



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 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 June 15, 2022
- B. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on July 20, 2022

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Environmental Resources Expo recap
- B. Draft work plan
- C. Draft presentation to Council

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fall newsletter articles

7. DISCUSSION

- A. Staff updates
- B. Commission member updates
- C. Do-outs
- D. September agenda

8. ADJOURNMENT



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: August 12, 2022
Subject: Action Items for August 17, 2022 EAC Meeting

Agenda Item 5A. Environmental Resources Expo

Member Johnston provided a summary of the community survey results.

Action: Provide feedback at the meeting on the survey results and any addition feedback based on discussions with residents. Recap the Environmental Resources Expo and discuss successes and possible improvements.

Agenda item 5B. Draft 2022 Work Plan

Link to the 2022 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 2022 goals spreadsheet, as needed. Use GreenStep Cities Best practices for work plan ideas.

Agenda Item 5C. Draft Presentation to Council

The draft presentation will be presented at the meeting.

Action: Continue to review the draft presentation and revise as needed.

Agenda Item 6A. Fall newsletter articles

Staff will begin drafting the fall newsletter later this month.

Action: Brainstorm environmental topics for the fall newsletter.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Gary Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair), Rick Johnston

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: Lindy Crawford, Dane Huinker

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Bolstad** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on April 20, 2022

The commission members reviewed the April 20, 2022 meeting minutes and no changes.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 4:0. Member Johnson abstained.

B. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on May 18, 2022

The commission members reviewed the May 18, 2022 meeting minutes and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 4:0. Member Bolstad abstained.

Commission member arrived at 6:39pm.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Welcome new member Jeff Luxford

Member Luxford introduced himself as a new commission member. He applied to be on the Environmental Advisory Commission because he was looking to become involved with the community, He didn't know that the Environmental Advisory Commission existed until recently. The other commission members welcomed Jeff and introduced themselves.

B. Lindy Crawford, City Manager

Lindy Crawford introduced herself to the Environmental Advisory Commission as the new City Manager. She stated that she has been with the City for approximately 6 months, and previously worked for the City of Mora and Tonka Bay. The commission members asked Lindy about upcoming City solar projects. She stated that the Sports Center will be the first to have rooftop solar installed.

C. Dane Huinker, Wildlife Forever – Prairie City USA

Dane Huinker from Wildlife Forever introduced himself and stated that he has been with Wildlife Forever for four years. Wildlife Forever is a national non-profit whose mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. Their work is categorized into four programs: Clean Drain Dry Initiative, Art of Conservation, Wild Spotter, and On-the-Ground Habitat Restoration. Dane is attending the commission meeting to introduce the Prairie City USA initiative, which is part of the On-the-Ground Habitat Restoration program. The mission of Prairie City USA is to build stronger communities through integrated prairie habitat, conservation best practices and civic leadership. Prairie City USA is a municipal certification program that restores underutilized public lawn spaces with prairie. There are financial and environmental benefits of this program through reduced maintenance, reduced fertilizer and pesticide use, and reduced watering. Replacing lawn grass with a native prairie also benefits wildlife and improves water quality. There are five steps to become a certified Prairie City USA community: 1) meet with community members to discuss benefits; 2) form a local Prairie City USA advisory committee; 3) change City ordinances to allow for prairie plantings if needed; 4) commit to Prairie City USA implementation/management level; 5) adopt a resolution to join Prairie City USA. Dane described the different levels of participation, and that the City can select a level that fits our capacity to become certified. Dane provided an example of the Fergus Falls pilot prairie project through Prairie City USA. The identified 101 acres of potential restoration sites, with 20 acres in Phase one. The cost savings is estimated to be \$24,000 over 3 years. Dane stated that they are looking for more pilot communities to become certified.

Member Greenleaf stated that she would like the City to consider being a pilot community. Taillon mentioned that this program would fit in well with the existing pollinator initiatives and with the EAC goal of reducing mowed lawn areas. She asked Dane how much staff time would be involved in this program since the City is already

prioritizing areas for restoration, and hires a contractor to maintain these sites. He stated that there is staff time to create and manage a plan.

The commission members thanked Dane for attending and presenting on the Prairie City USA pilot.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Environmental Resources Expo

The commission members reviewed the list of exhibitors and map. Chair Schroeher mentioned that Conservation Minnesota is not able to attend. Taillon noted that she will invite CEE, H2O for Life, and Sierra Club.

