



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Gary Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Johnston

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: John Anderson, Conservation Minnesota

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Bolstad** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 4:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of February 16, 2022

The commission members reviewed the February 16, 2022 meeting minutes and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 4:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

John Anderson from Conservation Minnesota was in attendance to introduce himself and to learn what Conservation Minnesota can do to assist the commission. John introduced himself as the new Local Government Manager. He invited the commission members to the Conservation Minnesota Environment Commission Conference on April 30th from 10am to 1:30pm at Ridgedale Library. Chair Schroeher mentioned that he attended the two past conferences and came away with many great ideas.

John asked what the commission is working on and if they have any questions for him. Member Bolstad asked about the difference between Conservation Minnesota and

Environment Minnesota. John stated that Conservation Minnesota largely works on state and local engagement in the community. Member Bolstad stated that the commission hosts an Environmental Resources Expo at Marketfest each year and invited Conservation Minnesota to attend. Staff will add John's contact information to the Expo invite list. Member Greenleaf mentioned the commission discussions around a Bring Your Own Bag ordinance. John noted that the state does not allow a ban but allows a 5 cent charge on bags. Member Bolstad described other commission priorities including pollinator plantings, reducing contamination in recycling, promoting electric lawn equipment, downtown area recycling, and zero waste events. Commission members asked John about Conservation Minnesota collaborations with other cities. He stated that every city is different, but mainly promoting electrification and water conservation. He also mentioned the Plymouth public/private electric vehicle charging station collaboration.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Draft presentation to Council

Commission members reviewed the draft presentation to Council and provided comments. Chair Schroeder updated the presentation based on these comments. The revised presentation will continue to be reviewed and revised at the April meeting.

B. Draft 2022 Work Plan

The commission members discussed the work plan interest list and write-ups and will work to finalize the write-ups for discussion at the April meeting. Member Greene requested that a 'status' column be added to the work plan to better track the progress of each project.

C. Environmental Resources Expo

Taillon stated that she contacted the Marketfest coordinator to save the July 28, 2022 date for the Expo. Commission members requested that the Expo be put on the April agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- 2022 Environment Commission Conference

Taillon mentioned that the 2022 Environment Commissions Conference will take place on Saturday, April 30th from 10am to 1:30pm at the Ridgedale Public Library.

- Priebe outlet replacement

Taillon stated that the Priebe Lake outlet has now been installed and is substantially complete. A temporary weir was installed in the outlet while the permanent weir is being fabricated. Restoration of the site will be completed in the spring.

- Raingarden Palooza Series
Taillon reported that RCWD, RWMWD, and VLAWMO are partnering to offer a raingarden maintenance series that will take place at three different sites this season. The final event will occur in downtown White Bear Lake on September 22nd.

B. Commission member updates

Member Bolstad noted that she attended the VLAWMO information session on MS4 materials. She stated that VLAWMO created door hangers and other educational materials that the City can use to educate the public on lawn care and winter maintenance topics.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for March, 2022 include:

- Chair Schroeher to revise the draft presentation and bring to the April meeting for review.
- Chair Schroeher to invite Prairie City to the April EAC meeting

D. April agenda

Include the City Manager and Prairie City representatives under visitors and presentations, and add draft presentation, 2022 draft work plan, and Environmental Resources Expo under unfinished business. Commission members requested that the April meeting be in person.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Bolstad** to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0