



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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Rick Johnston

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

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

Motion carried 4:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on October 19, 2022

The commission members reviewed the October 19, 2022 meeting minutes and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Luxford** seconded by Chair **Schroeher**, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 4:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nick Voss from VLAWMO was in attendance to discuss the MS4 partnership between Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) and the City. Nick introduced himself as the Education and Outreach Coordinator for VLAWMO. He stated that part of his role is to assist partner cities with their MS4 education requirements. New requirements include educating the public about pet waste and winter salt use and considering environmental justice as part of the City's education program. Member Greenleaf asked Voss about environmental justice as it relates to the City. Voss stated that this means identifying lower income areas and how to reach them. This could be mapping

out these areas for a more targeted education and outreach effort. Chair Schroeher suggested outreach to Solid Ground and adding brochures at the food shelf. Voss stated that Solid Ground is not within the VLAWMO boundary but he has worked with Solid Ground in the past. Chair Schroeher also suggested reaching out to the schools. Voss mentioned using Digital Backpack as a way to reach students.

Voss stated that he could use some ideas on how to get more residents in the East Goose Lake subwatershed to adopt a drain, and some help delivering signs and door hangers. He said that Member Greene recruited a Boy Scout troop to help distribute door hangers. Voss also asked if the commission members know of any congregations that could help. Member Greenleaf offered to ask the volunteer group at her church if there is interest. Creating a volunteer list was also discussed. Voss stated that he will look into creating a Google spreadsheet for adding potential volunteer groups that are interested in distributing educational materials.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Joint work session presentation

The commission members reviewed each slide of the presentation. Member Bolstad discussed her slides of the downtown tree plantings and CU Structural soils. Taillon stated that the joint workshop is scheduled for January 17, 2023. Each commission will have a 30 minute time slot, which includes Q&A. The EAC's tentative time slot is 6pm to 6:30pm. Member Luxford suggested that the first part of the presentation on past accomplishments should be condensed so more time can be spent getting Council feedback on potential future initiatives.

B. 2023 Work Plan

For the sake of time, the commission members decided to postpone discussion of the 2023 work plan until the December meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- Biochar

Taillon noted that the VLAWMO biochar project at Whitaker Pond is complete.

Lambert Creek is impaired for high bacteria levels during storm events. The purpose of this project is to use biochar to remove bacteria from stormwater as it flows from Whitaker pond to the creek.

- Adopt-a-Drain Challenge results

Taillon reported that the White Bear Lake Conservation District shared the final results of their Adopt-a-Drain challenge. They were only 61 adopted drains short of reaching their overall goal of doubling the amount of adopted drains in 2022 for all communities surrounding White Bear Lake. The City of White Bear Lake successfully

more than doubled the number of adopted drains. The city started at 120 adopted drains and reached 263 by the end of October, and also more than doubled the number participating households, from 77 to 158.

B. Commission member updates

Member Greenleaf stated that the annual Water Resources Conference is a good way to learn what others are working on, and she asked if members of the EAC should think about attending next year. Taillon mentioned that she attend the conference every year.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for November 16, 2022 include:

- Members to consider helping Nick Voss deliver signs and door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed.
- Member Greenleaf offered to talk with a volunteer group at her church about helping with Goose Lake subwatershed activities. She will contact Nick Voss at VLAWMO to coordinate any volunteer activities.
- Chair Schroeher to finalize joint workshop presentation for review at the December meeting.
- Taillon to email revised presentation to Chair Schroeher.
- Taillon to send a reminder to bring treats to the December meeting.

D. December agenda

Commission members discussed December agenda items and asked Taillon to add the joint work session presentation to the agenda and to send a reminder to bring holiday treats at the December meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Luxford** to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Motion carried, 4:0