Member Johnston mentioned that one of the GreenStep Cities best practices is community engagement. He suggested creating a survey for the Expo to gather input on environmental topics that the City and Environmental Advisory Commission should focus their efforts. Member Johnston offered to draft a survey and email to the commission members for review.

B. Draft presentation to Council

The commission members tabled the draft presentation discussion until the July meeting.

C. Draft 2022 Work Plan

Member Johnston stated that he met with Taillon to review the GreenStep Cities best practices list. He suggested that the work plan items be tied to the GreenStep Cities best practices to help focus discussion on outcomes and help move the City's GreenStep Cities program forward. The commission members asked Taillon to send the GreenStep Cities link to them for review.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

7. DISCUSSION

A. Downtown area trees

Member Bolstad stated that she, with the help of her husband, mapped the downtown area where there should be trees. She then emailed the Public Works Administrative Assistant requesting to have trees planted or replaced in these areas. Member Bolstad mentioned that her response is that it is difficult for trees to grow in those areas and that the areas have instead been planted with other types of plantings. Member Greenleaf agrees that it is a challenge for trees to grow in these confined areas. Member Bolstad said that she will email the tree map to the commission members.

B. Staff updates

- RWMWD grant for Lakewood Hills Raingarden
Taillon announced that the City received a grant from Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to cover 100% of the cost to construct a raingarden at Lakewood Hills Park. The curb cut for this project was installed last fall as part of the parking lot resurfacing project.

- VLAWMO grant for Rotary Park planting
Taillon stated that the City received a \$750 grant from Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization to help cover the cost of the phase 1 restoration project, which is a native prairie seeding and planting east of the trail near the parking lot. The project will be completed by fall of this year.

C. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeder mentioned that he volunteered to work the bouncy house and inflatable slide at the RWMWD Waterfest Event. Approximately 2,000 people attended the event.

D. Do-outs

New do-out items for May 18, 2022 include:

- Taillon to invite CEE, H2O for Life, and Sierra Club to Expo.
- Member Johnston to draft a community engagement survey for the Expo
- Taillon to email members the GreenStep Cities website link.
- Members to review GreenStep Cities best practices and tailor 2022 work plan items with this program.
- Member Bolstad to email downtown area tree map to the commission members

E. July agenda

The commission members discussed meeting in July to finalize plans for the Expo and continue working on the presentation to Council and the 2022 work plan, even though the members historically do not hold a meeting the month of the Expo.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Johnston** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Motion carried, 6:0



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Gary Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Chris Greene, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair), Rick Johnston

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

VISITORS PRESENT: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Greenleaf**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 6:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Taillon stated that the June 15, 2022 meeting minutes will be presented at the August meeting for review and approval.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Environmental Resources Expo

The commission members reviewed and finalized the exhibitor list and map. Taillon stated that she will forward the map to the Marketfest coordinator for her review on Thursday. Chair Schroeher asked Taillon to email the exhibitor instructions, map, and sample email language for each member to send to their respective exhibitor contacts.

Chair Schroeher and Member Bolstad offered to bring electric lawn equipment to display. Member Greenleaf mentioned that she has the seed packets and will bring them with her to the Expo.

The commission members reviewed and approved the public survey. Taillon will format the survey to fit on a half sheet of paper, and print them for the Expo. Member Johnston

offered to drop off clipboards to City Hall for use with the survey.

Commission members discussed wearing the EAC tee shirts at the Expo. Taillon stated that she needs to order more shirts in the XL size.

C. Draft 2022 Work Plan

The commission members reviewed the work plan spreadsheet and discussed having each member fill in their remaining information prior to the August meeting.

B. Draft presentation to Council

Chair Schroeher stated that he will revise the draft presentation and email it to the commissioners for review prior to the August meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Taillon stated that she gave a presentation about the multi-phased Rotary Park restoration project at the July 13th Rotary Club meeting. She also reported that she joined the City Manager and Housing and Economic Development Coordinator to present about the City's environmental work for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Summer Program at Willow Lane Elementary School on July 20th.

