

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## AGENDA

Date: January 19, 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Location: City Hall

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** **6:30pm**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **6:35pm**
  - a) December 15, 2021 regular meeting
- 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS**

Lori Olinger and Judy Lissick, Northeast Metro Climate Action (NEMCA)

  - a) Introduction of NEMCA
  - b) Introduction of Environmental Advisory Commission
  - c) Introduction of Foreverware
  - d) Possible collaborations / NEMCA support
- 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** **7:00pm**
  - a) 2022 budget
  - b) 2022 draft work plan
  - c) Officer elections
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a) Environmental Resource Expo
- 7. DISCUSSION** **7:45pm**
  - a) Staff updates
  - b) Commission member updates
  - c) Do-outs
  - d) February agenda
- 8. ADJOURNMENT** **8:00pm**

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



City of White Bear Lake  
City Engineer's Office

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Environmental Advisory Commission  
**From:** Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist/Water Resources Engineer  
**Date:** January 14, 2022  
**Subject:** Staff Memo – Action Items for the January 19, 2022 EAC Meeting

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## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a) 2022 budget

The 2022 budget is included in the packet.

Action: Discuss possible 2022 purchases.

### b) 2022 Work Plan

The 2022 work plan is included in the packet.

Action: Choose your top 5 priority topics for 2022 and share with the group. Finalize priority projects for 2022. Consider reviewing the GreenStep Cities “29 best practices” for other ideas: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>. Adopt the 2022 work plan.

### c) Officer Elections

Action: Nominate a commission member to serve as vice president in 2022.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Environmental Resources Expo

The 2021 Expo spreadsheet is attached.

Action: Begin brainstorming ideas for the 2022 Expo.

# City of White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission

## MINUTES

Date: December 15, 2021	Time: 6:30pm	Location: WBL City Hall
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Gary Schroeder (Chair)	
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Rick Johnston, Robert Winkler	
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist	
<b>VISITORS</b>	Nick Voss, Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization; Joe Crowe, resident.	
<b>NOTETAKER</b>	Connie Taillon	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:42pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda had no changes. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a) November 17, 2021 regular meeting

The commission members reviewed the November 17, 2021 draft minutes and had no changes:

Commissioner Bolstad moved, seconded by Chair Schroeder, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

### 4. VISITORS & PRESENTATIONS

Joe Crowe, a resident of White Bear Lake, was in attendance to learn more about the Environmental Advisory Commission projects and their interest in reducing plastic use. He is an active member of the Northeast Metro Climate Action Group and Wild Ones native plant organization, and has a prairie meadow in his front yard. Chair Schroeder mentioned that the Environmental Advisory Commission created an interactive pollinator map on the City's website and invited him to add his prairie garden to the map.

Nick Voss was also in attendance to gather feedback on a series of draft MS4 education materials on the topics of smart salting, illegal dumping, and pet waste. Nick ask the commission members to review the material and provide comments. Commissioner Greene asked where concrete wastewater should be disposed. Taillon stated that construction site wash areas must be contained, but does not know where to dispose of concrete wastewater. Commission members discussed making pool discharge requirements consistent with City code, adding rain sensors and planting low mow fescues to the water conservation list, and consider creating a list of 'smart slating' private applicators. Commission members also discussed ways to educate dog owners about proper waste disposal, and suggested that proper dog waste disposal information be sent out with dog license renewal letters. Nick invited commission members to contact him with any other comments or any customization suggestions to the educational materials in the next two weeks. Commission members thanks Nick for the opportunity to provide feedback.

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### a) 2021 budget

Commission members discussed purchasing native plant seeds with the remaining 2021 budget of \$168.98.

Commissioner Greenleaf requested that Taillon order the same plant species as last year. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to use the remaining 2021 budget of \$168.98 to purchase packs of pollinator seeds to be given away at the 2022 Environmental Resources Expo. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

b) 2021 work plan

Taillon noted that she had recently attended the Ramsey County Recycling Coordinators quarterly meeting where County staff announced that they have ended their grant program for recycling containers. The City representatives at the partner meeting expressed interest in having the County renew the grant program to help cover the cost to repair or replace old public recycling containers. County staff said that they will consider reinstating the public space recycling container grant being there is continued interest from the partner City's. Taillon will provide an update to the commission members when the County makes a decision.

c) 2022 draft work plan

Chair Schroeher stated that he created a spreadsheet with a list of 2022 work plan goals. He asked the commission members to review the list and pick the top 5 goals to share at the January meeting. Taillon suggested also reviewing the GreenStep Cities 29 Best Practices list for ideas. Taillon will email the spreadsheet and GreenStep Cities website link to commission members.

Joe mentioned that the Climate Action Group is interest in reducing plastics. The Commission members also stated that this one of the priorities that they are considering in 2022.

