

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

AGENDA

Date: December 16, 2020

Time: 6:30pm

Location: City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:30pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6:35pm

- a) November 18, 2020 regular meeting

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS 6:40pm

Dan Jones, VLAWMO Director and City Council Member; Phil Belfiori, VLAWMO Administrator; Dawn Tanner, VLAWMO Program Development Coordinator; Nick Voss, VLAWMO Education & Outreach Coordinator – East Goose Lake public engagement

5. NEW BUSINESS 7:15pm

- a) East Goose Lake public survey

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS 7:30pm

- a) 2020 budget
- b) 2020 work plan high priority goals
- c) 2021 draft work plan
- d) Surface Water Management Plan review

7. DISCUSSION 8:15pm

- a) Staff updates
 - Reissued MS4 General Permit
 - Eureka Recycling composition study
- b) Commission member updates
 - Recycling ambassador program, Chair Schroeher
- c) Do-outs
- d) January agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT 8:30pm

[Please notify us at least one day before the meeting if you are unable to attend](#)

Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Memo – December 16, 2020

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Dan Jones and the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) team will be in attendance to discuss East Goose Lake public engagement.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) East Goose Lake public survey

A draft East Goose Lake public survey is attached in the packet. This survey and the associated East Goose Lake public engagement will be described by Dan Jones and the VLAWMO team in agenda item 4. Visitors & Presentations.

Action: Review the attached survey and provide comments and questions for discussion at the December meeting. There will likely be an opportunity for further commission review and comment after the December meeting.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2020 budget

Staff ordered native seed packets with the remaining 2020 budget. A budget summary is attached in the packet.

b) 2020 work plan high priority goals

The 2020 work plan is attached in the packet. There are no updates to report this month.

c) 2021 draft work plan

The 2021 draft work plan and a summary of the top three priority projects reported by each commission member at the November meeting is attached in the packet. The top priorities for 2021 include a plastic bag ordinance, zero waste events, downtown area recycling, and pollinator plantings.

Action: Continue to discuss top priority projects for 2021 and consider finalizing the 2021 Work Plan.

d) Surface Water Management Plan review

At the November 18, 2020 meeting staff provided an overview of the draft Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), which is currently out for a 60-day agency review. The plan was submitted to the four Watershed Management Organizations, Ramsey County, Washington County, and Metropolitan Council for review. Staff requested that commission members review the draft SWMP and bring any comments and questions to the December meeting. The draft plan can be found on the City's website at: whitebearlake.org/engineering/page/surface-water-management-plan.

Action: Discuss commission member comments and questions on the draft SWMP.

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: November 18, 2020	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, Sage Durdle	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	None	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	None	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:39pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) October 21, 2020 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the October 21, 2020 draft minutes and had no changes.

Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2020 work plan high priority goals

Commissioner Greenleaf asked staff about the status of the Zero Waste policy. Taillon stated that the policy will be presented at a Council meeting in the near future. She will email the commission members when the Council meeting date is set. Commissioner Johnston reminded commission members to start saving milk jugs to be used as tent weights at the 2021 Expo.

b) 2020 budget

Commissioner Greenleaf stated that she would like the commission to purchase native seed to give away at the Expo with the remaining 2020 budget. Commissioner Greenleaf and Commissioner Bolstad will meet and come up with ideas for seed purchases. Taillon will place the order with a native seed company.

c) 2021 draft work plan

- Top 3 projects

Each commission member listed their top three priority projects they would like to see on the 2021 work plan. Taillon will tally the top three 2021 work plan priorities from each commission member for discussion at the December meeting.

- Chair Schroeder: pollinator plantings, zero waste City events, plastic bag ordinance
- Commissioner Bolstad: downtown area recycling, zero waste City events, plastic bag ordinance
- Commissioner Greenleaf: pollinator plantings, solar on buildings, plastic bag ordinance
- Commissioner Johnston: plastic bag ordinance, downtown recycling and expand to other areas, zero waste events
- Commissioner Winkler: IDDE lawn clippings and trash, partnering with Xcel Energy on special projects, salt management education

Commissioner Johnston stated that in addition to the top three priorities, the commissioner members should continue to focus on educating the public.