B. Commission member updates

Member Greenleaf mentioned that the EAC does not typically meet in July because of the Expo, so she thanked the commissioners for participating in this extra meeting.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for July 20, 2022 include:

- Taillon to update Expo map and submit to the Marketfest Coordinator for review.
- Taillon to email the exhibitor instructions to the commission members.
- Taillon to format the questionnaire to fit on a half sheet of paper and print for the Expo.
- Member Johnston to drop off extra clipboards to City Hall to be used for the questionnaire.
- Chair Schroeher and member Bolstad to bring electric lawn equipment to display at the Expo.
- Member Greenleaf to bring native plant seed packs to the Expo.
- All commission members to complete work plan spreadsheet.
- Chair Schroeher to revise the draft presentation and email to the other members prior to the August meeting.
- Taillon to order XL EAC tee shirts.

D. August agenda

The commission members asked staff to add the work plan, draft presentation, and Expo recap to the August agenda. Member Bolstad asked to add the downtown tree replacement to the September meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greene** seconded by member **Bolstad** to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Motion carried, 6:0

DRAFT

Memo to: WBL Environmental Advisory Commission

From R. Johnston

Date 8/12/22

Subject: 2022 Environmental Expo Resident Survey Summary

There were 33 surveys filled out as intended by WBL residents and 13 by non-residents. An additional seven were filled out, but not as intended. All of the survey numerical rankings were entered into an Excel table which is included with this memo if anyone wants to analyze the numbers.

Disappointing, only two surveys included comments on the back. They are transcribed verbatim below. I would be interested to know whether the survey prompted any further discussion with residents on pertinent topics that would be of interest to the EAC.

Numerical breakdown of results as follows:

WBL Residents (n=33)

Topic	Average Rank	Number of 1s	Number of 2s	Number of 3s	Number of 4s	Number of 5s	Number of 6s
Plastic Use Reduction	2.8	7	9	7	5	4	1
Energy Eff./Alt.	3.2	9	3	6	6	6	3
Water Conservation	3.2	6	4	8	10	4	1
Pollinators	3.4	7	5	6	5	4	6
Waste Mgmt.	3.5	4	7	4	7	7	4
Buckthorn/Trees	4.9	1	4	2	0	8	18

WBL Residents expressed a slightly greater importance to plastics use reduction with buckthorn removal/increased tree plantings bringing up the rear. The other four were grouped in the middle.

Non-residents (n=13)

Topic	Average Rank	Number of 1s	Number of 2s	Number of 3s	Number of 4s	Number of 5s	Number of 6s
Water Conservation	2.1	6	3	2	1	1	0
Pollinators	2.9	2	4	3	1	3	0
Plastic Use Reduction	3.3	3	1	2	4	2	1
Energy Eff./Alt.	3.6	1	2	4	3	0	3
Waste Mgmt.	4.2	0	3	2	1	4	3
Buckthorn/Trees	4.9	1	0	0	3	3	6

The 13 non-resident surveys were received from eight communities; Woodbury, Hugo, Grant, Minneapolis, Lino Lakes, Oakdale, WB Township and Vadnais Heights. The top four topics were the same in both groups, but order differently.

Written Comments were received from only two respondents as follows:

Commenter 1:

Keeping pond habitats healthy!

Commenter 2:

1. Listed in the order to reduce our reliance on carbon emitting pollutants. (RJ note: This appears to refer to ranking on front of this survey, which was as follows: 1. Energy Efficiency; 2. Increased Tree Planting; 3. Waste Management/Recycling; 4. Water Conservation; 5. Plastic Use Reduction; 6. Pollinator-friendly Activities.)
2. Trees --- If there can be increased plantings in larger areas beyond the small-scale decorative trees, that is ideal.
3. Waste management & reduction. Pick-ups for recycling in public – increase if needed.
4. Continue water conservation discussion, visibility & implementation.
5. Always reduce plastic – BAGS for one!
6. Pollinator things. The county and state do this a lot so use city resources for 1, 2, & 3.

Let's discuss at the 8/17/22 EAC meeting.

