



**AGENDA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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 September 21, 2022

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Joint work session presentation
- B. 2023 work plan

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Environmental Resources Expo exhibitor request
- B. Student members
- C. Officer Elections - Chair & Vice Chair

**7. DISCUSSION**

- A. Staff updates
  - Level 3 electric vehicle charging station
  - Rotary Nature Preserve restoration project
- B. Commission member updates
- C. Do-outs
- D. November agenda

**8. ADJOURNMENT**



**City of White Bear Lake**  
Engineering Department

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Environmental Advisory Commission  
**From:** Connie Taillon, P.E., Environmental Specialist  
**Date:** October 14, 2022  
**Subject:** Action Items for October 19, 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. As per the discussion at the September meeting, consider adding 2023 'potential EAC activities' to the presentation for an opportunity to get feedback from the Mayor and City Council. Potential activity topics discussed at previous meetings have included invasive species management; 'bring your own bag' initiative; No-Mow May; promotion of solar (including City partnership in Solar Power Hours); and downtown revitalization topics such as trash and recycling, stormwater treatment, EV charging stations, etc.

## **Agenda item 5B. 2023 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. For work plan ideas, consider reviewing the GreenStep Cities Best practices.

## **Agenda Item 6A. Environmental Resources Expo exhibitor request**

Prairie Restorations, Inc. (PRI) recently contacted staff to inquire about being an exhibitor at the 2023 Environmental Resources Expo. PRI is a private company that provides consultation, installation, and management services for native plant restoration projects, and produces native seed, plants, trees and shrubs. <https://prairieresto.com/>

*Action:* Discuss adding Prairie Restorations, Inc. to the 2023 Expo exhibitor list.

**Agenda Item 6B. Student members**

The advisor to the WBLAHS Environmental Club reached out to the city because some club members expressing interest in being student members on the Environmental Advisory Commission. The advisor is asking if there is room for student members on the EAC for this school year.

*Action:* Discuss including student members to the commission for the 2022/2023 school year.

**Agenda Item 6C. Officer Elections – Chair & Vice Chair**

The chair and vice chair positions are up for election this month.

*Action:* Consider nominating members for chair and vice chair and making separate motions to elect the chair and vice chair positions.



**MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 6:37 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Luxford

**STAFF PRESENT:** Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The commission members reviewed the agenda and had no changes. Taillon added 'Good Neighbor Guide' and 'Recycling & Energy Center Tour' to item 7B. Staff Updates.

It was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Bolstad**, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried 6:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Commission meeting on August 17, 2022

The commission members reviewed the August 17, 2022 meeting minutes and had the following change: Item 5A., third sentence, change 'Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District' to 'Ramsey County Recycling Ambassadors'.

It was moved by member **Greenleaf** seconded by member **Greene**, to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 6:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Draft presentation to Council

The Commission members discussed content to include in the presentation to Council at the joint work session. They will be including future initiative in the presentation to get

feedback from the Mayor and Council. Taillon will email a draft of the future slides that were discussed at the May meeting.

**B. Draft Work Plan**

Commission members reviewed the GreenStep Cities Best Practices and discussed referencing the best practice action numbers to the draft work plan priority items in the Google document. Commission members asked Taillon to email the GreenStep Cities Best Practices actions spreadsheet and link to the Google Doc.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Volunteer recognition dinner presentation**

Taillon noted that the volunteer recognition dinner will be at Boatworks on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Staff liaisons will present on past accomplishments for each commission. Taillon asked commission members to review the presentation from 2019 and provide feedback on changes to the presentation. Commission members asked Taillon to revise the member list on slide 1, revise the date and title on slide 2 for the state wide commission workshop, update the Expo exhibitor list and photos, remove climate smart steering committee slide, and add slides for the pollinator map, electric lawn equipment promotion, and zero waste policy. Taillon stated that the event will be Zero Waste and that compostable cups, plates, and silverware will be purchased for the event.

**7. DISCUSSION**

**A. Downtown tree replacement**

The commission members discussed tree replacement in the downtown area. Member Bolstad is asking the commission for support to make a formal request to City Council to budget for tree replacements downtown. Members will include this as a discussion item in the upcoming joint work session.

*Commission member left at 8:22pm.*

**B. Staff updates**

- Rotary Nature Preserve

Taillon stated that Rotary Club volunteers planted the phase 1 restoration area on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the phase 1 area will be seeded with native prairie seed later in October.

- WBL raingarden tour September 22nd

Taillon noted that VLAWMO RCWD and RWMWD have partners to offer a 3-part raingarden tour. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the tour will be held in White Bear Lake. The tour will start at the raingardens at 10<sup>th</sup> and Morehead at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

- VLAWMO good neighbor guide

Taillon passed around the Good Neighbor Guide that VLAWMO recently completed. The guide answers questions about watershed health and provides guidance for

landowners to reduce pollutants and conserve water. The guide is available on VLAWMO's website, and a few hard copies are at City Hall.

- Recycling & Energy Center tour

Taillon stated that she attended a tour of the Recycling and Energy Center on September 20<sup>th</sup> as part of the quarterly Ramsey County Recycling Coordinators meeting. She showed photos of the tipping floor where all trash in Ramsey and Washington Counties is delivered, and the new building addition for the curbside food scraps program that is planned to be in service by late 2023 or early 2024. Trash delivered to this facility is shredded and trucked to an Xcel Energy plant where it is burned to produce electricity. When the food scraps program is in place, the bags of food scraps will be sorted out of the trash and brought to a composting facility.

C. Commission member updates

Chair Schroeder mentioned that he attended the County Road E workshop on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the workshop was to gather input from the public on what to do with the corridor. There will be additional workshops divided by City. The White Bear Lake workshop will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

D. Do-outs

New do-out items for September 21, 2022 include:

- Taillon to email 'future project' presentation slides to members
- Taillon to email GreenStep Cities (GSC) spreadsheet and link to Google doc
- Commission members to add GSC numbers to Google doc.
- Taillon to purchase compostable products for volunteer recognition dinner

E. October agenda

The commission members asked Taillon to include the draft work plan and presentation to Council on the October agenda.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Johnston** seconded by member **Bolstad** to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Motion carried, 5:0

| 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<br>/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>      |   |
| 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> |   |
| 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>  | Prairie City USA  |
| July      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Resource Expo planning</li> <li>• High priority goals</li> </ul>  | Environmental Resource Expo, July 28                    |
| August    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall newsletter articles</li> <li>• 2023 Work Plan</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<br><b>(when?)</b>                       |
| October   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 Work Plan</li> <li>• Commission Officer Election – Chair, Vice-Chair</li> </ul>  |   |
| November  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 Work Plan</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

## Current Do-Outs

### Commission 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 purchase compostable products for volunteer recognition dinner~~
- ~~- Taillon to email GreenStep Cities (GSC) spreadsheet and link to Google doc~~
- ~~- Taillon to email 'future project' presentation slides to members~~
- 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
- ~~- 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 R&E 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)