

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: April 18, 2018	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeher (Chair), June Sinnett	
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Sheryl Bolstad	
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	Connie Taillon	
<b>VISITORS</b>	None	
<b>NOTETAKER</b>	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and requested to move item 4. Visitors and Presentations, item 6a. Comprehensive Plan, and Item 7. Commission Member Updates to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, vote 3/0.

*Commission member arrived at 6:40 pm.*

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Greene gave an update on drinking water quality. He works for the Minnesota Department of Health where he develops guidance values for safe drinking water. A relatively short list of regulated chemicals and metals are tested annually in all drinking water supplies. The results of the tests are summarized in a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR also lists the threshold number for each chemical that the state and others determine that humans can tolerate. The CCR for the City of White Bear Lake municipal water supply is posted on the City's website. There are hundreds, or even thousands, of unregulated chemicals in the environment that are not regularly looked for in drinking water. Some of these unregulated chemicals are tested on a 5-year cycle through the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Under this program, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selects 30 chemicals and monitors drinking water over the course of one year for large water supply systems. Some of the chemicals tested include pesticides, industrial chemicals, refrigerants, and metals (including chromium 3 & 6). The 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of testing for the City is now complete and data is available. Detections are well below MDH standards but some detections of Chromium are above the State of California standards; however, the California standard for chromium has been rescinded pending further scientific review. MDH is currently working on interpreting the UCMR3 data across the state. Results from UCMR4 will be provided to public water supply customers in the CCR; this is a change from previous UCMRs.

Commissioner Greenleaf mentioned that a few years ago City Council encouraged people to drink tap water instead of bottled water, and asked if this message should be promoted again. Commissioner Greene stated

that we could highlight that our CCR looks great and contaminate detection is lower than the standards.

Staff asked how effective reverse osmosis (RO) systems are at removing contaminants. Commissioner Greene stated that RO systems have limits to how well certain chemicals are removed. Water filters in general are good at removing Chromium 6. The chemistry can change in transit and be less concentrated at the tap.

Staff also asked if chloride has been found in the drinking water supplies. Commissioner Greene was not aware of chloride being detected in deep groundwater aquifers. He also mentioned that the state of Minnesota is trying to pass a law to provide a liability shield for private property owners. This law would protect business and others from being sued by people slipping on ice while on their property. The goal of this law is to reduce excessive salt applications due to fear of a lawsuit.

With recent discussions regarding converting our drinking water supply from groundwater sources to a surface water source, staff asked if there are more contaminants detected in surface water supplies than in groundwater supplies. Commissioner Greene stated that they see more contaminants in surface water supplies than deep groundwater supplies. The contaminants found in surface waters are indicators of human presence such as pharmaceuticals, plasticizers, hormones, wastewater treatment plant effluent, and pesticides. Deep groundwater may have contaminants such as metals and radionuclides that are naturally occurring in rock.

Commissioner Greene mentioned that he looked at the CCR page on the City's website and recommends removing the photo of the child drinking from a hose. We should not promote drinking out of a hose due to the potential for lead and bacteria exposure. Commissioner Greene moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnott, to remove the photo of a child drinking water from a hose on the City's CCR page. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Comprehensive Plan – draft solid waste section

Commissioners commented on the draft solid waste section of the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Greenleaf asked why a date of 2025 was chosen to implement a curbside organics program. She suggested choosing an implementation date of 2020 or 2021, which more closely aligns with the renegotiation of the hauler contract. Staff stated that the 2025 date coincides with the Ramsey County Solid Waste Management Plan goals. Staff will update the objective "Develop and implement a curbside organics program by the end of 2025..." to include language about implementing the program sooner than 2025 if possible.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### • Commission Member Updates

#### - Metro Environmental Commissions Conference – Commissioner Schroeder

Commissioner Schroeder and Commissioner Greene attended the Metro Environmental Commissions Conference. Approximately 60 people attended from 28 communities. Each community representative came prepared to share recent initiatives. Commissioner Schroeder shared the Environmental Resource Expo and downtown area enclosure. Anoka conducts fix-it-clinics, Bloomington has organics recycling drop-off locations, Shoreview offers shoe and clothing collection, Edina organizes a home energy fair, Coon Rapids is working on healthy soil initiatives, and others are offering garden tours to promote water conservation.

