

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

AGENDA

Date: March 17, 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Location: City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:30pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6:35pm

a) February 17, 2021 regular meeting

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS 7:00pm

a) 2021 budget

b) 2021 Work Plan

- Downtown area recycling

- Plastic bag ban

c) 2021 Expo exhibitors

6. NEW BUSINESS 7:30pm

a) Spring newsletter

7. DISCUSSION 7:45pm

a) Staff updates

- EAC website description

- Air sensors

- East Goose Lake web hub

b) Commission member updates

c) Do-outs

d) April agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT 8:00pm

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

Staff Memo – Environmental Advisory Commission, March 17, 2021

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) 2021 budget

The 2021 budget table is included in the packet.

Action: Discuss potential budget items for 2021.

b) 2021 Work Plan

The approved 2021 work plan is included in the packet. Staff will provide an update on the downtown area recycling project.

Action: Commissioner Greenleaf will provide an update on her plastic bag ban research.

c) 2021 Expo exhibitors

The 2020 Expo exhibitor list is included in the packet.

Action: Review the list and update. Discuss adding the climate justice group recommended by Commissioner Winkler, and a plastic bag display.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Spring Newsletter

Staff is in the process of compiling articles for the spring newsletter, which will be mailed to residents around mid-April. Environmental articles will include the ongoing sustainability spotlight article, and recycling information about scrap metal, batteries, and plastic bags.

Action: Discuss other environmental related topics that the EAC would like to see in the spring newsletter.

City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

MINUTES

Date: February 17, 2021	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Rick Johnston, Gary Schroeher (Chair), Robert Winkler	
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	Valeria Diaz, Sage Durdle	
STAFF PRESENT	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
VISITORS	Paul Bolstad, Professor UMN, Depts of Forest Resources and Geography Keely Cervantes, Conservation Minnesota	
NOTETAKER	Connie Taillon	

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) January 20, 2021 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the January 20, 2021 draft minutes and had no changes. Commissioner Johnston moved, seconded by Commissioner Greenleaf, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Paul Bolstad from the UMN Depts of Forest Resources and Geography was in attendance to discuss air quality monitoring. Mr. Bolstad presented information about the hazards of poor air quality, noting that deaths due to poor air quality are far greater than realized, with up to 200,000 deaths per year. He stated that fine particulate matter is attributed to poor air quality, with diesel exhaust being the largest source.

Mr. Bolstad asked the commission members if they would consider increasing awareness of fine particulate pollution and installing air sensors in the White Bear Lake area, specifically near freeways where the exposure to fine particulates is higher. He explained that up to five sensors are available to install at no cost. The hockey-puck sized sensors should be placed under an eave and require a power source and a Wi-Fi connection, as these sensors are connected to a worldwide web-based network. Mr. Bolstad offered to work with the Environmental Advisory Commission to install the sensors. Commission members discussed possible locations on City buildings near highways, such as City Hall, Public Works, and the Sports Center. Taillon will investigate these options and report back at the March meeting. Chair Schroeher and Commissioner Greenleaf offered to install sensors on their own homes.

Keeley Cervantes from Conservation Minnesota was in attendance to announce that the rulemaking process for clean car standards concludes in the middle of March. She stated that the general public can comment on the rule making process, and asked if the Environmental Advisory Commission would be interested in writing an op-ed in the White Bear Press and also signing on with a letter of support. The commission members stated that they will read over the information that Keeler provided, but most likely the support will come from individual members instead of the commission.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2021 Work Plan

- Downtown area recycling

Taillon introduced a rendering of the proposed trash and recycling containers for the downtown area. Taillon noted that she plans to submit the renderings to the County for a review of the recycling logos and to ask about possible grant funding. She will provide an update at the march meeting. Commission members discussed recycling labeling and stated that the labels should be simple with clear instructions, and to limit the types of recycling to bottles and cans only.

