

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: January 15, 2020	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf , Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeher (Chair)	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Chris Greene, Robert Winkler	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS		
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Staff added 'food scraps collection site' and 'CSM level one action item matrix' to 7b staff updates. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) December 18, 2019 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the December 18, 2019 draft minutes and had no changes.

Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the December 18, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2020 Work Plan

Commission members discussed the draft 2020 work plan and added Goose Lake water quality improvements to high priority goals. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the 2020 Work Plan with the addition of Goose Lake to high priority goals. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

b) Goose Lake – in lake and subwatershed projects

Staff stated that VLAWMO's engineer provided a list of potential water quality practices in the Goose Lake subwatershed. VLAWMO and City staff chose three practices from the list to focus on in 2020. VLAWMO's engineer will complete a more detailed design and cost estimate for the three chosen practices. Staff will provide updates to the commission as this project moves forward.

Commission members discussed providing support for the Goose Lake alum treatment project if VLAWMO is awarded the Clean Water Fund Grant. Commissioner Johnston volunteered to draft a letter of support on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Commission, and have a draft of the letter completed for review and discussion at the February 19th meeting.

c) Home water use tracking app

Chair Schroeher discussed a water use tracking app that allows homeowners to see water use in real time. The app can also help the homeowner detect leaks. For the app to work, a device must be fitted to the

home's water meter. Chair Schroeher will do more research on what is involved with installing the device and report back at the February meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Shoreland Overlay District Ordinance text amendment

Staff reported that planning staff is initiating a text amendment to the Shoreland Overlay District to reiterate the limitation that retaining walls not exceed 4 feet in height, to restrict retaining walls within the shore impact zone unless determined to be structurally necessary, and to clarify that riprap along a shoreline is allowed only when vegetation alone is not sufficient to solve an existing erosion problem. The amendment will be considered at the February 24, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. Commission members discussed providing support for this amendment. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, that the Environmental Advisory Commission support the proposed shoreland text amendment for retaining walls and rip rap. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Pollinator Pathways

Chair Schroeher discussed the St Anthony Village pollinator pathways interactive map on the City's website. The map is a tool to track pollinator projects. Chair Schroeher is interested in staff creating a similar map to include on the City's website. He volunteered to write an article for the spring newsletter in support of the project. Staff will research how to create an interactive map in the City's website.

b) Staff updates

- 4th and Otter woodland restoration grant

Staff reported that VALWMO and volunteers cleared buckthorn on the newly acquired City property at 4th and Otter and will be seeding the site with native woodland species yet this winter.

- Alternative Landscape Equipment grant

Staff reported that the City was awarded a \$1,525 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to cover half the cost of replacing 2-cycle gasoline powered equipment with electric-powered equipment. The grant will replace a pole saw, string trimmer, handheld leaf blower, and chain saw.

- Metro Environmental Commission gathering - February 13

Staff reported that Alliance for Sustainability is sponsoring an Environmental Commission gathering for Ramsey and Anoka County cities on Thursday, February 13th, 6:30pm at Ramsey County Library in Roseville. Chair Schroeher and commissioner Bolstad volunteered to attend the event.

- Food Scraps collection site

Staff stated that the Public Works food scraps recycling enclosure is complete and ready for use. Compostable bags are available in the enclosure and inside Public Works and City Hall. Commission member Greenleaf wondered if refrigerator and freezer coated cardboard packaging and dryer sheets are compostable and accepted in the County food scraps recycling program. She will research this and report back at a future meeting.

- CSM level one action item matrix

Staff handed out a one-page level 1 energy action plan for commission member review. The plan summarizes general objectives as discussed at past Climate Smart Municipalities steering committee meetings and taken from Climate Action Plans developed by other communities. Staff asked the commission members to review the draft action plan and submit any comments to the EAC steering committee representatives by January 22nd. The action plan will be reviewed by the full steering committee on January 22nd, with the hope of presenting a draft to City Council in February or early March for their feedback.

c) Commission member updates

Commissioner Johnston researched zero waste events and shared a handout he created that included an excerpt from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency publication *Solid Waste Policy Report, September 2019* about preventing food waste, managing organic waste, and sustainable purchasing. He also included a summary of compostable products that are available online and locally. He visited five local food outlets and they all carried uncoated paper plates. Kowalski's stocks compostable plates, bowls, and flatware, Lund's and Byerly's stock compostable flatware, and Cub stocks compostable plates and straws. None of the stores he visited carried compostable cups. He noted that the Phoenix Open is now a zero waste/carbon neutral event. Commissioner Johnston recommends that the commission and steering committee support working towards zero waste City sponsored events, phasing in zero waste for non-City sponsored events on City property, and encouraging zero waste goals for residents.

Chair Schroeher announced that the annual Environmental Commission Conference is scheduled for April 18, 2020 from 8:30am-3pm at the United Methodist Church in Minneapolis.

Commissioner Greenleaf stated that she would like to add the Minneapolis plastic bag ban to the February agenda.

d) Do-outs

- Commissioner Greenleaf will contact Ramsey County to ask if refrigerator and freezer coated cardboard packaging and dryer sheets are compostable and accepted in the County food scraps recycling program.
- Staff will research if an interactive map can be created on the City's website, similar to the Pollinator Pathways map.
- Chair Schroeher will write a paragraph supporting the pollinator pathway map for the spring newsletter.
- Chair Schroeher will research home water use tracking app to determine how the tracking devices are installed.
- Commissioner Johnston will draft a letter of support for the treatment of East Goose Lake.
- Commission members will review the Climate Smart Municipalities level 1 action item matrix and provide comments to Chair Schroeher or Commissioner Johnston, the EAC steering committee representatives, prior to the steering committee meeting on Wednesday, January 22.
- Chair Schroeher and commissioner Bolstad will sign up to attend the Environmental Commissions gathering on Thursday, February 13.

e) February agenda

The next meeting will be held at City Hall on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:30pm. Include Ashley Ostersaas, Zan Associates - Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Program under Item 4. Visitors and Presentations, and Minneapolis plastic bag ban under Item 7. Discussion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. Motion carried, vote 4/0.