Chair Schroeher stated that a representative from Prairie City is scheduled to present at the February Environmental Advisory Commission meeting. He suggested that they invite a Parks Commission Member to attend the presentation.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Officer elections

Commissioner Bolstad asked to nominate Commissioner Johnston as vice president. She offered to contact him to ask his permission to be nominated at the January meeting. Chair Schroeher offered to continue on as Chair for 2022. Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad, to nominate Chair Schroeher to continue as the chair of the Environmental Advisory Commission for 2022. Motion carried, vote 3/0. Chair Schroeher abstained.

## 7. DISCUSSION

a) Staff updates

- Environmental updates memo to Council

Taillon provided a brief summary of the Environmental Updates memo that was in the December 8, 2021 Council packet. VLAWMO received a second grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to fund the enhancement of native plant species at the 4<sup>th</sup> and Otter woodland site. Also, the raingarden and shoreline maintenance of the City's raingardens and shorelines wrapped up in November. The maintenance was expanded this year to include buckthorn and other invasives species removal along an additional 250 feet of shoreline on Heiner's pond.

- Priebe Lake outlet replacement

Taillon announced that the Rice Creek Watershed District Priebe Lake outlet project is out for public comment with the Department of Natural Resources. The project is anticipated to start in late winter or early spring if all goes well.

b) Commission member updates

Commission members discussed spotlighting Joe Crowe in a future 'Spotlight on Sustainability' newsletter article.

c) Do-outs

New do-out items for December 15, 2021 include:

- Taillon to research where to properly dispose of concrete wash water
- Commissioner Greenleaf to update PowerPoint to Council and bring to the January EAC meeting
- Taillon to email 2022 list of potential work plan initiatives and link to the GreenStep Cities 29 best practices.
- Commission members to pick top five initiatives from the spreadsheet list and present at the January meeting.

d) January agenda

Include the Vadnais Heights Park, Recreation, and Trails Commission members under visitors and presentations; and officer elections and 2022 draft work plan discussion under unfinished business.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Greenleaf moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolstad to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Motion carried, vote 4/0.

## **EAC 2022 Budget**

Budget for 2022	\$500.00
Expenditures:	
TOTAL REMAINING	\$500.00

## **Potential Budget Items for 2022**

Reusable bags

1 Rain barrel

Expo exhibit improvements

### **Reusable Bag Websites**

WBL company: <https://www.nimblepromo.com/pd/TPXPM-MKKSU/atlas-non-woven-grocery-tote>

Recycling promotions company in MN:

<https://www.recyclingpromotions.us/catalogsearch/result/?q=tote+bag>

MN company with eco options: <https://www.wedothatpromotions.com/bagseco.htm>

Stillwater, MN: <https://promoridge.com/ProductResults/?SearchTerms=Totes>

Cheap and I believe you can find made in USA products:

<https://www.4imprint.com/search/tote%20bags>

## **Ideas**

Rain barrel giveaway

Native plant seeds

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 2022 Work Plan - DRAFT

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>Priority goal(s) planning</li> </ul>	Vadnais Heights Park, Recreation, and Trails Commission
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spring newsletter articles - adopt a drain &amp; spotlight on sustainability</li> <li>Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>High priority goals</li> </ul>	Prairie City USA
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>High priority goals</li> <li>National Mayor's Water Challenge</li> <li>Discuss upcoming annual SWPPP meeting</li> </ul>	<p style="color: red;">Street Project discussion</p> <p style="color: red;">SWMP discussion</p>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>High priority goals</li> </ul>	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>High priority goals</li> </ul>	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>High priority goals</li> </ul>	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>High priority goals</li> </ul>	Environmental Resource Expo, July <b>XX</b>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No official meeting this month</li> </ul>	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023 Work Plan</li> <li>Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas</li> <li>Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission</li> </ul>	R&E Center Tour <b>(when?)</b>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023 Work Plan</li> <li>Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair</li> <li>Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission</li> </ul>	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint meeting with Parks Commission</li> </ul>	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve 2023 Work Plan</li> </ul>	Holiday Treats

### High Priority Goals for 2022

- Presentation to City Council (introductions, past accomplishments, upcoming initiatives)