- Plastic bag ban

Commissioner Greenleaf presented her research on plastic bag bans in Minnesota and provided examples of feedback from businesses on the proposed bans. She mentioned that the first step in the process may be to talk with the local businesses. She also plans to talk with the City of Minneapolis about their process. Chair Schroeher volunteered to contact the county to get their thoughts. Commission members discussed creating a display for the Environmental Resources expo that would show how many bags a family of 4 uses every year.

b) 2021 budget

Taillon stated that the feather flags will be ordered soon, leaving approximately \$200 left in the budget for 2021.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2021 Marketfest exhibitors

Tabled until the March 17, 2020 meeting

b) EAC website description

Commission members reviewed the draft Environmental Advisory Commission website description that

was drafted by Commissioner Johnston and had no changes. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Greene, to accept the language crafted by Commissioner Johnston and to have staff add the language on the Environmental Advisory Commission page of the City's website.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- Adopt-a-Drain annual report for WBL

Staff presented the 2020 adopt a drain annual report for White Bear Lake. There are 69 participants, with 24 new participants in 2020. Chair Schroeder stated that he would like to see more participants.

b) Commission member updates

Commissioner Johnston stated that the Zero Waste Policy was approved by City Council. He and Commissioner Greenleaf was in attendance.

Taillon noted that Commissioner Winkler was showcased on the VLAWMO website. Commissioner Winkler mentioned that Nick from VLAWMO interviewed him about the adopt a drain program. Taillon will email the commission members a link to the article.

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for February 17, 2021 include:

- Staff to research installing air sensor on City Hall, Sports Center or Public Works
- Staff to forward recycling container design to Ramsey County for review
- Staff to email VLAWMO link which showcases Commissioner Winkler to all commission members
- Commission members to read information from Keely and consider signing on to letter of support for cleaner car standards
- Commission members to consider creating a plastic bag display for the Expo showing how many plastic bags a family of 4 uses per year.

d) March agenda

Include plastic bag ban, Environmental Resource Expo, and downtown area recycling on the march agenda.

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

Schroeder: Aye
Winkler: Aye
Diaz: Absent
Durdle: Absent
Motion carried.

DRAFT

EAC 2021 Budget

Budget for 2021	\$500.00
Expenditures:	
TOTAL REMAINING	\$500.00

Potential Budget Items for 2021

2 Expo signs @ ~\$300

Expo exhibit improvements

Ideas

Rain barrel giveaway

Milkweed seeds for residents – *purchased in 2020*

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 2021 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 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals • National Mayor's Water Challenge • Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting 	<p>Street Project discussion</p> <p>SWMP discussion</p>
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 2021

- Plastic bag ordinance
- Zero waste events
- Pollinator plantings
- DT area recycling
- Reducing contamination in recycling (scrap metal, batteries, plastic bags) – staff request

Other goals

- Solar on buildings
- IDDE lawn clippings and trash
- Partnering with Xcel Energy on special projects
- Salt management education
- Expo exhibit upgrades: tent weights, banner, battery powered lawn equipment display
- 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
- 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 Resource Expo - Exhibitor and Volunteer Master List
July 30, 2020 5:00pm to 9:30pm