- EAC Roles

The commission members discussed possible additional roles. Commissioner Greenleaf would like to see the commission take on more projects. Commissioner Johnston stated that he reviewed the Environmental Advisory Commission web page and would like to add language on the webpage to expand the commissioner's duties without being too specific and locking the commission into certain roles. Commissioner Johnston offered to revise the language on the website.

Commission member joined the meeting

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Surface Water Management Plan review

Taillon provided an overview of the draft Surface Water Management Plan which is currently out for a 60-day agency review. The plan was submitted to the four Watershed Management Organizations, Ramsey County, Washington County, and Metropolitan Council for review. Taillon asked the commission members to review the plan in the next month and bring comments and questions to the December meeting. The draft plan is found on the City's website at whitebearlake.org/engineering/page/surface-water-management-plan.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- VLAWMO Award

Taillon mentioned that the City recently received the VLAWMO Watershed Partner award for our work on the 4th and Otter iron sand filter project. Formal recognition will take place at the VLAWMO Board of Directors meeting on December 9, 2020. Taillon will attend the meeting.

b) Commission member updates

- Recycling ambassador program, Chair Schroeher

Chair Schroeher stated that he is participating in the master recycling ambassador program, and is currently attending the training sessions. There are approximately 23 people in the program from communities including St. Paul and Roseville. He showed a few slides from one of the training sessions. One slide showed the trash composition at the Newport facility, with 49% of the trash made up of organics. The Counties started an organics recycling program to try remove this material from the trash. Ramsey and Washington County's goal is to have curbside organics recycling available by 2022. The organic waste would go to Specialized Environmental Technologies, a commercial compost site in Dakota County. The current organic waste contamination rate is at 6%; anything over 10% contamination and the load is rejected. Chair Schroeher suggested inviting Specialized Environmental Technologies to a future commission meeting. Chair Schroeher showed other slides from the training that depicted how raw materials and organics are distributed. Trash brought to the Newport Facility from both Ramsey and Washington Counties is burned to provide electricity for 44,000 homes. Only 11% of the trash generated in both Counties is landfilled. Commission members discussed scheduling a tour of the Newport facility in the future.

Commission member joined the meeting

- Duluth and Minneapolis plastic bag restrictions, Commissioner Greenleaf

Commissioner Greenleaf provided an update on her plastic bag restriction research. She stated that there are 300 community's nationwide that have implemented a plastic bag restriction using different approaches such as charging for plastic bags, charging for both plastic and paper, or eliminating plastic bags altogether. The Cities of Duluth and Minneapolis are currently the only Cities in Minnesota that have implemented a bag restrictions. Duluth eliminated plastic bags and require stores to charge 5 cents for paper bags. Minneapolis requires stores to charge 5 cents for both paper and plastic bags. Commissioner Greenleaf wants the City to be a leader and create a plastic bag ordinance. The commission members discussed next steps, such as involving the business community and City Council.

- Other reports

The student commission representatives provided an update about the High School Environmental Club. The club's general mission is to make the school more environmentally friendly. One initiative is to look at ways of reducing waste by offering edible cups for liquid to hand out during races. Because of the recent lock down, the Environmental Club activities have been put on hold.

Taillon provided an update on the food scrap dumpster audit provided by Ramsey County. The audit was conducted at the Public Works site over a period of two weeks from September 14th through September 25th. For each of the two 4 yad dumpsters, the weight, visual fullness, and volume was recorded each week. The first week recorded 90% full for one dumpster and 10% full for the second dumpster. Week two recorded 60% full and 0% full. Chair Schroeher mentioned that he is interested in how many people use it per day. Commissioner Greenleaf stated that we need to keep providing education, and suggested adding an article in the spring newsletter on organics recycling.