## **High Priority Goals from 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**

- No Mow May
- 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

**Review GreenStep Cities website:** <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

## **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
- Dog waste

## **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

Sports Center Upgrades and solar



# City facility energy Audit - Trane

Environmental Resource Expo - Exhibitor and Volunteer Master List									
August 5, 2021 5:00pm to 9:30pm									
EAC contact	Organization	Need table & canopy?	2017 status	2018 status	2019 attendance	2021 status	Contact Name/Organization	Phone	
?	Lawns to Legumes?								
?	Met Council Environmental Services?		yes	no	no		Ali Elhassan/Brian Davis	651-602-1066 /651-602-1519	
Bob	White Bear Lake Seed Library	no - share with Master Gardeners			yes	no	Pam Larson Fink		
	Metro Transit	NA	yes	yes	yes	no	Douglas Cook, Outreach Coordinator	651.231.8435	
	Ramsey County Master Gardeners	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Darren Lochner	715.456.0690	
	Rainbow Tree Care	yes		yes	yes	yes	Jeff Hafner	cell: 612-290-4779 direct: 952-252-0596	
Chris	Tesla Dealership					no			
	Tesla owner/Electric Vehicle Group Contact		yes	yes		yes - 3 vehicles	Jeff Riegle Steven Hong (new contact as of 2021)	651-602-5924 (O); 651.747.7865 (C) 612-990-9009	
	Electric Lawn Equipment Demo	save a space next to the EAC tent				NA	Gary, Chris and Sheryl to bring electric lawn eq about gas powered lawn equipment		
	Scouts - Troup 494	no - volunteers	yes	yes		sign up available			
Bonnie	MN State Horticultural Society - magazines	no	yes - books	yes - 2 boxes of magazines and a membership to raffle	yes - 1 box magazines	Complete	Lisa Williams Hardman	651-643-3601	
Sheryl	Tamarack Nature Center	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Melanie Harding		
	Conservation Minnesota		yes	yes	no	no	Keely Cervantes		
Gary	Rush Line Corridor	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Andrew J. Gitzlaff/Alicia Valenti	651-266-2772/d: 651.333.4115 c: 612.314.6385	
	Adopt a Drain - Watershed Partners/RCWD	yes		-	yes		Jenni		
	Ramsey County - curbside composting					no	Mariah Quick		
	RWMWD					new invite for 2021			
Connie	Pollinator Friendly Alliance	yes	yes	yes - no show	yes	yes	Laurie Schneider	651-351-1100	
	EV owner - WBL resident	no		yes - 1 additional vehicle	yes	did not contact	Daniel and Kay Giossi	651-426-5176	
	NE Metro Climate Action				yes	yes - has a tent. Email map to <a href="mailto:katewinsor@comcast.net">katewinsor@comcast.net</a>	Judy Lissick	612-817-6874	
	MN350					emailed 07.19.21	Gabe Epstein		
	Citizens Climate Lobby	yes			yes	no	Rachel Cain		
	Bruce Vento Regional Trail - New as of 06/02/21					may be interested if timing is right	Dan McNielk, SRF Consulting	763-452-4746	
	Zero Waste Task Force - Sierra Club	yes			yes	yes	Lori Olinger	612-718-6412	
	VLAWMO	no	yes	yes	yes	yes - has a tent	Nick Voss	651-204-6070	
	Race to Reduce + H2O for Life		yes	no	no	invite sent 052421	Patty Hall		
	WBL City, EAC, Ramsey County Envir Health	yes - shared table	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes - need 2 spaces, 2 tables, 1 tent	Connie Taillon	
	Xcel						yes - Sponsor for Expo - has their own tent. Do they need a table?	Organized by Marketfest Coordinator. We do not need to contact them	
	Footprint Earth Foundation		yes	yes	yes	invite sent 052421	James Stelter	612-751-5451	
Wilderness in the City				interested for 2020	invite sent 071921	Holly Jenkins	651-271-1257		
Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)	yes	yes	yes	yes	invite sent 052421	Terry Chaney	651-328-6226		
University of Minnesota Turfgrass Research Group					new invite for 2021?				

EAC Contacts	
Sheryl Bolstad	612-889-3116

Total tents needed	7
City tents	5

## Current Do-Outs

### Commission Members

- Pick top five initiatives from the spreadsheet list and present at the January meeting.
- Bonnie to update PowerPoint to Council and bring to the January EAC meeting
- Review GreenStep Cities list for 2022 work plan ideas
- Bonnie to add to token spreadsheet
- Gary to organize a potential buckthorn removal event with RWMWD and YMCA at the YMCA and Lakewood Hills Park
- Gary to contact Jake from Specialized Technologies to speak at a future EAC meeting

### Staff

- ~~- Email 2022 list of potential work plan initiatives and link to the GreenStep Cities 29 best practices.~~
- Research where to properly dispose of concrete wash water
- Request grant application from Ramsey County for DT recycling containers
- Check with PW to determine why there aren't trees in some of the cutouts on Banning
- Contact Ellen to get an update from the MPCA on the status of testing at County E and Bellaire
- Email air quality sensor info to Public Works
- Schedule tour of Newport facility at a date TBD – add to 2022 work plan
- 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)