

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: January 20, 2021	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeher (Chair), Robert Winkler, Valeria Diaz	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Sage Durdle	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	Phil Belfiori, VLAWMO Administrator; Dawn Tanner, VLAWMO Program Development Coordinator; Nick Voss, VLAWMO Education & Outreach Coordinator	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Taillon added Zero Waste Policy to Item 7a) Staff updates. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Aye
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Aye
Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) December 16, 2020 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the December 16, 2020 draft minutes and had the following changes: page 1, change Diaz to Absent; page 2, remove the word 'have' in paragraph 2, 5th line from the bottom; and page 2, add the reasons why Goose Lake is impaired in paragraph 2, line 6. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting as amended.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Aye
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Aye
Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

VLAWMO members of the East Goose Lake team, Phil Belfiori, VLAWMO Administrator; Dawn Tanner, VLAWMO Program Development Coordinator; and Nick Voss, VLAWMO Education & Outreach Coordinator were in attendance to participate in the discussion for items 5a through 5c.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) East Goose Lake community survey – *Action item*

The East Goose Lake team introduced the revised draft survey. The draft survey incorporated comments received from commission members by the January 8, 2021 deadline discussed at the January Environmental Advisory Commission meeting. The commission members reviewed the survey and did not have any additional changes. Commission members suggested adding an end date for completing the survey. In response to a question regarding tracking public survey responses for follow-up, the East Goose Lake team stated that the survey is anonymous, and therefore survey participants will not be tracked. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the East Goose Lake Community Survey as presented.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Aye
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Aye
Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

b) East Goose Lake community survey announcement – *Action item*

Ms. Taillon stated that in response to the commission members support in collaborating in the East Goose Lake Adaptive Management process at the January Environmental Advisory Commission meeting, the East Goose Lake team is requesting that commission members consider drafting a short announcement that would introduce and promote the community survey in the White Bear Press. The team presented a draft announcement for the commission members to use as a template. The commission members reviewed the draft language and made a few changes, including adding language as to why the lake is impaired. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the East Goose Lake community survey announcement as amended.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Aye
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Aye
Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

c) East Goose Lake survey support roles – *Action item*

Ms. Taillon introduced the draft list of possible East Goose Lake public engagement collaboration opportunities between the East Goose Lake team and Environmental Advisory Commission. The list

includes reviewing and providing feedback on materials generated by the East Goose Lake team in addition to numerous community survey support roles. In response to Chair Schroeher's question regarding a timeline for the process, Mr. Belfiori stated that the team doesn't plan to put a specific timeline on the adaptive lake management process. The foundation of the adaptive lake management process is a thorough public engagement process. The team wants to make sure there is enough time to allow the community to have a voice in the process. After the public engagement process is closed, the results will be compiled and presented to City Council and the VLAWMO Board. The Council and Board will then make a decision as to whether they want to move forward to the next step, which is creating a management plan that will identify projects, costs, and maintenance responsibilities. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to approve the East Goose Lake community survey support roles list as presented.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Aye
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Aye
Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

Mr. Belfiori thanked the commission members for their leadership.

VLAWMO Goose Lake Team left the meeting.

d) 2021 draft work plan – *Action item*

Commission members reviewed the results of the top priorities for 2021. The top four priorities based on commission member votes are: plastic bag ordinance (4 votes), zero waste events (3 votes), and downtown area recycling (2 votes). Commission members directed staff to include the top four priorities in the High Priority Goals list in the work plan, and to also include the other goals that received fewer votes in the work plan to consider for 2021 if time allows. Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to approve the 2021 work plan as amended.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Aye
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Aye
Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

e) 2021 budget – *Action item*

Ms. Taillon noted that the 2021 budget is \$500, and if the commission members are still interested in purchasing an additional two feather flags for the Environmental Expo, staff can go ahead with the purchase this winter. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Chair Schroeher, to direct staff to purchase two feather flags for the Environmental Expo from the \$500 2021 Environmental Advisory

Commission budget.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye
Greene: Aye
Greenleaf: Aye
Johnston: Aye
Schroeher: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Aye
Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.

6, NEW BUSINESS

a) Climate justice education bill

Commission members discussed the email from a representative of YEA! MN, a statewide organization made up of youth who work for climate justice. The representative contacted the Environmental Advisory Commission to ask if there is interest in partnering with them to support a bill that would integrate climate justice education in all core subjects throughout all grade levels, especially in Senator Chamberlain's district.

Commissioner Bolstad stated that she is in support of climate justice, but she thinks the bill would create a lot of work. She noted that she would want to hear from teachers if they are supportive of this bill. She also stated that there are other subjects that are also very important to add to the curriculum.

Commissioner Johnston mentioned that he is in favor of climate justice, but not the bill.

Commissioner Greene stated that this bill is large in scope to add to every subject, and that it might be more appropriate to add to one class only. He would want more information before he could support the bill.

Commissioner Greenleaf suggested emailing the Commission member questions to the representative from YEA!MN and invite them to a future commission meeting.

Commission members decided to respond to the email as to why the commission is not comfortable in supporting the bill at this time. Chair Schroeher volunteered to draft the email and send it to the commission members for review and comment.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- Reissued MS4 General Permit

Taillon stated that the MS4 Permit was reissued on November 16, 2020. There were changes to the permit including requirements to address winter salt use and dog waste. Staff is currently working on the application which is due in April.

- Zero Waste Policy

Taillon noted stated that the Zero Waste Policy will be presented to the Mayor and Council at the February 9, 2021 City Council meeting. Chair Schroeher volunteered to introduce the policy at the meeting.

b) Commission member updates

None

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for January 20, 2021 include:

- Commission members to take the E. Goose Lake survey, and email Taillon how long it took to complete by Friday, January 22, 2021.
- Commission members to review draft EAC duties write-up for discussion at the February meeting.
- Chair Schroeher to respond to YEA!MN regarding the climate justice education bill.
- Chair Schroeher to attend the February 9, 2021 Council meeting to introduce the Zero Waste Policy.
- Commissioner Greenleaf to propose a plan of action for a bag ordinance at the February meeting.
- Commission members to create salt and lawn clipping educational materials for the Environmental Expo.
- Taillon to order 2 feather flags from the 2021 EAC budget.
- Taillon to email draft EAC duties write-up to all commission members.
- Taillon to forward Survey announcement to the White Bear Press.

d) February agenda

Include Paul Bolstad as a visitor, EAC duties write-up discussion, and plastic bag ban discussion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Roll call vote:

Bolstad: Aye

Greene: Aye

Greenleaf: Aye

Johnston: Aye

Schroeher: Aye

Winkler: Aye

Diaz: Aye

Durdle: Absent

Motion carried.