



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
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**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on October 19, 2022
- 4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**
 - Nick Voss, VLAWMO – MS4 partnership
- 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Joint work session presentation
 - B. 2023 work plan
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. None
- 7. DISCUSSION**
 - A. Staff updates
 - Biochar project
 - Adopt-a-Drain Challenge results
 - B. Commission member updates
 - C. Do-outs
 - D. December agenda
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: November 10, 2022
Subject: **Action Items for November 16, 2022 EAC Meeting**

Agenda Item 4. Visitors and Presentations

Nick Voss from VLAWMO will be in attendance to recap our MS4 partnership goals. One specific item he would like to discuss is the pet waste promotional materials.

Agenda Item 5A. Joint work session presentation

The draft PowerPoint presentation will be presented at the meeting.

Action: Continue to review the draft presentation and revise as needed. The presentation shall include a recap of commission business for the year in addition to the potential future priorities that you would like to discuss with the Mayor and City Council. Less presentation and more discussion is encouraged.

The joint work session is scheduled for **January 17, 2023**. A 30 minute time slot is scheduled for each commission, which includes Q&A. The EAC's tentative time slot is 6pm to 6:30pm.

Agenda item 5B. 2023 Work Plan

Link to the 2023 goals spreadsheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iU-tklBjAveacZzdM1M-aJwiPDMkkEQGxEn6njzrnMM/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to GreenStep Cities best practices: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Action: Review and revise the 2023 goals spreadsheet and assign a GreenStep Best Practice action item number to each goal.

2022 Proposed Goals	Bonnie	Chris G	Rick	Sheryl	Gary	Chris F	Jeff	TOTAL
plastic bag ordinance	x							1
Zero waste events		x	x					2
pollinator plantings	x	x			x		x	4
Downtown recycling			x	x				2
reduce recycling contamination education	x		x	x	x		x	5
no mow May		x						1
electric lawn equipment		x	x		x			3
solar on buildings	x		x	x				3
city plastic recycling with Merrick			x					1
rebates for water efficient appliances	x		x	x				3
water conservation promotion					x			1
buckthorn removal event with RWMWD		x			x		x	3
Increase green space tree plantings				x			x	2
Smart Salting community education							x	1

What would we like to see as an outcome?

What steps could we take to reach the outcome?

Problem statement: why is this worthy of our effort?

NOTE: for other ideas, review the GreenStep Cities 'best practices' list at <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/best-practices>

Environmental Advisory Commission 2022 Work Plan - DRAFT

Month	Recurrent Agenda Items	Activities/Events /Speakers
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • Priority goal(s) planning 	Vadnais Heights Park, Recreation, and Trails Commission
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 	
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 	Prairie City USA
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Resource Expo planning • High priority goals 	Environmental Resource Expo, July 28
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall newsletter articles • 2023 Work Plan 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • Volunteer Recognition Dinner slide show ideas • Prepare for joint meeting with Parks Commission 	R&E Center Tour (when?)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan • Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Work Plan 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve 2023 Work Plan 	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

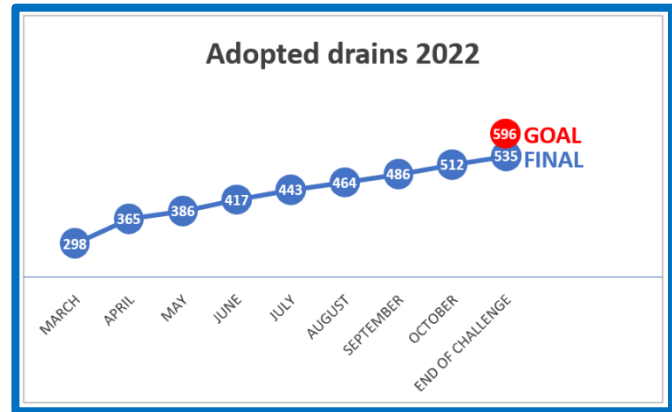


WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WBLCD Adopt-a-Drain Challenge, final results!

In March 2022, the WBLCD challenged its five member communities to double the number of adopted storm drains by the end of October, based on data received from the statewide adopt-a-drain program. We started at 298 drains, so our goal was to reach 596. This was an admittedly arbitrary goal, and we didn't know what was possible. We saw steady progress throughout the summer and fall, reaching 535 adopted drains at the end of October.

Even though we didn't quite reach our overall goal, there are many things to celebrate:



- **There was steady progress every month, thanks to great publicity in all the communities.** This significantly increased public awareness of the need to keep stormwater drains free of polluting debris.
- **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. They also more than doubled the number participating households, from 77 to 158. The city has 1829 known drains, and 14.4% of them are now adopted.
- **White Bear Township** more than doubled the number of participating households, from 26 to 58, and they came within 5 of doubling the number of adopted drains, increasing from 49 to 93. The township has 528 drains known to the statewide program, so they reached 17.8% of known drains.
- **Mahtomedi** increased the number of adopted drains from 120 to 167. They have 695 drains known to the statewide program, which means they have a strong adoption rate of 24%. Clearly, they were ahead of the game from the outset. During the challenge, they increased the number of participating households from 69 to 96.
- **Dellwood** does not have an urban stormwater system like the other communities, and the data available on known drains from the statewide program, which was sourced from the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, was found to be inaccurate. But the city took advantage of the challenge by inventorying their infrastructure to reenforce their commitment to water quality.
- **Birchwood** may be in the same position as Dellwood in not having a fully urbanized stormwater system and not having reliable data from the statewide program, but the data that is available shows that they have 47% of known drains adopted, the highest of all the communities.

It is clear to see that the adopt-a-drain challenge was a huge success, even though we ended a bit shy of our goal. We saw progress every month, increased participation in the program, and increased public awareness of water quality issues around White Bear Lake.

There are many drains still available for adoption, so it is not too late get involved by going to mn.adopt-a-drain.org and adopting a drain today!

Scott Costello
WBLCD Education Committee

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- Sheryl to put together a couple of slides regarding downtown tree project
- Chris F. to add top 5 work plan priorities to list and email to members
- Enter work plan information into Google work plan document (problem statement, list possible results, and define steps to achieve the results for each goal assigned to each member in the work plan list)
- Review GreenStep Cities best practices and tailor 2022/2023 work plan items with this program
- Add GSC numbers to Google doc.
- Gary offered to lead the 'reduce recycling contamination' work plan item
- 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

- ~~- Update presentation and email to Gary~~
- ~~- Email member Chris F. the work plan list~~
- Member Frye to add top 5 work plan priorities to list and email to members
- ~~- Taillon to respond to exhibitor request~~
- Taillon to ask Mayor about adding student members
- Taillon to email name of business that installed the level 3 charger to members
- Taillon to forward fluorescent light concern to appropriate staff
- Look into recycling cart stickers
- Ask about starting a fall Trash to Treasure day
- Order XL EAC tee shirts
- Invite Parks Foreman to future meeting
- 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 R&E facility at a date TBD – add to 2022 work plan
- 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)