2022 Environmental Expo Survey Summary

Total WBL residents = 33

	Ave.																											Number of Rankings												
																												1	2	3	4	5	6							
Buckthorn Removal and Increased Tree Planting	6	1	6	6	5	6	6	3	6	5	2	6	6	5	5	6	5	6	6	3	6	2	6	6	5	6	5	5	6	6	2	6	2	4.9	1	4	2	0	8	18
Energy Efficiency/Alternative Energy (solar/wind/other)	4	4	3	5	3	4	1	6	3	1	5	1	5	3	1	3	6	1	1	5	2	4	3	1	4	2	6	2	1	5	4	5	1	3.2	9	3	6	6	6	3
Plastics Use Reduction	1	3	2	2	2	3	4	2	5	3	1	4	3	6	3	2	1	4	2	2	4	3	4	5	2	1	3	1	2	1	5	1	5	2.8	7	9	7	5	4	1
Pollinator-friendly Activities	2	2	4	1	6	1	5	4	2	6	6	3	2	4	4	1	3	5	5	6	3	1	1	4	3	3	1	6	5	2	1	3	6	3.4	7	5	6	5	4	6
Waste Management	3	6	5	4	1	5	2	1	4	2	3	5	1	2	2	5	4	2	4	1	5	6	5	2	6	5	4	4	3	4	6	2	3	3.5	4	7	4	7	7	4
Water Conservation	5	5	1	3	4	2	3	5	1	4	4	2	4	1	6	4	2	3	3	4	1	5	1	3	1	4	2	3	4	3	3	4	4	3.2	6	4	8	10	4	1

Total Non-resident = 13

	Ave.												Number of Rankings							
													1	2	3	4	5	6		
Buckthorn Removal and Increased Tree Planting	5	5	6	5	6	4	6	4	6	1	6	4	6	4.9	1	0	0	3	3	6
Energy Efficiency/Alternative Energy (solar/wind/other)	4	1	2	3	3	6	3	6	3	4	2	6	4	3.6	1	2	4	3	0	3
Plastics Use Reduction	3	3	4	4	4	1	1	2	4	6	5	5	1	3.3	3	1	2	4	2	1
Pollinator-friendly Activities	1	4	3	2	5	2	5	3	5	2	3	1	2	2.9	2	4	3	1	3	0
Waste Management	6	6	5	6	2	3	2	5	2	5	4	3	5	4.2	0	3	2	1	4	3
Water Conservation	2	2	1	1	1	5	4	1	1	3	1	2	3	2.1	6	3	2	1	1	0

Lino Lino WBT WBT Lino Lino VH Oakd Wood Grant WBT Mpls Hugo

Non-conforming Surveys

	Ave.							
Buckthorn Removal and Increased Tree Planting	1	3	2	2	1	3	2	2
Energy Efficiency/Alternative Energy (solar/wind/other)	1	1	3	1		3	3	2
Plastics Use Reduction	3	1	1	3	2	6	5	3
Pollinator-friendly Activities	1	3	4	3		5	5	3.5
Waste Management	1	1	1	2		6	5	2.7
Water Conservation	3	1	1	2	1	2	5	2.1

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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

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- ~~— Rick to drop off extra clipboards to City Hall to be used for the questionnaire.~~
- ~~— Rick to draft a community engagement survey for the Expo~~
- ~~— Gary and Sheryl to bring electric lawn equipment to display at the Expo.~~
- ~~— Bonnie to bring native plant seed packs to the Expo.~~
- ~~— Gary to revise the draft presentation and email to the other members prior to the August meeting.~~
- Enter work plan information into Google 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)
- Complete work plan spreadsheet.
- Review GreenStep Cities best practices and tailor 2022 work plan items with this program.
- Sheryl to email downtown area tree map to the commission members
- ~~— Email invites to Expo vendors~~
- ~~— Gary to bring recycling display to Expo~~
- ~~— Rick to schedule a meeting with Connie to review unfinished GreenStep Cities Best Practices~~
- 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

- Email invites to Expo vendors (CEE, H2O For Life, Sierra Club)
- ~~— Update Expo map and submit to the Marketfest Coordinator for review.~~
- ~~— Email the exhibitor instructions to the commission members.~~
- ~~— Format the questionnaire to fit on a half sheet of paper and print for the Expo.~~
- Taillon to order XL EAC tee shirts.
- ~~— Email GreenStep Cities website link to commission members~~
- Research where to properly dispose of concrete wash water
- Taillon to invite Parks Foreman to future meeting
- Request grant application from Ramsey County for DT recycling containers
- 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)