



AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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 November 16, 2022
- 4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None
- 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Joint work session presentation
 - B. 2023 work plan
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. None
- 7. DISCUSSION**
 - A. Spotlight on Sustainability newsletter article
 - B. Staff updates
 - BizRecycling promotion
 - Rotary nature preserve seeding
 - Public space recycling container grant
 - C. Commission member updates
 - D. Do-outs
 - E. January agenda
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**



City of White Bear Lake
Engineering Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Environmental Advisory Commission
From: Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist
Date: December 16, 2022
Subject: Action Items for December 21, 2022 EAC Meeting

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.

Agenda item 7A. Spotlight on Sustainability newsletter article

The spring 2023 newsletter will once again include a Spotlight on Sustainability article. The article will feature a business or residential sustainability project, which could include projects that conserve energy, use renewable energy, provide alternative transportation, treat stormwater, conserve drinking water, increase pollinator and wildlife habitat, or reduce waste.

Action: Brainstorm possible community members that we could showcase in the spring 2023 Spotlight on Sustainability article.



**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE 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

Chair Schroeher called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheryl Bolstad, Bonnie Greenleaf, Jeff Luxford, Gary Schroeher (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Frye, Chris Greene, Rick Johnston

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

Motion carried 4:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on October 19, 2022

The commission members reviewed the October 19, 2022 meeting minutes and had no changes.

It was moved by member **Luxford** seconded by Chair **Schroeher**, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 4:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nick Voss from VLAWMO was in attendance to discuss the MS4 partnership between Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) and the City. Nick introduced himself as the Education and Outreach Coordinator for VLAWMO. He stated that part of his role is to assist partner cities with their MS4 education requirements. New requirements include educating the public about pet waste and winter salt use and considering environmental justice as part of the City's education program. Member Greenleaf asked Voss about environmental justice as it relates to the City. Voss stated that this means identifying lower income areas and how to reach them. This could be mapping

out these areas for a more targeted education and outreach effort. Chair Schroeder suggested outreach to Solid Ground and adding brochures at the food shelf. Voss stated that Solid Ground is not within the VLAWMO boundary but he has worked with Solid Ground in the past. Chair Schroeder also suggested reaching out to the schools. Voss mentioned using Digital Backpack as a way to reach students.

Voss stated that he could use some ideas on how to get more residents in the East Gosse Lake subwatershed to adopt a drain, and some help delivering signs and door hangers. He said that Member Greene recruited a Boy Scout troop to help distribute door hangers. Voss also asked if the commission members know of any congregations that could help. Member Greenleaf offered to ask the volunteer group at her church if there is interest. Creating a volunteer list was also discussed. Voss stated that he will look into creating a Google spreadsheet for adding potential volunteer groups that are interested in distributing educational materials.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Joint work session presentation

The commission members reviewed each slide of the presentation. Member Bolstad discussed her slides of the downtown tree plantings and CU Structural soils. Taillon stated that the joint workshop is scheduled for January 17, 2023. Each commission will have a 30 minute time slot, which includes Q&A. The EAC's tentative time slot is 6pm to 6:30pm. Member Luxford suggested that the first part of the presentation on past accomplishments should be condensed so more time can be spent getting Council feedback on potential future initiatives.

B. 2023 Work Plan

For the sake of time, the commission members decided to postpone discussion of the 2023 work plan until the December meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- Biochar

Taillon noted that the VLAWMO biochar project at Whitaker Pond is complete.

Lambert Creek is impaired for high bacteria levels during storm events. The purpose of this project is to use biochar to remove bacteria from stormwater as it flows from Whitaker pond to the creek.

- Adopt-a-Drain Challenge results

Taillon reported that the White Bear Lake Conservation District shared the final results of their Adopt-a-Drain challenge. They were only 61 adopted drains short of reaching their overall goal of doubling the amount of adopted drains in 2022 for all communities surrounding White Bear Lake. 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, and also more than doubled the number participating households, from 77 to 158.

B. Commission member updates

Member Greenleaf stated that the annual Water Resources Conference is a good way to learn what others are working on, and she asked if members of the EAC should think about attending next year. Taillon mentioned that she attend the conference every year.

C. Do-outs

New do-out items for November 16, 2022 include:

- Members to consider helping Nick Voss deliver signs and door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed.
- Member Greenleaf offered to talk with a volunteer group at her church about helping with Goose Lake subwatershed activities. She will contact Nick Voss at VLAWMO to coordinate any volunteer activities.
- Chair Schroeher to finalize joint workshop presentation for review at the December meeting.
- Taillon to email revised presentation to Chair Schroeher.
- Taillon to send a reminder to bring treats to the December meeting.

D. December agenda

Commission members discussed December agenda items and asked Taillon to add the joint work session presentation to the agenda and to send a reminder to bring holiday treats at the December meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Luxford** to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Motion carried, 4:0

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

Current Do-Outs

Commission Members

- Gary to finalize the joint workshop presentation for review at the December EAC meeting.
- Consider helping Nick Voss deliver signs and door hangers in the Goose Lake subwatershed.
- Bonnie to talk with a volunteer group at her church about helping with Goose Lake subwatershed activities. Contact Nick Voss at VLAWMO to coordinate any volunteer activities.
- ~~- 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

- ~~- Taillon to email revised presentation to Chair Schroeder~~
- Taillon to send a reminder to bring treats to the December meeting
- ~~- 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)