There were five breakout sessions, each focusing on a different topic: energy, waste, water, ecological stewardship, and effective communication. Commissioner Schroeder attended the waste and effective communication sessions and Commissioner Greene attended the water and energy sessions. The waste session focused on composting. The communications session focused on community based social

marketing and how to reach people in the community. The water session focused on stormdrain stenciling, salt issues, and WBL lake levels. The energy session focused on solar, leasing solar, electric vehicles, and charging stations.

Commissioner Schroeher thought it was a very worthwhile conference and he came away with many great ideas. He will email the conference summary to the commission members. The planning committee may try to schedule another environmental commission conference in the future.

He also suggested inviting a representation from the Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT), one of the sponsors of the conference, to a future Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting.

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a) Environmental Resource Expo – Commissioner updates

Commissioner Schroeher reported that Rush Line will be exhibiting at the event and are working on an interactive display. Staff reported that VLAWMO, H2O for Life, CEE, and Conservation MN are all exhibiting again this year. Commissioner Greenleaf would like staff to invite Republic Services again this year and to ask if they could bring items to give away. Commissioner Greene asked if electric cars could be part of the Marketfest car show. Staff will contact the Marketfest coordinator to get more information about the car show.

Staff brought a list of Ramsey County recycling games that the City can reserve for free. Commissioners are interested in reserving the 'can cube guessing game'. Commissioner Sinnett moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to reserve the Ramsey County can cube game for the Environmental Expo on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

*Commission member was excused at 7:53 pm.*

### b) Storm drain stenciling/adopt a stormdrain

Staff invited Nick Voss from VLAWMO to the May 16<sup>th</sup> Environmental Advisory Commission meeting to talk about VLAWMO's storm drain stenciling and adopt a stormdrain program. Nick will also provide an update on the metro-wide adopt a stormdrain program.

### c) Downtown area recycling

No discussion

### d) Review last month's do-outs

Staff reported that there are over 2000 catch basins in the City.

Commission members asked to see a map of City parks to start looking at unused turf areas that could be converted to natural areas. Staff talked to the Parks Department and they suggested Lakeview Park and Matoska Park as potential locations.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### b) City website

Staff updated commission members on changes made to the City's website in response to Commissioner Schroeher's feedback at the March meeting regarding how difficult it is to find event information. Staff reported that the Environmental events are now included on the website calendar and on the left margin of the Environment page.

**c) New do-outs**

Commission Members

- Invite organizations to exhibit at the Expo.
- Commissioner Schroeher will email commission members a summary of the Metro Environmental Commission Conference.

Staff

- Remove photo from CCR report on City website.
- Advertise EAC positions.
- Reserve Ramsey County can cube game for the Expo.
- Ask Republic to bring items to give away at Expo.
- Contact Marketfest coordinator to ask about car show and including electric cars.
- Forward Jeff's (Tesla owner) email to Chris.
- Email game options to Bonnie.
- Email Metro Environmental Commission Conference meeting information.
- Consider inviting someone from CERT to attend a future meeting.
- Invite Ann from Parks to a fall EAC meeting.
- Map of City Parks.

**7. DISCUSSION**

• **Staff Updates**

- SWPPP Public Meeting  
The annual City Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program public meeting will be held at the April 24<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting at 7:00pm.
- National Mayors Water Challenge  
Staff asked commission members to take the pledge to conserve water at [mywaterpledge.com](http://mywaterpledge.com) by the end of April.
- Aqua Fair  
The City will be selling rain barrels at the Aqua Fair event on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon at Otter Lake Elementary.

• **May Agenda**

Visitors and Presentations – Nick Voss, Education Coordinator with VLAWMO will present on VLAWMO's storm drain stenciling/adopt a stormdrain program.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2018 at 6:30pm at City Hall. Commissioner Greene moved, seconded by Commissioner Sinnett, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion carried, vote 3/0.