

## POSSIBLE MOTION

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I MOVE to RESCIND the motion that failed on April 12, 2011 to recommend upon the approval of the Municipal Attorney and municipal Administrator that the MOU between the Natural Resources Conservations Service and CBS under the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program be signed.

Note:

*This motion takes a super majority to pass or 5 votes.*

## Colleen Ingman

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**From:** Clark, Mark - Palmer, AK [mark.clark@ak.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2011 3:51 PM  
**To:** assembly@cityofsitka.com  
**Subject:** Soil Survey for Sitka

Dear Mayor and Assembly,

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is sorry to hear that the Municipality of Sitka has decided not to support the soil survey activities that are scheduled for completion this summer. I would like to provide some background information regarding the soil survey program in the event that the current status might change before this summer.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey program is designed to provide baseline soil information for private land owners and other land managers as a tool for assisting in land use decisions. Soil survey information includes maps and associated supporting information intended to provide a better understanding of the physical and chemical properties of soils in the area of interest. Applications of this information include agricultural applications, suitability For home sites, commercial buildings, roads and streets to mention a few. The information is made available to the general public through the web based web soil survey.

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

NRCS is currently in the planning process to complete soil surveys for Skagway and Juneau in response to requests from those communities. Because of that interest, and the fact that the National Park Service in Sitka has requested a survey of the Sitka National Historic Park, we approached the municipality of Sitka, Shee Attika Inc. and Sealaska Regional Corporation in hopes of completing the remaining private lands in the Sitka area as well. NRCS is planning on completing the private lands for which we have been granted permission to access this summer. Private lands that we do not have permission to access, primarily Sitka municipal lands, will be published as blank areas on the maps and published with the NOTCOM (not completed) map symbol. Soil information will not be available for those areas based on your vote and wishes.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the soil survey program and NRCS mapping activities in the Sitka area next summer.

Regards,

Mark H. Clark

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service State Soil Scientist/Alaska Soil Survey Region  
Office Leader 800 W. Evergreen, Suite 100 Palmer, AK 99645  
907-761-7759

## Colleen Ingman

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**From:** Speerstra, Linda POA [Linda.Speerstra@usace.army.mil]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2011 8:52 PM  
**To:** assembly@cityofsitka.com  
**Subject:** Natural Resources Conservations Service Soil Survey

Dear Assembly Members: I read in the Daily Sitka Sentinel on Monday the Assembly's decision to reject the offer from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to survey soil resources. I believe this inventory will be extremely valuable to the City. I have been working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the past two years and have found that there isn't enough information available to applicants for permits procedures. Soil information is one of the three components in wetland delineations. The other components are hydrology and vegetation. The letter submitted by Mr. Clark with NRCS, indicates that additional information on vegetation communities, landforms and surface hydrology will also be provided. This information will greatly assist the City in their long term planning endeavors.

Additionally, the maps, GIS datasets and technical reports will greatly assist your staff in identifying wetland areas and potential mitigation areas. Not only would the City save personnel time but it would save money when projects require wetland delineations and good baseline information is available.

I respectfully encourage the Assembly to reconsider its decision on the NRCS offer.

Sincerely,

Linda Speerstra  
Regulatory Specialist  
Sitka Field Office  
P.O. Box 16  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907-747-0658