EAC contact	Organization	Need table & canopy?	2019 attendance	2020 status	Contact Name/Organization	Phone	Email
?	Community Solar Garden?		no				
?	Met Council Environmental Services		no		Ali Elhassan/Brian Davis	651-602-1066 /651-602-1519	ali.elhassan@metc.state.mn.us /brian.davis@metc.state.mn.us
Bob	White Bear Lake Seed Library	yes	yes				
	Rainbow Tree Care	yes	yes		Jeff Hafner	cell: 612-290-4779 direct: 952-252-0596	jhafner@rainbowtreecare.com
Chris	Tesla				Jeff Riegler	651-602-5924 (O); 651.747.7865 (C)	jriegle@wradvisors.com
	Electric Lawn Equipment Demo	save a space next to the EAC tent	NA		Chris and Sheryl to bring electric lawn equipment for display. EAC to create fact sheet about gas powered lawn equipment		
	Scouts - Troup 494	no - volunteers					
Bonnie	MN State Horticultural Society - magazines	no	yes - magazines and a membership to raffle		Lisa Williams Hardman	651-643-3601	
Sheryl	Tamarack Nature Center	yes	yes		Melanie Harding		melanie.harding@co.ramsey.mn.us
	National Honor Society	no - volunteers	no		Katherine Marsh and Sadie Johnson		KATHERINE.MARSH@isd624.org , SADIE.JOHNSON@isd624.org
	Conservation Minnesota & Audubon Minnesota		no		Keely Cervantes		keely@conservationminnesota.org
Gary	Rush Line Corridor	yes	yes		Andrew J. Gitzlaff/Alicia Valenti	651-266-2772/d: 651.333.4115 c: 612.314.6385	andrew.gitzlaff@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US/avalenti@srfconsulting.com
	Adopt a Drain - Watershed Partners	yes	yes		Jenni		jabere01@hamline.edu
	Lake Links		no		Steven Wolgamot	612-209-6121	kwolgamot @comcast.net
June	Metro Transit	NA	yes		Joanna Hubbard-Rivera	612-349-7477	joanna.hubbard-rivera@metrotransit.org
	U of M Turf Science??	yes	yes		Dan		
	Ramsey County Master Gardeners	yes	yes		Jamie Aussendorf	651-704-2053	auss0004@umn.edu
Connie	Pollinator Friendly Alliance	yes	yes		Laurie Schneider	651-351-1100	laurie@pollinatorfriendly.org
	EV owner - WBL resident	no	yes		Daniel and Kay Giossi	651-426-5176	dgiossi@hotmail.com; dkgiossi@msn.com
	Mn350		yes		Gabe Epstein		gabe@mn350.org
	Citizens Climate Lobby	yes	yes		Rachel Cain		cainrachel@gmail.com
	Zero Waste Task Force - Sierra Club	yes	yes		Lori Olinger	612-718-6412	Olingers25@msn.com
	VLAWMO	no	yes		Nick Voss	651-204-6070	nick.voss@vlawmo.org
	Race to Reduce + H2O for Life		no		Patty Hall		phall@h2oforlifeschools.org
	WBL City, EAC, Ramsey County Envir Health	yes - shared table	yes		Connie Taillon		ctaillon@whitebearlake.org
	Republic Services		no				
	Xcel Energy Partners - Energy Resources		no		Kara Tuttle	612-889-3737 (cell)	kara@energyresourcesmktg.com
	Footprint Earth Foundation		yes		James Stelter	612-751-5451	james.stelter@footprintearth.org
	Wilderness in the City		interested for 2020		Holly Jenkins	651-271-1257	hollyj@wildernessinthecity.org
	Bicycling Adventure Club				Ryan Swanson	https://www.wblacc.com	rrswanson78@gmail.com
	RCWD - Adopt a Drain				Beth		
Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)	yes	yes		Terry Chaney	651-328-6226	tchaney@mncee.org	

EAC Contacts	
Sheryl Bolstad	612-889-3116
Christopher Greene	651-777-7503
Bonnie Greenleaf	651-238-5445
Rick Johnston	715-690-4400
Gary Schroeder	651-600-9613
Bob Winkler	651-492-1596

Total tents needed	
City tents	10
Gary	1
Connie	1
Total tables needed	
EAC tables (City Hall)	15
Connie	2
Total chairs needed	

one missing - we have 9 total

2 per exhibitor

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- Read information from Keely and consider signing on to letter of support for cleaner car standards
- Bonnie to propose a plan of action for bag ordinance at next meeting.
- Create salt and lawn clipping educational materials for the Environmental Expo.
- Consider creating a plastic bag display for the Expo showing how many plastic bags a family of 4 uses per year.
- Consider inviting Jake from Specialized Technologies to speak at a future EAC meeting.

Staff

- Research installing air sensor on City Hall, Sports Center or Public Works
- Forward recycling container design to Ramsey County for review
- Email VLAWMO link which showcases Commissioner Winkler to all commission members
- Order 2 feather flags after the first of the year
- Send current storm sewer map to Adopt-a-Drain administrator.
- Schedule tour of Newport facility at a date TBD
- 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)