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for November 18, 2020 include:

- Commission members or staff to purchase native seed packets with the remaining 2020 EAC budget
- Staff to tally top three 2021 work plan priorities from each commission member to discuss at the December meeting.
- Commissioner Johnston to review the EAC website language
- Commission members to review the draft Surface Water Management Plan and bring their comments and questions to the December meeting.
- Commission members to consider inviting Jake from Specialized Technologies to speak at a future EAC meeting.
- Staff to schedule tour of Newport facility at a date TBD.
- Staff to include a food scraps recycling article in the spring newsletter.

d) December agenda

Include SWMP discussion and 2021 work plan on the December agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnston to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

East Goose Lake Survey: 2021

1. Select a description that best fits you (select all that apply).

- Lakeshore resident
- Resident of the City of White Bear Lake
- Resident of nearby community
- Business owner of a business near East Goose Lake and/or along Lambert Creek
- Local nonprofit
- Commission member
- Commuter that passes by East Goose Lake
- Other (write-in)

2. How do you use East Goose Lake?

- I live near the water
- I go motorboating (ski, pontoon, fishing, etc.)
- I go paddling/kayaking
- I swim
- I participate in water sports
- I fish
- I like to bike or walk near the lake
- I like to watch wildlife
- I commute by East Goose Lake for travel or for work
- Other

3. What issues or concerns do you have regarding East Goose Lake?

- High levels of pollutants that have listed East Goose as an impaired lake by MPCA
- Excessive phosphorous contributing to algae blooms
- Algae inhibiting recreation
- Lack of game fish
- Poor water clarity
- Sediment building up from storm drain outfalls
- Low lake levels
- Flooding
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Invasive species
- Shoreline erosion
- Future aquatic vegetation inhibiting lake use
- Maintaining traditional lake uses
- Having a voice in the process of lake management
- Unforeseen or unknown challenges or problems
- Other

4. What are your hopes for the future of East Goose Lake?
- A lake that meets State water quality standards
 - A cleaner lake
 - Recreational use of the lake
 - Shoreline erosion control
 - More native plants and pollinators
 - Improve fish and wildlife habitat
 - Improved fishing in the lake
 - Improved wildlife watching
 - Public shoreline fishing
 - Improved public access
 - Other
5. How do you see yourself engaging in and helping to achieve a healthy East Goose Lake?
- Participate in the Adopt-a-Drain program
 - Adding native plants or a raingarden in my yard
 - Helping with maintenance on an existing raingarden in a public space
 - Becoming an aquatic invasive species (AIS) detector on East Goose Lake
 - Conducting citizen science lake monitoring
 - Informing residents
 - Volunteering by taking photos at a picture post station
 - Volunteering to help organize events
 - Attending meetings and webinars focused on East Goose Lake
 - Providing feedback in a variety of venues (staff contact, meetings, etc.)
 - Other
6. What are the best ways to provide you more information?
- City newsletter (via postal mail)
 - City website
 - VLAWMO website
 - VLAWMO email newsletter
 - City Facebook/Twitter
 - VLAWMO Facebook/Twitter
 - Regular mail (letter or postcard)
 - Events/open houses/workshops (online or in person)
 - White Bear Press
 - Other
7. Please describe any other specific issues you think the City of White Bear Lake and VLAWMO should address in regards to East Goose Lake improvement efforts.

EAC 2020 Budget

Budget for 2020	\$500.00
Expenditures:	
Feather Flags (2)	\$287.10
Native seeds (70 packets)	\$210.00
TOTAL REMAINING	\$2.90

Potential Budget Items for 2021

2 Expo signs @ ~\$300

Expo exhibit improvements

Past Ideas

Rain barrel giveaway

Milkweed seeds for residents

Storm drain stenciling/adopt a storm drain program

Handouts for the expo

Rebates (solar, LED's organics bags, plants, toilets, energy audits, etc.

Attend workshops

Complementary energy audit

Environmental Advisory Commission 2020 Work Plan

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Priority goal(s) planning 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring newsletter articles - adopt a drain & spotlight on sustainability • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Engineering staff-street projects
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor's Water Challenge 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No official meeting this month 	Environmental Resource Expo
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Work Plan • Fall newsletter articles – adopt a drain & spotlight on sustainability 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Work Plan • Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas • Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission 	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Work Plan • Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair • Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting with Parks Commission 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2021 Work Plan 	Holiday Treats

High Priority Goals for 2020

- Adopt-a-storm-drain promotion – *included in spring newsletter/plan for fall newsletter*
- Highlight resident environmental achievements in newsletter – *included in spring newsletter/plan for fall newsletter*
- Expo exhibit upgrades: tent weights, banner, battery powered lawn equipment display
- Downtown area recycling containers
- Pollinator plantings on City property
- Zero waste City events

