage

President Wayne Westberg opened the meeting at 7:13 pm. Eighteen people signed the sign-in sheet.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Moerlein and Fall to approve the April 10, 2010 edited minutes. Passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking account has \$5,304.11; Legal fund has \$18,658.69.

**Legislative/Assembly report:** Assemblywoman Jennifer Johnston said the Hillside District Plan was adopted by the Assembly but the Implementation phase must be completed. Jennifer will inquire as to why permitting can't/won't use HDP goals in their permitting process until after the Implementation standards are adopted.

Motion by Moerlein and Clawson to have HALO write a letter requesting that the MOA permitting process adhere to the HDP goals now and not wait for Implementation standards to be written. If this can't be done, then suspend permitting until Implementation is completed. Send letter to the mayor, Greg Jones, Jerry Weaver, the Assembly, and city manager. Judy will write the letter for Wayne's signature.

**Announcements:** Westberg thanked Sharon Clawson for her work on the programs and forums over the past few years. Westberg explained the speaker from the city backed out at the last minute so the program will consist of water well information and the HDP program on water well protection.

**Elections:** Candidates for the board and officers from the Nominating Committee, and from the floor, are:

Wayne Westberg, Pres  
Rodney Powell, Vice Pres  
Dianne Holmes, Secretary  
Dave Cottrell & Judy Moerlein, Co-treasurers  
Chris Hamre, Past Pres  
Matt Moore, Basher District  
Kurt Rein, District 1A  
Susan Olsen, District 2A  
Christine Monette & Katie Nolan, District 3B  
Steve & Jeanne McKee, District 4A  
Peter Johnson, District 5A

Motion by Holmes and Abney to accept the nominations. Passed.

**Old Business:**

*HALO District Boundaries for Bylaws:* The latest map of HALO's boundaries, revised according to instructions from the prior meeting, was presented. There was discussion on why the internal boundaries for District 3 were being changed. Members from the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council (HOCC) objected and felt that it would split their council into two districts; they would like to have their council provide a representative for HALO meetings to communicate back to the council. Weddleton said that councils are part of the MOA and that HALO is not and that our districts do not follow council boundaries. He believed HALO should not be simply a grouping of councils as we might lose independence and stature. Another member stated that if a council wants to be part of HALO, then just send someone to attend the meetings.

Most of the CC boundaries are arbitrary. They have no connection with political boundaries or population or density. Clawson pointed out that HOCC could potentially have 2-3 HALO representatives if the new boundaries were adopted. She also said that HALO's mission is for low density development and that some councils might not have that as their goal. Regarding communication, this is easier because of our

website, but it must be kept up to date. Clawson felt HALO helped her with a sewer and water issue in the past, while her council (Abbott CC) did not.

Motion by Nolan and Rein to adopt HALO's boundaries as voted on last month except the northern boundary of District 3 is to be kept at O'Malley Rd; written descriptions of the districts will be adjusted as needed for the Bylaws. Passed with one objection.

**New Business:**

Drawing for door prizes was held.

Regarding recruiting new members and disseminating information to SE area councils (Abbott Loop, Basher, Bear Valley; Glen Alps, Hillside East; Huffman/O'Malley, Mid-Hillside, & Rabbit Creek)—Nolan will write a draft letter to go to council presidents; Abney suggested sending e-mails to each council president describing HALO's issues and inviting their participation.

**Presentation:** Wayne Westberg spoke on water well issues. There are 8,700 Hillside wells (well/septic couplet systems) and in total about 15,000 wells within the wider MOA which serve an average of 45, 000 people. In addition there are about 100 small public systems within the MOA serving another 5000+ estimated people. It would be interesting to compare AWWU's figures on how many residents they serve.

The MOA has good well standards since 1970s when they were developed. Current price for drilling a well is about \$39-42 a foot. Westberg presented a history of the methods of well drilling in Anchorage and why one parcel can have a 50 ft well and the next lot might be 400 ft deep. Domestic well logs can usually be obtained for wells drilled after 1972 from the State Division of Land and Water Management (DNR), while Alaska Dept of Environmental Conservation keeps public well data (but not very well). Prospective home buyers should obtain their well data.

Grouting of wells was discussed and the difference between cement and bentonite grout. Westberg prefers bentonite grout as it occurs naturally in Alaska and it has unique qualities. Bentonite is clay derivation of volcanic ash (which Alaska has plenty of) and this fact may have contributed to so few well contamination problems (even without formal grouting) because the bentonite deposits in the soil act as a seal around the well casing. Bentonite continually hydrates and is flexible. Grouting does not eliminate nitrates but prevents them from percolating down into the aquifer. If nitrates enter the aquifer above the new EPA standards of 10 ppm, then the remedy is to grout, pump and "dilution is the solution to pollution."

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm but the water well presentation continued.

Submitted: Dianne Holmes, Sec