Other goals

- Pollinator garden tours/promotion/map of gardens
- Shoreview water smart app
- Microplastics
- Drinking water quality
- Enforcement of water ordinance and illicit discharge ordinance (grass clippings)– door hangers, etc

Climate Smart Municipalities topics

- Community solar and solar panels on City buildings
- Charge for plastic bags
- Single use plastics
- Climate change resolution
- Partner with Xcel Energy for Projects
- Air quality-lawn equipment (City and private).
- Energy focus, specifically renewables

Ramsey County Solid Waste Master Plan topics

- Curbside collection of bulky items for recycling
- Inclusion of small businesses in City recycling service
- Textile recycling (curbside, special collection, or drop-off) – required by 2019

MS4 Permit topics

- Salt management education

Current initiatives

LED lighting in City Hall, Public Safety, and Public Works

EV chargers in DT parking lots

Fleet vehicle analysis

Climate Action Steering Committee

Environmental Advisory Commission 2021 Work Plan

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March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor's Water Challenge • Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Wildlife Forever
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	
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High Priority Goals for 2021

- Expo exhibit upgrades: tent weights, banner, battery powered lawn equipment display
- Downtown area recycling containers
- Pollinator plantings on City property
- Zero waste City events

- Plastic bag ordinance
- Solar on City buildings
- Promote high quality of drinking water (reduce bottled water use)
- Enforcement of water ordinance and illicit discharge ordinance (grass clippings)– door hangers, etc
- EAC duties/goals
- Restaurant composting

Other goals

- Pollinator garden tours/promotion/map of gardens
- Shoreview water smart app
- Microplastics
- Drinking water quality
- Enforcement of water ordinance and illicit discharge ordinance (grass clippings)– door hangers, etc

Climate Smart Municipalities topics

- Community solar and solar panels on City buildings
- Charge for plastic bags
- Single use plastics
- Climate change resolution
- Partner with Xcel Energy for Projects
- Air quality-lawn equipment (City and private).
- Energy focus, specifically renewables

Ramsey County Solid Waste Master Plan topics

- Curbside collection of bulky items for recycling
- Inclusion of small businesses in City recycling service
- Textile recycling (curbside, special collection, or drop-off) – required by 2019

MS4 Permit topics

- Salt management education

Current initiatives

LED lighting in City Hall, Public Safety, and Public Works
 EV chargers in DT parking lots
 Fleet vehicle analysis
 Climate Action Steering Committee

Top priorities for 2021

Plastic bag ordinance (4 votes)

Zero waste events (3 votes)

Pollinator plantings (2 votes)

DT area recycling (2 votes)

Solar on buildings (1 vote)

IDDE lawn clippings and trash (1 vote)

Partnering with Xcel Energy on special projects (1 vote)

Salt management education (1 vote)

Gary

- Pollinator Plantings
- Zero waste City events
- Plastic bag ordinance

Bonnie

- Pollinator plantings
- Solar on buildings
- Plastic bag ordinance

Sheryl

- DT area recycling
- Zero waste City events
- Plastic bag ordinance

Bob

- IDDE lawn clippings and trash
- Partnering with Xcel Energy on special projects
- Salt management education

Rick

- Plastic bag ordinance
- DT recycling and expand to other areas
- Zero waste events

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- Review surface water management plan and bring comments/questions to the December meeting
- Consider inviting Jake from Specialized Technologies to speak at a future EAC meeting
- Save empty milk jugs for Expo tent weights
- Rick to review and revise the EAC website to include additional duties

Staff

- Update the commission when the Zero Waste Policy is on the Council agenda
- Purchase native seed packets with the remaining 2020 EAC budget
- Tally top three 2021 work plan priorities from each commission member to discuss at the December meeting
- Staff to schedule tour of Newport facility at a date TBD
- Order 2 feather flags after the first of the year
- Forward Zero Waste policy to Council for their consideration
- Line item in the 2021 budget for pollinator planting
- Purchase compostable products for City events
- Add water use tracking app to CSM action items
- Show the WBAHS winning video at a future meeting
- Add AIS ID information to the website and update adopt a drain page
- Watershed district map (large scale with aerial photo)